



**Dutchess County  
Environmental Management Council (DCEMC)  
Meeting Minutes  
June 28, 2023**

**This meeting was held by Zoom**

**Attendance:**

<b>At-Large Members</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Pete Berasi	X	
James Fredrickson	X	
Vicky Kelly	X	
Constance Kustas	X	
John Paraskeva		X
Nancy Severns		X
Candis Sunderland	X	
Lora Schilling	X	
Keri Ann Wright		
<b>Ex Officio, CAC Members &amp; Others</b>		
Devin Rigolino, Dutchess County Dept. Planning & Development	X	
Kelsey West, CCEDC	X	

Welcome/Intro/Chairman’s comments: Jim Fredrickson welcomed all to the meeting at 7:09 p.m.

Meeting Minutes: A motion to accept the minutes of the April 2023 meeting was made by Pete Berasi with a second by Candis Sunderland; all were in favor.

Correspondence: updates and info from NYSACC

Website update: no updates

Draft revised enabling legislation: no updates. Devin suggested looping in the legislative rep. Devin will check with the county attorney's office regarding where the draft was stuck in years past.

Funds Update: No changes since last meeting. Balance of County funds is \$906.00. IBM funds are unchanged.

Climate Smart Communities Update (Nancy): Devin updated the group that the CSC committee met and things are moving forward.

EMC Members: Jim will bring to the attention of the county clerk that we will be down to 8 members after this meeting.

Reports:

Natural Resource Inventory for Dutchess County (all): Devin updated the group that the website is in development. October-November is the deadline.

Road Salt (Vicky, Candis, Jim, John): The subcommittee will meet on June 29 at 10:00 a.m. to discuss a forum.

Environmental Advocacy Group Monitoring Updates (Candis):

Candis reported the following:

- Riverkeeper, & Catskill Mountainkeeper are both expressing support for the ban on dumping radioactive waste into the Hudson River. Both sites urge sending messages to the Governor in support of the ban. They also reference a new attempt at legislation to strengthen protection for streams at the state level which is being developed following the failure of a previous attempt.
- Catskill Mountainkeeper is also following a bill awaiting the governor's signature. It's called the "Birds and Bees Protection Act (BPPA)." This NY State bill would ban the use of pollinator-killing toxic neonicotinoid insecticides.
- Clearwater: A send off for Manna Jo Greene will be offering a special sunset sail from Beacon on July 7th.
- Scenic Hudson & NYPIRG: nothing new to report.

Green Infrastructure (Lora): Haven't heard definitively about the Peach Hill Park green infrastructure project. Vicky suggested checking with the local foundations for funding. E.g., the Dyson Foundation & the Community Foundation of Dutchess County.

Other Business:

Lora updated the group that Fishkill Creek Watershed Alliance met and will apply for a HREP funds through the Beacon Institute to revise and update the Fishkill Creek watershed plan and to fund a coordinator.

The Dutchess County Transportation Department is developing a Climate Vulnerability Plan and is holding a workshop on July 12 from 1:00-3:30 at the airport to which the EMC members are invited. RSVP is necessary.

A motion to adjourn was made by Peter Berasi. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the EMC is July 26, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Vicky Kelly, Recording Secretary.