



**St. Lawrence County Environmental Management Council**

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*Approved*

**MEETING MINUTES**

**October 20, 2010 7:00 PM**

**Brown Hall, St. Lawrence University**

**Canton, New York**

*Action items in bold italics*

**Note:** The October EMC meeting was preceded by a public session in Bloomer Auditorium, Brown Hall, during which Mark Whitmore, an entomologist at Cornell University presented information about the Emerald Ash Borer, its potential effects on ash trees in St. Lawrence County, and how local communities can plan to deal with its impacts. This session was attended by more than 70 persons.

For further information, see [http://nyis.info/Insects/EAB\\_EducationalResources.aspx](http://nyis.info/Insects/EAB_EducationalResources.aspx)

1. **Call to Order:** D. Katz, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.
  
2. **Roll Call, Determination of Quorum:** A quorum was present.  
Members present included: T. Cutter, B. Flavin, R. Horst, D. Howard, G. Johnson, D. Katz, J. Rosales, L. Rudiger, A. Soutar.  
Members absent included: G. Hart, A. Heidenreich, D. O'Shea, L. Perry, P. Skomsky, B. Zimmerman.  
Staff: J. Montan, J. Tenbusch, K. Zimmerman.  
Guests: S. Rau. Press: None.
  
3. **Hearings, Comments from the Public:** None.
  
4. **Acceptance of Order of Business, Items for New Business, Items for Unfinished Business:** B. Flavin proposed an item for **New Business:** that the EMC comment on the Forest Resources Strategic Management plan. After some discussion about deadlines required for comments, it was agreed by consensus that EMC members would comment on this plan individually. D. Howard proposed an item for **New Business:** a potential project for Earth Day. The Order of Business was accepted by consensus as amended.

**EMC: Everybody Must Care!**

5. **Approval of the Minutes of the September 2010 Meeting:** The September minutes were approved as amended (B. Flavin, R. Horst).
  
  6. **Report by the Representative of the Board of Legislators (BOL):** None.
  
  7. **Reports by EMC Members on Conversations with County Legislators:**
    - D. Howard reported speaking with D. Peck about the new ag plastics baler (“Bigfoot”).
  
  8. **Report of the Committees:**
    - a. **Executive** – D. Katz. No report.
    - b. **Education** – J. Rosales. No report.
    - c. **Natural Resources** – A. Heidenreich reported that the Committee had discussed current research on issues related to ground water withdrawals.
    - d. **NYSAEMC** – Staff reported that the 2010 NYSAEMC Conference on the Environment will be held at the Thayer Hotel on the grounds at West Point on November 19-21.
  
  9. **Report of the Staff:**
    - J. Montan reported that the User’s Guide to the Adirondacks project has been completed; it will be posted to the County’s Web site shortly.
    - J. Montan reported that progress is being made on the County’s Climate Action plan. Much credit for this progress must go to Arturs Sabarovs for his work.
    - J. Tenbusch reported on the Local Government Conference, held at SUNY Potsdam on October 12<sup>th</sup>. Planning staff put together six workshops for this Conference, including a presentation on biomass boilers.
    - J. Montan reported on the Local Living Festival, held at the Cornell Cooperative Extension Learning Farm in Canton on September 25<sup>th</sup>. Montan thanked A. Heidenreich, R. Horst, J. Rosales for staffing an EMC informational table.
    - K. Zimmerman reported on the County’s budget process. He noted the importance of saving money at every opportunity; therefore, all EMC mailings will be sent electronically, except when EMC members request hard copies. *He asked all EMC members to check their e-mail addresses on the EMC Status Sheet.*
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**10. Unfinished Business:** Regarding ex-officio members of the EMC: It had been argued that, according to Robert's Rules of Order, ex officio members were not considered for purposes of establishing a quorum; nor were they able to vote. It had been counter-argued that, by past practice, the EMC counted ex-officio members to establish quorum, and also counted their votes. J. Montan distributed a printout from a Robert's Rules Web site (<http://www.robertsrules.com/faq.html#2>); this indicated that ex-officio members would have the right to vote; in addition, it listed several circumstances when an ex-officio member would not be counted for a quorum. After some discussion, D. Katz asked A. Soutar, in his official capacity as Secretary of the EMC, for his opinion. Soutar stated that, in his opinion based on past EMC practice, ex-officio members are allowed to vote, and are counted toward a quorum. *K. Zimmerman will ask to County Attorney for his opinion in this matter.*

**11. New Business:**

- D. Howard proposed that, for an Earth Day project, the EMC consider removal of phragmites (an invasive species) from a site along U.S. Highway 11 near the railroad overpass just west of the Village of Potsdam.

**12. Announcements:**

- J. Montan announced an Electronics Waste Collection day, held by Casella Waste Services on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. On that date Claxton-Hepburn Hospital in Ogdensburg will hold a pharmaceutical collection program. Montan reported that a recent tri-county pharmaceutical collection effort had brought in 450 lb. of materials.
- J. Rosales announced that St. Lawrence University will host a speaker on the topic of "hydrofracking" at a time/place TBD.
- J. Tenbusch announced that Donald Hassig will hold a public session on persistent organic pollutants at the Canton Middle School on November 9<sup>th</sup>.

**13. Message to Board of Legislators:** EMC members were asked to speak with their County legislators about the dangers presented by Emerald Ash Borers, and about the need for community planning in order to deal with adverse impacts predicted when they move into our County.

**14. Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 8:32 PM.

Minutes prepared by J. Montan, J. Tenbusch.

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