



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

**This meeting was held by Zoom**

**Attendance:**

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

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

Meeting Minutes: A motion to accept the minutes of the March 2024 meeting was made by Nancy Severns with a second by Lora Schilling, Jim Fredrickson abstained; all were in favor.

Correspondence: none

Website update: none

Funds Update: Devin reported that there is \$1000 for training, conferences for members.

EMC Members: Lisa Kaul reported that Tony D'Aquani is the Legislature's Environment Committee chair. Lisa talked about increasing outreach and will reach out to the clerk about this. The group discussed ways to reach a broad audience to try to recruit applications, examples include CCEDC and the CAC/EMC Isitserve.

The group discussed writing a state of the environment report, which is part of the charge in the enabling legislation for the EMC.

#### Reports:

Climate Smart Communities Update: Nancy reported that they have not met since the last report. Devin reported that the application to recertify as bronze certified is being reviewed by the state. The CSC annual report is out with a press release and the silver certification application will be sent in July.

Fishkill Creek Watershed Alliance: Jim reported that officers have been elected, Pete Berasi is the elected secretary. They are pursuing 501c3 status. Bylaws are in place.

Solid Waste Management: Vicky reported that she is setting up a field trip to the Columbia County waste facility to tour the aerobic digester system and speak with the Director of the Department of Solid Waste, Wendy Madsen. Lisa will invite legislators. The group discussed the aerobic digester grant, the closing date for which is June 7.

Natural Resource Inventory: Devin suggested that this doesn't need to be a standing agenda item. A how-to video is in development as well as an e-newsletter describing the NRI. Jim suggested that this stay on the agenda for one more month.

Road Salt: Vicky reported that she and John along with Bob Wyant, Rhinebeck Highway Superintendent, spoke at the Red Hook Town Board on April 9 about the use of brine. Dave M reported that the Daily Catch did an article about Bob Wyant.

Peach Hill Green Infrastructure Project: Lora reported that they had their first session this Saturday; they retained all of their students. They will stake the rain garden, the town will dig the hole, then there will be planting, stabilization and ribbon-cutting. Completion date will be end of May.

#### Other Business:

Lisa Kaul asked about the rain barrels project. Kelsey reported that, with the departure of Carolyn Klocker, that project has been tabled.

A motion to adjourn was made by Nancy Severns. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the EMC is May 22, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Vicky Kelly, Recording Secretary