



St. Lawrence County Environmental Management Council

48 Court Street

Canton, New York 13617

Phone: (315) 379-2292 Fax: (315) 379-2252

E-mail: Planning@stlawco.org

Web Site: <http://www.stlawco.org/Planning/EMC.htm>

Draft

MEETING MINUTES

March 18, 2009 7:00 PM

Room 226, County Courthouse

Canton, New York

Action items in bold italics

- 1. Call to Order:** In the absence of the Chair and the Vice-Chair, Secretary Andrew Soutar called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM.
- 2. Roll Call, Determination of Quorum:** A quorum was present.
Members present included: T. Cutter; B. Flavin; A. Heidenreich, R. Horst; G. Johnson; L. Perry; C. Rediehs, L. Rudiger; A. Soutar; B. Zimmerman.
Members absent included: D. Church; D. Howard; D. Katz; D. O'Shea; J. Rosales; P. Skomsky.
Staff: J. Montan; J. Tenbusch; K. Zimmerman.
Guests: S. Rau.
Press: None.
- 3. Hearings, Comments from the Public:** A. Soutar introduced Jon Greenwood, local dairy farmer, member of the St. Lawrence County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board, and President of the St. Lawrence County Farm Bureau.

Greenwood reported on economic forces facing dairy farmers. He noted that, in the past year, milk prices have fallen from \$18 per hundredweight (cwt) to \$12; he estimated that an average cost of production is \$16 / cwt. Greenwood also stated that dairy exports, which totaled approx. 10% of production last year, have disappeared.

Greenwood also discussed the new CAFO (Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations) regulations put out by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Greenwood reported that the new regulations are so onerous that the NYS DEC is working on regulations at the state level that would take the place of EPA regulations. As an example, Greenwood stated that EPA regulations require a 5-year cropping plan be established for each CAFO; this plan would require a public hearing. After noting that he was not aware of any local farmers who project their cropping plans out to five years, Greenwood further reported that, once the EPA-mandated 5-year cropping plan is adopted, and changes to that plan would also require a public hearing (among other regulatory requirements).

EMC: Everybody Must Care!

4. **Acceptance of Order of Business, Items for New Business, Items for Unfinished Business:**
The Order of Business was accepted by consensus.
5. **Approval of the Minutes of the February 18, 2009 Meeting:** It was reported that, in the minutes of the February meeting, staff had mis-reported the number of votes made concerning several motions during the discussions of the draft resolution on climate change and peak oil. While no one disagreed with the reported results of the votes (whether a motion had been approved or had failed) members felt it important to get the vote totals correct. A motion to approve the February meeting minutes with amended vote totals (R. Horst, R. Flavin) was passed.
6. **Report by the Representative of the Board of Legislators (BOL):** Laura Perry reported:
 - She had been happy that the EMC had proposed the resolution on climate change and peak oil; she reported that the BOL had approved the resolution in committee.
 - The BOL is working to extend the County's health care plan for employees to additional communities across the County.
 - Federal stimulus funds are being released in a piece-meal fashion.
 - The County anticipates that its new Web site will become operational in May 2009.
 - The County's search for a new Information Technology Director is almost complete.Perry then responded to questions from EMC members about wind power, Bion Technologies, and other topics.
7. **Reports by EMC Members on Conversations with County Legislators:**
 - A. Heidenreich spoke with T. Cobb about the climate change resolution.
 - R. Horst spoke with C. House about the climate change resolution.
 - T. Cutter spoke with G. Paquin about harvesting wood from County forests.
8. **Report of the Committees:**
 - a. **Executive** – D. Katz. No report.
 - b. **Education** – R. Horst reported:
 - After investigation by staff about the logistics of putting on a collection effort for unused prescription medications, it appears that it would be impracticable to hold a collection effort to coincide with the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day in May. Staff will continue to investigate how/when a prescription collection effort might be held.
 - Staff reported on discussions held (via e-mail) with several persons interested in small wind energy conversions systems (Small WECS). Some have commented that the regulations for Small WECS proposed in the model local law would be onerous for individual looking to install such devices. Staff will investigate further, and look for ways that the model local law might be revised.
 - The EMC will have a table at the North Country Sustainable Energy Fair with a display on household hazardous waste collection; volunteers will be needed. (R. Horst and B. Zimmerman volunteered to help.)

- c. **Natural Resources** – A. Heidenreich reported that:
- The Committee had further discussed the proposal by the Ogdensburg Bridge & Port Authority to dredge the harbor at Ogdensburg.
 - The Committee had further discussed a proposal to harvest wood from County land.
 - The Committee heard about a project by SLU students to study potential impacts of further development of a Rt. 11 highway corridor.
 - The Committee was happy that the BOL Operations Committee approved the proposed resolution on climate change and peak oil.
 - The Committee heard about a recent meeting at Cornell Cooperative Extension on NYS renewable fuels. Members were disappointed that the meeting focused on using biomass as a source of liquid fuel for transportation, rather than as a solid fuel for heating. The Committee asked J. Montan to draft a letter on the topic for review at their next meeting.

d. **NYSAEMC** – No report.

9. **Election of Officers:** By this point in the meeting, two EMC members had left; *therefore, there no longer was a quorum. Thus, the Election of Officers was held until the next meeting.*
10. **Report of the Staff:** J. Tenbusch spoke about several Census-related projects that staff are working on, including Complete Count Committees, and the Participant Statistical Areas Program.
11. **Unfinished Business:** None.
12. **New Business:** None.
13. **Announcements:**
- B. Zimmerman announced that the North Country Symposium will be held at St. Lawrence University on April 1-2.
 - J. Montan announced that the “Bigfoot” ag plastics baling equipment will be in St. Lawrence County on April 3rd.
 - J. Montan announced that the Fish & Wildlife Management Board meeting will be held in Watertown on March 19th.
 - J. Montan also announced that advertisements for the Household Hazardous Waste Collection days will go out tomorrow (3/19). Dates/times for these include: May 16th from 9 AM until 1 PM at the Gouverneur Fairgrounds; August 8 from 1 PM until 5 PM at the Massena Transfer Station.
 - A. Heidenreich announced the North Country Sustainable Energy Fair will be held at SUNY Canton on April 25-26. The Fair will include an opportunity to recycle air conditioners and dehumidifiers.

- 14. Message to Board of Legislators:** Please thank your Legislator for supporting the Resolution on Climate Change and Peak Oil. Also, please let him/her know about the Energy Fair at SUNY Canton; urge him/her to attend.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Soutar', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Andrew Soutar, Secretary

Minutes prepared by J. Tenbusch, J. Montan

P:\PLANNING\EMC\Minutes\Min 09\Minutes-March 18 2009.doc