



**Dutchess County
Environmental Management Council (DCEMC)
Meeting Minutes
June 27, 2018**

Attendance:

At-Large Members	Present	Absent
Pete Berasi	X	
John DeGilio	X	
Shannon Fatum	X	
Vicky Kelly	X	
Constance Kustas		X
Marsha Leed	X	
Stephen MacAvery	X	
Lalita Malik	X	
John Paraskeva	X	
Yvette Valdes Smith		X
Candis Merrill Sunderland	X	
Ex Officio, CAC Members & Others		
Joel Tyner, Dutchess County Legislature	X	
Camille Marcotte, CCEDC	X	
Regina Klein, DCPAA	X	

Chairman’s comments: Steve MacAvery welcomed all to the meeting. Introductions were made around the table and Steve MacAvery provided brief description of the council for the new members.

Minutes of May 2018 meeting: a motion was made by John DeGilio to approve the minutes, 2nd by Lalita Malik, abstentions by Vicky Kelly, John Paraskeva & Candis Sunderland, all others present were in favor.

Membership update: Steve MacAvery reported that the County Legislature approved the reappointments of John DeGilio, Peter Berasi and Lalita Malik whose terms now expire June 30, 2020 and two new members John Paraskeva whose term will expire June 30, 2020 and Candis Merrill Sunderland to fill the unexpired term of Gail Beverly whose term expires June 30, 2019.

Correspondence: None

Budget requests to County: Steve MacAvery reported that he will circulate a 2018 budget based on budget requests from 2017 to the members and Ruth Moore for comment. After approval from the group Steve will submit the 2018 budget request to Eoin Wrafter, the Planning Department Commissioner with a copy to the Legislature.

State of the Environment Report: Vicky Kelly reported that she met with Camille Marcotte and Michelle Gluck. The review of Poughkeepsie Journal articles for 2011-2017 is complete and a survey of issues raised as a challenge, goal or success at the CAC/EMC Roundtable in February 2018 was done. Graphics for each will be circulated to the board. Issues of high importance were Lyme disease, climate change and solar energy and waste management including recycling and composting. Next steps are to ask the people we identified to be most appropriate to write or coauthor chapters in the report. The aim is to have the report completed by mid-November. The group discussed the contents of the report with some additions and suggestions.

Website update: Vicky Kelly offered to be a backup website administrator. Vicky Kelly reported that the 1&1 bill for hosting the domain name is due September 9 and that she'll make the switch to and upgrade Wordpress in August or early September before the 1&1 bill is due. John DeGilio reported that all reports generated by EMC since 2009 are available on the website. The NRI continues to be an often viewed section. John requested information for the What's New page.

IBM grant discussion: Pete Berasi reported that 2 of the 3 requirements for the grant request to be submitted have been fulfilled. The 3 requirements are: 1. an eligible sponsor who has 100 hours of volunteer time; Pete as a retired IBM employee with 100 hours, grant must go to a 501c3 org, CCEDC will receive the funds on behalf of EMC, 2. A training activity, which the group completed on June 20, 2018 and 3. participation in an event, which will be the Corn Festival on August 12 at the Beacon Sloop Club. A motion made by Marsha Leed to participate in the Corn Festival, 2nd by Steve MacAvery, all present were in favor. Yvette Valdes-Smith will submit the application for the group to participate in the Corn Festival.

CAC liaison: Shannon Fatum reported that she attended the Town of Rhinebeck CAC meeting this month at which the State of the Environment Report was discussed and the report was complimented. A request was made by the Rhinebeck CAC to be included in the CAC/EMC listserv.

Plastic Bag Ban: Steve MacAvery raised the issue of whether and what position the EMC should take on an outright ban vs. a fee as recommended by several environmental groups. Steve suggested a temporary subcommittee to study the issue and recommend a position for EMC to take. A discussion ensued about adding a ban on plastic straws to the study. Pete Berasi, Shannon Fatum & Steve MacAvery offered to take on this topic and will make a recommendation to the group at July's meeting.

Subcommittee reports:

Potential Air Quality Subcommittee: Lalita Malik proposed the formation of a subcommittee to cover air quality in Dutchess County with the goal of encouraging reduction of fossil fuel consumption. The group decided to table discussion of this until further notice.

Recycling Including Organics: Lalita Malik previously proposed disbanding this subcommittee. Pete Berasi discussed a report produced by the American Chemical Society about the recycling rate of plastics: 77 million metric tons of plastic debris are currently in the oceans, by 2025 this will have increased to 155 million metric tons. The recycling rate in the United States is currently about 1/3 of plastic consumption, however, many countries have no recycling programs. Effectively, on a worldwide basis, only 14% of discarded plastic materials actually enter the recycling stream (more than 14% may be submitted for recycling). Of the 78 million metric tons of recyclable plastics that are produced annually, approximately 40% is disposed into landfills, 32% is dispersed into the environment (both terrestrial and oceanic), 14% incinerated and only 14% actually reaches the recycling stream. The 14% recycled is an optimistic number. Of that, 8% is degraded during the recycling process to lower quality materials that are no longer recyclable, 4% is lost in processing, and only 2% returns to the raw material stock for fabrication into new recyclable plastic material. The solution recommended in the article is new chemical material that will naturally degrade. The group decided that there's a need for the subcommittee to continue with a continued goal of being well-informed about topics such as this. Candis Sunderland joined this subcommittee.

Fossil Fuel Reduction: Steve MacAvery discussed the draft report and the goal to submit the report to the Legislature by July 31, 2018. Marsha Leed will make final edits to the report. Lalita Malik discussed the showing of a Sierra Club film about solar energy success stories that will be presented to the community on Friday, June 29, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at the Farm & Home Center. There will be a panel discussion before and after the film. In an email vote, the EMC agreed to sponsor the event.

Environmental Fair: see discussion in IBM grant section of minutes.

Road Salt: no new updates

Low-impact development / green infrastructure / water quality: Steve MacAvery reported that Michelle Gluck of CCEDC is planning a forum in fall 2018 about how tree plantings reduce the impact of development.

Updates from Legislature / Ex Officios / CACs / Municipalities:

Camille Marcotte informed the group that CCEDC recently hired Collin Adkins, as a resource educator to work on the Community Energy Engagement Program, a 3-year contract with NYSERDA.

Joel Tyner asked the group to review the EnergyJustice.net website, requested that the EMC look into a bike sharing program that passed by resolution by the Legislature in 2009 but was never acted upon by the County Executive and discussed NOx & VOC pollution from the waste to energy plant and future Cricket Valley power plant, a potential forum on air quality, fossil fuel

free legislation, and a resolution on the July agenda for the County Legislature to form a CSC Task Force.

Other business:

A motion to adjourn was made by Lalita Malik. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the EMC is July 25, 2018 7:00-8:30 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Vicky Kelly, Recording Secretary.