



**Dutchess County
Environmental Management Council (DCEMC)
Meeting Minutes
January 22, 2020**

Attendance:

At-Large Members	Present	Absent
Pete Berasi	X	
Shannon Fatum	X	
Vicky Kelly	X	
Constance Kustas		X
Stephen MacAvery	X	
Lalita Malik	X	
John Paraskeva	X	
Candis Sunderland	X	
Ex Officio, CAC Members & Others		
Ed Hogarty, EMC Webmaster		X
Michelle Gluck, CCEDC	X	

Welcome/Intro/Chairman’s comments: Steve MacAvery welcomed all to the meeting and had no comments.

A motion to accept, the minutes of the December 2019 meeting was made by John Paraskeva, with a second by Pete Berasi; all were in favor.

Website update: Vicky Kelly reported that the DutchessEMC email address received a message from Word Press regarding hosting services with notice that we will be charged \$18 for renewal on February 8, 2020.

Membership update: Steve MacAvery reported that the deputy clerk responded to his inquiry about membership that they are reviewing one application and will conduct interviews when they receive more applications.

Correspondence: A message was received from a community member from Amenia about the safety of 5G and the suggestion that development should be curtailed until the issue is better understood. Vicky, Candis and Shannon investigated but could not come to a conclusion about this issue. Vicky Kelly will respond that the EMC will keep the issue in mind, but our investigations could not turn up enough evidence of harm that we feel comfortable recommending halting development. Steve MacAvery received a message from the Tenmile Watershed Collaborative about 2020 activities and scheduling a January meeting. The group discussed participating; Shannon Fatum will respond.

EMC CCE funds: Steve MacAvery reported that the County appropriated \$1000 for EMC operations for 2020 and \$10,000 for a household hazardous waste permanent site feasibility study. Michelle Gluck reported that the IBM funds are \$2810.85. Pete Berasi reported that the IBM grant information for 2020 is not available yet.

Liaison to CAC's: Shannon reported that the Beekman CAC chair will speak with the town supervisor about producing a NRI for the town, possibly in cooperation with Union Vale which is in the process of writing a NRI.

NYSACC membership: Shannon will investigate when our membership fees are next due.

Household Hazardous Waste: Steve, Vicky & Carolyn Klocker have scheduled a meeting to discuss this project.

Project & Subcommittee Reports:

Environmental Advocacy Group Websites (Candis Sunderland, Shannon Fatum): Candis reported the following: Sierra Club has a toolkit for case studies about environmental issues and clean energy sheets with information about solar and power purchase agreements; NYPIRG offers information for communities to reduce use of single use plastic water bottles; Riverkeeper has a reaction to Gov. Cuomo's budget line items that have an environmental impact; Riverkeeper also has information about dam removal and fish migration and Indian Point nuclear power plant dismantling. Candis also attended the meeting of the Legislature and reported that Midhudson Sunrise Movement, a group of young people, asked the Legislature to declare a climate emergency. A letter about shoreline access and Amtrak is circulating with a link at Scenic Hudson where citizens can input opinions.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle – (Vicky Kelly, Candis Sunderland, Steve MacAvery, Pete Berasi). The Dutchess County plastic bag ban went into effect January 1, 2020. The group discussed development of public education materials about the ban. Candis will ask Ed Hogarty to post the DEC's FAQ about the plastic bag ban.

Climate Change & Alternative Energy – (Vicky Kelly, Susan Hecht, Candis Sunderland, Connie Kustas). Lalita reported on a meeting of Clearwater about achieving clean energy.

Public Outreach – Steve MacAvery reported that the deputy clerk of the Legislature replied regarding a Facebook account that they are checking with the County and will get back to us.

Road Salt – (Vicky Kelly, John Paraskeva) Vicky reported that she is fielding questions from reporters and concerned citizens about road salt.

Green Infrastructure – (Steve MacAvery, Pete Berasi, Connie Kustas) – no new reports

Single Use Plastic Pollution Prevention Campaign (S.U.P. Campaign) – (Michelle Gluck, Candis Sunderland) – Michelle discussed the steering committee work, plastic bag ban outreach, DEC & County education, presentation at the CAC/EMC roundtable, and development of a display board about single use plastic pollution. The group discussed developing a card or display with 7 habits for reducing plastic use. Vicky will draft and circulate a document for edit. The NCLI students are helping to develop the display board. Dutchess Community College graphics program may produce the logo for S.U.P.

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

Other Business: Steve will circulate the list of our accomplishments for editing for the CAC/EMC roundtable.

A motion to adjourn was made by Pete Berasi. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the EMC is the CAC/EMC Roundtable on Tuesday, February 25, 2020, 6:30-8:30 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Vicky Kelly, Recording Secretary.