

DUTCHESS COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNSEL
2007 ANNUAL REPORT

DCEMC MEMBERSHIP

The Dutchess County Legislature has appointed eight at-large members to the DCEMC. Those members and their term expiration dates are listed below.

Lalita Malik, Chair	6/30/08
Ann Davis	6/30/08
John DeGilio	6/30/08
Rachel Noe, Acting Rec.Sec.	6/30/08
Bob Cohen	12/31/09
Mark Condon	12/31/09
Ramesh Naik	12/31/09
Kathy Robbins	12/31/09

The DCEMC enabling legislation provides for a total of eleven at-large seats. Therefore, three of the eleven at-large seats remain vacant.

In addition to the eleven at-large seats, the DCEMC membership consists of twenty-one CACs members, six ex-officio members and one legislative liaison member for a total of thirty-nine members.

DCEMC MEETINGS

In 2007, the DCEMC held its regular meetings the 4th Wednesday of every month from 9:00 – 9:30 p.m and its working meetings the 4th Friday of every month from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. CCEDC posted all meetings in the newspaper and sent notices via email to all members.

DCEMC 2007 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Ethanol Report – The DCEMC and Allison Chatrychan Ph.D. Environment Program Leader for the CCEDC worked extensively to prepare the Final Report and Recommendations to the Dutchess County Legislature on the Benefits, Costs and Effectiveness of Ethanol as a Gasoline Additive in Dutchess County, N.Y. The Final Report was presented to the Legislature on November 8, 2007. The Report and presentation were prepared in response to Resolution No. 206231, which was adopted by the Legislature on September 11, 2006.

Jackson Creek Stream Walk Assessment In the Fall of 2007, the DCEMC participated with the Fishkill Creek Watershed Committee and the CCEDC on the Jackson Creek

Stream Walk Assessment. Recently, the Jackson Creek has been flooding during heavy storms causing havoc and considerable damage to the streambed and surrounding public and private properties. The purpose of the walk was to investigate why the creek is now flooding. In addition, the purpose of the walk was to assess the extent of Mile-A-Minute infestation along the creek and the possibility of the recent flooding contributing to the spread of this invasive vine.

Mile-A-Minute – On November 13, 2007, the Dutchess County Legislature passed Resolution No. 207320 requesting the DCEMC address the presence of the Mile-A-Minute vine in Dutchess County in cooperation with certain agencies. The DCEMC worked extensively with CCEDC, local and state agencies, municipal representatives, property owners and environmental organizations to coordinate and develop a plan acceptable to all parties to control and eradicate the vine. This work included numerous meetings and communication via email and telephone. The DCEMC also conducted extensive research on MaM, including control techniques and grants. The DCEMC worked with the Allison Chatrychan, Ph.D. to prepare a detailed work plan to accomplish the tasks set forth in Resolution No. 207320 incorporating all the parties' comments.

Natural Resource Inventory - The DCEMC is authorized to maintain a Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) pursuant to section 5(6) of Resolution No. 58-1972 of the Laws of Dutchess County. The DCEMC last completed the NRI in 1985. In 2007, the DCEMC digitized the 1985 NRI on its website. Also, in 2007, the DCEMC slowly began to update the 1985 NRI. It had numerous discussions and meetings with the Allison Chatrychan, Ph.D. and the Dutchess County Department of Planning & Development to come up with a plan to update the 1985 NRI and obtain support for this project.

DCEMC Website – In 2007, the DCEMC continued to maintain and work on the DCEMC website - <http://dutchessemc.org/>. The website contains the 1985 NRI, other DCEMC information and related links. DCEMC members maintain this site.

By-Laws – The DCEMC initially drafted by-laws in 2007. However, the DCEMC was unable to adopt by-laws due to the fact it could not obtain a quorum at its meetings. Based upon DCEMC's research, its quorum and voting requirement is 20 of its 39 members. N.Y. Gen. Constr. Law § 41.

On average, the DCEMC had six members attend its meetings in 2007 far short of the 20 required. It is imperative that Legislature amend and/or clarify the DCEMC membership to reduce the quorum to a workable number so that the DCEMC can be an effective organization.

Meeting Minutes- In 2007, the DCEMC took, prepared and approved minutes for all its regular meetings. The DCEMC posts its minutes and agendas on its website.

DCEMC 2008 SUPPORT

In order for the DCEMC to continue to fulfill its duties for the Dutchess County Legislature, it needs support from the Legislature.

The DCEMC currently receives some support from the CCEDC through its contract with the Dutchess County Department of Planning & Development. The DCEMC is not involved in the discussions concerning the terms of this contract. This contract concerns a variety of other services CCEDC provides to the County. However, the services to be provided to the DCEMC are not clearly set forth in the contract. This has resulted in confusion and frustration as to exactly what services are to be provided to the DCEMC. Please note that the services the DCEMC has received from CCEDC have been excellent and are appreciated. However, clarification of support is essential. Also, the DCEMC respectfully requests a staff person, whether from CCEDC or otherwise, be specifically and solely dedicated to performing the voluminous work and research of the DCEMC. Such a person would assist the DCEMC in responding to the Legislature's requests in a timely fashion.

Below the DCEMC lists the areas in which it needs support. Some items have been performed by CCEDC. However, for clarification purposes, the DCEMC wanted to present a comprehensive list.

1. Meeting Coordination

- Prepare and send out notices of EMC meetings and Committee meetings to the membership and the public.
- Work with Chairman in preparing an agenda for EMC meetings and Committee meetings.
- Reserve room for EMC meetings and Committee meetings.
- Prepare for meetings in terms of gathering materials and making necessary photocopies.
- Take minutes at EMC meetings and Committee meetings and prepare draft minutes for the members to review and comment on.

2. Project Coordination

- Keep organized the projects being worked on by the EMC, including volunteer activity and a list of environmental concerns raised by the membership or public (potential future projects) and the person/organization that raised the concern.

3. Research

- Research projects requested of the EMC such as Mile A Minute issue as per Dutchess County Legislature Resolution No. 207320.
- Updating the Natural Resource Inventory pursuant to Dutchess County resolution 58-1972 section 5 (6)
- Prepare the State of the Environment Report pursuant to Dutchess County resolution 58-1972 section 7 (2).

4. Reimbursement of reasonable expenses

- Reimburse the membership for necessary out of pocket expenses incurred in performing their duties for the EMC pursuant to section 8 of Resolution 58-1972 of the Laws of Dutchess County, such as the cost of computer ink cartridges used in preparing documents for the Legislature, fees for attending environmental education conferences and fees incurred in performing research for the Legislature.