

Broome County Environmental Management Council

Barbara J. Fiala, Broome County Executive • Stacy Merola, Director



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Broome County Environmental Management Council (EMC) Notes from the meeting held Thursday, October 5th, 2006 Broome County Library, Decker Room, 185 Court Street, Binghamton, NY

Present:

Members-at-Large: Terry Woodnorth, Tim Wolcott, Mary Cronk, Bill Heaviside, André LaClair, Tony Lubzanski, and Karen Ciatyk

Student Reps: Melanie Feltmat (BU)

Special Reps: Chip McElwee (BCSWCD), Kevin Mathers (CUCE-BC)

Ex-Officio: Bob Denz (BCHD)

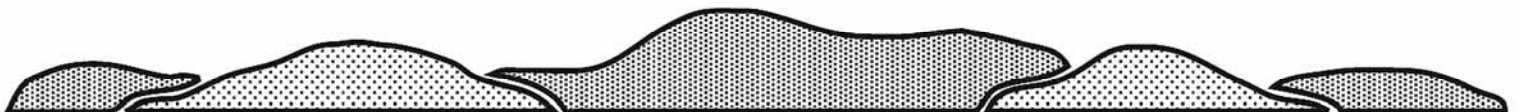
Associates: Duke Holdsworth

Staff/Intern: Stacy Merola, Beth Egitto and Ken Holmes

Visitors: Donna Lupardo, Allison Pfeifer, Mark Dittmar, Chelsey Dean, and Jenna Dunlap

Absent with Excuse: Doug Garner, Cindy Westerman, and Ron Keibel

1. Following introductions, Terry **convened** the meeting at **6:03 pm**. Minutes from September were approved with the following amendment on a motion by Tim seconded by Bill; note the names of the speakers in the committee reports. Motion carried.
2. **Privilege of the Floor/Announcements/Member Items of Interest**
 - Riverbank Cleanup will be October 7th, light rain or shine, and the Council was reminded that the EMC team will clean William “Billy” H. Hill Park in Union (near JC Waterworks and AES plant). Stacy noted that there are 21 sites and 27 volunteer groups, this year. The 14th will be the rain date.
 - The NYS Association of EMCs will hold the annual Conference on the Environment October 13-15 at the Chautauqua Institution in Chautauqua, NY. Terry, Tim, Cindy, Beth, and Stacy will be attending.
 - On November 4th, The EMC will have a table at the Oakdale Mall, 10 am -2 pm, for America Recycles Day. The event is being organized by BC Solid Waste. Contact Stacy if you’d like to help out.
 - Applications for the NYS Environmental Conservation Officer Exam are being accepted. The exam will be administered on December 2nd, 2006.
 - Stacy and Beth attended a FEMA meeting about updating flood maps in priority areas. The council took a few minutes to discuss floods and flood stakeholders.
3. **Committee Updates**
 - Natural Resource Committee (NRC): Did not meet in September.
 - Recycling & Waste Mgmt Committee (RWMC): Tim reported that the RWMC did not meet in September. Stacy updated the council on the figures from the Book Recycling Fair. 21,000 books were given away and 20 tons of books were recycled. Last year, 17,000 books were given away and 18 tons were recycled.
 - Goose Management Task Force: The committee has not met, but Ken has been working on summarizing Fish and Wildlife’s Final Impact Statement on resident Canada geese. He presented a draft addendum to the Council’s goose management proposal and fielded a few clarifying questions.
4. **Conservation Advisory Commission (CAC) Reports:** No Reports
5. The council adjourned briefly for a break.



6. Guest Speaker: Hon. Donna A. Lupardo, New York State Assemblywoman, 126th District

Ms. Lupardo began her presentation by summarizing some recent and relevant environmental legislation that she has sponsored and/or supported.

Assemblywoman Lupardo's Spill Notification Bill requires the public to be notified within 48 hours of any major spill (Signed by Governor). Donna supported the Environmental Test Recording Bill that requires the NYS Dept of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to notify property owners of environmental contamination and potential exposure to potential health risks (A.10633; Signed by Governor). Her Landlord Notification of Contamination Legislation requires landlords to notify tenants or prospective tenants of known contaminants on the property (A.10120; Vetoed by Governor). She also introduced legislation that would require all new construction and substantial renovation by the State to use energy efficient principles (A.11537; Passed Assembly). Donna is a prime sponsor of the Indoor Air Quality legislation that requires building owners to develop and maintain an indoor environmental plan and directs the NYS Department of Health to adopt standards of ventilation for new and existing buildings (A.7786; Passed Committees). She supported a Cancer Mapping Bill that would create a cancer-mapping program in New York to greatly improve knowledge of the correlation between the incidence of cancer statewide and the social, environmental, occupational, and other factors that may cause cancer clusters (A.1884; Passed Assembly). Ms Lupardo is a supporter of The Bigger Better Bottle Bill, an expansion of the current bottle redemption bill to include more recyclables, but feels that the bills' reach must be slimmed down before the Senate and Governor pass it (A.2517; Passed Assembly). Assemblywoman Lupardo additionally supports a Wetland Protection Bill to strengthen the state's wetland protection laws by expanding the DEC's regulatory jurisdiction (A.2048; Passed Assembly).

In response to a question by Tim, Donna said that a "road block" in the NYS legislature has not been her experience. She responded to a question by Mary and addressed her take on the NYRI power line. While she was unhappy with the national government's choice to step in, she was pleased that the eminent domain bill passed. She believed it was a great statement for the State to make. Bill asked a question regarding stream discharges into the Susquehanna and Donna noted that the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) is in the process of adding real-time intake shutoff sensors in the area. Chip added that citizen's water quality concerns are mostly hype. He emphasized that river water quality is good. Bob Denz furthered the discussion by noting that the Binghamton-Johnson City Joint Sewage Treatment Plant is very cooperative; they regularly check the water quality upstream and downstream of the plant, and at the effluent discharge point. Andre inquired about open waste barrels and Donna said that she would like to get that issue back on the agenda.

Assemblywoman Lupardo had to depart to attend another event. She was thanked by the council for her time.

7. Staff & Chair Reports:

- Larry Lepak, NYSDEC and Chip McElwee, BCSWCD will speak at the November 2 EMC General Meeting about the June 2006 flood. The meeting will take place at 7pm in Chenango Town Hall.
- EMC's membership recommendations [Andre (MAL), Tony (MAL), and Melanie (Student)] were approved.
- The EMC was CC'd on an official resignation letter from Ken Kamlet that was sent to the County Executive. An EMC Certificate of Appreciation will be sent thanking Ken for his service.
- Members were encouraged to start thinking about constituents to nominate for Chairperson, Vice Chairpersons (2), and Committee Chairs (NRC, RWMC, GMTF, and Membership) for 2007.
- There was a brief discussion on ideas for expanding membership. An EMC mixer was suggested.
- The Landfill SEIS scoping meeting will take place at 7pm October 19th in Chenango Town Hall. Documents for review will be on the county's website by early next week (www.gobroomecounty.com)

Next meeting: Thurs., Nov. 2 @ 7 pm, Chenango Town Hall, 1529 NYS Rte 12, Chenango Bridge.

8. The meeting adjourned at 7:59 pm.

Ken Holmes, Recorder; Stacy Merola, Editor