

**EMC Meeting Minutes
February 22, 2023**

Attendance:

At-Large Members

Pete Berasi	Absent
James Fredrickson	Present
Vicky Kelly	Absent
Constance Kustas	Present
John Paraskeva	Present
Nancy Severns	Present
Candis Sunderland	Present
Lora Schilling	Present
Keri Ann Wright	Present

Ex Officio CAC Members

Devin Rigolino	Present
Kelsey West	Present

Welcome/Intro/Chairman's comments: Jim opened the meeting at 7:02 pm.

Meeting Minutes: Nancy moved to accept the minutes of the January 2023 meeting; Constance seconded. Motion carried.

John NYSACC: To be continued.

Correspondence/Website: None noted. Devin noted some website updates.

Draft revised EMC Enabling Legislation: Tabled. Devin said that Vicky sent out a bulleted list of changes proposed.

Funds Update: Kelsey reported that Carolyn had sent a spreadsheet of the County funds to Vicky, but she didn't produce report for the IBM funds so we're still waiting for that to come through. Devin reported that there is \$1,000 County funds unexpended.

CAC/EMC Forum discussion: Date/Time – March 22, 2023, 6:30-8:30 pm. at the Farm & Home Center, Millbrook. It will be in person preferred because of spotty internet service. Devin said that they will try to record it.

Annual Report 2022: Nancy sent the draft to everyone. Only the budget section remains to complete and she's awaiting the information. Kelsey is to follow-up with Carolyn re the financial information.

Reports & Updates:

Kerri Ann - Solar Batteries Overview – Kerri Ann did a review of the purpose of battery storage. A battery bank is proposed in Hyde Park 84 Facility. Safety hazards are a concern. She would like to explore further

to find out what type of storage is proposed. For example, lithium ion batteries are more susceptible to fire risk requiring careful safety planning. Lead acid batteries like in your car, are most common but these require a lot of ventilation. Devin suggested that there might be an Emergency Hazard Mitigation plan. This would cover planning for a fire and what types of community resources would be drawn upon. This group might want to advocate for the creation of one and allowing the group to review it. John suggested bringing the concerns to the fire chief, so he's aware of the proposal.

Climate Smart Communities (CSC) & Climate Action Planning Institute (CAPI) update:

The CSC task force is reaching out to all the former members of the group and have heard back from all of them and all but one is interested in remaining. So, there are a few vacancies. Nancy will be taking over for Jim for the EMC; there is a formal appointment process where the county executive or legislature writes a letter appointing her. As soon as the formal letters are through Devin will convene a meeting. He will meet with Nancy to fill her in on what she's going to experience.

CAPI is a project to create a government greenhouse inventory and a climate action plan for Dutchess County Government. There was a meeting last week which is the second of 12-13 meetings, one per month. Last week was about data gathering. The group is tasked with conducting an inventory of the county's vehicle fleet, and developing estimates of fuel usage to estimate carbon footprints. They'll pull Central Hudson bills to see how much energy the county buildings, the parks and various facilities use. They'll survey employee to estimate an average employee commute. This together will comprise a government greenhouse gas emission inventory so we can see what the carbon cost of operating as a government is and what can we do to reduce our emissions. The project is in early stages.

New York Climate Leadership & Community Protection Act (CLCPA) Scoping Plan:

Devin requested that everyone be aware of this new statute because it will eventually have repercussions on local government and what they'll be required to adhere to. The County planning department is keeping up to date on it and will share that with the EMC as it develops. It's still very early. In the next year or two enough policy will be developed and may behoove this group to be prepared to provide advice to the legislature to inform their policy.

Natural Resource Inventory:

Devin shared that they are making good progress. Last week there was an advisory council meeting, and Kelsey, Sean and Vicky were there. The County is starting to build the website. This morning Devin met with the web developers who are creating the skeleton of the website. They're updating the old NRI, and converting it from a PDF document to a series of web pages that will be much more user friendly with an interactive map component.

Road Salt:

The subcommittee discussed a forum. John talked with the first assistant highway superintendent from the highway garage in East Fishkill and informed him that they've been meeting with vendors for brine equipment. They want to put together a trailer mounted tank of about 500 Gal. with a pump on either end so that when they're going downhill and the tank is low it'll still pump. So, they are pursuing it and it could happen next season. They want it chair-mounted, so it won't tie up the truck.

Environmental Group Monitoring:

Nancy Reported: SaveLaGrange.org, a community led organization is trying to stop a hot mix asphalt plant on Commerce Street from being approved by Town Board. The Zoning Board of Appeals meeting is to be held 22 February.

Hudson Clearwater is holding forums on Public Health and Safety Impacts of Decommissioning Indian Point. The last one was held on 16 Feb but the recording has not been posted yet on their website. The subject was how the treatment system for radioactive water works, what it can or cannot achieve, why tritium, which cannot be filtered out of water, is a real concern and what discrete radioactive particles are.

Sierra Club is opposing the Iroquois Expansion by Compression Project. It would augment compressor stations in the NY Towns of Dover and Athens to more than double the pressure of methane gas flowing in the Iroquois pipeline that runs south to Manhattan. The goal is to deliver more gas, which would lock in the infrastructure and proliferate the burning of this fossil fuel in our region, with negative consequences for the climate crisis, the environment, and people's health.

When another proposed pipeline, the Williams Pipeline, was defeated, gas companies threatened that they would be forced to turn heat off to the metropolitan area from a lack of delivery capability. Governor Cuomo demanded that utility companies find alternative ways to provide heat to new customers; this was the alternate proposal -- push more gas through an existing pipeline by raising the pressure.

A rally was held today (22 Feb) in DEC regional headquarters to influence DEC to deny the Iroquois Expansion project their air permit.

Candis Reported: she received an email update from the Stop Danskammer Coalition. It's the first update from them in a very long time.

Among the items discussed was the Iroquois Pipeline Expansion by Compression project. Today was also the deadline to submit comments regarding their plan.

They also provided an update on the Danskammer project. The Administrative Law Judge presiding over the DEC permitting process will be issuing a decision on issues for the upcoming evidentiary hearings regarding who will participate, and which issues will be litigated. Once that happens the NYS Siting Board will set a schedule for joint evidentiary hearings. Those hearings will result in a determination on the permit.

Green Infrastructure: Lora said she reached out to Maribel Pregnall who was a biology teacher at Arlington HS and a former EMC member. She had previously worked on several youth programs on the environment. She is the president of the Peach Hill Park in Poughkeepsie. The park just installed a pavilion and are working on a proposal for installing a rain garden and erosion control measures around the pavilion where there are problems with erosion and storm water management. She sent an email that the County is seeking proposals for the 2023/24 youth program funding. This could be a prime candidate for that. They have ordered an informational kiosk and she would reserve one side for details of the program. Peach Hill Park is having a ribbon cutting at the park on Earth Day and Maribel asked if anyone from EMC would want to attend. John expressed appreciation for the erosion control project as he served on the Erosion Control board for East Fishkill for five years. Rain gardens are very amenable to

getting the water into the ground instead of running off. Nancy asked if Lora would be writing the grant. Maribel and Lora would coauthor the grant. Aesthetics and function will be a focus.

Other Business: John expressed his concerns about an adequate supply of power while closing power plants like Indian Point and Danskammer. James suggested there is a local grid problem. NY has a very outdated grid and that's a problem that's not talked about enough. John stated that he doesn't disagree with green energy, but he is still concerned about there being sufficient energy supply.

Devin mentioned that the County is hosting an Earth Day event on Saturday April 29th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. at the Farm and Home Center, which will be coordinated with our division of solid waste. Several local environmental groups will be there. Devin will be there with a couple of tables from our department with information about the EMC, CAC's, the CSC, and the NRI. It is mostly aimed at families. Please share the information with your network.

Meeting to adjourn: Motion by Nancy, next meeting will be the EMC/CAC Roundtable, March 22, 2023 at 6:30 pm at the Farm & Home Center.