



**Dutchess County
Environmental Management Council (DCEMC)
Meeting Minutes
March 27, 2019**

Attendance:

At-Large Members	Present	Absent
Pete Berasi	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 Sunderland	X	
Ex Officio, CAC Members & Others		
Ed Hogarty, EMC Webmaster	X	
Michelle Gluck, CCEDC	X	
Susan Karnes Hecht Town of Poughkeepsie CAC, CCL	X	
Jeff Domanski, Hudson Valley	X	

Chairman’s comments: Steve MacAvery’s welcomed all to the meeting. Introductions were made around the table.

Minutes of the January 2019 meeting: a motion was made by Susan Hecht to approve the minutes, 2nd by Candis Sunderland, all present were in favor.

State of the Environment Report: Vicky Kelly reported that the report was presented at the CAC/EMC forum in February. There were good responses including a comment regarding the

proposed changes to the 480A Forest Tax Law and the DEC's open comment period. Candis Sunderland agreed to research this issue.

CAC/EMC Roundtable Review: Steve MacAvery reported that the forum was informative. The group discussed the discouraging reports from Rhinebeck and Washington about the difficulty of solar installations based on unsightliness.

Website update: Ed Hogarty and Steve MacAvery discussed ideas for improvements to the website, including an online forum in which CAC and EMC members could discuss issues. Susan Hecht suggested that this would be especially useful for communities pursuing Climate Smart Communities certification. Michelle Gluck will bring the topic to the CCEDC Environment and Energy Program team meeting.

Membership update: Steve MacAvery updated the group on membership. Several members are due for renewal in June. There is currently one vacancy on the EMC. Marsha Leed will not renew in June, bringing the vacancies to two. Pete Berasi conveyed a request for a member of the EMC to be a member of the CCEDC Environment and Energy Program Advisory Committee.

Correspondence: Email from Rebecca Edwards requesting support on education about upcoming plastic bag ban and proposal for a household hazardous waste facility in the county. Simone Gleicher expressed continued interest in the EMC but would prefer to remain an interested citizen at this time.

CCEDC support for EMC: Michelle Gluck discussed funding for 50 hours of CCEDC support for the EMC, which should focus on Climate Smart Communities. Susan Hecht requested a forum to bring together communities working on CSC certification.

Liaison to CAC's: No new reports.

NYSACC membership: Shannon Fatum reported via email that she contacted the New York State Association of Conservation Commissions (NYSACC), who informed her that the sister organization, the NYS Association of Environmental Management Councils is not currently active. The contact from NYSACC encouraged us to join their organization and provided this link <http://nysaccny.org/membership-info>. They are planning the fall 2019 conference on the environment in the Rochester area, which will be sponsored by the Rochester EMC and the Irondequoit CAC. More information will be announced this spring.

Special Presentation: Jeff Domanski, Hudson Valley Community Power, discussed Community Choice Aggregation.

Subcommittee Reports: Reorganization of Subcommittees

It was agreed that the membership in subcommittees can be fluid. Membership will be discussed at the next meeting. The group discussed reorganization as follows.

Plastic bag ban education/outreach – to be included in Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Plastic straw ban (new) – to be included in Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle – to remain a subcommittee

Fossil fuel reduction – changed to Climate Change & Alternative Energy
Environmental fair(s) – changed to Public Outreach
Road Salt – to remain a subcommittee
Low-impact development - changed to Green Infrastructure
Household Hazardous Waste (new) – to be included in Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Updates from Legislature/Ex-Officios/CACs/Municipalities: Michelle Gluck updated the group on CCEDC participation in Dutchess County’s Climate Smart Communities certification. Collin Adkins asked Michelle to update the group that in 2018 CCEDC collaborated with CCE Sullivan to help in reducing energy via NYSERDA Community Energy Engagement Program (CEEP). Collin requests EMC collaboration on this work. Michelle discussed Project Drawdown, reported a spike in requests for information about recycling and a CCEDC biodiversity forum to be held in May 2019, with Gretchen Stevens from Hudsonia as keynote speaker.

Other Business: The group discussed the request from Sean Dague of Citizens’ Climate Lobby for EMC to endorse Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act. The group decided that, a position on this would be similar to our past position on similar issues, which the Legislature informed the chair were outside the responsibility of the EMC. Further discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

A motion to adjourn was made by John Paraskeva. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the EMC is April 24, 2019, 7:00-8:30 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Vicky Kelly, Recording Secretary.