



Broome County Environmental Management Council

Debra A. Preston, County Executive

Broome County Environmental Management Council (EMC)

Notes from meeting held on Wednesday, March 14, 2012

6:00 pm

Decker Room, Broome County Public Library

185 Court Street Binghamton, NY 13901

Present:

Members at Large: Zachary Smith, Tony Lubzanski, Adam Flint, Marley Urdanik, Chris Burger, Bill Heaviside, Dylan Horvath, and Erin Heard.

CAC Reps: Andre LaClair, Fenton CAC

Staff: Beth Egitto

Associate Members: Julia Hoover

Others: Natalie Limbach, Lynn Harrison, Todd Epstein, James Bedrin, Brian Fridkin and Monique

1. The meeting **convened at 6:00pm**. Beth welcomed everyone and gave a brief overview of what the EMC is and how to get involved. The group reviewed the February minutes. Minor changes were made. Chris Burger made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, Bill Heaviside seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.
2. **Green Jobs Green New York Presentation**
 - Adam Flint, Marley Urdanik with Cornell Cooperative Extension and their Energy Leadership Program intern, Monique gave a presentation about the Green Jobs, Green NY Program a NYSERDA program that is being run locally through Cornell Cooperative Extension, that offers low interest financing for homeowners to fund energy efficiency improvements on their homes. They explained the problems home owners face; high energy bills, uncomfortable living space. Home owners easily have the opportunity to change these things through using the program which will help put money back in home owner's pockets. The program offers free and low cost home energy audits depending on your income. Most people qualify for the free audit (income below \$122,000 per year). The certified contractors come into your home to do an audit and identify the areas where improvements and upgrades, such as new windows, insulation, home or appliances, can help to improve your home's energy efficiency and save money on energy bills. One technique that is used is the use of a device that draws airflow out of the home in order to identify where leaks or problem areas are located. After the audit identifies a homeowner's options, apply for the low interest loans through NYSERDA to fund the project with a contractor of their choosing. The loan payments are added on to the monthly utility bill. The loan requires at least a ten year payback in order to qualify.
 - One of the issues that is being worked on as part of the program is bridging the gap between workforce and market demand. They are in need of BPI certified and there are limited programs available for people who want to be trained in green installation/building.

- A short discussion followed. Topics included questions about the eligibility of renters and whether the loans could partially fund larger scale projects that might have a longer payback time, such as solar panels.

3. Membership and Administrative Items

- Upcoming speakers
 - Andre has asked Bruce Oldfield, geology professor at BCC, to attend a future EMC meeting to discuss the geological history of Broome County. Will ask about May or June once school is over.
 - Beth mentioned that Chip McElwee, BC Soil and Water, is willing to give a presentation on the September flooding event and local flooding issues.
 - Beth will contact Chip to confirm his presentation at the April 11th meeting and Andre will confirm with Bruce about presenting at the May 9th meeting.
 - Andre mentioned that he and Erin met with County Executive Debbie Preston and Elaine Miller, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development. The meeting was positive and the administration seems supportive of the EMC's goals. She indicated that while there may be disagreement on issues, she is willing to discuss matters as they arise. Members are optimistic that this signifies a positive relationship with this administration.
 - Joyce KL Smith Environmental Photo Competition: Beth mentioned that entries have been coming in and that the deadline is April 4th. She requested that members take posters and brochures for distribution throughout the community. She will request that Debbie Preston attend to present the first place awards at the opening reception.
 - Earth Day Events: Beth received notification that Earth Day Southern Tier's Earth Fest will not be held this year due to complications resulting from the flooding at the event location, Macarthur School. Beth has entered the EMC into the Earth Fest being held at BCC on April 19th. She also has heard that there will be an event on April 21st at Ross Park Zoo. However, there are no further details at this point.
4. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm. **Next meeting** will be on Wednesday April 11th, 2012 at 4:30 pm.