



**Dutchess County
Environmental Management Council (DCEMC)
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Wednesday, January 27, 2010**

Attendance:

- Bob Cohen, EMC Appointed Member
- Vicky Kelly, EMC Appointed Member
- Lalita Malik, EMC Chair
- Judith Papo, EMC Appointed Member
- Maribel Pregnall, EMC Appointed Member
- Allison Chatrchyan, Ex-Officio, CCEDC
- Pete Berasi, East Fishkill CAC
- Brenda Cagle, Red Hook CAC
- Mark Doyle, Amenia CAC
- Jerry Suk, Dover CAC

Administrative Items:

- The minutes of the December 2009 meeting were approved, with inclusion of a change to the draft text proposed by Vicky Kelly. Minutes will not be posted on the website until they are approved/final.
- Lalita welcomed the two new EMC appointed members, Vicky Kelly and Maribel Pregnall. Members discussed participation of all members – Lalita will reach out to all EMC appointed members and reiterate the importance of attending meetings and full participation with the group.
- Members discussed the meeting schedule for 2010. Allison proposed holding EMC meetings from 5:00-6:40pm on the 4th Weds of the month when there is a CCEDC Environmental Forum scheduled; and from 7:00-9:00pm on the 4th Weds of the month when there is No CCEDC Environmental Forum scheduled. The full schedule will be posted on the EMC website at: www.dutchessemc.org, and is listed below.
EMC Meeting Dates/Times Scheduled for 2010:
 - December 1, 2010 5:00-6:45pm, followed by CCEDC Environmental Forum
 - November 17, 2010, 5:00-6:45pm (*tentative*), followed by CCEDC GIS Day Event

- October 27, 2010, 7:00-9:00pm
 - September 22, 2010, 5:00-6:45pm, followed by CCEDC Environmental Forum
 - July 28, 2010, 7:00-9:00pm (*tentative*)
 - June 23, 2010, 5:00-6:45pm, followed by CCEDC Environmental Forum
 - May 26, 2010, 7:00-9:00pm
 - April 28, 2010, 5:00-6:45pm, followed by CCEDC Environmental Forum
 - March 24, 2010, 7:00-9:00pm
 - February 24, 2010 – *CAC and EMC Roundtable*, 7:00-9:00pm ~ Postponed due to Snow to March 3, 2010
 - January 27, 2010 – 5:00-6:45pm, followed by CCEDC Environmental Forum
- Allison also reviewed the schedule of upcoming Environmental events, and the upcoming **CAC/EMC Roundtable Forum** (postponed due to Snow to March 3, 2010). All EMC members are encouraged to attend to kick-off the year planning with CACs.

Project Updates:

- Allison noted that she is primarily maintaining the EMC website with updated meeting and project info (www.dutchessemc.org). Lalita will check in with Sean and John again to reiterate the importance of them helping to maintain the website.
- Vicky reported on the status of EMC's Pharmaceutical Take Back Project with Tuminaro Pharmacy – Allison will work with Judith and Vicky to make sure the press release is updated and sent out, and changes are made to the website. Judith will follow-up with the Poughkeepsie Journal on the press release. Vicky will help coordinate with Emma Rosi-Marshall, from the Cary Institute, who is writing an EcoFocus article for the Poughkeepsie Journal about pharmaceuticals in streams (target publication date is Feb. 14).
- Vicky provided a brief update on the Road Salt Report she is writing for the Cary Institute – it will not be finalized until after the current winter season ends, so that data on Road Salt costs/options can be included. Pete Berasi provided great data from East Fishkill for the report.
- Allison reported on the progress with the NRI – various chapters are still in the process of being updated, and a steering committee with the authors will be scheduled soon. Allison will coordinate with Vassar on postponing the NRI conference until the fall when more chapters will be completed.

Strategic Planning for 2010:

- The majority of the meeting was spent discussing priorities for the EMC to work on in 2010. Allison provided a summary of key priorities identified from the CAC/EMC survey CCEDC conducted in 2009, and from other county EMCs around NYS

(particularly Schuyler County). EMC members listed priorities on flip charts, and then voted on their top choices. Results are noted below, with assignments.

- It was noted that the EMC has the following basic responsibilities, based on its enabling law:
 - Sharing information: with CACs, Towns, County, Legislature, Watershed groups...in partnership with agencies such as CCEDC, Cary Institute, etc. (e.g. Cary Road Salt Report).
 - Maintaining the Natural Resource Inventory – currently being updated with CCEDC and DC Planning and local scientists; data layers are maintained in GIS by CCEDC.
 - State of the Environment Report – Has not been updated in many years (neither the Legislature or Planning have requested the report be updated; there are many other sources of such data available).
 - Reporting – minutes are kept at all meetings. The EMC Annual Report is due every year on April 1st – Lalita will work on this; EMC members will review and approve before submission to the Legislature. 2010 and older Annual Reports will be added to the website.
 - Recommendations – The Legislature from time to time requests the EMC’s input on critical local issues.
 - Public Education – The EMC will continue its role with public education and outreach on various topics (Road Salt, Pharmaceuticals in water, Recycling), using the new website; participation at events (possibly upcoming HV Earth Day event); co-sponsoring programs; and outreach in the media (Pok. Journal).

- **The Top Issues Identified for EMC projects in 2010 were:**
 - **Increasing Awareness and Rates of Recycling/Education** (9 votes) – Judith, Maribel, Brenda, and Vicky will work on this. **Action Items:**
 - Research on barriers to recycling/waste reduction at schools, then work on programs.
 - Provide more info/links on Hazardous Waste (CFLs, Hazardous Waste Days on website).

 - **Sustainability/Climate Change/Alternative Energy** (7 votes). **Action Items:**
 - Develop an EMC Brochure
 - Possibly participate at the Hudson Valley Green Earth Day Weekend (April 24-25)
 - Alternative Energy – Larry continue Liaison with IDEA – ask IDEA to put links to the EMC website.

 - **Promoting Smart Growth / Land Use / NRI** (7 votes). **Action Items:**
 - Help CCEDC maintain table of model ordinances, and increase outreach to towns – Bob and Allison
 - Outreach to towns on Low Impact Development – Lalita

- Continue work to update NRI, and promote use of updated NRI when complete.
- **Watershed Management/Wetlands** – Lalita, Pete (7 votes). **Action Items:**
 - Help organize-cosponsor events for Dutchess WAM July 2010
 - Work with CCEDC on outreach on Groundwater / Septics/ Central Sewer.
- **Biodiversity / Habitats** (2 votes). **Action Items:**
 - Include links to town habitat maps in NRI as they are completed.
- **Other Issues** may be identified at the CAC/EMC Roundtable Forum.
- **One Time Events / Forums** – It was noted that several issues may be better handled as concrete training sessions, rather than ongoing projects. These included:
 - Organize Forum on Deer Management – CCEDC – ask Cornell Extension and Ray Winchcombe from Cary.
 - Septic system maintenance: CCEDC is planning to update materials & powerpoint with Cornell and make available to towns.
 - Tour of renewable energy/green building sites – CCEDC will plan to organize, EMC can co-sponsor.

Other Business/Adjournment:

- There was no Other Business. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50pm. Several EMC members attended the CCEDC Environmental Forum “Participating in the Great Backyard Bird Count” that followed from 7:00-9:00pm.
- The next meeting will be the CAC/EMC Roundtable on March 3, 2010; with the next regular EMC meeting to be held on March 24, 2010 at 7:00pm.

Minutes were prepared by Allison Chatrchyan in the absence of Sean McDermott and Rachel Noe. The EMC will need to identify an alternate secretary to take meeting minutes in the absence of the recording secretary.