



**Dutchess County  
Environmental Management Council (DCEMC)  
Meeting Minutes  
December 7, 2016**

**Attendance:**

<b>At-Large Members</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Pete Berasi		X
Gail Beverly	X	
John DeGilio	X	
Shannon Fatum		X
Vicky Kelly		X
Constance Kustas		X
Marsha Leed	X	
Stephen MacAvery	X	
Lalita Malik	X	
Chuck May	X	
<b>Ex Officio, CAC Members &amp; Others</b>		
Joel Tyner, Dutchess County Legislature	X	
Jeff Luoma, CCEDC	X	
Ryan Farley, Student, Vassar College	X	

Please find below the minutes of the meeting of the Dutchess County Environmental Management Committee (EMC) meeting held on December 7, 2016.

The meeting was brought to order by Steve MacAvery at 7:010 p.m.

**Chairman's Comments:**

The letter from the EMC concerning its position about the Hudson River Anchorages proposal has been submitted to the Dutchess County Legislature. The Legislative Chair acknowledged the letter and stated that it would be used as the basis for the Legislature's own positioning statement on the issue.

Steve also announced that \$100.00 has been allocated to the EMC. This can be used to cover the cost of the website-

Lalita Malik suggested that we compile a list of the EMC's initiatives that could be supported by funding so that it can be submitted early in the 2017 budget process. Gail Beverly stated that she would start a list and circulate it to the rest of the Committee for input.

Jeff Luoma noted that EMC's funding for the website goes to the Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Lalita Malik suggested that the EMC request an opportunity to present to the Legislature early in 2017 as a means of establishing the value of the group. There was agreement with this suggestion. Two topics were recommended for this purpose:

- Road Salt
- Alternative Energy

Regarding the latter, Steve MacAvery stated that he would find out what the DC Planning Department knows about solar initiatives in the County.

**Administrative Items:**

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the October 2016 meeting as is by Skip DeGilio 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gail Beverly. All were in favor, none opposed. Skip will post the minutes, as is.

A motion was made to approve the schedule of EMC meetings as outlined in the 12.05.2016 note from Vicky Kelly to EMC members. All were in favor and none were opposed. It was noted that February 22 is also the date for the CAC Roundtable and that we need to prepare for this by sending out an invitation to all the CAC Chairs. The 2017 meeting dates are as follows:

Jan. 25  
Feb 22 - CAC EMC Round Table  
Mar 22  
Apr 26  
May 24  
June 28  
July 26  
August - no meeting  
Sept 27  
Oct 25  
Dec 6

**Update on Enabling Language for EMC:**

Draft changes to the enabling language for EMC are still with Legislature's attorney, as they have been for 2+ years. Committee members were vocal about their frustration with this delay. Gail Beverly asked why the updates are significant and what the impact is of their not being approved. She suggested that the EMC communicate to the Legislature about why approving the EMC's enabling language changes might provide value to them, or contrarily, why not approving the changes might pose a problem for the Legislature. Steve MacAvery stated that he would contact the Chair of the Environmental Committee about this.

Lalita Malik suggested that the EMC request a face-to-face meeting with the Chair of the Environmental Committee in April 2017 to discuss how we might work more closely together and how the EMC might provide more value to the Environmental Committee.

**Website Update:** Skip DeGilio requested input from the members on where the notice about EMC's Hudson River Anchorages position letter should go, on the website or in a Newsletter?

New EMC members: Ryan Farley was welcomed as a participant in the EMC. He is a student at Vassar College and is interested in volunteering for community environmental action. Jeff Luoma had several project suggestions in the field of environmental chemistry with the CCE. He and Ryan will follow-up in separate discussions. Jeff also suggested that Ryan speak with Vicky Kelly about potential volunteer opportunities with the Cary Institute.

Correspondence: It was noted that a letter from Ryan Farley (see above) had been received, requesting permission to participate in the EMC meetings. The Committee was in favor of granting this request.

Gail Beverly asked Ryan whether he was involved in the Sustainability group at Vassar. He is not.

State of Environment Report: It was noted that Vicky Kelly is still drafting topics to be addressed in the annual report.

Potential for an EMC Newsletter: Skip DeGilio began the discussion by asking members for their opinion about 3 possible banners. One was picked as the majority favorite and Skip will use it for the draft newsletter. Chuck May had several good suggestions on using different pictures each season.

Jeff Luoma suggested that the EMC promote a campaign for a specific environmental initiative each month. After discussion, it was agreed that the EMC would start this activity but on a quarterly basis. Lalita Malik noted that we should have a plan for this activity and that individual members should be assigned to write every quarter.

It was also decided that the CACs should be solicited for content. A plan for this is to be created and discussed in January. Dissemination targets for the letters should include the CACs, EMC alumnae, sister environmental organizations, the Poughkeepsie Journal, the Legislators and local colleges.

### **Projects & Subcommittee Reports:**

Road Salt : Pete Berasi and Vicky Kelly, both absent, will need to provide an update on this report at the next meeting.

Recycling: Vicky Kelly was not able report as scheduled on the October CCEDC workshop, not having been able to attend this meeting. The report will be scheduled for the January 2017 meeting. Gail Beverly and Lalita Malik have not yet met to develop suggestions for recycling programs in local schools.

Jeff Luoma reported that his team is investigating what local schools the CCE can get involved with to promote organics recycling. He may need the EMC to write a letter of support for a composting project..

He also may need the EMC to write a letter of support for legislation requiring organics waste collection and recycling at the County level.

Jeff requested help with the following:

- Finding the details about the Berkeley, California legislation that provides the framework for the city's organics recycling program



- Finding areas of similar density (rural, decentralized) where a successful organics waste collection and recycling program has been implemented.

Gail Beverly said she would help with these tasks and report at the next meeting.

Energy Conservation & Alternative Energy: No update was provided.

Low Impact Development: Steve MacAvery reported that he has received a draft of a checklist for use by Planning Boards from Gail Beverly. He has requested that it be pared down to items that pertain only to water quality. Gail stated that she will do so.

Environmental Fair: Steve reported that Laurie Sandow, lead organizer of the City of Poughkeepsie 2016 Earth Day event, is willing to work with the EMC on the 2017 Earth Day event. The need for a better location than the one used for the 2016 event was discussed. Waryas Park and College Hill Park were both proposed. Steve will keep in touch with Laurie Sandow about collaborating our Earth Day efforts.

### **Updates from Legislature, Ex Officios, CAC's, Municipalities:**

Joel Tyner reported on the following;

- An Environmental Working Group has found dangerous levels of Chromium 6 in local water supplies. He referred the Committee to the report at <http://www.ewg.org/research/chromium-six-found-in-us-tap-water>
- Joel thanked the EMC for advocating for solar, environmental issues and for sending a strong letter to the Legislature concerning the Hudson River Anchorages proposal.
- Joel asked Whether the EMC would help support and advocate for the Sierra Club's Ready for 100 campaign. The goal is to be 100% fossil fuel free by 2030. Jeff suggested that the EMC begin writing advocacy letters to be published on our website and sent to the Dutchess County Legislature to highlight certain issues. He offered to draft the first letter. Gail Beverly noted that the EMC should agree on the topics to be addressed, which can be a topic at our January 2017 Planning Session. The Committee also agreed that we should target 1 letter per quarter and monitor our success in the initiative.
- Joel noted that National Geographic has recently recognized Ulster County as a very green county. He asked whether the EMC can leverage this with the Dutchess County Legislature as a way of promoting environmental initiatives on the East side of the Hudson.

See: <http://www.poughkeepsiejournal.com/story/news/local/ulster-county/2016/11/14/ulster-county-national-geographic/93804878/> ,  
<http://www.dailyfreeman.com/general-news/20161114/national-geographic-recognizes-ulster-countys-environmental-achievements> ,  
<http://ulstercountyny.gov/news/business-services-economic-development-executive-press-releases/national-geographic-magazine> ,  
<http://www.recordonline.com/news/20161114/national-geographic-magazine-to-spotlight-ulster-countys-environmental-focus>

Potential action on this issue can be discussed at EMC's January meeting.

**Other Business:**

Lalita Malick proposed that we dedicate the January meeting as a Planning Session so that the EMC can prepare for activities discussed in today's meeting. The Committee agreed without dissent.

Jeff Luoma will send out a 5 Stars Urban Renewal grant to the Council members. He asked for input from the members on suggestions for environmental justice organizations the CCE can partner with.

From Prior Meeting – Outstanding:

Gail Beverly reported on an excellent pollinator landscaping at Rhinebeck Bank on Route 9. She asked if EMC would consider recognizing a business that has pollinator friendly landscaping.

Vicky Kelly updated the committee on the request by CAC's to advise them on forming & functioning of CAC's. The group discussed assembling a repository of information about the statutes that formed each CAC & overall guidelines for CAC's for the EMC's website.

The next regularly held meeting of the EMC will be held on January 25, 2017 from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. at the Farm & Home Center.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned with a motion by Marsh Leed.

Minutes were prepared by Gail Beverly, Vice-Chair.