



**Dutchess County  
Environmental Management Council (DCEMC)  
Meeting Minutes  
June 24, 2020**

Due to the COVID19 pandemic and in accordance with Governor Cuomo's executive order 202.28, which suspends certain provisions of the Open Meetings Law, this meeting was held via the teleconferencing program, Zoom and recorded.

**Attendance:**

<b>At-Large Members</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Pete Berasi	X	
Shannon Fatum		X
Vicky Kelly	X	
Constance Kustas	X	
Stephen MacAvery	X	
Lalita Malik	X	
John Paraskeva		X
Candis Sunderland	X	
<b>Ex Officio, CAC Members &amp; Others</b>		
Michelle Gluck, CCEDC	X	
Brad Barclay, Dutchess County Planning & Development	X	

Welcome/Intro/Chairman's comments: Steve MacAvery welcomed all to the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

Meeting Minutes: A motion to accept the minutes of the May 2020 meeting was made by Lalita Malik with a second by Pete Berasi; all were in favor.

Reports:

IBM Grant: Pete Berasi reported that IBM will issue checks on a quarterly basis, so the check for our grant will be issued on June 30, 2020. CCEDC should receive the check by mid-July at the latest.

Single Use Plastics Pollution Prevention Campaign: Candis Sunderland reported on the Beyond Plastics webinar, which covered two current bills in the House Senate:

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/3263>

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/5845>

They seek to make producers fiscally responsible for materials (plastic, cans and glass) throughout their life cycle, thus shifting the burden off of individuals and local municipalities. It puts a temporary moratorium on expansion of existing plants and building of new production plants. It also phases out a variety of single use plastics like plastic bags, Styrofoam, straws and utensils (except upon request for the latter.) Finally the EPA must create standardized labeling systems for reusable, recyclable and compostable and limit export of plastic waste. Candis also reported on the webinar, Cycle of Harm the Toxic Path of Fracked Gas. The take away there is that the Fossil Fuel industry knows that energy production will move away from burning oil and gas so they are shifting their concentration to plastics. Fracked gas is being shipped to “cracker plants” which create the feedstock for plastic film. So, production of plastics is going to be pushed not only by corporations looking for inexpensive packing materials but also by the Fossil Fuel industry. Also, the myriad local laws such as plastic bag bans deter producers from acting and a federal action is required.

Michelle reported on a steering committee on June 18 in which they discussed development of a business focus group and the submission of a new SUPPP grant. The focus group will target 6-8 businesses with an hour-long educational program. The businesses will be a mix of types. A pre-survey will be sent to the participants. Michelle asked if the EMC is interested in hosting a virtual screening of the documentary ‘The Story of Plastic’. Michelle will investigate the cost. Hosting the screening would involve a screening followed by a panel discussion. Vicky will contact Cary PR about co-sponsoring the screening and follow-up panel. Michelle also suggested a virtual Facebook live event and a radio program on Hudson Valley Green. Time frame for these events is before September 30.

NYSACC Membership: Shannon Fatum was not present. Vicky Kelly made a motion, seconded by Pete Berasi to drop membership for 2020 and 2021; all were in favor.

Household Hazardous Waste: Vicky Kelly and Steve MacAvery reported that they had a zoom meeting with Rebecca Edwards, Lindsay Carille, Eoin Wrafter and Sean Hussey, an intern at Vassar College. Steve and Vicky will co-mentor Sean who will gather information and report to the group. A revised project description was sent to Sean. Steve and Vicky met with Sean once and will continue to meet with him weekly. Michelle Gluck suggested that Sean present to the EMC at the culmination of his project. Lalita Malik discussed the possibility of expanding the Union Vale transfer station or using it as a model for the County. Vicky suggested asking Sean to update the table created by Michelle Gluck a few years ago. Michelle suggested asking Sean to investigate potential for grants for a permanent facility.

Hudson Valley Regional Airport Master Plan: Steve MacAvery reported that he has not responded by the deadline but will respond that the EMC does not have resources beyond NRI’s and DEC.

2019 Annual Report: Steve MacAvery reported that the report is behind schedule but is in progress.

#### Other Business:

Steve MacAvery received a message from Eoin Wrafter, commissioner of the Dutchess County department of planning, requesting that the EMC prepare an austerity budget for 2021. Currently our budget is as follows:

#### 2020 EMC Budget:

- EMC web site \$100
- NYS Assoc. of Conservation Commissions membership \$75
- Training\Conferences\Workshops \$825 (this included the NYS Assoc. of Conservation Commissions Annual Meeting)
- TOTAL \$1000

The group discussed the request and what we could cut and still function at our current level. Vicky suggested the possibility of zeroing the budget if we could get permission to have a Facebook page and we could post minutes and agendas either on the County or CCEDC website. Lalita suggested retaining the funds for the website. Pete suggested retaining \$100 for the website and \$200 for a training budget. Steve will request \$300 for 2021.

Steve MacAvery discussed the \$10,000 allocated for the Household Hazardous Waste study in 2020. Brad Barclay will inquire about the availability of funds. Michelle will ask Carolyn Klocker if CCEDC would still be interested in working on the project in the fourth quarter.

Michelle reported on a CCEDC project on land and living that included improving backyard habitats and land stewardship. The events were recorded for future dissemination.

Brad Barclay reported that the Climate Smart Communities work is ongoing.

A motion to adjourn was made by Lalita Malik. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the EMC is July 22, 2020. Note that the executive order that suspends the requirements of the Open Meetings Law is effective until July 6, 2020. If there is not an extension, we will be required to meet in person.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Vicky Kelly, Recording Secretary.