



**Dutchess County
Environmental Management Council (DCEMC)
Meeting Minutes
September 23, 2020**

Due to the COVID19 pandemic and in accordance with Governor Cuomo’s executive order 202.60, 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	
James Fredrickson	X	
Vicky Kelly	X	
Constance Kustas		X
Sarka Leff	X	
Stephen MacAvery	X	
Lalita Malik		X
John Paraskeva		X
Nancy Severns	X	
Candis Sunderland	X	
Ex Officio, CAC Members & Others		
Michelle Gluck, CCEDC	X	
Brennan Kearney, DC Legislature	X	

Welcome/Intro/Chairman’s comments: Steve MacAvery welcomed all to the meeting at 7:02 p.m. Introductions were made all around.

Meeting Minutes: A motion to accept the minutes of the August 2020 meeting was made by Pete Berasi with a second by Steve MacAvery; all were in favor.

EMC Chair: Steve MacAvery discussed chairmanship, he has been chair for 6 years and offered to relinquish the position and encourages all to consider taking on the role of chair.

New &/or Revival of EMC Subcommittees: The group discussed subcommittee membership and the past and present activities of each committee. The group decided to continue the subcommittees except public outreach, which should be the task of the Chair, Vice Chair & Secretary.

Reports:

IBM Grant: Pete Berasi provided background information about the IBM grant. The received grant for 2020 was \$500. The process of receiving the funds has changed and the receiving organization (CCEDC) is required to register with IBM, which CCEDC has completed.

Single Use Plastics Pollution Prevention Campaign: Michelle Gluck and Candis Sunderland reported that they are in the last week of the year-long campaign. The partners are CCEDC (Michelle Gluck, coordinator), EMC (Candis Sunderland, EMC representative), and Division of Solid Waste Management for the County (Kerry Russell). The group focused on community education with a display board and participation in the CAC/EMC Roundtable in February 2020. The campaign also engaged local businesses, focusing on food establishments. The last steering committee meeting was September 24, 2020. The group collaborated with a Dutchess Community College graphic design student, who created a logo. Vicky Kelly reported that Cary Institute is possibly interested in co-hosting a viewing of “The Story of Plastic” with a panel discussion possibly for the December shopping spree season. Vicky will follow up on this.

Household Hazardous Waste: Vicky Kelly and Steve MacAvery reported that County Planning Department and Department of Solid Waste would like to discuss the report before we make recommendations to the Legislature. Discussion of specific recommendations were tabled until October.

2019 Annual Report: Steve MacAvery reported that he completed the report and sent it for edits to several members. The report should be completed by next week.

Activities by Environmental Advocacy Group Websites, e.g., Riverkeeper, NYPIRG, other (Shannon, Candis, others): Candis Sunderland reported that Clearwater is working on power plant issues and are looking for comments. Riverkeeper has launched a Rise to Resilience campaign and are partnering on the Offshore Wind Alliance. For Riversweep they will run a video on October 17. They are also working on power plant issues. The virtual revival of the Clearwater music festival will be held on October 4. The group discussed the specifics of the revival of the Danskammer power plant. Some municipalities in Dutchess County are writing resolutions opposing the plant. Steve asked if the EMC should recommend that the County write a similar resolution, which will be an agenda item for the next EMC meeting. NYPIRG reports that Governor Cuomo just signed a bill that fracked gas waste will be treated as hazardous waste when it enters NY.

EMC Facebook Page: Steve MacAvery reported that he has not gotten more information from the legislature regarding permission to form a Facebook page. Brennan Kearney offered to follow up with the Legislature.

Other Business:

Michelle Gluck reported that the last forum for the year of the CCEDC Learn Your Land Series will be October 27 at 6:00 p.m. on Invasive Species Management. The CCEDC Annual Meeting will be held October 21.

A motion to adjourn was made by Candis Sunderland. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the EMC is October 28, 2020.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Vicky Kelly, Recording Secretary.