



**Broome County Environmental Management Council (EMC)
Notes from the meeting held Thursday, February 7, 2008
United Way Board Room, Jensen Road, Vestal, NY**

Present:

Members-at-Large: André LaClair, Karen Ciatyk, Doug Garner, Erin Heard, Julia Hoover, and Tony Lubzanski

Student Reps: Josephine Chu (BU)

Legislative Reps: Ron Keibel (11th District)

Ex-Officio Reps: Bob Denz (Broome Co. Health)

Staff/Intern: Stacy Merola, Beth Egitto and Brittany Gaddy

Associate Members: Bill Heaviside

Visitors/Guests: Dylan Horvath

Absent with Excuse: Terry Woodnorth, Cynthia Westerman and Chris Burger

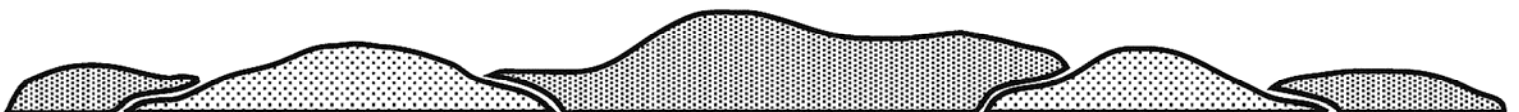
1. André **convened** the meeting at **7:07 pm**. Karen moved, Tony seconded to approve January minutes with one typo correction. Motion carried.

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

- The EMC spring intern, Brittany Gaddy, was introduced.
- The 2008 Joyce K.L. Smith Environmental Photography Show & Competition submission deadline is Wednesday March 5th. Josephine will put up posters at BU. Doug offered to update the Photography Show video story for the EMC website.
- There were no new updates for the Binghamton University Focus the Nation (climate change) event. It was suggested that the event be re-organized around Earth Week in April.
- A Sierra Club Permaculture event addressing sustainable living is scheduled for Tuesday, March 18 at the Central United Methodist Church, 17 Nanticoke Ave, Endicott, 7:30 pm. Debra Smith, BC Materials Recovery Manager, will address the Sierra Club about recycling February 17.
- The BC Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) is now accepting tree and shrub orders at their website, www.broomeswcd.org.
- Stacy circulated the EMC Events Volunteer Sign-up sheet to members.
- Chris Burger's Winter Gathering will be Saturday, March 1st 5:30 pm. If conditions permit, join them at 1:00 pm for cross-country skiing. He asks that you please bring a dish to pass. An updated map was circulated.

3. Special Presentation: The Binghamton University Nature Preserve

Dylan Horvath has been Steward of the BU Nature Preserve for two and a half years. His position is funded through a University endowment. Few universities have as much undeveloped land that is readily available to residents. Out of 900 acres at BU, 600 are undeveloped. The Nature Preserve offers a variety of diverse habitats including secondary forests, marshlands, Harpur pond, and field and shrub lands. The Friends of the Nature Preserve are a volunteer group of BU faculty, students and community members who maintain field and shrub land, remove invasive species and offer guided tours of the Preserve. The Nature Preserve provides unique educational and research opportunities for students. Other benefits include outdoor recreation, nature appreciation and ecosystem services (the Preserve's wetlands help regulate water flow). Various wildlife found in the Nature Preserve were highlighted including amphibians, deer, porcupines, bears, beavers, coyotes



and birds. Dylan pointed out that over 200 species of bird have been spotted in the Preserve. Dylan distributed a map and guide to attendees. More information on the BU Nature Preserve can be found at the website, <http://naturepreserve.binghamton.edu>.

A brief discussion with questions and answers followed. Dylan was thanked for his time and for sharing information about the Nature Preserve.

4. The council decided to skip the break.

5. Committee Reports

Natural Resources Committee (NRC): Karen reported that the NRC met January 17. On January 30, there was a BMTS public meeting to discuss the future of the Front Street Gateway; Stacy has a copy of the report. Tioga County Cooperative Extension held a practical information session February 6 to discuss wind energy. Broome County will hold an open house about the Johnson City (EJ Industrial Spine) Brownfield Opportunity Area in March. NRC worked on the Open Space Plan sections III-E (Distinctive Character) and III-C (Working Landscapes). Tim Conner, last month's EMC speaker, agreed to review Bill's geologic history section. Next meeting: Thursday, February 21 at 4:30 pm, BCOB.

Recycling & Waste Management Committee (RWMC): Tony reported that the RWMC met January 28. Broome County renewed a contract with Tioga County to accept their household hazardous waste from April through October 2008. Two landfill neighbors alerted the RWMC about the ever-growing presence of green algae in Brooks Creek. They have concern about the County's interest to discharge treated leachate into a wetland of Brooks Creek, of which the viability will be evaluated in an upcoming Leachate Feasibility Study. The 2008 Book Recycling Fair will be held at Cornell Cooperative Extension of BC August 14-16 and 22-23. New York City issued a plastic bag recycling mandate, and Whole Foods stores banned the use of plastic bags. Locally, Red Barn Computers will accept a limited quantity of old computers and monitors for free.

The Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS) for the Landfill Section IV Entrance Evaluation was adopted as complete by the BC Legislature in December. The Legislature must now declare their preferred alternative and issue a Statement of Findings. The County Division of Solid Waste Management wrote a letter to the three landfill host communities expressing their desire to declare Alternative 2 as the preferred option: a driveway entrance to Section IV off of Dunham Hill Road. The current landfill entrance on Knapp Road will eventually be open only to traffic for Household Hazardous Waste collection days. The County offered to meet with the host communities to address minimizing their concerns. For example, posting weight limits on Dunham Hill Rd to minimize truck traffic coming up from I-81 and Castle Creek, and working to rebuild Knapp Rd to eliminate a sharp curve just beyond the current entrance to the Landfill. Next meeting: Monday, February 25 at 4:30 pm, BCOB. [Editor's Note – the Feb 25 meeting was cancelled.]

6. Conservation Advisory Commission (CAC) Reports

Vestal CAC: Beth reported on Cindy's behalf. The CAC met January 22 to review an improved recommendation section for their Creek Report. Supervisor Andreasen was unable to attend but was invited to the next meeting to present his ideas for the final report. Next meeting: February 26 at 7:30 pm, Town Board room, Vestal Town Hall.

7. Staff and Chair Reports

- Membership appointments for Tony, Doug and André were confirmed by the Legislature at the January session. Congratulations!
- Stacy will address a Chenango Forks High School Earth Science class about environmental considerations for development. She will encourage class members to apply for the EMC's high school representative seat, which is currently vacant.
- The 2007 EMC Annual Report was distributed. The EMC will consider it for adoption in March. An updated roster was also distributed.
- Stacy attended the second public meeting regarding the Front Street Gateway January 30. The community stated that they do not want commercial development, but would rather keep the area residential and revitalize homes. Concerns about train tracks and levees were discussed.

8. Next meeting: Thursday, March 6 at 7:00pm, United Way Board Room, Vestal.

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 pm.

Brittany Gaddy, recorder
Stacy Merola, editor