



**Dutchess County
Environmental Management Council (DCEMC)
Meeting Minutes
March 27, 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	X	

Welcome/Intro/Chairman’s comments: In Jim Fredrickson’s absence, Nancy Severns welcomed all to the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Meeting Minutes: A motion to accept the minutes of the January 2024 meeting was made by Vicky Kelly with a second by Pete Berasi; all were in favor.

Correspondence: none

Website update: none

Funds Update: Devin was not present. Kelsey reported that the workshop on rain barrels will not happen this year.

2023 Annual Report: A motion to accept the report was made by Vicky Kelly, second by Peter Berasi, all were in favor.

Recap of Roundtable: The meeting was well attended and well run. There was discussion about recruiting volunteers for councils. The watershed groups were a highlight of the meeting. Devin announced the grant funding from the County for composters.

EMC Members: Lisa Kaul said they appointed new members last month. Lisa asked if we review needs and communicate that to the legislature. The group discussed better communication with the legislature, especially with respect to plans, actions and legislation taken up by the legislature. Lisa will flag discussions and resolutions for the EMC meetings.

Reports:

Climate Smart Communities Update: Nancy reported that the Planning Department applied for recertification of Bronze status but fell short, will reapply in April and plans to apply for Silver status later in 2024. The GHG inventory fell short because the link on the county website wasn't live although it is live now.

Fishkill Creek Watershed Alliance: Peter reported that the bylaws were approved and officers were elected. The next meeting is scheduled for April 25 at the Community Center in East Fishkill.

Solid Waste Management: Nancy and Vicky discussed a meeting they had with Kerry Russell and Devin Rigolino about diverting organic material from the waste stream in the county by increasing composting throughout the county. To that end, the county has \$200,000 in its budget and will announce a grant program that will be aimed at public schools and municipalities and will require a 50% match of funds for aerobic digesters. The EMC can promote this with CAC's and on the website when the grant application process opens. Nancy and Vicky will plan a field trip to Columbia County's facility to see how it works.

Natural Resource Inventory: The NRI was released and has been very well received.

Road Salt: Vicky, John & Bob Wyant will meet with the Red Hook Town Board on April 9.

Peach Hill Green Infrastructure Project: Lora reported that on the last Saturday in April the project will start up again and run for 5 Saturdays. The town of Poughkeepsie will help. The project will be done end of May. There will be a ribbon cutting probably in June.

Other Business:

John discussed the Future Farmers of America group at John Jay High School.

Nancy discussed the April 20 Earth Day event at the Environmental Cooperative at Vassar College, which she will attend on behalf of the EMC. Vicky will print brine analysis reports and bring them to CCEDC, Lora will send something to Nancy about Peach Hill and Kelsey will look for materials at CCEDC.

A motion to adjourn was made by John Paraskeva. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the EMC is April 24, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Vicky Kelly, Recording Secretary.