



**Dutchess County
Environmental Management Council (DCEMC)
Meeting Minutes
January 27, 2021**

Due to the COVID19 pandemic and in accordance with Governor Cuomo’s executive order 202.91, 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		
Carolyn Klocker, CCEDC	X	
Sean Carroll, CCEDC	X	
Brad Barclay, Dutchess County Dept. Planning & Development	X	
Susan Karnes Hecht, Town of Poughkeepsie CAC	X	

Welcome/Intro/Chairman’s comments: Steve MacAvery welcomed all to the meeting at 7:03 p.m. and introductions were made all around.

Meeting Minutes: A motion to accept the minutes of the December 2020 meeting was made by Jim Fredrickson with a second by Nancy Severns; all were in favor, Susan Hecht abstained.

Correspondence: There were several email correspondences. EPA Wappinger Creek Superfund Site Community Involvement Plan – Danielle Gervacio (Vicky Kelly will respond); Mailing equipment - Tamara Davidson; LaGrange development issue – Susan Kavy (several members

responded); Tree seedling request (Vicky Kelly responded with information about the DEC Trees for Tribes program) – Bill Rivera, Request for HHW report – Sergei Krasikov of Beacon CAC (Vicky Kelly sent the report)

Website update: The \$18.00 bill to renew domain registration was paid and charged to the EMC account that is county funds, not IBM funds.

Subcommittees: Steve MacAvery will send the list of subcommittees to all and requested that all respond with which subcommittees they would like to participate in.

Reports & Updates:

Danskammer Plant: Following discussion, a motion was made to adopt the following resolution by Peter Berasi, seconded by Candis Sunderland, all were in favor, none were opposed, and the motion carried.

RESOLUTION OF THE DUTCHESS COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL OPPOSING THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF THE DANSKAMMER POWER PLANT.

1. WHEREAS, the proposed expansion of the Danskammer facility would increase the operation of the plant from its present 5% of the year to 70-100% of the year. In addition the need for this additional fossil fueled power is questionable in view of New York State energy goals for the 21st century.
2. WHEREAS, the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act of 2019 limits greenhouse gas emissions to 40% of 1990 levels by 2030, 85% reduction of GHG by 2050 and sets energy source goals of 70% renewable energy by 2030 and 100% zero emissions electricity energy by 2040. The expansion of Danskammer, a fossil fuel generator of greenhouse gases, is inconsistent with NYS environmental goals.
3. Whereas, the fuel for the proposed Danskammer plant would come from natural gas potentially obtained by fracking, a process that is currently banned in NY State due to its serious environmental impact on ground water, air quality, etc. Dependence on fracked gas perpetuates this industry and its effect on our neighbors and the planet.
4. WHEREAS, gas- powered plants emit pollutants that harm local air quality and public health; the Hudson Valley has ongoing air quality issues, as evidenced, e. g., by Dutchess County's " D" ozone rating by the American Lung Association; and
5. WHEREAS, the predominate westerly winds transport emissions from west to east the Proposed Danskammer plant has the potential to further harm the local air quality and public health of Dutchess County residents.

Therefore, be it resolved the Dutchess County Environmental Council opposes the application for the proposed expansion of the Danskammer power plant by Danskammer Power LLC.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Dutchess County Environmental Management Council urges the Dutchess County Legislature to consider the potential environmental impacts that the proposed Danskammer Energy Plant could have on Dutchess County and take appropriate action to address this concern.

Special Presentation - Susan Karnes Hecht – Town of Poughkeepsie & the Northeast Pollinator Pathway. See website <https://www.pollinator-pathway.org/>

Other Business:

Carolyn Klocker informed the group that the scope of work that the County would like them to pursue includes a forum on pollinator pathways, the CAC/EMC Roundtable, some support for the EMC and some other projects.

Brad Barclay updated the group about County grants through the DEC on GH gas and climate action plans for the County and 9 other towns.

Nancy Severns & Candis Sunderland updated the group on websites they monitor.

A motion to adjourn was made by Jim Fredrickson. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the EMC is February 24, 2021.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Vicky Kelly, Recording Secretary.