



**Dutchess County
Environmental Management Council (DCEMC)
Meeting Minutes
October 23, 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
Dave Mergendahl	X	
John Paraskeva		X
Nancy Severns	X	
Lora Schilling	X	
Kate Susman	X	
Ex Officio, CAC Members & Others		
Devin Rigolino, Dutchess County Dept. Planning & Development	X	
Lisa Kaul, County Legislator	X	
Dave Siegel, Resident	X	
Ronald Hicks, Assistant County Executive	X	

Welcome/Intro/Chairman's comments: Jim Fredrickson welcomed all to the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Meeting Minutes: A motion to accept the minutes of the September 2024 meeting was made by Dave Mergendahl with a second by Nancy Severns; all were in favor.

Correspondence: none

Website update: none

Funds Update: There is \$925 left in budget for education related activities.

Draft Enabling Legislation: Jim discussed the draft rewrite of the enabling legislation, Lisa Kaul said she would follow up after Jim sends the draft to the chair of the legislature and chair of the environment committee of the legislature, cc'ing Lisa Kaul.

Jim discussed letters to the legislature that were drafted after the last meeting. Jim updated the group on a meeting with Eoin Wrafter, Vicky Kelly & Devin Rigolino. Eoin made some suggested changes and Jim will implement the changes and send the letters to the chair of the legislature, chair of the environment committee of the legislature, and the county executive, cc'ing Lisa Kaul.

EMC Members: no updates

Reports:

Climate Smart Communities Update: Nancy and Devin reported that member terms of the CSC task force will expire at the end of the year, Devin is working on addressing this. Devin reported that the County has applied for a NYSERDA grant to install EV charging stations and purchase electrical vehicles.

Fishkill Creek Watershed Alliance: Jim reported that the alliance is now a nonprofit organization. The NYS senate must approve the alliance as an inland waterway, which would make potential grant funding available.

Solid Waste Management: Lisa discussed Mothers Out Front, which presented a petition with 950 signatures to the legislature looking for a solution to the WTE plant and to hire a Zero Waste consultant. The group is meeting with the chair of the environment committee on Monday at 4:00 pm. Lisa suggested that a member of the EMC attend the meeting, Vicky volunteered to do so and will await an invite. Lisa reported that Royal Carting was purchased by a company called Casella that has its own landfills. Ron Hicks informed the group that Casella has a very informative web page that lists its landfills etc. The group again discussed advocating for an engineering study to study the issue, including comprehensive data on exactly how waste is currently handled throughout the county and potentially providing options for solutions to reduce waste. The group agrees that the study does not need to be done by Zero Waste. Lisa suggested that the EMC draft a report that includes what we think a study should entail. She will circulate a draft of Westchester County's RFP for a solid waste study.

State of Environment Report:

Vicky reported that we have authors for all of the sections except Waste Disposal, Composting and Recycling, which the group agreed to continue to discuss. As the solid waste management issue described above develops, it will likely become clear how to write this section.

Road Salt: Vicky reported that when she and Jim met with Eoin Wrafter & Devin Rigolino, Eoin encouraged the EMC to continue to tackle this issue.

Peach Hill Green Infrastructure Project: Lora described the project, which was designed to give high school students hands-on experience on an environmental engineering project. Ron Hicks discussed economic development and youth skill development programs in the County, especially in the STEM fields. He is interested in developing sustained programs, especially those that work with under-represented communities.

Wappinger School Alliance: Lora reported that she met via zoom with participating 5th grade classes in Wappingers school district. They are incorporating ecosystem awareness in their projects on light and matter and environmental issues. They would like to display their reports on our website, which the group supported.

Other Business:

Lisa Kaul discussed workforce development efforts in the county and that the county executive has put together two trade fairs this year and asked if EMC would sponsor a green jobs section of an existing fair.

A motion to adjourn was made by Nancy Severns. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the EMC is December 4, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. Note that the November & December meetings are combined to avoid the holidays.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Vicky Kelly, Recording Secretary