



**Dutchess County  
Environmental Management Council (DCEMC)  
Meeting Minutes  
October 28, 2015**

**Attendance:**

<b>At-Large Members</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Pete Berasi	X	
John DeGilio	X	
Vicky Kelly	X	
Constance Kustas		X
Marsha Leed		X
Stephen MacAvery		X
Lalita Malik		X
Chris Robbins	X	
<b>Ex Officio, CAC Members &amp; Others</b>		
Jeff Luoma, CCEDC	X	
Joel Tyner, Dutchess County Legislature	X	
Brian Kehoe, Dutchess County Planning Department	X	
Jen Rubbo, Vassar College Environmental Cooperative	X	

**Special Presentations / Discussions:**

Brian Kehoe of the Dutchess County Planning Department discussed County activities that overlap EMC subcommittee work. These include farmland protection, solar energy and other forms of alternative energy via the Energize NY program.

**Farmland Protection:** The County Ag Plan includes a process for long-range implementation of conservation easements. There are some funds for the purchase of development rights, which would be coordinated with land trusts such as Dutchess Land Conservancy, Scenic Hudson or Winnakee Land Trust. There are state funds, but County participation is necessary. The Ag Plan includes other projects for economic development for agriculture and land use.

**Solarize Campaigns:** These include campaigns in Beacon, a consortium of towns in the northern tier of the County and the mid-Hudson region.

**Energize NY:** This is a finance mechanism for commercial establishments to secure loans for energy upgrades. Payback is in energy savings. There will be a press event on November 10, 2015 at 10:30 a.m. in Beacon.

Jen Rubbo of Vassar College Environmental Cooperative (VCEC): The VCEC was made possible by a grant from The Helmsley Charitable Trust. The grant funds a renovation of the

Barn Complex, which will be used for meetings, events, lectures, etc. The VCEC is responsible for outreach and coordination of Hudson valley environmental activities. Jen is meeting with groups including Hudson River Environmental Program, DCEMC, Cary Institute and others to discover where the gaps are in environmental outreach in Dutchess County. The Vassar College Preserve is 500 acres, 3-400 of which is preserved land. The remaining land is leased by the Poughkeepsie Farm Project, for people from the city to have garden plots. The land is half in the town of Poughkeepsie and half in the city of Poughkeepsie. The VCEC mission includes: 1) Education, 2) Citizen Science & 3) Research, which will be done through coordination of the Environmental Monitoring & Management Alliance (EMMA), an organization of 9 parks & preserves from NY Botanical Garden in the south to the Huyck Preserve in the north. The group participates in standardized monitoring for the purpose of informing management. Monitoring includes weather stations, phenology trails and the effects of deer management via enclosure plots on each preserve. Jen requested information on the issues facing the County. The group recommended the EMC's State of the Environment report, which informs the EMC subcommittees. Also, the CAC's, the Poughkeepsie Shade Tree Commission, Stormwater Management, e.g., swales & green curbs with the suggestion to look at Syracuse & Philadelphia, which have done much with student involvement. Jen thanked the committee. Her contact is jerubbo@vassar.edu. Look for the VCEC on Facebook.

#### **Administrative Items:**

- Minutes for the September 23, 2015 meeting were approved with changes by a motion from Pete Berasi, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chris Robbins.
- Enabling legislation draft - no new reports.
- Web site update - There is a need for a paragraph about new volunteers for the What's New link. Vicky Kelly agreed to resend the short blurb she wrote.
- Correspondence – Vicky received a message that the minutes and meeting notices are not going to CAC's. A reminder for Connie to do this will be sent. A special notice will be sent after we set the calendar for meeting dates for 2016.
- EMC members - A reminder to Chairman Rolison should be sent.
- The next regularly scheduled 2015 meeting is on:
  - December 2

#### **Reports of EMC Subcommittees:**

Due to the special presentations & discussions, there were no subcommittee reports.

#### **Updates from CACs/Municipalities/Ex-Officio Members/ DC Legislature/Planning Dept.**

- Joel Tyner discussed many projects including the proposed County Budget of \$440 million for 2016. He suggested that the EMC write to the County Executive reiterating the need for County support of the EMC and for support of the Earth Day Festival.

#### **Other Business:**

1. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the EMC will be held Wednesday, December 2, 2015 from 7:00-8:30 pm at the Farm & Home Center. At this meeting we will set the meeting dates for 2016.
2. A CCEDC forum on Alternative Energy will be held on December 8, 2015 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Farm & Home Center.

**Adjournment:**

- The meeting was adjourned with a motion by Vicky Kelly.

Minutes were prepared by Vicky Kelly, Recording Secretary.