



**Dutchess County
Environmental Management Council (DCEMC)
Meeting Minutes
August 23, 2023**

This meeting was held by Zoom

Attendance:

At-Large Members	Present	Absent
Pete Berasi	X	
James Fredrickson	X	
Vicky Kelly	X	
Constance Kustas		X
John Paraskeva		X
Nancy Severns	X	
Lora Schilling	X	
Keri Ann Wright		
Ex Officio, CAC Members & Others		
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 7:02 p.m.

Meeting Minutes: A motion to accept the minutes of the June 2023 meeting was made by Peter Berasi with a second by Jim Fredrickson; all were in favor. Note that the July 2023 meeting was cancelled.

Correspondence: updates and info from NYSACC, an email about a bear sighting, an invite from EPA to discuss new Lower Hudson River sampling and investigation work - Hudson River PCBs Superfund site.

Website update: no updates

Draft revised enabling legislation: no updates, did not hear back from legislator Tony D'Aquanni who may be on vacation.

Funds Update: No changes since last meeting. Balance of County funds is \$906.00. IBM funds are unchanged. The group discussed sending a CAC member to the NYSACC meeting.

Climate Smart Communities Update (Nancy): Kelsey discussed the last meeting, which was in June 2023. They are working to convene the subcommittees. Kelsey discussed the steps that have been taken and are being pursued toward Silver level CSC.

EMC Members: Jim will write a note to the clerk of the legislature about recruiting new members.

Fishkill Creek Watershed Alliance (Jim, Lora, Pete): Jim updated the group on a meeting that took place in July. The group plans to have it declared an inland waterway, which would make state funds & grants available to municipalities to clean, monitor & preserve the creek. It would take getting communities to support the proposal. The next meeting is September 14. CCEDC is heading the effort to secure funds.

Reports:

Natural Resource Inventory for Dutchess County (all): Kelsey discussed new content development and the draft website with some content, which will be shared in September. Kelsey requested photos of natural resources, e.g., scenes, streams, hiking spots, biological resources.

Road Salt (Vicky, Jim, John): The subcommittee met on June 29 at 10:00 a.m. to discuss a forum. We decided to try to piggyback on a highway superintendent's meeting. Vicky was to call Theresa Burke, highway superintendent in Red Hook and chair of the highway supervisors association. We'd want to usurp their meeting, so we'll want to make sure that is doable. We'd ask Bob Wyant of Rhinebeck to talk about his brine operation and possibly Fred Pena formerly of Putnam County Highway Department who was developing a brine system before he was replaced. We want to make sure county highway personnel can attend.

Vicky shared some salt data and information from drinking water wells in the towns of Fishkill, East Fishkill & Wappinger.

Green Infrastructure (Lora): Lora updated the group about the funding for a green infrastructure project at Peach Hill Park in Poughkeepsie. The goal is to have a ribbon cutting event in June 2024.

Other Business:

The Dutchess County Transportation Department is developing a Climate Vulnerability Plan and held a workshop on July 12 from 1:00-3:30 at the airport; Vicky Kelly & John Paraskeva from the EMC attended.

A motion to adjourn was made by Nancy Severns. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the EMC is September 27, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Vicky Kelly, Recording Secretary.