



**Dutchess County
Environmental Management Council (DCEMC)
Meeting Minutes
January 24, 2018**

Attendance:

At-Large Members	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
Ex Officio, CAC Members & Others		
Joel Tyner, Dutchess County Legislature	X	
Regina Klein, DCPAA	X	
Carolyn Klocker, CCEDC	X	

Chairman’s comments: Steve MacAvery welcomed all to the meeting, and reminded the group of a letter the EMC sent in support of the Hudson River Estuary Program.

Minutes of December 2017 meeting: a motion was made by Pete Berasi to approve the minutes, 2nd by Shannon Fatum, Lalita Malik abstained, all others present were in favor.

Correspondence: No correspondence.

Budget requests to County: The group discussed requesting funds to join NY State Association of Conservation Commissions.

CAC/EMC Roundtable: The agenda will include an overview of CAC’s, CCEDC, Climate Smart Communities & Clean Energy Communities. A 5-minute presentation about the EMC will be

made by Steve MacAvery, which will include a request to CAC's for topics that we should address in State of the Environment report.

2017 Annual Report: Steve MacAvery will start a draft of the annual report and circulate it to the group.

State of the Environment Report: Carolyn Klocker informed the group that CCEDC can provide technical assistance of up to 50 hours to the EMC to assist with reports such as the Fossil Fuel Reduction Report and the State of the Environment Report. Carolyn has a college student intern who can help with updating the Poughkeepsie Journal search, locating updated data for the report, and other various support work. This could potentially free up some CCEDC staff time to help with some of the writing of new and/or updated content. Vicky Kelly volunteered to start an email discussion with an outline of the steps and work involved in creating the State of the Environment report with suggestions for the work that CCEDC can do. Shannon Fatum volunteered to contact CAC's, either by phone or in person at meetings to gather information about the issues facing their municipalities.

Website update: The domain name registration issue was resolved and payments have been made via CCEDC. An update of the wordpress version is needed.

Attendance Policy: A policy was approved September 25, 2008, which stipulates that, in a 12-month period, if a member has 3 absences, that member will be contacted by the EMC Chairperson; if the member has 5 absences, the council can vote to recommend to the Chairperson of the Legislature removal of that member. Steve MacAvery will send the policy to all members. The group discussed allowing for participation via electronic meetings.

Subcommittee reports:

Fossil Fuel Reduction: The group will be recommending that the County pursue CEC designation and CSC certification. The County is already very close to achieving the steps needed for these programs. The group has produced an interim presentation. Two members will meet with Planning Department Commissioner Wrafter and Planner Barclay to discuss the particulars of the CSC certification. The next step is to present the interim presentation to the Legislature; Steve MacAvery will contact the Legislature Chairman to schedule a presentation. Shannon Fatum volunteered to join the committee, Brian DiFeo will discontinue participation.

Environmental Fair: Carolyn Klocker will contact Marsha Leed about a thank you note to IBM for the funding for this program. Steve MacAvery will contact Yvette Valdes about pursuing Riverkeeper's Riversweep program.

Road Salt: Cary/EMC/CCEDC will hold a Science & Management Forum on February 13, 2018 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the Cary Institute. All were encouraged to attend.

Recycling Including Organics: The group discussed restructuring this subcommittee to research NY DEC and US EPA information that we can promote and leverage to inform the community about recycling and other environmental actions.

Low-impact development / green infrastructure / water quality: Michelle Gluck of CCEDC will contact the group about the Green Infrastructure meeting at CCEDC.

Updates from Legislature / Ex Officios / CACs / Municipalities:

Pete Berasi reported on a presentation made to the East Fishkill CAC by the John Jay High School Environmental Club relative to a project that they performed regarding the Fishkill Creek with adult supervision by two members of the Beacon Institute, one of which is also a member of the CAC . The project was performed under a grant received from the NYS Pollution Prevention Institute and involved water sampling and identification of plastic particulate pollution in the stream flow. The presentation included three videotapes of the project activities as well as several easel charts of its conclusions.

Carolyn Klocker updated the group on the scope of the work CCEDC will do for the EMC & CAC's (see State of the Environment report above). CCEDC has funding to help municipalities achieve some of the action items in the Climate Smart Certification; municipalities include Red Hook, Wappingers Falls, Beacon, Rhinebeck. The NYSERDA Organics Recycling report will be ready for distribution soon.

Joel Tyner discussed resolutions he submitted in September 2017 for the County to become a Climate Smart Community and a Clean Energy Community, which he agreed to refrain from pursuing until the EMC FFR committee completes its task; radio shows willing to cosponsor competition among municipalities for solar/wind/geothermal energy; the Lonely Whale Foundation and other organizations committed to reduce plastic straw use. Shannon Fatum volunteered to look into promoting a strawless future.

Lalita Malik discussed having an EMC representative volunteer to serve on the CCEDC Environment and Energy Program Advisory Committee as Pete Berasi's term on that PAC expires in December 2018 due to term limits.

Other business:

A motion to adjourn was made by Pete Berasi. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the EMC is the CAC/EMC Roundtable February 28, 2018 7:00-8:30 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Vicky Kelly, Recording Secretary.