



**Dutchess County
Environmental Management Council**

**Dutchess County
Environmental Management Council (EMC)
2008 ANNUAL REPORT
Approved March 25, 2009**

EMC MEMBERSHIP

The EMC enabling legislation provides for a total of eleven at-large seats. The current at-large appointed members of the EMC and their term expirations are listed below:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Lalita Malik, Appointed Chair | 6/30/10 |
| 2. Bob Cohen | 12/31/09 |
| 3. Ramesh Naik, Recording Secretary | 12/31/09 |
| 4. Ann Davis | 6/30/10 |
| 5. John DeGilio | 6/30/10 |
| 6. Sean McDermott | 6/30/10 |
| 7. Rachel Noe | 6/30/10 |
| 8. Judith Papo | 6/30/10 |
| 9. Tonia Shoumatoff | 6/30/10 |
| 10. Larry Steel | 6/30/10 |
| 11. vacant | _____ |

Three at-large members previously appointed to the EMC have resigned over the past year. They are: Fran Rimany (appointed 6/30/10 - resigned 2008), Kathy Robbins (appointed 12/31/09 - resigned 2/09), and Mark Condon (appointed 12/31/09 – resigned 4/2009).

In addition to the eleven at-large seats, the DC EMC membership consists of six Ex-Officio members, and twenty-one Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) members, for a total of thirty-eight members. Ex-officio members include:

1. Legislative Liaison (Peter Wassell)
2. Dutchess County Planning Board
3. Dutchess County Department of Public Works
4. Dutchess County Attorney
5. Soil and Water Conservation District
6. Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County (Allison Chatrchyan)

EMC MEETINGS

In 2008, the EMC held its regular meetings the 4th Wednesday of every month from 8:30 – 9:30 pm and committee meetings as needed. In 2008, the EMC took, prepared and approved minutes for all its regular meetings, which are posted on its website ([www. http://dutchessemc.org/](http://dutchessemc.org/)).

Partnership with CCEDC Environment Program

Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County (CCEDC) is an Ex-Officio member of the EMC and actively participates with and advises the Council. The CCEDC Environment Program staff (under contract with the DC Department of Planning and Development) provide technical resources to the EMC. CCEDC staff provided public notification of all EMC meetings to the newspaper and other list serves, and sent meeting notices and materials via email to all members. CCEDC organizes regular environmental education forums for EMC and CAC members, and maintains resource materials on its website (<http://counties.cce.cornell.edu/dutchess>) for the EMC and Conservation Advisory Councils (CACs).

EMC 2008 PROJECTS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Jackson Creek Stream Walk Assessment – In 2008, the EMC worked to complete a report and presentation of the Jackson Creek Streamwalk, which the EMC conducted in late fall of 2007 with the Fishkill Creek Watershed Committee and Carolyn Klocker (CCEDC Env. Educator). Jackson Creek has been flooded during heavy storms in recent years, causing considerable damage to the streambed and surrounding public and private properties. The purpose of the streamwalk was to investigate why the creek is flooding, hotspot areas of erosion or other problems, and the extent of Mile-A-Minute infestation along the creek and the possibility that recent flooding might contribute to the spread of this invasive vine. The EMC is planning to present the results to the Legislature and local municipal officials in 2009.

Mile-A-Minute – The EMC worked with the CCEDC Environment Program and the Fishkill Creek Watershed committee (FCWC) to complete a report and recommendations on the invasive vine found in Dutchess County, the Mile a Minute Vine. EMC made a presentation and recommendations to the DC Legislature on March 10, 2008. Based on our recommendations, the Legislature passed a resolution declaring MAM as a noxious weed and appropriated contingency funds for a control program. This effort was in response to the Legislature resolution (No. 207320) adopted on November 13, 2007, requesting the EMC address the presence of the Mile-A-Minute vine in Dutchess County in cooperation with certain agencies. The EMC worked with CCEDC, local and state agencies, municipal representatives, property owners and environmental organizations to develop a plan to control and eradicate the vine.

Natural Resource Inventory – The DC EMC has made considerable progress on the update of the 1985 Dutchess County Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) in conjunction

with CCEDC, DC Planning, and the NRI Committee (including numerous local environmental scientists). The County Planning Department has created a link for the NRI on the County Planning website, introductory material has been uploaded and the climate chapter is nearly complete. Other chapters are in the process of being written/updated. CCEDC staff (Allison Chatrchyan and Neil Curri) are facilitating and supporting the NRI update. The authorization to maintain a Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) pursuant to section 5(6) of Resolution No. 58-1972 of the Laws of Dutchess County. The EMC last completed the NRI in 1985, in conjunction with the DC Planning Department and CCEDC. In 2007, the EMC digitized the 1985 NRI and made it available on the EMC website.

EMC Website – In 2008, the EMC continued to maintain and add content/links to the EMC website - <http://dutchessemc.org/>. The website contains the 1985 NRI, other EMC information and related links. EMC members maintain this site.

Enabling Legislation and By-Laws – The EMC has begun initial work to update the Enabling Legislation and By-Laws, but needs to continue this effort in 2009. The number of CAC and EMC members participating in EMC meetings/projects has grown this year due to efforts of the EMC and CCEDC to increase involvement. CACs are providing regular feedback about important land use/natural resource issues in their municipalities. It is imperative that the Legislature amend the enabling legislation to reduce the membership quorum to a workable number so that the EMC can be a more effective organization.

Week of Shopping Green Campaign – In December 2008, the EMC organized a *Week of Shopping Green* Campaign with the full support and involvement of the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce to raise awareness of plastic bags vs. recycled bags. Numerous Chamber members/stores participated in the event and offered incentives for customers to use reusable bags – officially, there were at least 16 stores with 31 locations participating (Stewarts shops had 14 locations and Hannaford 3). See the EMC website for the details of the campaign: <http://www.dutchessemc.org/BAGDAY/vendors.html>. A ribbon cutting event was held at the Poughkeepsie Galleria, with free distribution of reusable bags. The campaign was covered on Cablevision News, WPDH, WDST, Dutchess Beat, and the Poughkeepsie Journal. The project also established a good foundation for working together on future campaigns with the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce.

EMC FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The EMC is an all-volunteer council, and as such, members are not reimbursed for their time or expertise. However, members do often need to pay for minor expenses to attend trainings and workshops, to reimburse and travel and printing costs, and to cover the costs of software to work on projects (such as Adobe for the NRI Update) and to maintain and build a professional website. This is pursuant to section 8 of Resolution 58-1972 of the Laws of Dutchess County. It is suggested that the Legislature create a small line item in the budget for these expenses.