



St. Lawrence County Environmental Management Council

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Approved

MEETING MINUTES

February 17, 2010 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, B. Flavin, A. Heidenreich, D. Howard, G. Johnson, D. Katz, D. Matthews, L. Rudiger, P. Skomsky, A. Soutar.
Members absent included: R. Horst, D. O'Shea, L. Perry, J. Rosales, B. Zimmerman.
Staff: 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:**
The Order of Business was approved by consensus.
5. **Approval of the Minutes of the January 20, 2010 Meeting:** The January Minutes were approved (Heidenreich, Flavin).
6. **Report by the Representative of the Board of Legislators (BOL):** None.
7. **Reports by EMC Members on Conversations with County Legislators:**
 - Flavin reported speaking with Sam Burns.
8. **Report of the Committees:**
 - a. **Executive** – D. Katz. No report.
 - b. **Education** – R. Horst. In Horst's absence, J. Tenbusch reported:
 - Tenbusch had spoken with Donald Hassig about the EMC Education Committee's decision to not invite him to speak at an EMC meeting on several topics (bioaccumulation of toxins; carcinogen levels in exhaust); Tenbusch explained to Hassig that the EMC did not question the importance of the topics, but was concerned about Hassig's credibility as a presenter, given his lack of professional

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knowledge/credentials in the area. Hassig suggested that the EMC might contact Dr. David Carpenter, SUNY Albany, to speak about bioaccumulation of toxins. Regarding problems with exhaust, Hassig suggested that staff contact the American Cancer Society.

- Tenbusch reported that Horst had visited the Norwood Recycling Center and the Colton community transfer station; Horst had written a brief report to the Committee. ***D. Matthews asked about financial statements for either of the projects; Tenbusch will try to get some.***

The Committee proposed that the EMC travel to Colton for its May meeting (5/19). A tour of the community transfer station could be arranged for 4:00 PM, to be followed by dinner at individuals' expense (possibly from Kunoco's "Dash & Dine" menu), and hold the EMC meeting at 6:00 PM (at the Town Hall?). It may be possible to invite a speaker on Adirondack issues.

- Tenbusch also reported on the proposed EMC-County Planning Board clean-up project in conjunction with Earth Day. Tenbusch spoke with Pat Whalen (DEC); Whalen proposed cleaning up site(s) at Greenwood State Forest. Tenbusch will investigate further.

L. Rudiger asked P. Skomsky and B. Flavin for information about potential speakers who are knowledgeable about fish-related projects. They suggested Steve Lapin (sic) or Frank Flack (both with DEC Region 6). Tenbusch will try to schedule one as a future speaker.

c. **Natural Resources** – A. Heidenreich reported that:

- The committee discussed the County's electronics recycling proposal. The Committee would like to see a permanent point of disposal at County transfer sites for these waste items. ***Heidenreich also mentioned a proposal to require manufacturers to assume responsibility for proper disposal of electronics; the committee will ask staff to help research further.***
- The committee discussed several zoning proposals in the Town and Village of Canton. One proposal would re-zone residential and farm lands near the intersection of SH 310 and State Street (Town) for commercial uses. Another proposal would allow a gas station to be constructed on Main Street in the Historic District. Zimmerman explained that the EMC could comment on these projects as they go through the review process by the Town and Village, or by the County Planning Board. ***Zimmerman will forward project materials to the committee when the Planning Office receives them.***
- The committee had discussed a petition from Save The River! that requests greater transparency from the Seaway Development Corporation regarding its decision-making process to set a date to open the Seaway; the committee supported this petition. After some discussion, ***staff will invite Sal Pisani of the Seaway Corp. to speak at an EMC meeting regarding the Seaway Corp.'s decision-making process.***
- The committee discussed revision of the Trail Guide. D. Katz and Ellie Beeler are producing Google maps of trails; these will be posted to the County's Web page for the Trail Guide.

- The committee discussed the RVRDA. The committee would like to see the development of this agency to be more transparent, with minutes of meetings, notice of meetings, bylaws, and other relevant documents related to the RVRDA available for public inspection.
- The committee briefly discussed the Walker Fellowship Program award for stream geochemistry research.

Regarding solid waste issues, the committee was unsure how to proceed. After some discussion, it was agreed by consensus that *staff will contact Scott Thornhill and schedule a meeting to begin the process of revising the County's Solid Waste Plan. When that meeting date/time is set, all EMC members will be invited to participate.*

d. NYSAEMC – No report.

9. Report of the Staff:

- K. Zimmerman reported writing a letter of support for a project that would attempt bioremediation of petroleum-contaminated sites. This project might become appropriate for a presentation to the EMC.
- Zimmerman reported that the County's Transportation Coordinator will soon leave the Planning Office. This function will be housed in the Office For the Aging; Nancy Robert will become the director of that combined office.
- Zimmerman reported that the County's budget situation is dire; departments are being asked to look for ways to cut their budgets.
- Zimmerman also reported that the NYS Office for Community Renewal will monitor the County's CDBG files and programs in March.
- Several EMC members reported on the recently-concluded Winter Camp. It was generally agreed that this was a wonderful experience.

10. Unfinished Business: None.

11. New Business:

- D. Katz appointed the Education Committee to serve as a Nominating Committee.

12. Announcements:

- D. Katz will not be able to attend the March EMC meeting.
- P. Skomsky announced that the NYS Dept. of State has weighed in on the Massena dam project. Per Skomsky, DOS does not see the need for an ice-breaking function for the dam; he felt that this determination might eliminate the rationale for the dam.
- Tenbusch distributed copies of the approved EMC Work Plan for 2010.

13. Message to Board of Legislators: Please discuss the EMC's Work Plan for 2010 (copies will be placed in BOL members' mailboxes).

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Minutes prepared by J. Tenbusch

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