



**Dutchess County
Environmental Management Council (DCEMC)
Meeting Minutes
October 22, 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	X	
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 7:09 p.m.

Meeting Minutes: A motion to approve the meeting minutes of the August 2025 was made by Pete Berasi, second by Nancy Severns, all were in favor, the motion carried. Note that the September 2025 meeting was cancelled.

Correspondence: Emails from NYSACC about the upcoming conference and requesting nominees for youth awards. Email from a real estate agent inquiring about a property in East Fishkill to which we sent a reply written by Devin.

Website update: no new updates.

Funds Update: From Devin via email: Funds have been used for 2 registrants for the NYSACC conference and will be used for light refreshments for the November 19 EMC/CAC Roundtable about water resources. It would be good for members to attend and to send an RSVP to Devin.

Draft Enabling Legislation: no new updates

Legislature's Environment Committee Chair & Other Connections: no new updates.

Reports:

Climate Smart Communities Update: Nancy reported that the advisory committee met and discussed moving forward and the scope of their future work. The task force discussed considering affordability when making recommendations and the possibility of meeting with and becoming advisory to CAC's and developing projects that can assist them. More discussion about this will follow.

Fishkill Creek Watershed Alliance: Pete reported that water sampling continues, results are consistent and the next samples will be collected in November. Vicky reported that she connected two Cary Institute scientists with the group and that they plan to attend an upcoming meeting.

Solid Waste Management: From Devin via email: The consultant is in a data and information collection phase. A more detailed update will be made at the November 19 Roundtable.

State of Environment Report: Vicky reported that she drafted a powerpoint presentation and shared it with Kate & Jim. Fine tuning will be necessary if/when it is used to present the report. Jim will reach out to the Poughkeepsie Library about a presentation.

Road Salt: Vicky reported that she is gathering data on per lane mile salt use by towns and the county and has received 7-8 responses so far. The results are very interesting and will be shared at the November 19 Roundtable. Washington County (Lake George) has come up as the gold standard for salt savings. We interviewed them for our brine cost benefit analysis.

Green Infrastructure Projects: No new updates

Legislature's Agenda Items of Interest: A motion was made by email by Vicky Kelly and seconded by Kate Susman to add the EMC's logo to the posters about reducing single use plastics as per Lisa Kaul's request via email. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Other Business:

On October 29, 11:00 am the County Executive will present the budget to the legislature followed by commissioners presenting individual budgets. The meeting is open to the public.

Lisa reported that the chamber of commerce designed a plaque that businesses can put out in their restaurants. The plaque prompts patrons to Please Ask for Utensils, Napkins or Condiments. Lisa is pursuing funding to make the plaques.

A motion to adjourn was made by Pete Berasi. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the EMC is November 19, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. at the Farm & Home Center. The last meeting of the year will be December 3, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Vicky Kelly, Recording Secretary