

Broome County Environmental Management Council

Barbara J. Fiala, Broome County Executive • Stacy Merola, Director



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Broome County Environmental Management Council (EMC) Notes from the meeting held Thursday, December 6, 2007 Decker Room, Broome County Public Library, Binghamton, NY

Present:

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

CAC Reps: Cindy Westerman (Vestal)

Student Reps: Josephine Chu

Special Reps: Chip McElwee

Ex-Officio Rep: Bob Denz (BC Health)

Staff/Intern: Stacy Merola and Beth Egitto

Visitors/Guests: Dylan Horvath

Absent with Excuse: Kevin Mathers, Terry Woodnorth, Ron Keibel, Doug Garner, and Ken Holmes

1. Andre **convened** the meeting at **6:08 pm**. Chris moved, Bill seconded to approve November minutes with one amendment: in the second paragraph, Guest Presentation, change “100,000 articles” to “100,000 artifacts”. Motion carried with one abstention (LaClair).

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

- Chris mentioned that he viewed a video “The Story of Stuff” on the internet that looks into the impacts of consumerism in our society. The EMC may wish to view this at a future meeting.

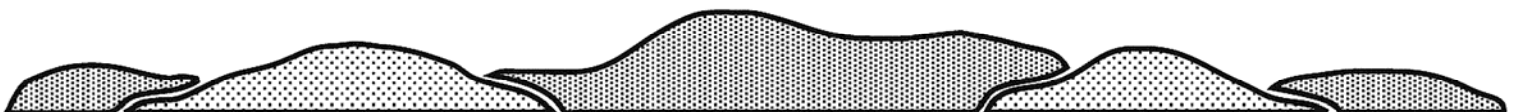
3. 2008 EMC Draft Work Plan

Voting members received a draft 2008 Work Plan via mail with their 2008 membership ballot. Stacy circulated a list of modifications for consideration. Some major differences from the 2007 Work Plan include the following: add the public to the audience for educational tours (GEN-08-02); including the monitoring of developments that could impact local open space protection initiatives and research scenic byways under Open Space Planning (NRC-08-02); assisting with county-wide comprehensive planning (NRC-08-03); move Stormwater items from NRC to GEN; and assisting DSWM with the Solid Waste Management Plan. Discussion ensued, particularly about memberships. Chip moved and Mary seconded to approve the 2008 Draft Work Plan with modifications. Motion passed.

4. Committee Reports:

Natural Resources Committee (NRC) - Bill reported the NRC met Nov. 15. Topics of discussion included the proposed rule for the NYS Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative CO2 Allowance and Budget Trading Programs, an NYRI power line update, an update about the NiSource Open House and their Habitat Conservation Plan and scoping for the related impact statement, and the Recreation section of the Open Space Plan. The NRC reviewed a draft support letter for the Town of Vestal’s application through the NYS Department of State (DOS) Coastal Resources program for funds to develop a county-wide Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP). Vestal is working with Gail Domin from the BC Planning Department on the grant application. **ACTION ITEM:** Chip moved and Mary seconded to approve the letter as written. Motion carried. The letter will be forwarded for inclusion in the grant application. **Next meeting:** Thurs., January 17, 4:30pm, BCOB.

Recycling & Waste Management Committee (RWMC) – Tony reported there was no RWMC meeting in Nov. **Next meeting:** Mon., December 17, 4:30pm, BCOB.



Membership Committee – Ballot results for 2008 EMC officers and general memberships are as follows: Chairperson, Andre LaClair; Vice-Chairs, Karen Ciatyk and Cindy Westerman; Members-at-Large (MAL), Doug Garner (renewal) and Tony Lubzanski (new); Associate Members, Mary Cronk and Bill Heaviside. **ACTION ITEM:** Mary moved, Karen seconded to accept the nominees and to send the nominations for MAL seats to the County Executive for approval and Legislative confirmation. Motion carried. The Council’s nominee for Chairman only requires only the appointment of the County Executive; the selection of Vice Chairs and Associate Members is final.

- Erin, Julia and Andre volunteered to serve on Membership Committee for 2008. Karen, Mary and Bill were thanked for their service on the committee during 2007.
- Henry Weismann, Public Works Commissioner, and David Cody, Parks Commissioner, EMC as Ex-Officio members, will both retire at the end of 2007. Ed Hart, current Recreation Director, will take over for Dave. The new Public Works Commissioner is unknown.
- Julia feels the EMC needs more members from diverse backgrounds. She suggested that EMC staff contact a local architect, Laura Lee Intscher, who has experience with geothermal heating and invite her as a guest speaker. Others suggested that a television ad may be a good way to gain exposure. Stacy said that EMC press releases go out to all print and broadcast media. The EMC can plan a membership drive during April and May 2008, perhaps using the Earth Fest to promote a May open house.

5. Conservation Advisory Commission (CAC) Reports:

Vestal – Cindy reported the CAC met Nov. 27 and that the stream report is almost complete. CAC Chair, Dick Pastore met with the Town Supervisor to discuss the report. The CAC hopes to approve the draft and discuss the issue of potential logging in Jones Park at their next meeting Tues., Dec 11, 7:30pm, Vestal Town Hall.

6. Staff & Chair Reports:

- The group identified several topics/individuals for guest speakers/presentations for 2008. These include BC Historian Jerry Smith; BC GIS coordinator Doug English; a representative from the ST Homebuilders & Remodelers Association about soon to be issued national green building guidelines for homes; Mike McGowan to discuss his cluster development proposal; biodiesel production; a representative from Environmental Advocates about global warming impacts on NYS (based on their 2007 report); geothermal heating for homes; Dylan Horvath, steward of BU’s Nature Preserve; Krista Anders, NYS Health Dept about recent local vapor intrusion developments; and Tim Conner, Chenango Forks High School Earth Science teacher about Broome’s geological history.
- Potential tours for 2008 include local stormwater BMPs; Larry Lepak’s constructed wetland in the Town of Triangle; a tour of a local vernal pool; and a tour of the BU Nature Preserve.
- Stacy attended an open house Nov 6 held by NiSource Inc. and the US Fish and Wildlife Service at the Regency Hotel in Binghamton. These entities are gathering information to assist with preparation of an EIS regarding the potential issuance of a 50-year Incidental Take Permit to NiSource, including approval of their associated Habitat Conservation Plan. USFWS and NiSource are seeking input as part of the scoping process including reasonable alternatives, mitigation measures, probable significant adverse impacts, and licenses or other approvals that may be required. Some concerns included invasive species, emergency situations, supplements to the EIS for changes in the endangered species list and others. Stacy is drafting comments for submission before Dec 8.
- Andre appointed Karen as the NRC Chair and Tony as the RWMC Chair for 2008. Bill was thanked for his service as NRC Chair for 2007.
- The Council thanked Bill and Mary for serving as EMC MALs (and Vice Chairs) and gave them each a Certificate of Appreciation for their service on the Council.

7. The meeting adjourned at **7:55 pm. Next meeting:** Thurs., Jan. 3 @ 7pm, United Way, Vestal.

Beth Egitto, Recorder; Stacy Merola, Editor

