



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

Due to the COVID19 pandemic and in accordance with Governor Cuomo’s executive order 202.28, which suspends certain provisions of the Open Meetings Law, this meeting was held via the teleconferencing program, Zoom and recorded.

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		
Michelle Gluck, CCEDC	X	
Brad Barclay, Dutchess County Planning & Development		X

Welcome/Intro/Chairman’s comments: Steve MacAvery welcomed all to the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

Meeting Minutes: A motion to accept the minutes of the June 2020 meeting was made by Candis Sunderland with a second by Lalita Malik; all were in favor.

Reports:

IBM Grant: Pete Berasi reported that checks should have been sent June 30, so should have been received by CCEDC. Michelle Gluck will check on the status of the check.

Single Use Plastics Pollution Prevention Campaign: Michelle Gluck and Candis Sunderland reported that the steering committee met and discussed a focus group to consist of business owners. The focus group will work on progress toward plastic reductions, tools and resources that would be helpful to businesses and incentives. Support and guidance will be developed from the outcome of the focus group. A list of 30 businesses throughout the County was compiled. The aim is to have 6-8 or more businesses participate. The focus group meeting will be held either August 17 or 18. The SUPPP steering committee is investigating the screening of "The Story of Plastic". The group may ask Beyond Plastics founder and former EPA administrator Judith Enck or one of her students to participate as a panelist. EMC members will prescreen the film. A September screening was discussed. EMC Homework is to prescreen the film by the next EMC meeting. A student from Long Island contacted Michelle to learn more about the SUPPP because they want to do a SUPPP campaign in their County.

Household Hazardous Waste: Vicky Kelly and Steve MacAvery reported that they have been meeting weekly with Vassar College intern, Sean Hussey, who is gathering information and developing a report on HHW in Dutchess County. The report will include comparisons with other municipalities and options for Dutchess. At Lalita's suggestion, they discussed the possibility of expanding the Union Vale transfer station or using it as a model for the County. Sean Hussey updated the table created by Michelle Gluck for the 2018 State of the Environment report. At Michelle Gluck's suggestion, Sean investigated options for grants for a permanent facility. Vicky will send the group some of the compiled information Sean has collected.

2019 Annual Report: Steve MacAvery reported that the report is in draft that will be sent to the group for review.

Activities by Environmental Advocacy Group Websites, e.g., Riverkeeper, NYPIRG, other (Shannon, Candis, others): Lalita Malik reported that a coalition of environmental groups are educating about the Danskammer plant in Newburgh, which is proposing to switch to hydrofracked gas as a full-time plant. Many in the community are against the proposal and are pushing for a renewable energy production facility. Other items of note include: "The Cycle of Harm" which will be held by Scenic Hudson July 23, 2020 and "Trees in Trouble" by Cary Institute's Gary Lovett which will also be held July 23.

EMC Facebook Page: Steve MacAvery reported that he has heard nothing from the Legislature about this issue. John Paraskeva suggested we check with our liaison, Steve Caswell. Vicky Kelly raised the issue of using Facebook in light of the consequences of supporting a company that is resistant to removing misinformation and promoting nefarious activities. Vicky will circulate a couple of newspaper articles about the issue. The group discussed weighing the importance of getting information out to the public and the usefulness of Facebook for that purpose.

Other Business:

A motion to adjourn was made by Pete Berasi. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the EMC is August 26, 2020. The group discussed meeting in person outside, weather permitting at 6:00 pm with appropriate physical distancing, as long as County & State guidelines permit.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Vicky Kelly, Recording Secretary.