



**Dutchess County
Environmental Management Council (DCEMC)
Meeting Minutes
April 25, 2018**

Attendance:

At-Large Members	Present	Absent
Pete Berasi		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	
Carolyn Klocker, CCEDC	X	
Michelle Gluck, CCEDC	X	

Chairman’s comments: Steve MacAvery welcomed all to the meeting.

Minutes of March 2018 meeting: a motion was made by Yvette Valdes Smith to approve the minutes, 2nd by John DeGilio, all others present were in favor.

Correspondence: Follow-up to email from Chris Nack, a scientist with O’Brien and Gere (OBG) Engineers Inc., regarding a feasibility study on dam removal/enhancement on the lower Fishkill Creek: Steve MacAvery replied but got no response from Chris Nack.

Budget requests to County: Submissions should be made in July/August. The amount requested last year was included in the EMC 2017 annual report.

2017 Annual Report: Steve MacAvery circulated a draft of the annual report to the members via email prior to this meeting. The report was also submitted to the Legislature. Steve requested time on the Legislature's May agenda to cover the highlights of the report and asked for input from the members about what should be highlighted in the presentation to the Legislature. John DeGilio requested that we distribute the reusable bags to each legislator and inform the legislature that the bags were purchased using IBM grant funds. John DeGilio commended the report in general. Steve will confirm the Legislature's committee meeting date of May 10, 2018 for the presentation. Vicky Kelly offered to make the presentation as Steve MacAvery is unavailable that day. Shannon Fatum & Yvette Valdes Smith will also attend.

State of the Environment Report: Vicky Kelly updated the group on the meeting with Carolyn Klocker and Michelle Gluck on March 30, 2018 to discuss the particulars of the CCEDC participation. A volunteer from Millbrook High School, Aaron Green, is working on the survey of Poughkeepsie Journal articles for 2017 about the environmental issues identified in previous searches. The group discussed authorship, chapters and timeline for the new report.

Website update: Vicky Kelly with the help of Brian DiFeo looked into the update to the latest version of Wordpress. Vicky will upgrade Wordpress when the next bill for 1 & 1 is due, which should be in June. John DeGilio informed the group that in March there were 164 hits to the website with 78-80 views. Carolyn Klocker informed the group that \$65 of the \$100 provided by the County for the website has been spent and, if the bill for the Wordpress upgrade exceeds the remaining funds, the balance will have to come from the IBM grant. All agreed that this would be acceptable.

Membership update: Steve MacAvery contacted the county clerk and confirmed that the terms Pete Berasi, John DeGilio, Brian DiFeo & Lalita Malik's will expire June 30, 2018. All members except Brian DiFeo will be reappointed to the EMC. The legislature is working to fill the vacancies of Brian DiFeo and Gail Beverly.

Riversweep participation: Several members will participate in the cleanup at Dennings Point on May 5. Connie Kustas has designed and ordered t-shirts for participants; funds for the order will come from the IBM grant from 2017. Connie will pick up the shirts from Millman's in Poughkeepsie and drop them off at CCEDC. Vicky Kelly will pick them up and bring them to Dennings Point on May 5 for the Riversweep event.

IBM grant discussion: postponed to next meeting.

CAC liaison: Shannon Fatum reported that conversations with town CAC's are going well. All CAC's are receptive to having her meet with them.

Subcommittee reports:

Fossil Fuel Reduction: Steve MacAvery reported that Dutchess County is now a registered Climate Smart Community (CSC). The subcommittee met April 18, 2018 and discussed next steps, which include encouraging the formation of a CSC task force and a coordinator. Marsha

Leed is finalizing the draft of the report. The goal is to finish the report and project in June-July 2018.

Environmental Fair: Yvette Valdes reported on the Strawberry Festival on June 10, 2018 at the Beacon Sloop Club. Yvette will complete the paperwork for the EMC to participate. The venue also hosts a Corn Festival in August and Pumpkin festival in October. Three EMC members are available on June 10 but at least 6 members should participate. To try to increase participation, Yvette will invite to the CAC's to participate.

Road Salt: no new updates

Recycling Including Organics: The group discussed the 3-arrow recycling symbol on or not on various items. The information from CCEDC is that the symbol is not necessarily a definitive indication of an item's recyclability. The group discussed drafting a letter of support for the plastic bag ban legislation recently introduced by Governor Cuomo. The letter would be sent to the legislature. A discussion ensued about the fact that some environmental groups discourage a straight ban in favor of a fee for plastic bags. Vicky Kelly made a motion to write a letter of support for the legislation for the ban introduced by Governor Cuomo, with a second by Marsha Leed. Without a majority in favor, the group agreed to investigate the issue further.

Low-impact development / green infrastructure / water quality: Michelle Gluck informed the group about an upcoming LID forum to take place on October 29, 2018 at CCEDC. Cornell University's Nina Bassuk will be the keynote speaker. Street trees and parking lots will be the topic for the forum. This topic was identified by town & planning department officials. Audience for the forum is town & planning boards.

Updates from Legislature / Ex Officios / CACs / Municipalities:

Carolyn Klocker informed the group of 2 CCEDC programs in May, a GIS forum/training on May 5 and a Sawkill watershed & Bard College state of the watershed forum on May 10 at the Red Hook town hall. CCEDC staff updates include a new energy educator, Christine Hirt who will begin in mid-June as a community energy engagement educator to work on a NYSERDA grant, Carolyn Klocker is the permanent Environment & Energy program leader, Camille Marcotte will return to work with CCEDC in the summer on the NYSERDA energy engagement grant.

Joel Tyner requested the CAC/EMC roundtable summary, discussed an American Lung Association report on air quality in the County, in which the ALA downgraded air quality from a C to a D, a Propublica article about PFOA and PFOA near the Dutchess County Airport and the response of the Dutchess County Department of Public Works Commissioner and a resolution to reduce the acceptable limits of PFOA, Community Choice Aggregation, providing a list of food establishments on the EMC's and other organization's websites that don't use straws or use compostable straws, social media for the legislature, a letter against the Cricket Valley project in Dover with a request to the EMC to investigate and consider opposing the project, shutting down the waste to energy plant in Dutchess County, organics recycling, pay-as-you-throw waste management, Cambridge Energy Alliance and energy efficiency at the County level.

Other business: Vicky Kelly informed the group that she will not attend the May 23 EMC meeting, Shannon Fatum will record minutes in her absence.

A motion to adjourn was made by Lalita Malik. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the EMC is May 23, 2018 7:00-8:30 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Vicky Kelly, Recording Secretary.