

# Broome County Environmental Management Council

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## Broome County Environmental Management Council (EMC) Notes from the meeting held Thursday, May 1, 2008 United Way Board Room, Jensen Road, Vestal, NY

### Present:

**Members-at-Large:** André LaClair, Karen Ciatyk, Chris Burger, Erin Heard, Julia Hoover and Tony Lubzanski

**Student Reps:** Josephine Chu (BU)

**CAC Reps:** Cindy Westerman (Vestal)

**Special Reps:** Kevin Mathers (CCE BC)

**Legislative Reps:** Ron Keibel (11<sup>th</sup> District)

**Ex-Officio Reps:** Bob Denz (BC Health)

**Associate Members:** Terry Woodnorth, Bill Heaviside

**Staff/Intern:** Stacy Merola, Beth Egitto and Brittany Gaddy

**Visitors/Guests:** Dylan Horvath and Doug English (BC Planning)

1. André **convened** the meeting at **7:08 pm**. Chris moved, Erin seconded to approve March minutes with the following amendments: Under Conservation Advisory Reports, “once to finalize the draft creeks report, and second to share the report with Town Supervisor Peter Andreasen” should read “once to finalize the draft creek report and second for a regular meeting. A draft version was sent to Town Supervisor, Pete Andreasen”. Also, “She’d like” should read “The CAC would like”.

### 2. Privilege of the Floor/Announcements/Member Items of Interest

- The 2008 Joyce K.L. Smith Photography Show & Competition Open Reception will be on Wednesday May 7, BC Library, Court St., Binghamton, 5:30-7:30 pm. Stacy circulated a volunteer sign up sheet for all EMC special events. Anyone whose availability has changed should indicate it on the sheet.

- Due to construction in the Government Plaza parking facilities, parking will not be available for visitors to the County Office Building. The construction is expected to last over two years. Therefore, a new location will need to be found for committee meetings. Committee meetings for June and July will be held in the BC Library at 4:00 pm. Bob Denz said that there may be space available at the BC Health Department. He will find out if the rooms are available at the appropriate times.

- Stacy circulated information regarding the New York State Department of Transportation criteria for the issuance of outdoor advertising permits for Changeable Electronic Variable Message Signs.

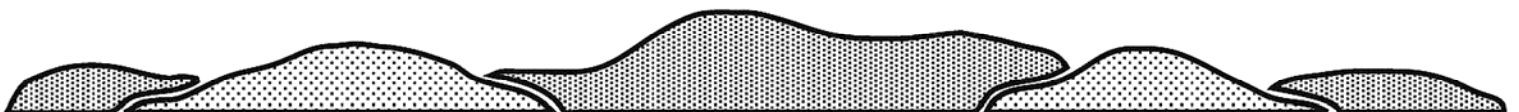
- A public notice from the Army Corps of Engineers regarding the environmental assessment for the relocation of Whitney Point Campground at Whitney Point Lake was also circulated. This is related to improvements to Dorchester Park due to an ACOE project that involves the flooding of former Upper Lisle Campground.

- The Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) adopted their 2008 Water Resources Program. More information is available at the website, [www.srbc.net/planning](http://www.srbc.net/planning).

- The head of the National Weather Service will speak at the Sierra Club meeting on May 20, 7:30 pm, at the United Methodist Church to discuss the local aspects of climate change.

- Ron mentioned that there will be a presentation by Lindsay Wickham from the NYS Farm Bureau on Tuesday May 6, 7:30 pm, Whitney Point High school regarding gas leases. He will be discussing the benefits and pitfalls, and how to make an informed decision. Kevin reported that Hinman, Howard and Kattell will have a gas drilling meeting at a Binghamton downtown hotel on Wednesday May 7<sup>th</sup>.

- In an effort to promote recycling through the NY Recycles program, the EMC collected pledges to recycle over the coming year from those that were interested. As an incentive to make the pledge the



EMC has two bags made from recycled bottles to give away. Andre randomly selected two winning pledge cards. The winners are Margaret Basealar and R. Hammer.

### **3. Guest Presentation: Broome County Geographic Information Systems (GIS)**

Broome County GIS administrator, Doug English, shared the basics of GIS and provided an overview of the County's GIS-related resources. The GIS system, or Unified Parcel Information System (UPIS), can be accessed through the website, [www.bcgis.com](http://www.bcgis.com), or indirectly through the County's website, [www.gobroomecounty.com](http://www.gobroomecounty.com). After accessing the website, simply click on the Application tab to begin exploring the GIS system. Doug explained that there are three main techniques for exploring Broome County with the system; parcels, layers, and tools. The parcels features allow you to search for parcels and parcel information by selecting a specific parcel or through a criteria search. Once you identify an area you are interested in you can use the layers feature to view various physical characteristics of that area. There are seven different layers; they include environmental features such as floodplains, wetlands, and soils survey, facilities such as schools and hospitals, and aerial photographs. Several other tools for use include labeling, measuring and identifying coordinates. The help tab for the GIS system is very thorough and easy to access, making it easy and convenient to use the GIS system at home.

A question and answer period followed the presentation. Doug was thanked for his time and sharing the County's GIS system.

4. The Council decided to **take a short break.**

### **5. Committee Reports'**

**Natural Resources Committee (NRC):** Beth reported that the NRC met on April 17. Topics included the issue of gas leases being offered to several County residents and the Campus Crest Project. The County has seen this project in concept but has not seen the real plan yet. The NRC also discussed the letter, resolution, and white paper calling for regulation of all wood burning devices to protect air quality and public health. The white paper outlines the details about the health and quality of life issues resulting from wood burning devices and the problems with current or proposed particulate matter and setback regulations. The letter and resolution request that our local members of the State Legislature encourage state and federal agencies to develop scientifically based policies that address emissions from all wood burning devices. Erin wondered whether "all wood burning devices" included fireplaces and outdoor grills. Bob Denz (BC Health) stated that according to NYS "all wood burning devices" typically excludes these and implies an appliance that is used to generate an energy source for an extended period. The group discussed which individuals should be carbon copied on the letter as well as several wording changes. Someone suggested that the letter end with an invitation to meet in the future to discuss this issue further. **ACTION ITEM:** Julia moved to adopt the letter as amended. Tony seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried. The next NRC meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday May 15 [Editor's note: This meeting was cancelled. Then next meeting will be held June 19].

**Recycling & Waste Management Committee (RWMC):** Stacy reported that RWMC did not meet in April. The next meeting will be Monday May 19.

There was a landfill CAC meeting Monday April 28. The representative for residents within a half-mile of the landfill to sit on the LCAC, Earl Kimble, was appointed to his post for another two-yr term. The LCAC discussed details about the proposed re-configuration of Knapp and Dunham Hill Roads as part of the decision to keep an at grade crossing for the entrance into landfill section IV as a result of the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.

## **6. Conservation Advisory Commission (CAC) Reports**

Vestal CAC: Cindy reported that the CAC did not meet in April. Stacy asked Cindy if she could get a copy of the CAC's comments regarding the Campus Crest proposal on Bunn Hill Road. The next meeting is Tuesday May 27, 7:30 pm.

## **7. Staff and Chair Reports**

- The letter asking for a compromise to the Bigger Better Bottle Bill, in which the individual water and juice bottles are included and the larger bottles are removed, will go out soon. Stacy would like to make some modifications before sending. Stacy will share the letter with Jeff Edwards from Schenectady County's Planning Department who expressed interest in the position during a conference call with the New York State Association of EMCs. Staff can bring the letter to the annual NYSAEMCs meeting in Albany in June.
- Stacy heard that representatives of the Dick's Open were receptive the letter that they improve their recycling program. Debra Smith, Materials Recovery Manager hopes to attend an organizational meeting May 19.
- The County's new Reuse & Recycling Guide for Construction and Demolition Waste should be available on the County website soon. It gives a variety of resources regarding the proper disposal of C&D materials from contractors.
- Legislator Jason Garner sent an email requesting that anyone interested in sitting on the Transportation Committee of the Energy Advisory Board should contact him.
- The EMC was recently nominated for the Legislature's Green Business Award, which also recognizes nonprofit organizations. However, the letter requesting acceptance of the award indicated that it was only for green businesses. Based on this information the EMC did not accept because the EMC is not a green business. However, the group is thankful to have been considered.

**8. Next meeting:** Thursday, June 5 at 7:00 pm, United Way Board Room, Vestal

**Meeting adjourned at 9:27 pm.**

Brittany Gaddy, recorder

Beth Egitto, editor