



**Dutchess County  
Environmental Management Council (DCEMC)  
Meeting Minutes  
June 26, 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 7:05 p.m. Introductions were made.

Meeting Minutes: A motion to accept the minutes of the May 2024 meeting was made by Pete Berasi with a second by Nancy Severns, Vicky Kelly and Jim Fredrickson abstained; all were in favor.

Correspondence: Communication from a rising junior looking for summer EMC volunteer job.

Website update: none

Funds Update: none

Draft Enabling Legislation: From Lisa Kaul: The Chair of the Legislature and his secretary said that, since the EMC was established by the county legislature, it would be within the purview of the legislature to amend the resolution for these purposes. They suggested that should the EMC wish to update their legislation, they should send the proposed changes to the chair who will engage the legislative counsel for review who will make sure that the changes are allowable within the enabling state law. Please see below for the Dutchess County Resolution No. 58 of 1972:

[https://www.dutchessny.gov/DutchessCountyPublicAccess/Resolutions/PDFProvider.ashx?action=PDFStream&docID=Afy7fCubx1mXnDiCCxEiH%252bKJCUmBhQKKAHEpbjg%252bLHOXQMnEYplloxa9WYiftEXCW6u6BZwSQhhvNtsYLyqhQQ%253d&chksum=&docName=Resolution%2b720058%2b\(2%252f28%252f1972\)%253b%2bStatus%253a%2bADOPTED%253b%2bCategory%253a%2bLOCAL%2bLAW%2b-%2bENVIRONMENTAL%2bMANAGEMENT%2bCOUNCIL&PromptToSave=False&ViewerMode=0](https://www.dutchessny.gov/DutchessCountyPublicAccess/Resolutions/PDFProvider.ashx?action=PDFStream&docID=Afy7fCubx1mXnDiCCxEiH%252bKJCUmBhQKKAHEpbjg%252bLHOXQMnEYplloxa9WYiftEXCW6u6BZwSQhhvNtsYLyqhQQ%253d&chksum=&docName=Resolution%2b720058%2b(2%252f28%252f1972)%253b%2bStatus%253a%2bADOPTED%253b%2bCategory%253a%2bLOCAL%2bLAW%2b-%2bENVIRONMENTAL%2bMANAGEMENT%2bCOUNCIL&PromptToSave=False&ViewerMode=0)

Enabling state legislation: <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/laws/ENV/A47>

EMC Members: From Lisa Kaul: The Legislature appointed Kathleen Susman to the EMC at the Board meeting on June 10, 2024. Vicky will contact Kathleen with a welcome packet.

Reports:

Climate Smart Communities Update: Nancy reported that the climate action plan is out for public comment and that the county will submit application materials for silver status.

Fishkill Creek Watershed Alliance: Pete Berasi reported that the group met and is progressing with action items.

Solid Waste Management: The group discussed aerobic digesters. The county only got one application for municipal digesters and is considering options. The group also discussed commenting about the waste to energy plant.

From Lisa Kaul: At the last meeting we considered the possibility of reviewing the Zero Waste management plan in Delaware County, PA, with an eye towards advising the legislature "on issues to consider, possible solutions, new technology etc." I asked the Chair of the Legislature and his secretary whether we need some kind of formal approval to undertake this review. I was told that we can undertake any study that we deem important and do not need formal "permission" from the legislature. Should the EMC wish to present our findings to the legislature, we would need to request the Chair of Environmental Committee to put the presentation on the agenda at an upcoming committee meeting.

Jim made a motion to review the Delaware County PA zero waste management plan with a second by Dave. All were in favor.

State of Environment Report (to replace NRI): The group discussed reviewing the 2018 report and updating it as needed. Vicky will circulate the report and everyone will review it for missing or outdated topics.

Road Salt: Vicky reported that there are two new state initiatives that address road salt pollution, funding to help cover the cost of best management practices and legislation that would establish an interagency committee focused on road salt reduction goals, which passed the NY senate but ran out of time in this session of the assembly.

Peach Hill Green Infrastructure Project: Devin reported that the ribbon cutting event was phenomenal and thanked Lora for her work.

#### Other Business:

Dave reported that the Red Hook high school got a grant to do some composting, which is picked up once a month and taken to the Ulster facility. The elementary school does on site composting. The middle school does no composting. The high school environmental club runs the high school composting program, which fluctuates in effectiveness. The elementary school has a community garden.

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

Minutes respectfully submitted by Vicky Kelly, Recording Secretary