



Broome County Environmental Management Council

Debra A. Preston, County Executive

**Broome County Environmental Management Council (EMC)
Notes from meeting held on Wednesday, May 9th, 2012 at 4:30pm
Exhibit Room, Broome County Library
185 Court Street, Binghamton, NY**

Present:

MAL: Bill Heaviside, Karen Ciatyk, and Dylan Horvath
CAC Reps: Cindy Westerman (Vestal) and Andre LaClair (Fenton)
Staff: Beth Egitto
Others: Bruce Oldfield and Natalie Limbach

1. The meeting was **convened at 4:30 pm.**
2. **Special Presentation: Fossils and Rocks of South-Central New York State, Bruce Oldfield , Professor of Physical Sciences. Broome Community College**

Professor Oldfield was present to discuss the geologically history of the area and how that impacts what we can find today.

If you were to walk up a creek in South-Central New York State, you are you might find some fossils in the rocks. If you were south or east of Binghamton you might find some fossilized wood and reddish colored rocks. If you were north or west of Binghamton you might find some marine fossils such as seashells in bluish colored rocks. What do the different types of fossils and rocks in this area tell us about our geologic history?

Plate tectonic theory tells us that Eastern North America collided with parts of Europe and Africa several times in the distant past. These collisions and resultant mountain-building led to the deposition of important sequences of rocks including the now famous subsurface Marcellus Shale and the Chemung Group of rocks at the surface.

During the Late Devonian Period some 365 million years ago, South-Central NYS was on a tropical peninsula thirteen degrees below the equator with the ancestral Appalachians to the southeast and the Catskill Sea to the north and west. The zone between Binghamton and Elmira was a shallow continental shelf on which numerous species of marine life flourished. Fossil collecting in the local Chemung Group is world famous.

Bruce went on to show how plate tectonic theory and the formation of Pangea led to the deposition of local rocks and the terrestrial to shoreline to shallow sea transition one can see in a transect across South-Central NYS.

3. Announcements /Privilege of the floor/ Items of Interest

- Minutes were reviewed. A change was requested to clarify information related to the 2011 flood presentation. Bill made a motion to approve the minutes, Karen seconded the motion; all in favor, motion passed.
- Beth circulated a notice that the annual NYSDEC /NYS Association of Environmental Management Councils update meeting will be held on Monday, June 4th at the NYSDEC building in Albany. She circulated contact information for those that wish to register.

- Beth circulated a notice that there is a public information meeting for the Route 434 Greenway construction on May 10th at 6:30pm. The project will build the connection from downtown to the Binghamton University Campus.
- Beth circulated a sign up sheet requesting volunteers and food contributions for the Joyce K.L. Smith Photography Show opening reception, being held on Wednesday, May 16th.
- Bill mentioned that a wind turbine project, which had previously been mentioned at a past meeting, was in the process of being put up.
- Karen had mentioned at a previous meeting that she had noticed some work going on in the Page Brook area and had wondered what this was related to. She has since found out that it is a project in response to granite that had washed down during the flood.

4. Committee and CAC Updates

- Natural Resources Committee – The committee did not meet in April, there is no meeting scheduled for May.
- Vestal CAC- Cindy reported that the group discussed a historical interpretive site at Choconut Creek, observation at the Rail Trail, a potential Urban Forestry Grant application, and ideas for the development of a CAC website. The group also further discussed a document that is in development to outline impacts of hydrofracking in the town as well as potential pipelines.
- Fenton CAC – Andre reported that the group has submitted the town's Open Space Plan and associated Environmental Assessment Form for 239 review. A public hearing is being held in June. The group has been discussing a wetlands preservation ordinance, ideas for Unique Natural Areas to be added to Julian Shepherd's database, and Outdoor Wood Boiler regulations.

5. Membership and Administrative Items

- Beth mentioned some ideas for upcoming speakers. She suggested Amelia LoDolce, Sustainability Planner for the City of Binghamton, to talk to the group about the Climate Action Plan that was developed. The group decided to contact her to speak for the June meeting. Beth also suggested Mark Bowers, NYSDOT, to speak about smart transportation and Lauren Tonti from the Food and Health Network to talk about the 2011 Regional Food System Assessment. The group agreed that these would be good for the future.

- 6.** The meeting was **adjourned at 6:30 pm**. The next meeting will be held on **June 13th, 2012 @ 4:30pm**.