



**Dutchess County
Environmental Management Council (DCEMC)
Meeting Minutes
June 25, 2025**

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	
Jefferson Akins		
Elizabeth Kucinich	X	
Ex Officio, CAC Members & Others		
Devin Rigolino, Dutchess County Dept. Planning & Development	X	
Lisa Kaul, County Legislator	X	

Welcome/Intro/Chairman's comments: Jim Fredrickson welcomed all to the meeting at 7:03 p.m. and introductions were made.

Meeting Minutes: A motion to approve the meeting minutes of the May 2025 was made by Pete Berasi, second by Dave Mergendahl, all were in favor, the motion carried.

Correspondence: no correspondence

Website update: no new updates

Funds Update: Devin reported that the funds remain unchanged from last meeting.

Draft Enabling Legislation: no new updates

Members: Two new members were appointed for the two-year period from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2027. We now have 11 members. Vicky reported that she's looking into the new requirement to sign the oath of office.

Legislature's Environment Committee Chair & Other Connections: Jim will contact the legislature to set up a presentation of the State of the Environment Report, hopefully at the Sept. 11 meeting of the Legislature.

Reports:

Climate Smart Communities Update: Nancy reported that the group met and discussed what the committee should do going forward. The members are gathering thoughts and will hold a caucus in July to decide next actions.

Fishkill Creek Watershed Alliance: Pete reported that water sampling is ongoing, analysis is being done at Bard and Vassar. Samples are taken from designated locations and analyzed for fecal matter, heavy metals and other analytes. The analyses are costly and will deplete the funds set aside for this part of the program. The data will provide an assessment of the health of the creek.

Solid Waste Management: Devin reported that the review of the bids was complete and an award was made. A contract is being developed. The proposed study length is 18 months, probably starting in September.

State of Environment Report: Jim complimented the report and all of the authors. A motion to accept the report was made by Pete Berasi, second by Nancy Severns. All were in favor and the motion carried. The group discussed public presentations at public libraries and other venues. The report will be sent to the legislature, CAC's and other officials. Vicky will circulate the list of people that we sent the report to in 2018. Lisa suggested inviting CAC's to the presentation at the Legislature.

Road Salt: The group discussed engaging Riverkeeper to present to various elected and appointed groups, including the county legislature and CAC's. Devin will contact Riverkeeper to learn more about their past and planned future presentations and possibly to engage them to present at a fall CAC/EMC Roundtable.

Green Infrastructure Projects: no new updates

Legislature's Agenda Items of Interest: Lisa reported that she will send relevant resolutions to the group as she receives them. Lisa discussed a new program called Hudson Valley Airnet, a network of air quality sensors developed at Bard College. They are looking for hosts for monitoring equipment.

Other Business:

A motion to adjourn was made by Dave Mergendahl. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the EMC is July 23, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Vicky Kelly, Recording Secretary