



**Dutchess County
Environmental Management Council**

**Dutchess County
Environmental Management Council (EMC)
2009 ANNUAL REPORT
Approved March 24, 2010**

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 – reappointed 12/09 - 12/11
3. Ramesh Naik, Recording Secretary 12/31/09 – term ended, not reappointed
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 in 2009

Two new at-large members were appointed to the EMC in December 2009 – Maribel Pregnall and Victoria Kelly, with terms ending in December 2011.

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 2009 (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 Meeting

In 2009, the EMC held its regular meetings the 4th Wednesday of every month and committee meetings as needed. In 2009, the EMC took, prepared and approved minutes for all its regular meetings, which are posted on its new website ([www.
http://dutchessemc.org/](http://dutchessemc.org/)).

Partnership with the 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) provides 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://www.ccedutchess.org>) for the EMC and Conservation Advisory Councils (CACs).

EMC 2009 Projects & Accomplishments

EMC Website – In 2009, the EMC completely revamped its website to a new user interface (wordpress) that allows volunteer members to maintain the content, and also allows a community section for community involvement. Some historical documents and new EMC projects are now posted on the website at <http://dutchessemc.org/>.

Jackson Creek Stream Walk Assessment – the EMC Chair gave a presentation on the Jackson Creek Stream Walk Assessment to the DC Legislature on May 11, 2009. The presentation provided the results of the streamwalk, which was conducted in fall 2007 with the Fishkill Creek Watershed Committee and CCEDC, and recommendations for improving stormwater management. The presentation was also given to the Town of Unionvale Town Board.

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 Steering Committee, with the assistance of several local environmental scientists who are contributing their expertise and time to the project pro-bono. The County Planning Department has created a link for the NRI on the County Planning website, see:

<http://www.co.dutchess.ny.us/CountyGov/Departments/Planning/16138.htm> CCEDC staff (Allison Chatrchyan and Neil Curri) are facilitating and leading the NRI update with the EMC – it will be a multiple-year project.

NY State DEC Meeting for EMCs and CACs – the Dutchess County EMC participated in the NYS DEC's annual meeting for EMCs and CACs from around New York, held in Albany, NY in June 2009. A report from the meeting was provided to all CACs. The EMC also provided a written update for the annual CAC conference in November 2009.

Dutchess WAM – EMC members participated in numerous events during Watershed Awareness Month in July 2009. 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. Help for the events were provided by ADK and the Dutchess Land Conservancy, and NYS DEC Stonykill.

Fishkill Creek Watershed Committee – The EMC Chair initiated the process to create bylaws for the committee, in order to move towards the creation of a 501c3 organization. The FCWC will be voting on the bylaws in April 2010 to create a formal Fishkill Creek Watershed Association.

Cary Road Salt Forum – The EMC co-sponsored an event on October 16, 2009 with the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies and Cornell Cooperative Extension to educate the

public on municipal Road Salt Use And the impacts on water resources and health. There will be a formal report prepared in 2010 on Best management Practices.

Pharmaceutical Take-Back Program – In 2009, the EMC initiated a new project to protect NY's waters from pollution from the improper disposal of pharmaceuticals and flushing of unused medications. The EMC began the groundwork to establish a year-round household medication drop-off point in Dutchess County.

Enabling Legislation and By-Laws – The enabling legislation for the EMC was adopted in 1972 and needs to be updated by the Legislature. The enabling law, and the NYS law can be found on the EMC's website at <http://dutchessemc.org/>.

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. According to Section 8 of Resolution 58-1972 of the Laws of Dutchess County, these expenses are reimbursable if funding is appropriated, although there is no current appropriation. There is also no current funding source for secretarial support for the EMC, such as is provided to a similar group, the DC Farmland Protection Board.

It is recommended that the Legislature include a small budget for the Dutchess County EMC in the County's 2011 budget to cover these minimal expenses.