

Broome County Environmental Management Council

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



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Broome County Environmental Management Council (EMC) Minutes from the meeting held Thursday, April 2,, 2009 United Way Board Room, Jensen Road, Vestal, NY

Present:

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

Student Reps: Rachel Cornick (BCC), Alex Hill (UEHS) and Josephine Chu (BU)

CAC Reps: Cindy Westerman (Vestal)

Legislative Reps: Ron Keibel (11th District), Barry Klipsch (18th District)

Associate Members: Marley Urdanick and Jaime Welch

Staff/Intern: Stacy Merola and Adam Robbins

Guests: Susan Sherwood

Absent with Excuse: Kevin Mathers, Bob Denz, Ken Holmes

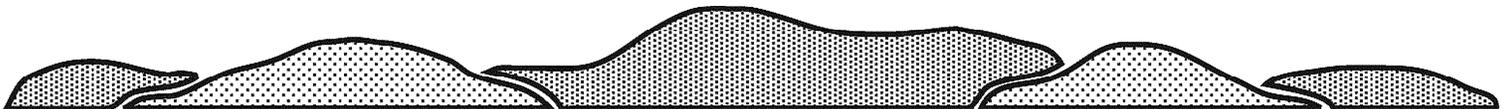
1. Andre convened the meeting at 7:05. Introductions followed. Minutes from March were amended as follows: under Membership Committee, last line, change "Envi" to "Environmental"; under Guest presentation, third paragraph change "75%" to ".75%." Chris moved, Julia seconded to accept minutes as corrected. Motion carried with one abstention (Andre).

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

- Earth Fest – Sat, April 25, 10am-5pm, MacArthur School & Park, Vestal Ave, Binghamton. A volunteer sheet was circulated. The EMC table will promote recycling awareness game, Stormwater issues, the Photography Show and Riverbank Cleanup.
- 2009 Joyce K.L. Smith Environmental Photography Show & Competition - Open Reception planned for Wed, May 13 from 5:30 – 7:30 pm, BC Library, Court St., Binghamton [Editor's note: the Show is postponed until a date uncertain due to the temporary relocation of County operations to the BC Library. About 340 pictures were submitted and \$435 in Memorial Fund received in donations, which was more than last year. Thank You letters were sent to all those who contributed. Judges selected six winners and 25 honorable mentions March 16. Sign up sheet was circulated for volunteers to help with the reception.
- Annual Book Recycling Fair scheduled for August is cancelled because of location barriers. Information is posted online, offering four alternative outlets for disposal of unwanted gently-used books.
- Cell Phone Recycling Week is April 6th-12th. A number of cell phone distributors from Verizon, AT&T, Sprint, etc. are offering in-store promotions and in-store and online recycling opportunities as well as contests and giveaways for participants.
- The New York Association for Reduction, Reuse, and Recycling (NYSAR3) is initiating a NYS beverage container recycling bin grant program. College campuses could take advantage.
- Steve Gayle, BMTS Director sent announcement of the availability of the 2009 NYS Energy Plan (interim report) for review. Visit www.NYSenergyplan.com.
- Josephine updated the council on recent Campus Climate Challenge activities at Binghamton University.

3. Guest Speaker – Center for Innovation & Technology

Susan Sherwood, Executive Director of the Center for Technology and Innovation (CT&I) since 2003, has three decades of cultural resources management experience. Susan directed the National Park Service research on air pollution impacts on monuments and historic structures, and chaired the Materials Research Group for the National Acid Precipitation Assessment Program. A native of Vestal, NY, she earned degrees in Classical Archaeology and Chemistry at Bryn Mawr College (AB, 1974) and in Roman Archaeology at Aarhus



Universitet, Denmark as a Rotary Foundation Fellow (MA, 1977). CT&I's mission is to document and present in context the inventions and industrial innovations of New York's Southern Tier.

Susan focused her presentation on the history of pioneering mass transit in New York State from 1871-1968 that featured the Binghamton Railway and Triple Cities Traction Companies. Her captivating slides showed a bustling and expanding Southern Tier, which was attributed to the introduction of the railway in 1868 and electric street car systems in 1886. Binghamton was one of the first of twelve areas in the US to break new ground with electric trolley cars. In 1930, the Triple Cities Traction Company formed in Binghamton. In 1932, Binghamton was the first urban area in the state to convert to an all bus system. The Broome County Dept of Public Transportation purchased the Triple Cities Traction Company in 1968 and renamed it BC Transit, as we know it today.

The electronic trolley systems were very energy wasteful, so much so that in 1889 the horse-drawn carriages were reintroduced because electricity was too expensive. However, again, the trolleys were very efficient with moving people out from the City's center to develop rural areas of this County to make it what it is today. . A question and answer period followed.

4. Break

5. Committee Reports.

- Natural Resources Committee – Bill reported the NRC met March 19 and received a synopsis of Broome County's Hazard Vulnerability Analysis seminar that included public/private sectors, government and industry. The analysis covers five major factors to assess hazards: their scope, frequency, impact, onset and duration. Jaime Welch attended and participated in the session hosted by the BC Emergency Services Unit. The NRC also discussed status reports for various BC Open Space Plan sections, and received an update on the NYS Open Space Plan Regional Advisory recommendations for the 2009 OSP. Also received and discussed at length the informal draft regulations for Outdoor Wood Burning that are proposed and currently under development by the NYSDEC. NRC also received copies of the DEC's Final Scope for the dSGEIS for horizontal drilling and hydro-fracturing.
- Recycling and Waste Management Committee – The RWMC did not meet March 23. There was no meeting scheduled for April because of Earth Fest and no meeting in May due to Memorial Day. It was agreed that the RWMC will meet before the next EMC General meeting May 7 at 5:45pm.

6. Conservation Advisory Commission (CAC) Reports

- Vestal – Cindy was not able to attend the last CAC meeting, which was March 24. Their next meeting will be April 28 at 7:30 pm, Vestal Town Hall.
- Chenango Environmental Review Board Ron reported that the Town ERB has two seats open and received four applications of interest for consideration. Stacy will write the Town Supervisor again to request an appointment from the ERB to serve on the EMC.

7. Staff and Chairs Reports

- EMC 2009 Calendar amendments – a revised calendar was circulated to correct for minor errors and meeting changes, which will be posted on the EMC's webpage.
- Environmental Analyst vacancy – The Planning Commissioner has not taken action to fill the vacancy provisionally or otherwise. Beth Egitto's leave of absence remains in effect since June 2008. Discussion ensued.
- 2008 Annual Report prep – Due to time constraints, the 2008 EMC annual report is not yet drafted.

Adjourn 8:45 p.m.
Stacy Merola, Recorder

