



# Broome County Environmental Management Council

Debra A. Preston, County Executive

## Broome County Environmental Management Council (EMC)

Notes from meeting held on Wednesday, December 12th, 2012 at 4:30pm

Exhibit Room, Broome County Library

185 Court Street, Binghamton, NY

### Present:

**MAL:** Bill Heaviside, Marley Urdanick, Karen Ciatyk and Tony Lubzanski

**CAC Reps:** Cindy Westerman (Vestal) and Andre LaClair (Fenton)

**Staff:** Beth Lucas

**Associate Members:** Adam Flint and Julia Hoover

**Others:** Tom Evans

1. The meeting was **convened at 4:30 pm**. Andre moved and Bill seconded the motion to approve the November minutes as written. All in favor, motion approved.
2. **Announcements /Privilege of the floor/ Items of Interest**
  - Beth circulated an email she received announcing that the annual Symposium on Energy in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century has announced a date for its 2013 conference, April 12<sup>th</sup>. Top experts in the country will be talking about the possibilities of Net Zero Energy, which is a holistic approach for our energy needs. Registration is \$40 including breakfast and lunch. More information can be found at [www.energy21symposium.org](http://www.energy21symposium.org).
  - Beth circulated announcing that the US EPA has posted materials from a series of technical roundtables and workshops for the hydraulic fracturing study on their website at <http://www.epa.gov/hfstudy/>. Additional workshops will be held into 2013 and are listed on the site. These are: Water Acquisition: Assessing impacts through modeling and other means (target date April 2013); Wastewater Treatment and Modeling (target date April 2013); Well Construction/ Operation and Subsurface Modeling (target date early June 2013); Case Studies (target date early June 2013)
  - The NYSDEC has reopened comments on the regulations for hydrofracking. This does not include the draft SGEIS. Comments will be accepted until January 11<sup>th</sup>. More information is available on the NYSDEC website at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/75370.html>.
  - Julia circulated an article about “frozen smoke” regarding the substance aerogel, one of the world’s lightest solids, which is being looked at for a variety of diverse applications. The article can be found at [www.timesonline.co.uk](http://www.timesonline.co.uk).
  - Adam mentioned that Helen Slottje, Community Environmental Defense Council will be speaking about the proposed NYS regulations for hydrofracking and where things stand here in NYS. The presentation will take place on December 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Fireside Room, Unitarian Universalist, 183 Riverside Drive, Binghamton.
  - Adam mentioned that those that are interested in participating in the Green Jobs, Green New York Program to get a free home assessment and low interest loans should attempt to do so by the end of the year if possible. In 2013 the on bill financing rates will go up from 2.99% to 3.49%. Julia noted that she had received the assessment and could share her results with those that are interested. Bill noted that his daughter also received one and there was a very significant difference for her as a result.
  - Tom noted that the Environmental Finance Center distributed notices about mini grants that are currently available for Asset Management Inventory Development (rural NYS municipalities may apply), and Agriculture and Water Quality Improvement Studies. More information is available on the EFC website at <http://efc.syracusecoe.org/efc/whatsnew.html?skuvar=108>.

3. **2013 Membership and Administrative Items** (materials sent to voting members prior to the meeting)
  - Executive Committee and Membership Ballots – Beth requested that all members submit their 2013 membership ballots. Bill Heaviside has been nominated unopposed for the Chair position. Marley Urdanick, Andre LaClair and Chris Burger were nominated for the two Vice-Chair positions. Member-at-Large nominations include Bill Heaviside, Tony Lubzanski, Julia Hoover, Shelbi Dubord and Adam Flint. After votes are tallied, membership and Chair nominations will be forwarded to the County Executive for her consideration.
  - 2013 Calendar – Beth circulated a calendar outlining a schedule for EMC and NRC meetings, as well as a tentative date for the Riverbank Clean-Up. Julia moved and Bill seconded a motion approving the calendar as written.
  - 2013 Work Plan – Beth circulated a draft 2013 work plan. The group went through the plan item by item to discuss any changes or additions. Items discussed included the following.
    - Under Gas Drilling Issues – Water Supply: In addition to promoting well testing, add brochures and educational speakers (Steve Penningrath from Community Science Institute and Bill Kapel from USGS were suggested)
    - Under Programs and Planning for Climate Change add Climate Action Planning and Cleaner, Greener Southern Tier Planning
    - Under Topics/Speakers add Health Department to talk about well testing, Hazard Mitigation, and Green Home Tour
    - Beth mentioned that the Environmental Photography Competition was not included per the conversation at the November meeting. There is not adequate staff time to devote to the event and there were no members that were interested in taking on the program. Beth circulated a list of all of the duties associated with organizing the event and noted that she would reach out to the mailing list to see if any individual or organization is interested in taking on the program, but it will not be in work plan for 2013.
4. **Committee and CAC Updates**
  - Vestal CAC – Cindy noted that the Supervisor attended their last meeting and discussed several of the issues in the Town. Topics included Natural Gas Drilling and the inclusion of logging at Jones Park in the Town’s budget for the upcoming year. He noted that that item was intended for cleanup and maintenance.
  - Fenton CAC – Julian Shepherd met with the group to discuss the issue of identifying parcels for inclusion in the Unique Natural Areas Inventory. The group was having difficulties with the technical aspects of identifying significant flora and fauna. Julian said if a property is noted as unique by the group, he would work with them to establish whether there was significance. The group also worked on responses to Planning and Zoning board issues.
  - Natural Resources Committee – Bill gave an update. The group reviewed each section of the draft plan thus far and each chapter was assigned to an individual for completion.
5. The meeting was **adjourned at 6:30 pm**. The next meeting will be held on **February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013 @ 4:30pm**.