



**Dutchess County
Environmental Management Council (DCEMC)
Meeting Minutes
February 23, 2022**

This meeting was held by Zoom

Attendance:

At-Large Members	Present	Absent
Pete Berasi	X	
James Fredrickson	X	
Vicky Kelly	X	
Constance Kustas	X	
Sarka Leff		X
John Paraskeva		X
Nancy Severns	X	
Candis Sunderland	X	
Ex Officio, CAC Members & Others		
Michelle Gluck, CCEDC	X	
Brad Barclay, Dutchess County Planning Dept	X	
Brent Feldweg, East Fishkill CAC	X	
Sharon Kroeger, Amenia CAC	X	
Sergei Krasikov, Beacon CAC	X	

Welcome/Intro/Chairman's comments: Jim Fredrickson welcomed all to the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes: A motion to accept the minutes of the January 2022 meeting was made by Nancy Severns with a second by Peter Berasi; all were in favor.

Correspondence: An email from Simon Skolnik of NYSACC with announcements and information.

Website update: no new updates

Funds Update: Michelle Gluck reported that there is approximately \$3200 in EMC funds available, but this is not official. We should get an official statement for our next meeting.

EMC Report for Roundtable: Jim sent a report to Carolyn for the EMC's contribution to the roundtable. Jim will send the report to all.

Natural Resource Inventory for Dutchess County: no new updates

East Fishkill CAC – Fishkill Creek Proposal (Jim Fredrickson, Brent Feldwig): Fishkill Creek Watershed Association has a watershed plan report online that includes data collected in the early 2000's on segments of the stream from 16 'streamwalks'. Impairments were identified, which future work can address as well as increasing awareness of the creek. Impairments include streambank erosion, diminished riparian vegetation, pipe discharges, etc. The group discussed revitalizing the work and options for where to go from here. One possibility is to start up the Fishkill Creek Watershed Association, to include representatives from the towns the creek's watershed covers. An inter-municipal agreement is another way to create a structure. Emily Vail was part of the original group. A 501c3 organization wasn't formed. Climate Smart Communities may be an incentive for engaging a group. An EMC subcommittee with members of the CAC's from the towns is also a possibility. The purpose needs to be identified. Goals could be resampling the creek via 'streamwalks', help the 4 towns that the creek traverses to implement recommendations that the management plan made, including educational materials on healthy streams. The recommendation was made to reach out to municipalities trying to get CSC certification to engage them. Also to reach out to Emily Vail to find out what other watershed groups are doing.

Road Salt Analysis: We've had a request from the town of Northeast and the village of Millerton to do a cost benefit analysis on switching to brine from rock salt and to provide options for ways to fund the purchase of new equipment. Vicky will develop a to do list for the project and share with the group.

Environmental Advocacy Group Monitoring Updates:
Nancy Severns reported:

- A Sierra club Mid Hudson group-A meeting was held with Jonathan Jacobson on the budget and legislative package of renewable energy, Budget-green affordable housing, Legislation-all electric building act, Advanced Building, appliance, and equipment act, Fossil free utilities act, Fossil free heating tax credit and sales tax exemption. It was considered a success. Where needed, Jacobson was asked to sign on or sponsor legislation.
- Catskill Mountainkeeper had a panel discussion on jumping worms and there's a link to the recording. The group came out in support of Department of Environmental Conservation Requiring Additional Analysis Around Alternatives to Ashokan Reservoir Releases, their Drinking Water Impacts, and How Climate Change Will Affect Releases. Budget testimony was provided.
- Sloop Clearwater announced new Executive Director, David Toman. Their event page is a good consolidation of partner seminars and events.

- Danskammer Energy challenged the DEC denial of an air permit to them based upon their (DEC's) lack of authority. They are conducting municipal solar mapping training again beginning March 16th, primarily directed at municipalities. The Indian Point Decommissioning Authority will start to hold meetings every two months beginning on March 17th.

Candis Sunderland reported:

- NYSERDA has an Energy Advisor tool for income-eligible New Yorkers and owners of affordable housing for energy bill assistance and low cost energy upgrades
- Funding was added for municipalities to decarbonize and find resilient energy services in the state budget.
- They have made a report on the Economic benefits of investing in greenhouse gas mitigation in forests and agriculture.
- [CLCPA Draft Scoping Plan Overview \[PDF\]](#) public comment period (120-day), beginning January 1, 2022. Final scoping plan by the end of 2022
- Danskammer comment period ended yesterday on their rebuttal of the application denial.

Other Business:

A motion to adjourn was made by Candis Sunderland. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the EMC is the CAC/EMC Roundtable on March 31, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Vicky Kelly, Recording Secretary.