

Broome County Environmental Management Council

Barbara J. Fiala, Broome County Executive



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Broome County Environmental Management Council (EMC) Notes from the meeting held Thursday, February 3, 2011 Broome County Public Library, Court Street, Binghamton, NY

Present:

Members-at-Large: Tony Lubzanski, Erin Heard, Karen Ciatyk, and Bill Heaviside

Ex-Officio Reps: Frank Evangelisti, BC Planning

Staff: Beth Egitto, BC Planning

Other: Dylan Horvath, Binghamton University and Tom Evans, STERPDB

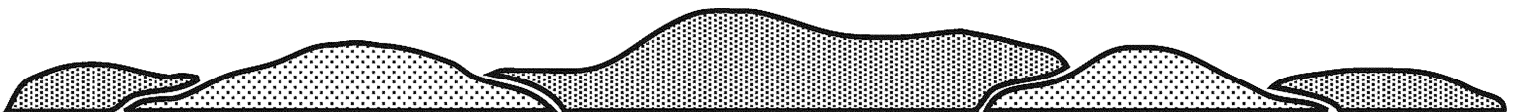
1. The meeting was **convened** at **6:05 pm**.

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

- The Planning Department will hold local government training from 4-8pm on February 10th at Chenango Town Hall. There will be three sessions, Local Waterfront Revitalization Program, Aging in Place, and State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) Basics. More information can be found at the Planning Department's website, www.gobroomecounty.com/planning. There was a suggestion that perhaps this would be a good event to promote the EMC since the attendees, Planning and Zoning Board members could potentially benefit from the EMC's assistance or contribute to the EMC as members. All agreed that the EMC members that will be in attendance will use breaks to advertise for the EMC.
- A Symposium on Energy in the 21st Century is being held Friday, April 8th at the Links at Erie Village in East Syracuse. More information can be found online at www.energy21symposium.org.
- The Livable Communities Alliance will hold a meeting on February 22nd at 2pm at the Broome County Library. They have a new website, www.livablecommunitiesalliance.org. Members of the group have been invited and have confirmed that they will attend the April EMC meeting to give an overview of the organization and how organizations can be involved.
- The Broome County Intermunicipal Waterfront Revitalization Project is hosting 3 public information and input sessions on February 15th at BCC, February 16th at the Endicott Visitor Center and February 17th at Windsor HS. For more information contact Ruth Lewis at the Town of Vestal or Gail Domin at Broome County Planning.
- Erin mentioned that there will be a meeting of the Headwaters River Trail group on Friday, February 18th at 4pm at Cornell Cooperative Extension. They will discuss the Susquehanna Sojourn and a funding application for a map and guide of the Headwaters Trail. For more information Erin can be contacted at ehardusc@gmail.com.

3. Committee and CAC items

- Cindy Westerman, Vestal CAC rep, was not in attendance. Prior to the meeting she notified Beth that she had been unable to attend the latest CAC meeting and had no update.
- January's Natural Resources Committee meeting was cancelled due to scheduling conflicts among the members. The agenda items, reviewing and discussion the Open Space Plan, will be discussed at the next meeting on February 17th.
- Beth mentioned that she had spoken further with the Division of Solid Waste Management regarding the status of the Recycling and Waste Management Committee. They reiterated that due to time and resource issues as the result of budget constraints, they did not feel that attending the committee was a priority for them. They feel that the program has several venues for receiving input regarding their programs through direct contact via email and phone. While the EMC may continue with the committee if desired, members agree that without Solid Waste at the table, this wouldn't make much sense. The group agreed that Solid Waste issues could continue to be addressed at the General Meeting and through



periodic communication and updates with Solid Waste. The Division of Solid Waste is happy to continue keeping the EMC informed and working together on an as needed basis.

4. JKLS Environmental Photography Competition and Show Update

- Beth has worked with Chris Heide in the Broome County Print Shop to update the brochures and posters advertising the 2011 JKLS Photo Competition and Show. She asked that members take materials with them and distribute them to local businesses and organizations. Materials will be distributed to sponsors and a press release will be sent out shortly.
- The opening reception is scheduled for Wednesday, May 11th. Once again, members will be asked to volunteer their assistance for this event. Details will be discussed further closer to the event.
- Chris Burger was not in attendance, so there is no update on the idea to invite the Chamber of Commerce to participate in the event, providing a tourism perspective.

5. Membership and Administrative Items

- The group discussed the status of membership appointments. Beth and Frank are currently working with the executive office on membership appointments. Several of the reappointments will not be considered until the 6 month waiting period between a second and third term has expired.
- Beth will contact Jaime Welch and Marley Urdanick to find out if they are interested in being appointed to a second term.
- Beth circulated a draft document outlining membership responsibilities. She found a similar document on the Dutchess County EMC's website and adapted that to more closely fit the Broome EMC. She also circulated a print out of a membership inquiry page that she added to the EMC website. Those with interest can fill out the webform which will automatically notify Beth so she can take the appropriate steps to inform them about the EMC. It can be found at www.gobroomecounty.com/emc/membership. She asked that members review the items and give her feedback.
- The group discussed several ideas for outreach in an attempt to promote the EMC and increase membership. The previously discussed presence at the municipal training is one option. Karen suggested that getting a presence on Facebook may be a way to reach people as it has become an increasingly popular tool for organizations. This is something that members and staff will look into.
- Beth mentioned that Kevin Mathers from Cornell Cooperative Extension has agreed to attend the March meeting to speak about the invasive Emerald Ash Borer and potential implications locally if it should spread to this area. Everyone agreed that this would be an excellent opportunity to do some advertising and bring in members of the general public. Beth will send out a special email notice and a press release to promote the event. In addition, the Livable Communities Alliance will attend the April meeting to discuss their organization.
- The group discussed some work plan items. Specifically the group discussed the status and future of the Open Space Plan. Beth mentioned that the Planning Department sees more of a need for a tool for natural resources management, perhaps in the form of a Natural Resources Inventory. Instead of writing a plan to be adopted, this tool could be used without having to go through the legislative channels that a plan would go through. The inventory, integrated into and used along with GIS mapping tools, could be used by the County, local municipalities and businesses in the preparation and review of environmental assessment documents. The general public could also use these tools when making land use decisions on their own properties, for example, in the case of developing a mineral rights lease on their property. Beth also suggested that the development of a ranking tool that municipalities could use to evaluate the natural resources in their community was another possibility for the document. The group agreed to discuss the plan further at the February NRC meeting.

6. The meeting adjourned at **7:15 pm. Next meeting:** Thurs., March 3 @ 6:00pm, Broome County Public Library, Binghamton.