



**Dutchess County
Environmental Management Council (DCEMC)
Meeting Minutes
January 24, 2024**

This meeting was held by Zoom

Attendance:

At-Large Members	Present	Absent
Pete Berasi	X	
James Fredrickson	X	
Vicky Kelly	X	
Constance Kustas	X	
John Paraskeva		X
Nancy Severns	X	
Lora Schilling	X	
Keri Ann Wright		X
Ex Officio, CAC Members & Others		
Devin Rigolino, Dutchess County Dept. Planning & Development	X	
Kelsey West, CCEDC	X	
Lisa Kaul, County Legislator on Environment Committee	X	

Welcome/Intro/Chairman’s comments: Jim Fredrickson welcomed all to the meeting at 7:01 p.m.

Meeting Minutes: A motion to accept the minutes of the December 2023 meeting was made by Nancy Severns with a second by Pete Berasi; all were in favor.

Correspondence:

1. Information from Simon Skolnik NYSACC
2. Request for & distribution of info on best practices for meadow management among CAC/EMC members

Website update: 2024 meeting dates & info about Roundtable were added

Funds Update: Devin has \$1000 in County budget starting Jan. 1 for calendar year for educational expenses and registrations. Kelsey reported that the IBM funds have not changed. Devin reported that the Planning Department Commissioner interpreted the budget to be educational for the members, not the public. Devin reported that he has other funds for a public rain barrel workshop.

2024 Meeting Dates: CAC/EMC Roundtable Feb 29, EMC meeting Feb 28 cancelled.
Addition Mar 27,
Apr 24, May 22, Jun 26, Jul 24, Aug 28, Sep 25, Oct 23, Dec 4

EMC Members: Jim will contact the clerk of the legislature about the 3 vacancies.

Reports:

Climate Smart Communities Update: Nancy summarized the CSC meeting at the end of October and announced that they will meet at the end of January. Committee status reports are part of the meetings and include 10-20 realistic actions to implement. A progress report is forthcoming. The meeting next week will review all of the actions. Meetings are open to the public, the next meeting is Jan. 29 at 5:30 p.m.

Fishkill Creek Watershed Alliance: Jim reported that the group is still organizing, and are developing bylaws.

Solid Waste Management: The group discussed the email thread in which Vicky & Nancy discussed the Solid Waste Management Plan. Devin reported that the division of solid waste has budgeted funds to develop a pilot community composting program. Devin discussed gasification, which county officials learned about in a recent meeting. The group discussed compiling information for people interested in developing organics diversion systems such as composting, gasification or digesters.

Natural Resource Inventory: Devin reported that they are waiting for a launch from the County, which will probably be in the next month.

Road Salt: Vicky, John & Bob Wyant will meet with the Red Hook Town Board, date TBA.

Peach Hill Green Infrastructure Project: Lora reported that they finished the first half of the program. They had full attendance for all of the 5 weekly sessions. The students will develop a presentation for the Peach Hill Park Board. In April construction will begin with ribbon-cutting in June. A kiosk with information will be developed by the students.

Other Business:

Devin suggested we consider commenting on the proposed new wetlands legislation on which the NY DEC is receiving public comments, which are due Feb. 19.

Devin suggested that the EMC participate in the County's Earth Day Event on April 20 at the Vassar Barns.

The CAC/EMC Roundtable Meeting is Feb. 29, 2024 6:00-8:00 p.m.

A motion to adjourn was made by Nancy Severns. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the EMC is March 27, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Vicky Kelly, Recording Secretary.