



St. Lawrence County Environmental Management Council

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APPROVED

MEETING MINUTES

July 15, 2009 7:00 PM

Room 226, County Courthouse, 48 Court Street

Canton, New York

Action items in bold italics

1. **Call to Order:** Chair David Katz called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM.
2. **Roll Call, Determination of Quorum:** A quorum was present.
Members present included: T. Cutter, A. Heidenreich, R. Horst, D. Howard, D. Katz, C. Rediehs, J. Rosales, L. Rudiger, P. Skomsky, B. Zimmerman.
Members absent included: D. Church, B. Flavin, G. Johnson, L. Perry, D. O'Shea, A. Soutar.
Staff: J. Montan; J. Tenbusch. Guests: None. Press: None.
3. **Hearings, Comments from the Public:** No speaker was scheduled.

Jon Montan presented the draft "Climate Change and Peak Oil – A Plan Proposal for St. Lawrence County, NY – July 2009". This proposal has been submitted to the Board of Legislators, and was approved unanimously at their committee meeting on July 13th. The proposal will be voted on at the Board of Legislators meeting on August 3rd.
4. **Acceptance of Order of Business, Items for New Business, Items for Unfinished Business:**
The Order of Business was approved (by consensus).
5. **Approval of the Minutes of the June 17, 2009 Meeting:** The June meeting minutes were approved (A. Heidenreich / P. Skomsky).
6. **Report by the Representative of the Board of Legislators (BOL):** L. Perry did not attend this meeting. She submitted a report which discussed:
 - Perry supported the BOL resolution that opposed proposed regulations regarding renewal of pistol permits.
 - Perry supported the BOL resolution that opposed proposed regulations concerning farm labor.
 - BOL extended its one-year contract with NYS DOT for snow removal on State highways.
 - SLC Youth Bureau is working with the Friends of Mt. Arab to employ a Summit Guide for the summer season.

EMC: Everybody Must Care!

- Perry supported the BOL resolution asking the Federal government to mediate the dispute at the International Border Crossing at Roosevelttown.
- Michael Crowe was appointed as the new County Attorney, to start July 20th.
- Perry reported on her attendance at the June EMC meeting, held in Star Lake.

7. Reports by EMC Members on Conversations with County Legislators:

There were no reports.

8. Report of the Committees:

a. Executive – D. Katz. No report.

b. Education – R. Horst. Horst reported that the committee had met and discussed:

- Raquette River Awareness Week, August 1-8, 2009. The committee reviewed a draft resolution for the Board of Legislators to support the activities to be conducted during this event. On a motion by Rudiger (Rediehs), the EMC recommended that the Board of Legislators consider this resolution.
- Citizen Science. The committee discussed how to promote the concept. ***B. Zimmerman volunteered to draft letters to local college department chairs, informing them about Citizen Science, and asking for information about potential research topics of interest to their faculty.***
- St. Lawrence River environmental group. The committee discussed the ad-hoc group involved with discussions concerning environmental aspects of re-using NYPA funds that had been earmarked for the St. Lawrence Aquarium & Ecological Center. ***Tenbusch will invite the group to speak at an upcoming EMC meeting.***
- Energy efficiency. Tenbusch reported that, at the suggestion of A. Heidenreich, he had spoken with Mike DeWein about new energy-efficient building code standards; he had invited DeWein to speak at an upcoming EMC meeting.

c. Natural Resources – A. Heidenreich. The committee considered the following topics:

- Maintenance of county road rights-of-way by the use of herbicides. Staff was asked to look into current practices to control roadside vegetation.
- Solid Waste Management Plan update. The current County SWMP is getting to be old and needs to be updated. ***Staff was asked to prepare a summary of the SWMP and present it at a future meeting. Scott Thornhill should be invited to speak to the EMC about recycling efforts.***
- Climate Change/Peak Oil. Staff will be working with Jon Rosales and a student to prepare a greenhouse gas inventory for County operations during the fall semester in partial fulfillment of the BOL resolution to write a Climate Change Action Plan.
- Countywide “Green-Up Day”. ***The suggestion was made to organize a Countywide green-up effort around Earth Day (April 22nd) or May 1, 2010.*** Components: dumpsters in every town, promotion of adopt-a-roadside and ask people to dedicate one hour to performing some environmentally beneficial practice.

d. NYSAEMC – No report.

9. Report of the Staff:

- Montan reported on preparations for the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day event, to be held at the Massena Transfer Station on August 8th. *D. Howard, R. Horst, D. Katz, and B. Zimmerman volunteered to help out.*
- Montan reported on his efforts to put together a pharmaceutical collection program in conjunction with the Household Hazardous Waste Collection effort. However, the paperwork has not been approved by DEC with enough time to advertise / make local preparations. *Staff and EMC members will hold a pharmaceutical collection effort at a future date.*
- Montan reported that he is working with a group trying to replicate a pelleting project from the Hudson valley.
- Montan reported that the Board of Legislators is seeking legal advice about how/whether to take possession of the J&L site in Clifton.
- Montan reported attending a meeting of the Eastern Ontario Model Forest Program in Kemptville, Ontario. He also discussed an idea to establish receptacles at border crossings to sequester wood that might otherwise be brought into northern New York from Canada, where the Emerald Ash Borer has been found.

10. Unfinished Business: None.

11. New Business: None

12. Announcements:

- P. Skomsky announced that the dam on the Salmon River in Ft. Covington (Franklin County) is being taken down.
- D. Howard announced that Bion has been talking with local officials in Oswego County. She and J. Montan have spoken with the Oswego Co. Soil & Water Conservation District.
- Howard announced that the Bigfoot ag plastics baler had collected 12,000 lb. of plastics over the past weekend.
- Howard also announced that project concepts for the Great Lakes Regional Initiative have been submitted.
- Finally, Howard announced that DEC has established new rules for CAFO permits.

13. Message to Board of Legislators: By consensus, members agreed to speak with their legislators about two items:

- Speak to their legislators about the draft document “Climate Change and Peak Oil – A Plan Proposal for St. Lawrence County, NY – July 2009”; and
- Discuss the Raquette River Awareness Week, and the proposed resolution of support for this event.

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 PM.

Minutes prepared by J. Montan; J. Tenbusch

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