



**Dutchess County
Environmental Management Council (DCEMC)
Meeting Minutes
June 23, 2021**

Due to the COVID19 pandemic and in accordance with Governor Cuomo's executive order 202.107, which suspends certain provisions of the Open Meetings law, this meeting was held via Zoom and recorded.

Attendance:

At-Large Members	Present	Absent
Pete Berasi	X	
Shannon Fatum	X	
James Fredrickson	X	
Vick Kelly	X	
Constance Kustas	X	
Sarka Leff	X	
Stephen MacAvery	X	
Lalita Malik		X
Nancy Severns	X	
Candis Sunderland	X	
John Paraskeva	X	
Ex-Officio, CAC Members & Others		
Carolyn Klocker, Dutchess County Cornell Co-Op Ext.	X	
Brad Barclay, Dutchess County Planning	X	
Steve Caswell, Dutchess County Legislature	X	

Welcome/Intro/ Chairman's comments: Steve MacAvery welcomed all to the meeting at 7:05 PM, Introductions of all attendees followed.

Meeting Minutes: A motion to accept the minutes of the May 2021 meeting was made by Candis Sunderland, with a second by James Fredrickson; all were in favor.

Correspondence: No correspondence was received in the last month.

Website update: Brad Barclay asked if a bill had been submitted to Planning for the web site, as Planning did not have record of receiving a bill. Carolyn Klocker and Steve thought that bill had been submitted approximately around March 2021. Carolyn will check with Angela Sullivan (DCCCE) to see if a bill was submitted and follow up with Brad and Eoin Wrafter (DC Planning).

Draft Revised Enabling Legislation: An update was provided by Steve Caswell – Steve C. reported that the Legislature's attorney was reviewing the draft legislation language and expressed concern that the EMC wrote the legislation language. Steve M. clarified that the draft legislation that was submitted was done by the EMC to just give the legislature something to start with. Steve C. agreed that the EMC was in the best position to draft the revised legislation language and wasn't sure if there was more concern other than that and would follow up with the attorney. Steve C. asked what had been updated from the 1972 legislation. Steve M. replied that one example is that previous legislation listed scenic roads as topic for the EMC to focus on and that's no longer a topic of environmental concern for the county. Therefore, updating of environmental issues that are more pertinent today seems relevant. The language broad, but we are not limited to what's on it. So, the language is simply updated and refreshed.

A 2nd concern raised by the attorney was about the number of people on the committee. Why are there 11 people and why shouldn't the number be lower (the 1972 legislation specified 9 EMC members, the 1989 amended legislation revised the number to 11). It was mentioned that there are 30 municipalities and there are diverse interests that the committee looks at. Steve Caswell offered to find out what the concern is about the membership. It was mentioned that we do not always have 11 people working at any one time and we're losing 3 people effective right now. Steve Caswell asked how we get new committee members. Steve MacAvery explained that interested people send in a letter of interest and the Legislature then pulls resumes as new members are needed. Steve Caswell will check with Leigh Wager to see if there are resumes. The consensus is that the legislation is outdated and needs to be updated.

EMC 2022 Budget request: Amount is to DC Planning due the 28th. Discussion about whether we need to continue with the pared back budget. Training conferences and workshops were cut out because of the Pandemic but with leadership and new members training dollars could again be useful. \$825 was the 2020 number. Steve MacAvery suggested we go back to \$825 for that, but the Conservation Commission was not a good expenditure so drop that. The Website costs \$100.00. We have a volunteer who maintains it. John Paraskeva remembered that before we had attended the Corn Festival, and other activities and money was needed for supplies. Steve MacAvery remembered that we used IBM Grant money for that. Pete Berasi said he must work on the IBM grant request again. Michelle usually knows how much we have, but Carolyn said she will get the amount and send it out. Pete remembered that IBM grant money has decreased. James wondered if he could also apply, but Pete said it is awarded per organization, not per employee. There is some possibility that if 3 people apply as a group there might be more money. Pete said he would look into that. Sarka, remembered the money allocated to the Household Hazardous waste research, Steve remembered that the \$10,000 was beyond our capabilities to utilize and that the research was done by the committee and a student volunteer. If the committee decided there was a project that warranted it the Legislature could potentially

make a budget amendment to fund one. It was decided to request money in the budget for the website and for training/conferences and public outreach. A Motion was made by James Fredrickson with a 2nd by Pete Berasi to request \$1000 for the EMC in the 2022 budget. The request would stipulate would be submitted for \$100 for the website, and \$900 for training, registration fees and public outreach educational materials. All were in favor. (Note – Steve MacAvery submitted the budget request to Eoin Wrafter as noted above on June 25).

EMC Chair - With Steve MacAvery, Chair, and Shannon Fatum, Vice Chair, both not being reappointed to the EMC a discussion followed about the Chair position. A motion was made by John Paraskeva, with a second by Pete Berasi, for Jim Fredrickson to be chair and Candis Sundeerland Vice Chair. All were in favor. Steve MacAvery agreed to compile a description of his duties and his contacts. Brad Barcaly, Steve MacAvery and Carolyn Klocker said they can be available for support. Steve M. & Steve C. will notify Leigh Wager, Clerk of the Legislature, of the need to put the EMC new chair on the legislatures July meeting agenda.

EMC Member reappointments - Shannon, Lalita and Steve M. have declined to be reappointed and the end of June ends their tenure. Steve relayed that Leigh Wager said that reappointments were not on the legislatures June agenda but would likely be on the agenda for July. Steve MacAvery informed members that if you requested to be reappointed it is safe to assume you will be reappointed and to look for notice in July.

Subcommittee Reports & Updates –

Monitoring for Environmental Advocacy: Nancy reported - The Redwing expansion in Rhinebeck was approved by DEC, despite loss of Blanding turtles, the decision would need to be overturned by NYSDEC's Commissioner, it was decided that it was too late for the EMC to get involved. Catskill Mtn – no updates. Clearwater is hosting a zoom festival on 6/19. Watershed and Smart growth alliance links are broken or non-existent.

Candis shared that NYPIRG has added a 2021 scorecard on NY's progress toward its climate goals. There is a breakdown of each climate goal in the CLCPA and through publicly available information they evaluate NY's progress. The conclusion was that NY needs to work aggressively if they are to meet their goals. It was agreed that this should be monitored in the future.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: Steve M. reported that the group had decided to focus on emphasizing the need to reduce and reuse, with recycling being that last part to reduce waste. Brad said that DC Planning was going to be looking at single stream recycling, although single stream recycling has increased the rates of recycling the issue now is that the recycling waste stream is very contaminated with non-recyclable items. Also, the recycle market has been down for cardboard, as a result cardboard is being thrown away because there was no market. A discussion on places like The Recycle Depot ensued, and it was suggested that a tour of the facility and other facilities like it could be beneficial. It was suggested to contact Vicky Kelly to see if she recalled how the tours were set up in the past.

Climate change and alternative energy – No update.

Road salt: John Paraskeva reported that he is working on getting an invitation to the highway superintendent lunch so he can talk to them about the salt. He then mentioned the Redwing expansion in Rhinebeck. He said that material sources are drying up and even though there's concern about the environmental impact, these materials are necessary for daily life.

Green infrastructure –Sarka said there was to be a focus on reducing impervious surfaces, and that investigating out dated zoning ordinances was one way to address this, but investigating zoning ordinances across the county is a large task. Steve remembered that there is a matrix at Cornell Cooperative and Carolyn made the link available:

<http://ccedutchess.org/environment/natural-resources/land-use-planning>. Sarka agreed that matrix would be good place to start. Once the information is known suggestions could be made to the CACs for them to advise their municipalities of changes that could be made. Information could be added to the Greenway guide and offered to Brad as well.

Other business:

Carolyn said NYSERDA released request for proposals (Hopefully Carolyn can fill this in because I was unable to hear her).

Brad – Finally getting DEC to finish the grant and hope to start the project in September – government greenhouse inventory and a Climate action plan, with 9 municipalities. He hopes a rep from EMC can be more involved. By July 1st, request for proposals for Conservation easements on farmland and open space in urban environments are due. The purchase of the 7 wells property near stone church is happening. There's a brook, a deep ravine, plant communities and animal communities. County with Cornell Coop have applied for a grant for a new NRI next year. They're hoping to get that money.

Steve Caswell – Will continue to work on making progress on the enabling legislation.

Next meeting July 28th – Brad said the county back July 6th, the Governor has pulled the emergency authorization today. Revisions on open meetings law was extended through July 6th. May be able to meet in person in July.

Thankyous to Steve MacAvery & Shannon Fatum for their service. John Paraskeva moved to adjourn at 8:32 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Steve MacAvery and Candis Sunderland.

