



**Dutchess County
Environmental Management Council (EMC)
2010 ANNUAL REPORT
Approved April 13, 2011**

EMC Membership:

The Dutchess County (DC) Environmental Management Council (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:

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|------------------------|---------|
| 1. Lalita Malik, Chair | 6/30/12 |
| 2. Pete Berasi | 6/30/12 |
| 3. Bob Cohen | 7/1/11 |
| 4. John DeGilio | 6/30/12 |
| 5. Victoria Kelly | 7/1/11 |
| 6. Maribel Pregnall | 7/1/11 |
| 7. Larry Steel | 6/30/12 |
| 8. Vacant | |
| 9. Vacant | |
| 10. Vacant | |
| 11. Vacant | |

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 (James Miccio)
2. Dutchess County Planning Board Chairman (Joel Diemond)
3. Dutchess County Department of Public Works Commissioner (Charles Traver)
4. Dutchess County Attorney (James Fedorchak, Esq.)
5. Soil and Water Conservation District Executive Director (Edwin Hoxsie)
6. Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County (Allison Chatrchyan)

EMC Meetings:

In 2010, the EMC held its regular meetings the 4th Wednesday of each month. In 2010, 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 the CCEDC Environment and Energy 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 and Energy Program staff (under contract with the DC Department of Planning and Development) provided technical resources and support 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 organized regular environmental education forums for EMC and CAC members, provided GIS and other training, research-based information and resources, and maintained resource materials on its website (<http://www.ccedutchess.org>) for the EMC and Conservation Advisory Councils (CACs).

Due to county budget cuts to CCEDC in 2010, there will be reduced support available from CCEDC in 2011. The EMC has been a strong advocate of not cutting the CCEDC budget any further.

EMC 2010 Projects & Accomplishments:

EMC Website – In 2010, the EMC maintained its new website, <http://www.duthcessemc.org>, which allows for community feedback through a community forum as well as EMC project updates and documents.

Natural Resource Inventory – In cooperation with CCEDC, the DC Department of Planning and Development, the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies and Vassar College, the EMC completed the update of the Dutchess County Natural Resources Inventory (NRI). Authors include several local environmental scientists who contributed to the project pro-bono. The DC Department of Planning and Development has created a link for the NRI on the County website <http://www.co.dutchess.ny.us/CountyGov/Departments/Planning/16138.htm>. CCEDC staff (Allison Chatrchyan, Emily Vail, and Neil Curri) facilitated the multi-year project with the EMC and the DC Department of Planning and Development.

The DC EMC received the outstanding project (first place) award for the project to update the Natural Resource Inventory of Dutchess County, NY from the NYS Association of EMCs. The award was announced at the 2010 NYSAEMC Conference on the Environment “Regional Approaches to Conservation” held November 19-21, 2010 at the Thayer Hotel in West Point, NY. The DC EMC received the award because of the

partnerships with key area organizations and teamwork in completing the NRI project with no additional funding. The Poughkeepsie Journal article on the NRI written by Emily Vail and Allison Chatrchyan is displayed at the State EMC office in Albany.

NY State DEC Meeting for EMCs and CACs – the DC EMC participated in the NYS DEC’s annual meeting for all of New York’s EMC’s and CAC’s, held in Albany, NY in June 2010. A report from the meeting was provided to all CACs.

Dutchess Watershed Awareness Month (WAM) – DC EMC members participated in numerous events during Watershed Awareness Month in July 2010, in cooperation with the Dutchess Watershed Coalition and the Adirondack Mountain Club. The EMC Chair organized and led several hikes in four watersheds in the county to raise awareness of watershed issues and problems caused by poor development. The public was also made aware of the tools available to preserve open spaces.

Fishkill Creek Watershed Association (FCWA) – EMC members initiated the process to create bylaws for the committee, in order to move towards the creation of a 501c3 organization. The FCWC voted on the bylaws in 2010 and create a formal Fishkill Creek Watershed Association.

Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies Road Salt Report – The EMC co-sponsored a report on Road Salt Best Management Practices with the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies entitled Road Salt: Moving Toward the Solution. The purpose of the report is to educate municipal officials on the impacts road salt on water resources and human health as well as methods for improving the efficiency of road salt use. Highlighted in the report is the cost savings achieved by the town of East Fishkill by investing in application regulators for trucks. The report can be found on the Cary Institute’s web site via the link http://www.caryinstitute.org/research/reports/road_salt_2010.pdf.

Recycling Project with Arlington High School and Recycling Outreach – The EMC co-sponsored a project with the Arlington High School Environment Club to recycle water bottles and other beverage containers. By collecting and returning bottles, the club raises funds for its activities.

Pharmaceutical Take-Back Program – In 2010, the EMC continued to work with two independent pharmacies in Dutchess County on a project to provide a year-round household medication drop-off point in Dutchess County. This project helps protect NY’s waters from pollution from the improper disposal of pharmaceuticals and flushing of unused medications. The two participating pharmacies are Tuminaro’s Pharmacy in Hopewell Junction and Molloy’s Pharmacy in Hyde Park.

Enabling Legislation and By-Laws – The enabling legislation for the EMC was adopted by the DC Legislature in 1972 and amended in 1989. The current Dutchess County law and

the NYS law that recommended the DC law can be found on the EMC's website at <http://dutchessemc.org/about/>.

EMC Expenses

The EMC is an all-volunteer council, and there is currently no budget line item for the EMC in the Dutchess County Budget. According to Section 8 of Resolution 58-1972 of the Laws of Dutchess County, "the members of the council, including ex officio members, shall receive no compensation for their services as members thereof but may be reimbursed for reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties within appropriations made available therefore." Current EMC members do occasionally incur expenses for travel to attend trainings and workshops, such as the New York State annual EMC meeting, or the annual DEC briefing for EMCs in Albany, NY. Other expenses incurred include reimbursement of software and printing costs for EMC projects.

In addition, similar councils, such as the Dutchess County Farmland Protection Board, have a small line item in the Dutchess County budget to help cover the cost of a paid secretary to record meeting minutes. It would be extremely helpful if the Environmental Management Council had a small line item (\$5,000-10,000) in the Dutchess County budget to cover legitimate expenses of appointed members, secretarial support, and website hosting and software costs for the EMC website – which Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County is currently covering. It is therefore requested that the Legislature include a small budget for the Dutchess County EMC in the County's 2012 budget to cover these minimal expenses.