

Broome County Environmental Management Council (EMC)
Notes from the meeting held Thursday, September 8, 2005
Broome County Public Library
185 Court Street, Binghamton, New York

Present:

Members-at-Large: Terry Woodnorth, Bill Heaviside, Andre LaClair, Ken Kamlet, Ruth Levin, Tim Wolcott, Herman Roberson, Kevin Mathers and Mary Cronk

C.A.C Reps. Cindy Westerman (Vestal) and Roger McVannan (Union)

Legislative Reps: Ron Keibel

Associate Members: Karen Ciatyk

Staff/Intern: Stacy Merola and Beth Egitto

Visitors: Donna Lupardo and Gloria Lomodong

Absent w/excuse: Tony Lubzanski, Anndrea Starzak, Rita Petkash, Lisa Hoffman, Chip McElwee, and Rick Kumpon

1. Andre **convened** the meeting at **6:05 pm**. Introductions followed. Minutes from June were amended as follows: In the description of Dr. Mitra's presentation change "denture" to "denature". Minutes approved as amended on a motion by Mary, seconded by Bill. Motion carried.

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

- A list of available volunteer assignments for the Book Recycling Fair was circulated.
- Broome County Landfill Open House, Sat., Oct. 1st, 11:30 am-2:00pm; refreshments and guided tours.
- Riverbank Clean-Up, Sat., Oct. 8th, various locations. Pre registration required.
- Opportunities for public comment - list distributed. Members can review; report to appropriate committees.
- National Solar Tour and Green Buildings Open House, Sat, Oct. 1st, 11am-4pm. The closest location is in Tompkins County. Info circulated. They will be offering 3-4 van tour routes with a guide on each van for a \$10 fee. More details: <http://nesea.gaiiahost.coop/buildings/openhouse/localorganizers.http>.
- André reported that a recent Town of Fenton meeting was attended by Hon. Clifford Crouch and Legislative Rep. Wayne Howard, who asked about the status of the The BCPlan.

3. Special Guest: Hon. Donna A. Lupardo, New York State Assembly, 126th District

A 30-year resident of Broome County, Donna Lupardo helped organize the first local Earth Day celebration (Earth Fest), where she learned the impacts of and the progress made by people who organize for a common cause. Ms Lupardo, once a Broome County Legislator, became the first woman elected to the NYS Assembly from this region in 2004. She is currently assigned to the Assembly's Environmental Conservation Committee, Higher Education Committee, Mental Health Committee, and Transportation Committee; all areas of interest to her and to Broome County residents. Lupardo established a good working relationship with Senate counterpart, Hon. Thomas Libous.

Some legislative initiatives that Ms. Lupardo supported this past session included the Assembly sponsored wetland bill, a bill to cap carbon emissions, the Bottle Bill expansion, the Community Preservation Act, and a bill to ban open burning. She also was the prime sponsor for an "Earth Day" package of bills, which addressed the creation of a state land acquisition advisory group, indoor air quality protection, and she called upon the NYS Dept. of Health to undertake more extensive cancer mapping. She expressed that there will always be a need and willingness to compromise between both Houses.

In the coming year Lupardo plans to address trichloroethylene standards, outdoor wood burning furnaces, setting up solar and wind energy demonstrations at BOCES and school districts, and continued action regarding gas and oil drilling in Tracy Creek State Forest. She offered the advice that individuals who want to make progress with an issue should know their local representative and the views that they are likely to support, and continue to make their views known through public participation.

4. Committee & Task Force Reports:

- Brownfields Committee (BFC): Cindy reported that the BFC met on July 13th. The main event was a presentation by Rick Kumpon about vapor intrusion and remediation. A public meeting regarding the 312 Maple St. site will be held soon. The committee discussed the Brownfield Opportunity Area (BOA) nomination for the Brandywine Corridor in the City of Binghamton. The Binghamton Plaza was excluded from the nomination boundary because a developer is interested in that site. The committee discussed the future of the BFC; whether it should as a committee of the EMC. They reached no conclusion but the general sentiment was to keep the BFC intact and meet when called to do so by Planning Dept. Next meeting: TBD.
- Natural Resource Committee (NRC): The NRC did not meet in July; email updates circulated in place of a meeting. Next meeting: Sept. 22nd, 4:30pm, BCOB.
- Goose Management Task Force: No September meeting. A Binghamton University graduate level policy management class will examine the goose management issue and report to EMC. Next meeting: TBD.
- Recycling & Waste Management Committee (RWMC): Tim reported the committee met July 25th. He also circulated follow-up literature from EMC's July guest speaker, Dr. Sid Mitra. There were announcements for the Book Recycling fair, landfill open house and the Landfill CAC meeting (September 19th). Ruth followed up with Wegmans and Hilex Corporation about the "Bag 2 Bag" plastics recycling program, which compensates participating companies for plastic bags they send to Hilex for recycling. Next meeting: Sept. 26th, 4:30pm, BCOB.

5. CAC Reports:

Vestal- Cindy reported that the CAC met in July and August and discussed the dump at the highway garage, which is being cleaned up, and the Front Street revitalization grant. The group was interested in viewing the conservation zoning video (that EMC recently purchased) at their Oct. meeting. They also addressed the oil and gas drilling nomination of Tracy Creek Forest; they sent comments to the NYSDEC. Other topics of discussion were concerns about the STP and the Susquehanna River, primarily the by-passing of secondary treatment during construction upgrades, what potential impacts does this have on Vestal's drinking water supply, and what impacts, if any, will the new Vestal Parkway dormitories have on the STP given the circumstances. There will be SEQR training soon for CAC members. Next meeting: Sept. 27th, Town Hall.

Union- Roger reported that the CAC has not met since Maureen Kimble has been out on sick leave.

6. Staff & Chair Reports:

The following two action items come moved and seconded from the EMC Executive Committee.

- **ACTION ITEM #1: Comments on NYSDEC Draft Broome State Forests Unit Management Plan**
Staff submitted comments regarding the document to the DEC. The comments focused on the inclusion of oil and gas drilling in the plan. Specifically, the comments addressed statements in the plan that conflicted with the allowance of drilling in the forests. The Executive Committee has a motion on the floor to endorse the comments by EMC staff as submitted to DEC. Tim questioned whether the statement saying that damage to infrastructure and open space would negate revenue gained by the drilling. He feels that statement may be overreaching without knowing exact figures. Kevin feels that DEC is doing the best they can to be protective of the environment, and that some areas may be suitable for drilling purposes. He disagrees with the sentiment against *any* drilling in state forests. Members felt

the comments were well written. Tim thought that the comments were well done but was uncomfortable with the fact that they were sent without being addressed by the council first. Terry noted that the council did not meet in August and there was a deadline for comments. Stacy noted that members were notified of the draft plan by email and comments from members were solicited before staff sending comments. Further discussion followed. Ruth called the question. Cindy seconded the motion. Motion to call the question (end debate and vote on original motion) passed with 7 ayes, 1 nay (Herman), and 1 abstention (Kevin). In regard to the endorsement of the comments sent by EMC staff, the motion passed with 7 ayes, 1 nay (Herman), and 3 abstentions (Kevin, Tim and Ken). Motion carried.

- **ACTION ITEM #2: Intermodal Transit Terminal Comments**

Staff submitted comments to Rita Petkash, Planning Commissioner, August 19, 2005, regarding the preliminary design of the Broome County Intermodal Transit Terminal on Chenango Street in Downtown Binghamton. The comments reflected the need for green space and reiterated the sentiment expressed in Nov. 2004 that green building standards be applied to the design of the new facility. Motion on the floor from Executive Committee to endorse the comments as drafted and sent by EMC staff; motion passed unanimously.

7. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm

Beth Egitto, Recorder
Stacy Merola, Editor