

2006 EMC Report

2006 was a year of change for the EMC in many ways. In December 2005, the decision was made to transfer the existing EMC staff to Cornell Cooperative Extension of Dutchess County, with the intention that CCE DC provide the services to support the EMC charter defined in Dutchess County Resolution No.58-1972. In April 2006, all members of the existing EMC, with the exception of Lalita Malik, resigned from the EMC. The first half of 2006 focused on the transition from EMC (administered by S&W), to CCE DC and the creation of a new department of Environment Program. This report, covers the transition from EMC to CCE DC, recreation of the EMC and EMC's goals for 2007.

Transition from EMC to CCE DC

1. All three existing members of the DC EMC Staff were transferred from EMC to CCE as temporary staff members. The fourth employee, who was responsible for watershed and water quality had resigned in Fall 2006, and hat head count was also transferred to CCE.
2. An audit was requested and conducted by the Dutchess County Comptroller to ensure full accountability of funds held by S&W on behalf of EMC and managed by EMC staff. The audit completed the transfer from S&W to CCE, including outstanding grants.
3. In April the Annual report of EMC activities for 2005 was created and sent to the Legislature along with a cover letter announcing the resignation of all EMC members, except Lalita Malik.
4. CCE created a new department of Environment Program to take over the services formerly provided by EMC staff. A new council, Environment Program Advisory Council, was formed to provide guidance to CCE DC EP staff. Four members of the EMC were appointed to the EPAC to ensure smooth transition of staff responsibilities and ensure inclusion of all relevant EMC functions in the contract between CCE and DC Planning department.
5. CCE provided education sessions for CACs about environment issues and GIS support as needed to CACs. The detail list of monthly and special education sessions and GIS activities conducted by CCE can be found in CCE Year End 2006 report.

Recreation of the Dutchess County EMC

1. After the resignation of all members of the EMC, except Lalita Malik, in April,

there was no EMC

specific activity until July. In July, Lalita Malik was reappointed to the EMC and Ann Davis was a new appointee.

2. In September 2006, the Legislature passed a Resolution (DCL No. 206231) asking the EMC to

investigate the benefits, costs and effectiveness of the use of ethanol as an additive to gasoline

sold in Dutchess County. This was the first request made by the Legislature to EMC after the

EMC staff was transferred to CCE. On behalf of the EMC, Lalita Malik sent a letter to Linda Keech

requesting staff support to conduct the investigation. After consultation with the EPAC, the decision

was made for CCE EP staff to investigate the facts and prepare a report of the findings. No

recommendations would be made by CCE DC staff members.

3. By December, Rachel Noe and John DeGilio had been appointed to the EMC.

We held our first

meeting in December with CCE staff to review the DCL Resolution No. 58-1972, EMC bylaws, and

request from the Legislature DCL No. 206231. We discussed the activities we need to do, which

formed the basis of our 2007. We also discussed the relationship between CCE and EMC and the

process for EMC to request support from CCE to handle special requests from the Legislature and

research required to meet the EMC mandate.

Goals for 2007

1. Recruit EMC members from CACs, Ex officio representatives from supporting organizations (DEC, S&W, Planning dept.....)
2. Response to Legislative mandate on use of Ethanol in fuel
3. Revise EMC Bylaws and resolution creating EMC
4. Create EMC Web site
5. Update Natural Resource inventory, with focus on Open Spaces with unique characteristics
6. State of the Environment report