

Broome County Environmental Management Council (EMC)
Notes from the meeting held Thursday, November 3, 2005
Broome County Public Library
185 Court Street, Binghamton, New York

Present:

Members-at-Large: Terry Woodnorth, Bill Heaviside, Andre LaClair, Ken Kamlet, Ruth Levin and Tony Lubzanski

C.A.C Reps. Cindy Westerman (Vestal) and Roger McVannan (Union)

Special Reps: Kevin Mathers (CCE), Chip McElwee (BC Soil & Water)

Legislative Reps: Ron Keibel (11th District)

Ex-Officio: Bob Denz (BCHD)

Associate Members: Karen Ciatyk and Doug Garner

Staff/Intern: Stacy Merola and Beth Egitto

Visitors: David Katz, Elizabeth Schlitz, Melanie Feltmate, Chelsea Personius and Michael Bobal

Absent w/excuse: Tim Wolcott, Anndrea Starzak, and Mary Cronk

1. Andre **convened** the meeting at **6:10 pm**. Introductions followed. Minutes from September were approved without amendment on a motion by Terry, seconded by Ruth. Motion carried.

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

- Anyone interested in purchasing a Sierra Club calendar should notify Cindy, \$12 for a desk calendar and \$11 for a wall calendar.
- Ruth has an article from the Tioga County Courier regarding the proposed chicken farm which is met with much opposition. The EMC may not have time to address this topic right now, but Ruth will look into it.
- There is a program about Gas Drilling to be aired on November 17th at 8pm on PBS.
- Stacy distributed America Recycles Day pledge cards. Anyone who pledges to support recycling by filling out the form will be entered in a drawing. The major state prize is a trip for four to Orlando, Florida. The national prize is a hybrid vehicle. Entries will be accepted until November 15th.
- The remaining dates for Household Hazardous Waste collection are November 19th and December 7th and 17th.
- Correction: On the BC EMC Meetings and Events Calendar, the date for the December RWMC meeting should be Monday, December 19th, not Monday, December 18th.
- NYS is offering the civil service exam for Environmental Analyst on January 7, 2006. Applications are accepted from October 24-December 5. Information is available at the NYS Dept. of Civil Service website.
- There is a "Puppet Hospital" for First Night Binghamton volunteers to repair and refurbish the giant processional puppets used for First Night November 5th and 6th from 9am-6pm at the MetroCenter Atrium.
- Stacy circulated a greeting card and business cards sent to the BC Planning Department from former Environmental Analyst, Jeremy Magliaro.
- Chip announced some grants: \$35,000 to put historical aerial photos back to the 1930s into digital form; Upper Susquehanna Coalition \$1 million USDA Conservation Innovation Grant for precision feeding (Call Chip for more details about precision feeding); and a congressional earmark through Congressman Hinchey for \$500,000 for constructed wetlands on the Susquehanna River.

3. **Special Guest: David Katz, The Environmental Costs of Urban Development on Fuller Hollow Creek, Vestal, New York**

David Katz is an undergraduate environmental studies student at Binghamton University. Urban development can have a dramatic impact on the movement of water through the landscape. Impervious surfaces increase the

amount of runoff created by precipitation events, by hindering evaporation, transpiration and infiltration of water and can result in the increase of stream discharge and the frequency and intensity of flooding events. This study examined three (3) sub-watersheds of differing land use in the Fuller Hollow Creek watershed: the Nature Preserve (NP), which is not developed; the Campus Culvert (CC), which is mostly developed, and; the sub-watershed containing Lake Lieberman, a retention pond, with both developed and natural areas. This study measured the discharge rates in streams draining each subwatershed to examine the physical impacts of development on the Fuller Hollow Creek watershed. After a rain event there was an almost immediate spike in stream discharge from the CC subwatershed followed by a period of erratic discharge rates in the following days. Discharges from the NP subwatershed did not increase until a couple of days after the rain event and then maintained a steady, slightly elevated flow. Discharge rates were measured at both the inlet and outlet of Lake Lieberman. The flow pattern at the inlet was almost identical to the pattern in the CC subwatershed, with increased discharge and erratic flow patterns almost immediately after the rain event. The discharge rates at the outlet showed a more gradual release of water from Lake Lieberman, although it was not as effective as the NP subwatershed. Another study at these sites revealed that the water draining from NP had less total dissolved solids, highlighting the water filtration benefits of a natural system. The results of this study emphasize the benefits of the preservation of natural areas for flood mitigation purposes. While manmade structures offer some benefits, natural systems are more effective at minimizing the discharge rates associated with flooding.

David responded to various questions from attendees. He was thanked for a very insightful presentation.

4. Committee & Task Force Reports:

- Brownfields Committee (BFC): No meeting.
- Natural Resource Committee (NRC): Met October 20th. Discussed draft sections of the Open Space Plan (introduction, biodiversity and protected open space outline). Next meeting: November 17th.
- Goose Management Task Force: Last meeting was in May. Meeting scheduled: Wednesday, November 9th. The task force will meet with BU Masters in Public Administration students regarding their work looking at goose management policy.
- Recycling & Waste Management Committee (RWMC): No meeting. Next meeting: November 21st.
- Membership: Stacy distributed nomination forms to voting members for EMC Chair and Vice Chairs for 2006. Voting members should return nomination forms by Thanksgiving. Nominations will be verified with nominees and their names placed on a ballot to be sent with the December EMC meeting notice.

5. CAC Reports:

Vestal- Cancelled due to weather. Union- No meeting. Dickinson – No report.

6. Staff & Chair Reports:

- Stacy distributed a memo addressing efforts to streamline EMC staff time spent on EMC activities outside of normal business hours, 8:30am-5pm, M-F. Some suggestions from Commissioner Petkash included earlier General Council meetings, 5 or 6pm, earlier committee meetings so that they do not fall outside of normal business hours (8:30am or 2-4pm), and decreasing the number of meetings per year. Stacy also distributed a survey requesting preferences for meeting frequency and times that outlines possible options. Survey results will be shared in December.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Stacy also distributed a proposed 2006 EMC Meetings and Events Calendar. According to the proposed calendar, the General EMC would meet 10 times/yr, NRC would meet 8 times/yr and RWMC would meet 7 times/yr. The meetings were scheduled to avoid conflict with special events such as the Photo Show and Book Recycling Fair. Chip moved and Ruth seconded to approve the calendar with the following amendment: add a statement to acknowledge that while there are no scheduled meetings of the Brownfields Committee and the Goose Management Task Force meetings will be scheduled when called to task. Calendar approved; 6 ayes, 2 nays (Ken and Cindy) and 1 abstention (André).

7. The meeting adjourned at 7:56 pm

Beth Egitto, Recorder; Stacy Merola, Editor