



State of New York County of Broome Government Offices

Environmental Management Council

Jason T. Garnar, County Executive · Larry Lepak, Chair

**Broome County Environmental Management Council (EMC)
Notes from meeting held Thursday, March 7th, 2019 at 5:30pm
Exhibit Room, Broome County Library
185 Court Street, Binghamton, NY**

Present:

MAL: Ian Jensen, Bill Heaviside, Karen Ciatyk, Dylan Horvath, Jo Render, Tony Lubzanski,

CAC Reps: Adam Flint (Vestal)

Leg Reps: Susan Ryan and Jason Shaw

Associate: Andre LaClair

Staff: Beth Lucas

Others: Erin Mahoney, George Bezama, Matt Sullivan, Josh Enderle (CCE), Elizabeth Broad, Alec Jarvis

1. The meeting was convened at 5:30pm.
2. **Presentation: New York's Clean Energy Goals and the Bluestone Windfarm**

A presentation was given by Elizabeth Broad, Outreach Director for New Yorkers for Clean Energy to give an overview of New York's clean energy goals and plans to accomplish them. She started by giving an overview of climate trends in New York, environmental issues that arise from the use of fossil fuels, and New York States established energy and climate goals. She then gave an overview of the various programs and opportunities for contributing to the efforts to achieve these goals including programs to support the following: air-source heat pumps, electric vehicles and community solar, among others. The 3rd annual Climate Solutions Summit being held on September 21st in New Paltz, provides an opportunity for collaboration on climate solutions and share projects and resources to implement those solutions.

A presentation by Alec Jarvis from Calpine Bluestone Wind followed. Alec gave of the proposed 124 megawatt (MW) wind powered electric generating facility in the Towns of Sanford and Windsor. His presentation included an overview of the project components. He also gave an overview of the specific environmental and community impact assessments that they completed for the project including visual and cultural assets, wetlands, avian and other wildlife, decommissioning as well as an assessment of coordination with required federal and state agencies.

3. **Announcements/ Privilege of the Floor/Items of Interest**

- Earth Fest is being held on Sunday, April 28th from 10am-3pm. Beth circulated a sign-up sheet for volunteers at the EMC table.

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- The County has posted the draft Broome County Hazard Mitigation Plan online for public comment at www.gobroomecounty.com/planning/hazardmitigation. Comments can be submitted until April 4th.
- The Broome County Parks Plan is nearing completion. Planning anticipates that it will be submitted to the Legislature for adoption in the coming months.
- Adam noted that there would be a workshop on March 23rd hosted by Binghamton Community Power entitled “Solar for All”. The workshop will instruct participants about how to receive monthly credits on their electricity bills for solar power.

4. CAC and Committee Updates

- **Vestal CAC** – Adam noted that the main focus of the CAC has been implementing treatment of the hemlock woolly adelgid at the Town’s parks and streambanks. They anticipate treatment in April or May. Dylan noted that they are looking at the use of beetles in the Nature Preserve as a treatment for the invasive insect.
- **Photo Show Committee** – Beth noted that Larry Lepak (Photo Show Committee Chair) had discussed dates for the next Photo Show Exhibit with the Broome County Arts Council. The next date available at the gallery is May of 2020. Due to the timing, it was decided that it would be very difficult to hold an event in 2019 due to constraints on the part of the committee and staff time. Beth and Larry will meet with the BCAC in the coming months to discuss details of the event.
- **Work Plan Committee** – The committee met in February. Items of discussion included amending the EMC bylaws to reflect the current needs of the Council, development of new membership materials and other issues. Bill is working on the bylaws, and Ian is working on membership items for consideration at a later meeting.

5. Administrative Items

- **Student Membership**
 - o Erin Mahoney is a student from Binghamton University who has submitted an application for membership as a Student Representative
 - o **ACTION ITEM:** Jo Render made a motion that the EMC submit a recommendation to the County Executive that Erin be appointed as a Student Representative, seconded by Adam Flint. All in favor, motion approved.

6. Climate Smart Communities/Clean Energy Communities Update

- Beth gave an update on the status of Broome County’s efforts to become a Climate Smart Community and a Clean Energy Community.
- CEC - Beth noted that the final items needed for Clean Energy Communities certification were completed, but the documentation for those items is being finalized. Planning has already submitted documentation for the CPACE program that provides a mechanism for financing clean energy projects on commercial buildings, and Solarize, that provides opportunities for residential clean energy upgrades. The two remaining items are:
 - o Benchmarking – This month the Legislature plans to approve a benchmarking policy establishing a protocol for monitoring and reporting energy use on an, at least, annual basis. Once passed, a certified resolution will be sent to NYSERDA.

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- Clean Energy Upgrades – Broome County must show that we have reduced greenhouse gas emissions by at least 10% to be approved for this action. We anticipate that we more than achieve this through the installation of the Conklin solar arrays that went online in 2018. Planning is working with the regional CEC Coordinator on inventorying the County’s energy use to document this reduction.
 - We anticipate that these items will be submitted by the end of March.
 - CSC – Beth noted that through an internal assessment of climate smart communities actions, Broome County anticipates that we will have enough points to achieve bronze certification under the CSC program. However, in order to be certified, it is required that the Legislature pass a Climate Smart Communities pledge. The EMC Legislative Reps have been working to garner support for the pledge with their colleagues on the Legislature. Once this is achieved, Planning can submit a request to be certified. The deadline for doing this is July 5th of 2019. Otherwise, we will not have another opportunity to do this until January of 2020.
 - There was a brief discussion about electric vehicle infrastructure in Broome County and the idea of developing a plan assessing availability of charging infrastructure and opportunities for installation of new infrastructure. Binghamton University may be interested in moving forward with an initiative to do this. Adam suggested looking into an initiative by Southern Tier Eight Regional Planning to assess electric and gas infrastructure that may provide information that would contribute to the planning of electric vehicle infrastructure.
7. Meeting is **adjourned at 7:30pm**. Next meeting will be held on Thursday May 9th at 5:30pm in the Decker Room at the Broome County Library.