

Broome County Environmental Management Council

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



Broome County Office Building • 44 Hawley Street • P.O. Box 1766 • Binghamton, New York 13902
(607) 778-2116 • Fax (607) 778-6051 • Website: www.gobroomecounty.com

Broome County Environmental Management Council (EMC)

Notes from the meeting held Thursday, December 7, 2006

Broome County Public Library

185 Court Street, Binghamton, New York

Present:

Members-at-Large: Terry Woodnorth, Tim Wolcott, Bill Heaviside, Doug Garner, André LaClair, Tony Lubzanski, and Karen Ciatyk

Student Reps: Melanie Feltmate (BU)

CAC Reps: Cindy Westerman (Vestal)

Legislative Reps: Ron Keibel (11th District)

Staff/Intern: Stacy Merola, Beth Egitto and Ken Holmes

Visitors: Sarah Barnes, Erica Sloma, Chris Burger and Josephine Chu

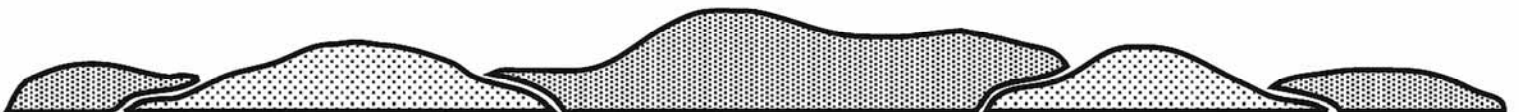
Absent with Excuse: Chip McElwee (SWCD), Kevin Mathers (CCE) and Bob Denz (BCHealth)

1. Following introductions, Terry **convened** the meeting at **6:10 pm**. Tim moved to approve the minutes from November. The motion was seconded by Tony and approved by all.
2. **Privilege of the Floor/Announcements/Member Items of Interest**
 - Stacy circulated a list of the 2007 collection dates for the Broome County Household Hazardous Waste facility. They are also available on the solid waste website, <http://www.gobroomecounty.com/dpw/DPWHWFColl.php>. There was a short discussion about the types of materials accepted at the facility, which is located at the county landfill.
 - Joyce KL Smith Environmental Photo Show and Competition
 - Terry contacted an Endicott framing business regarding sponsorship of the event. As a sponsor, this and other participating businesses donate gift certificates toward custom framing, which are given as prizes to the first place winners in each category. Additional sponsors also provide complimentary enlargements for first place winners and honorable mentions.
 - Stacy received feedback from a Broome County employee suggesting a potential 6th judge for the competition as well as some language for adding the student category to the competition rules and guidelines.
 - Ron mentioned that those using fuel oil for their homes should consider joining the Citizens' Action Fuel Group. For a small amount of dues ranging from \$5-25 per year members have seen savings of \$0.55 per gallon.
 - Cindy announced that she still had one Sierra Calendar left if anyone was interested.
 - Stacy circulated the adopted 2007 meeting and events calendar. After some discussion it was decided that the EMC General meeting scheduled for July 5th should be changed to July 12th to avoid conflicts with plans for the July 4th holiday. In addition, Chris mentioned that due to a Dog Show being held at the BCC Ice Rink on Earth Day weekend, Earth Fest will be held on Saturday April 28th. The calendar, which has Earth Fest listed for April 21st will also be changed to reflect this.
 - Terry mentioned that one of the presenters at the Conference on the Environment had addressed the topic of Rain Gardens, landscaped depressions that capture rain water and allow it to soak into the ground to mitigate negative impacts of stormwater. He suggested that those interested in the topic go to the website www.cayugalake.org to find more information. He also circulated another resource available on the site, "Smart Steps for Clean Water".

Discussion and Adoption of Draft 2007 EMC Work Plan

Stacy had previously mailed voting members a copy of the draft 2007 Work Plan.

- Stacy described some of the major changes from the 2006 Work Plan. These included the removal of the Brownfields Committee items and more specific dates for the "Timeframe/Status" column.



- “GEN-07-04 Storm Drain Stenciling” was added. This would entail organizing stenciling projects with local schools to increase awareness of stormwater issues.
- Another addition, “GEN-07-10 Environmental Recognition Award”, would entail the establishment of a committee to develop award criteria. The award would promote responsible environmental practices and the EMC. There was brief discussion about ideas for the award which will be discussed further when a committee is formed.
- There was a brief discussion about “ADMIN-07-05 Member Recruitment/Training”. Members identified this as a high priority. One suggestion was to schedule a Membership Committee meeting early in the year to discuss recruitment. Several members said they would participate. Additional suggestions were moving speakers to the first item on the agenda, advertising speakers through flyers at local establishments, holding separate speaker forums, possibly working with BU and BCC, where topics could be covered more in depth than at the meetings, and recruitment mailings targeting local groups, municipalities and academic offices at BU and BCC. Several ideas for speakers in the upcoming year were given.
- Ridgeline protection was removed from the NRC section of the work plan but would fall under Open Space Planning when the issue merits attention. Staff felt that it would be more appropriate to further address the issue after the completion of the Open Space Plan.
- Andre felt that while Outdoor Burning and Outdoor Wood Boilers, included in RWMC items, are forms of waste disposal, they would be more applicable as NRC items under the same category, since they are air quality issues. RWMC-07-07 will be changed to “Illegal Disposal and Burning” to include Open Burning and OWBs as a waste issue. In addition, NRC-07-07 will be changed to “Air Quality” to incorporate the air pollution aspect of both issues.
- Ideas for tours and guest speakers were discussed briefly. Suggestions included planning a tour of the Delaware Co. Composting Facility, a tour of the BC Landfill, and a tour of the Whitney Point Dam. Potential guest speakers were suggested: BC Executive, the Greater Binghamton Coalition, geographic information systems presentation, urban forestry, BC Historian (presentation related to local envi history), and Ron Dalton from the Public Archaeology Facility to perhaps discuss a recent dig in Deposit.

3. Committee Reports:

- Natural Resource Committee (NRC): Cindy reported that the meeting scheduled for November 16th was cancelled due to flash floods. Since no meeting was originally scheduled for December, the meeting is rescheduled for December 14th.
- Recycling & Waste Mgmt Committee (RWMC): Tim reported that the last meeting was held October 23rd, and discussed outlets for recycling shredded paper. Tim thought that a local farm used the paper at the school where he works for animal bedding. However, after further inspection he found that Tioga County takes it for recycling. Solid Waste reported on the bids for Hazardous Waste transport, Colesville Landfill flooding damage, the bid for leachate hauling, the final tally of \$1.2 M in waived tipping fees for flood victims (June flood only), and the results of (daily cover) auto fluff PCB analysis. The committee also discussed the Landfill Supplemental Impact Statement (SEIS) scope for the new entrance. Concerns included inaccurate costs posted for Option J and questions about who determined which alternatives are to be included in the SEIS. Some felt that the “no action” option is best if savings are used toward composting but some felt that options keeping trucks off the road would be best for safety and road maintenance purposes. Staff circulated a set of draft comments on the SEIS scoping document, which are due December 15, and a set of comments endorsed by several EMC members.

4. Conservation Advisory Commission (CAC) Reports:

- Vestal- The CAC met with Supervisor Peter Andreasen to discuss the Town’s creeks and flooding issues. Vestal had \$4.5 to 5 million in damage and about \$225K for the November flash flooding.

The CAC has until March to issue recommendations for the Town's creeks in relation to the flooding issues.

5. Staff & Chair Reports:

- EMC Chair, Terry Woodnorth, appointed Bill Heaviside as NRC Chair and Tony Lubzanski as RWMC Chair for 2007.
- Ballots for 2007 Executive Committee were mailed to voting members prior to the meeting. Andre LaClair was elected as the EMC Chair nominee for 2007; his name will be forwarded to the County Executive for her appointment. Bill Heaviside and Mary Cronk were elected, to resume their co-vice chairmanships. Andre LaClair and Karen Ciatyk were elected as nominees for two vacant Member-at-Large seats; their names will also be forwarded to the County Executive for her consideration and legislative confirmation. There was one write-in for MAL: Ray Nolan.
- Staff sent letters to the towns of Vestal and Union CAC's and to the Town of Chenango Environmental Review Board asking for nominees to serve on the EMC for two-year terms. Their appointments are subject to consideration by the County Executive and confirmation by the legislature. Staff also received two student membership applications from Broome Community College students Erica Sloma, a Broome County resident and Sarah Barnes, a Chenango County resident. Both students were present and offered background information about themselves for the Council's information.
- Stacy asked about the future of the Goose Management Report and its submission to the Legislature. She was instructed by the Planning Commissioner to hold off until the turn of the year in anticipation to changes in the members of the Legislature.
- Certificates of Recognition were distributed to members that will not be returning to MAL status, Terry Woodnorth and Tim Wolcott, and the EMC Intern, Ken Holmes, in appreciation of their work with the EMC. Terry was also presented with a glass apple made from recycled CRT glass as thanks for his service as EMC Chair.

6. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Next meeting: Thursday, January 4th @ 7:00 pm at the United Way, Jenson Road, Vestal.

Beth Egitto, Recorder
StacyMerola, Editor