

Broome County Environmental Management Council

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Broome County Environmental Management Council (EMC) Minutes from the meeting held Thursday, May 7, 2009 United Way Board Room, Jensen Road, Vestal, NY

Present:

Members-at-Large: André LaClair, Bill Heaviside, Julia Hoover, Chris Burger, Karen Ciatyk, Tony Lubzanski, Erin Heard, and Mary Cronk

Student Reps: Rachel Cornick (BCC), Alex Hill (UEHS) and Josephine Chu (BU)

CAC Reps: Cindy Westerman (Vestal)

Legislative Reps: Ron Keibel (11th District) and Barry Klipsch (18th District)

Associate Members: Marley Urdanick and Jaime Welch

Staff/Intern: Stacy Merola and Adam Robbins

Guests: Susan Sherwood

Absent with Excuse: Kevin Mathers, Bob Denz, Ken Holmes

1. Andre **convened** the meeting at **7:08 pm**. Minutes from April are not yet available for adoption.

2. **Privilege of the Floor/Member Items of Interest/Announcements**

- Planning and EMC offices are temporarily relocated to the downtown Business Incubator at 123 Court St., Binghamton until the County Office Building (COB) is cleaned and tested after the April 14 dust incident.
- Many County Departments relocated to available space at the County Library. The EMC's scheduled May 13 Opening Reception and display for the Joyce K.L. Environmental Photography Show & Competition in the Library's second floor exhibit room is postponed until further notice, until another location is found or until the COB reopens. Stacy is entertaining use of the City Hall's second floor exhibit space or the Binghamton Visitor's Center in Roberson Museum.
- EMC staff will hold a public information meeting May 21 at the BC Health Dept about BC's Stormwater Program joint Annual Report before the scheduled NRC meeting.
- Bill shared two articles of interest from the NY Post. 1) The NYS Assembly introduced legislation authorizing a 5-cent tax on all plastic bags with handles that are given out by any store in the City that collects sales tax. Mayor Bloomberg supports the measure. 2) NYS Governor Paterson ordered government agencies to stop buying and using bottled drinking water, and ordered them to develop plans to provide employees with other sources of water, like from ordinary faucets and spigots. Paterson notes that bottled water is "wasteful" requiring lots of energy to bottle, transport and dispose of the containers. The order will save money.

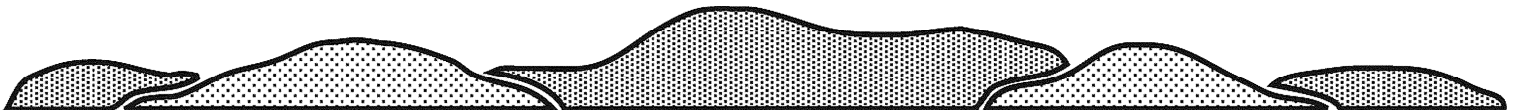
3. **Guest Speaker**

Local consultant firm Jennings Environmental Management was scheduled to address the Council, but unfortunately had to postpone their visit until next month.

4. **Break**

5. **Committee Reports.**

- Natural Resources Committee – Bill reported the NRC met April 16 and received several items of interest including, 1) an update about implementation status of the expanded Bottle Bill; 2) Notice that NYRI withdrew their application for a high-voltage power line through the state; 3) a response letter from Carol Ash, NYS Commissioner of the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation in regards to the EMC's letter in opposition to allowing snowmobiles in Chenango Valley State Park; and 4) "Don't Flush Your Drugs" awareness for pharmacies. The NRC also discussed draft reports for various BC Open Space Plan Recommendations sections (Biodiversity and Recreation). Andre reported to NRC that he conversed with a Chief Scientist in the NYS Attorney General's Office about air pollution thresholds and the DEC's draft



regulations for Outdoor Wood Burners. He advocated for support for units to meet EPA voluntary phase II air quality thresholds and advocated for alarm technology similar to smoke detectors to address outdoor pollution nuisances like OWBs. Next meeting: May 21, BC Health Dept. Rm A, 4:30 pm.

- Recycling and Waste Management Committee –RWMC met today May 7 and discussed the BC Solid Waste Management Plan Issue Paper #2 - Commercial, Industrial, Institutional (CII) and Multi-family Recycling. The RWMC agrees there's a significant need to increase education and enforcement in this sector in order to achieve an advanced CII and multifamily recycling program. The RWMC supports the strategies outlined in the paper and encourages use of the internet, direct mailings, workshops and press releases to target this sector, although the strategies may be cost prohibitive but may net broader outreach. Also circulated the full text of the recently signed Bottle Bill expansion and confirmed reports that implementation originally set for June 1, 2009 will be challenged by the bottling industry and likely not happen until January 1, 2010 or later. Received various program updates from the DSWM including promotions for six free electronic collection events. Next meeting is Monday, June 22, BC Health Dept. 4 pm.

6. Conservation Advisory Commission (CAC) Reports

- Vestal – Cindy reported the CAC met April 28 and discussed natural gas drilling in Dimmock, PA for their own information. Talked about new projects such as for the Wilmerite(?) site – a proposal for mini golf and a go-cart track or perhaps retail, which there may be a wetland impact. The CAC also discussed funding options for the Rail Trail bridge. Next meeting: May 26 at 7:30 pm, Vestal Town Hall.
- Andre reported that the Town of hired a student to draft an Open Space Plan for the Town, which is a requirement for the establishment of a CAC.

7. Staff and Chairs Reports

- Earth Fest Report – Despite not having access to the EMC's traditional public event supplies, Stacy was able to generate color copies of information brochures and reproduce the Recycling/Trash Game, albeit much smaller. Stacy also generated a visual non-point source pollution awareness quiz adapted from EPA resources. All worked beautifully. Seven EMC members helped man the table and engage passers-by. Stacy thanked volunteers for their time and help.
- June and July guest speakers – we'll host Wayne Jennings of Jennings Environmental Management in June (rescheduled from this month); Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo in July.
- Old business – long standing Environmental Analyst vacancy. There's no new update or report from the Planning Commissioner.

The meeting **adjourned** at 8:50 p.m.

Stacy Merola, Recorder