



**Dutchess County
Environmental Management Council (DCEMC)
Meeting Minutes
January 26, 2026**

This meeting was held by Zoom

Attendance:

At-Large Members	Present	Absent
Jefferson Akins		X
Pete Berasi	X	
James Fredrickson	X	
Vicky Kelly	X	
Elizabeth Kucinich	X	
Constance Kustas	X	
Dave Mergendahl		X
John Paraskeva		X
Lora Schilling	X	
Nancy Severns	X	
Kate Susman	X	
Ex Officio, CAC Members & Others		
Devin Rigolino, Dutchess County Dept. Planning & Development	X	
Lisa Kaul, County Legislator		X
Ed Hogarty, EMC Webmaster	X	
Emily Inoue	X	

Welcome/Intro/Chairman’s comments: Jim Fredrickson welcomed all to the meeting at 7:03 p.m.

Meeting Minutes: A motion to approve the meeting minutes of the December 2025 was made by Kate Susman, second by Peter Berasi, all were in favor, the motion carried.

Correspondence: Information from Mothers Out Front about solid waste management and a DEC fact sheet about road salt from Dan Shapley, which outlines funding opportunities.

Website update: Ed Hogarty, EMC webmaster, joined the meeting to discuss potential changes to the website. Ed suggested forming a group to review changes and recategorization of the

website. Changes could include new theme and more outreach. New roles might include additional people that can contribute and post to the website. Vicky, Kate & Jim volunteered to be the initial reviewers to work with Ed on changes.

Funds Update: Devin reported that the EMC has \$1000 for continuing ed, conferences, website, and tabling for FY26.

2025 Annual Report: Jim Fredrickson made a motion to approve the report, with a second by Kate Susman, all were in favor and the motion carried.

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 group has not met recently. Devin reported that the Hudson Valley Regional Council met and discussed how each county is handling task forces and the need for redefining the focus of task forces after certification as Climate Smart Communities is achieved.

Fishkill Creek Watershed Alliance: Pete reported that they are planning another round of water sampling.

Solid Waste Management: Devin reported that he submitted notes to the consultant, including a request for increased opportunities for public input. A public comment period and a presentation by the consultant were added to the contract.

State of Environment Report, Legislature Presentation: Jim will reach out to Lisa Kaul about scheduling a presentation.

Road Salt: no new updates

Green Infrastructure Projects: Lora has discussed the project with local college professors and continues to work on new opportunities to do projects with students.

Legislature's Agenda Items of Interest: The group discussed the potential changes to the Local Aquifer Law, including repeal of the existing law and replacement with a completely new law. Jim will contact Lisa Kaul regarding the status of potential actions.

Other Business: Jim discussed presenting the State of the Environment Report at the CAC/EMC Roundtable on Feb. 25.

A motion to adjourn was made by Nancy Severns. The next scheduled meeting of the EMC is the CAC/EMC Roundtable on Wednesday, February 25, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at CCEDC.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Vicky Kelly, Recording Secretary