



**Dutchess County  
Environmental Management Council (DCEMC)  
Meeting Minutes  
October 25, 2017**

**Attendance:**

<b>At-Large Members</b>	Present	Absent
Pete Berasi		X
Gail Beverly	X	
John DeGilio	X	
Brian Difeo	X	
Shannon Fatum		X
Vicky Kelly	X	
Constance Kustas		X
Marsha Leed		X
Stephen MacAvery	X	
Lalita Malik	X	
Yvette Valdes Smith	X	
<b>Ex Officio, CAC Members &amp; Others</b>		
Joel Tyner, Dutchess County Legislature		
Regina Klein, DCPAA	X	
Carolyn Klocker, CCEDC	X	
John Sullivan, Town of Dover	X	

Chairman's comments: Steve MacAvery welcomed all to the meeting, introductions were made around the table. Steve announced that the County Legislature passed a ban on Styrofoam and that, at the state level, a Hudson River protection law sponsored by Sue Serino & Didi Barrett in response to anchorages on Hudson River was signed by Governor Cuomo.

Budget requests to County: Steve MacAvery compiled a proposed budget to send to the County. CCEDC will be funded by the County to support the EMC in part to update the State of the Environment Report. A discussion ensued about whether the EMC should request support from CCEDC for the EMC. Steve will discuss this line item with Ruth Moore, CCEDC director and submit the budget request to the Legislature's Environment committee.

Minutes of September 2017 meeting: a motion was made to approve the minutes by Lalita Malik, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gail Beverly, all present were in favor.

Correspondence: Vicky Kelly received an email inquiry from Bob Wills of the Dutchess County Planning Department asking if the EMC had plans to update the 2012 State of the Environment Report. A discussion ensued about the details of completing the State of the Environment Report and creating a survey of the CAC's about environmental issues that concern the towns in the County.

Subcommittee reports:

Fossil Fuel Reduction: Steve MacAvery reported that the group continued research, including about LED lighting & walkable communities. The group met with Europa McGovern of Hudson Valley Regional Council who presented information on Climate Smart Communities. The group began compiling a list of what the County has done on a checklist of actions that would qualify them for certification as a Climate Smart Community. The final recommendations from the committee for reducing fossil fuel consumption will likely include that the County consider becoming certified as a Climate Smart Community, which will open up opportunities for significant grant funding to implement further steps and reduce emission and costs for fossil fuel use.

Environmental Fair: The group decided the event was a success and that the Pumpkin Festival was a good event to attend. And that the bags that were purchased with grant funding from IBM via Peter Berasi were a good way to promote recycling and reusing bags. Earth Day in Poughkeepsie and the Strawberry Festival as well as the Riverkeeper Sweep event were discussed as further events for the EMC to attend. Discussion ensued about encouraging and helping CAC's participate in their local Community Days. Materials from CCEDC are available to all. The committee will draft a framework for helping CAC's with community outreach, e.g., town community days.

Road Salt: Vicky Kelly informed the group that the date for the Road Salt Science & Management Forum has been postponed with a new date in January 2018.

Recycling Including Organics: Carolyn Klocker informed the group of the near completion of the NYSERDA Cleaner Greener Communities, Organics Recycling committee and report. A public forum was held to receive feedback from the community and a final report will follow. Vicky Kelly discussed the County's hazardous waste drop off day for which a 2 hour wait in line was necessary to drop off household hazardous waste. Vicky will draft a letter encouraging the County to increase the number of days and locations for this event as has been done in the past.

Low-impact development / green infrastructure / water quality: A forum was held early in October 2017 at which the completed green infrastructure practices checklist for CAC's & town boards was distributed. The now-complete document should be broadly distributed.

Updates from Legislature / Ex Officios / CACs / Municipalities: none

Other business:

Gail Beverly discussed the Cricket Valley Combined Cycle Power Plant in Dover. The site is permitted by DEC and PSC, groundbreaking was July 28, 2017. Construction should be

completed in 2020. Concerns include the use of piped in natural gas, the negative impacts at the hydraulic fracturing sites from which the gas originates and methane emissions in Dover and elsewhere. Supporting natural gas power plants delays renewable energy development. And using hydraulically fractured gas is disingenuous as New York has banned hydraulic fracturing. The Indian Point nuclear power plant future is in question so the region does need new sources of electric power. A million homes will be powered by this plant. Dover town government officials have been in full support for the economic & jobs development. Gail suggested that a possible EMC action could be to encourage monitoring methane pollution and environmental impacts for the life of the plant. The group was informed by one of the non-EMC attendees that methane will be monitored at the nearby Dover High School. Gail stated that this is only an interim report. She is still in the process of gathering information and will write a formal summary as the stance that the EMC should take becomes clearer.

A motion to adjourn was made by Gail Beverly. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the EMC is December 6, 2017.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Vicky Kelly, Recording Secretary.