



**Dutchess County  
Environmental Management Council (DCEMC)  
Meeting Minutes  
April 28, 2021**

Due to the COVID19 pandemic and in accordance with Governor Cuomo’s executive order 202.102, which suspends certain provisions of the Open Meetings Law, this meeting was held via Zoom and recorded.

**Attendance:**

<b>At-Large Members</b>	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
<b>Ex Officio, CAC Members &amp; Others</b>		
Michelle Gluck, CCEDC	X	
Brad Barclay, Dutchess County Dept. Planning & Development	X	

Welcome/Intro/Chairman’s comments: Steve MacAvery welcomed all to the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

Meeting Minutes: A motion to accept the minutes of the February 2021 meeting was made by Nancy Severns, with a second by Steve MacAvery; all were in favor.

**Correspondence:**

Marc Jackson & Eva Rippeteau sent an email indicating that they are looking to purchase property in Dutchess County and inquired about areas to avoid, especially with respect to

fracking. Vicky responded with a link to 2018 State of the Environment report, suggesting that they avoid superfund sites & former landfills, and letting them know that there is no fracking in Dutchess County.

Michael Rosenthal, former EMC chair many years ago, sent an email looking for former colleagues. Vicky forwarded the email to Lalita & Carolyn Klocker.

Perry Allen sent an email that Sarka responded to. He asked about the potential to convert some private properties in Red Hook to public property and how to go about investigating this. The suggestion was to direct him to CCEDC, the Town of Red Hook CAC, Dutchess Land Conservancy, Winnakee Land Trust or Scenic Hudson. Brad Barclay agreed to speak with him to discuss these options with him. Sarka will connect them.

Website update: Sarka suggested that we put a link to the 511 Rideshare program on our website. Sarka will get the link and forward it to Vicky to send to Ed Hogarty to put on the website.

Reappointments in June 2021, Nancy, Jim, Vicky & Candis asked to be reappointed, Lalita and Steve MacAvery will step down, and it's unclear if Connie & Shannon will seek to be reappointed. Steve discussed the chair of the EMC, which needs to be approved by the County Legislature. Vicky thanked Steve and Lalita for their long and dedicated service on the EMC.

John requested that we re-establish a connection with our liaison to the Legislature, Steve Caswell. Vicky will send meeting notices to him.

#### Subcommittee Reports & Updates:

Environmental Advocacy Group Monitoring (Candis, Shannon, Nancy): Nancy reported that the Sierra Club has moved further on Danskammer and the public hearings are proceeding. There is a lawsuit about Wheaton Park and the city's authority to sell it. It is an historic structure and public park near the Poughkeepsie train station, which the city is considering selling to a developer. Catskill Mountainkeeper has opposed a power company development that would affect Ashokan Reservoir; the proposal was rescinded. The Hudson Clearwater festival will be virtual. Hudson River Watershed Alliance will hold an event on May 18, and the Hudson Valley Smart Growth Alliance is active.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (including Household Hazardous Waste) (Candis, Vicky, Steve, Sarka, Lalita): Steve reported that the subcommittee met in early March and agreed to do research to understand recycling waste. Vicky agreed to write a blog post for the website about a zero waste meal her daughters prepared for a birthday dinner. There are 3 Household Hazardous Waste events this year: May 8, June 19 and October 2.

Michelle reported that there is an event "Breaking the Plastic Habit: Finding True Solutions" tomorrow at 4pm with Judith Enck and Omega Institute president and will share it with the CAC-EMC Listserv as well. <https://email.eomega.org/acton/media/23078/omega-conversation-enck-backus-breaking-the-plastic-habit?c=CT0403085&e=ds778@cornell.edu&sid=TV2:fEfnFvTN>

Michelle also reported on the CCEDC stream-a-thon event about plastic pollution and that the Single Use Plastic Prevention materials are available for borrowing and were borrowed by the Town of Union Vale recently.

Climate Change & Alternative Energy (Vicky, Jim, Steve, Lalita): Brad reported that the Greenhouse Gas Inventories & Climate Action Planning for Climate Smart Communities are close to beginning for 9 municipalities and the County.

Road Salt (Vicky, John, Jim): The group discussed alternatives, methods of reducing salt use, overuse in certain areas and working with different levels of government. The highway superintendents meet for breakfast once a month; John will try to meet with the group to discuss opportunities for engaging the group to discuss reducing salt use.

Green Infrastructure (Pete, Steve, Jim, Sarka, Nancy, Connie): Pete suggested reviewing the Greenway Guide to see if there is an update that can be done by the group. Sarka suggested reviewing the zoning ordinances for green infrastructure.

Other Business:

Steve reported about a NY Times article about the cessation of pesticide use in NY City parks and wondered if there might be a similar policy for County parks. Steve will inquire about the possibility.

Brad reported that the County will release a solicitation for the Partnership for Manageable Growth, which he will send to the EMC.

A motion to adjourn was made by Pete Berasi. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the EMC is on Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Vicky Kelly, Recording Secretary.