



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>

Approved

MEETING MINUTES

July 21, 2010 7:00 PM

Room 226, County Courthouse, 48 Court Street

Canton, New York

Action items in bold italics

- 1. Call to Order:** D. Katz, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.
- 2. Roll Call, Determination of Quorum:** A quorum was present.
Members present included: T. Cutter, B. Flavin, G. Hart, A. Heidenreich, R. Horst, D. Howard, D. Katz, D. O'Shea, L. Rudiger, A. Soutar, B. Zimmerman.
Members absent included: G. Johnson, D. Matthews, L. Perry, J. Rosales, P. Skomsky.
Staff: J. Montan, J. Tenbusch.
Guests: Joanne Sevick, Director, St. Lawrence County Youth Bureau; S. Rau; Jan Wells.
Press: None.
- 3. Hearings, Comments from the Public:** D. Katz introduced the speaker, Joanne Sevick, Director, St. Lawrence County Youth Bureau. Sevick stated that she is looking to create a partnership between the EMC and the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) to pursue projects. She described the goals of the Youth Conservation Corps as providing environmental education for participants; developing participants' workforce skills; and providing mentoring opportunities for them. Sevick noted that the YCC conducts a variety of different projects over the course of a summer season; in 2010 these include work with the Raquette River Blueway Corridor; Friends of Mt. Arab; and trail construction/reconstruction in numerous locations. Sevick reported that the YCC budget includes a cost of \$1,200 per participant. She noted that the YCC operates from July 4th until the end of August.

D. Katz thanked Ms. Sevick for her presentation, and then called a 10-minute recess; the meeting resumed at 7:45 PM.
- 4. Acceptance of Order of Business, Items for New Business, Items for Unfinished Business:**
The Order of Business was accepted by consensus. No new items were proposed

EMC: Everybody Must Care!

5. **Approval of the Minutes of the April, May, June 2010 Meetings:** D. Howard made a correction to the June minutes: in Item #12 (pg. 3), “B. Flavin stated that the SLC Highway Department eliminates parking and water access when they rebuild roads ...”; that should read “B. Flavin stated that the NYS Dept. of Transportation eliminates parking and water access when they rebuild roads ...”

Howard had reported in June that her absence at the May meeting had been excused; she asked that the May minutes reflect that.

The April, May and June minutes were approved as amended (T. Cutter; D. Howard).

6. **Report by the Representative of the Board of Legislators (BOL):** None

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

- G. Hart reported having spoken with Sallie Brothers. Topics included the DEC, and the RVRDA.

8. **Report of the Committees:**

a. **Executive** – D. Katz. No report.

b. **Education** – R. Horst reported that the Committee had discussed the draft of the upcoming presentation to the St. Lawrence River Valley Redevelopment Agency (RVRDA); these comments will be discussed later, during the Unfinished Business portion of tonight’s meeting. The Committee also discussed the several requests by Donald Hassig for the EMC to hold a public meeting regarding issues of bioaccumulation of carcinogens; the committee had decided to not recommend that the EMC proceed with this, feeling that other public agencies might be more appropriate sponsors of such an event. A. Heidenreich reported that the Natural Resources Committee was willing to propose that the EMC participate in such a session, on the conditions that at least two other public-health organizations are willing to co-sponsor the session, and that other speakers (in addition to the speakers suggested by Mr. Hassig) are willing to participate.

c. **Natural Resources** – A. Heidenreich reported that the Committee had discussed Mr. Hassig’s request, as discussed above. The Committee also discussed the draft presentation to the RVRDA; comments will be shared during Unfinished Business. The Committee also discussed issues of groundwater withdrawal; the Committee would like to have staff investigate what other counties are doing about the issue; whether any local laws have been developed. The Committee would like to see any ordinances regulating groundwater withdrawal.

L. Rudiger stated that he was opposed to having the EMC develop such a local law, without having been asked to do so by the Board of Legislators. D. Howard stated that she was in favor of developing a model local law; she opined that local communities could decide for themselves about the utility of such a local law for their circumstances.

- d. **NYSAEMC** – J. Montan reported that the DEC Update would be held in Albany on July 26th. No one from the EMC or staff will be able to attend this session in person. It may be possible to watch a live video feed of the session from a DEC office in Lowville. G. Hart volunteered to go to Lowville for this video session.

9. Report of the Staff: None.

10. Unfinished Business:

- a. **EMC Presentation to RVRDA** – J. Tenbusch reported the comments made by the Education Committee, namely that colleges should be excluded from seeking funds, since they would have access to other sources of funding; also, that requiring local groups who apply to RVRDA for funds to be 501 (c)(3) organizations might prevent community groups from qualifying to apply. Heidenreich reported that the Natural Resources Committee had proposed that an environmental representative should be involved when RVRDA reviews proposals for environmental projects. The NRC agreed that proposals for funding should involve local planning; felt that first priority for funding should be given to environmental proposals, since the RVRDA funds were originally committed to an environmental project (SLAEC), and since community development proposals might have other possible sources of funding. The NRC also felt that any proposal should receive a full, conscientious and public SEQR review.

After discussion, a motion (Soutar, Heidenreich) to leave colleges included as possible grantees failed [6 yes; 1 no (Flavin); 4 abstentions]. Another motion was made (Cutter, Howard) to have the presentation made as presented in the draft; after further discussion, that motion was withdrawn. Another motion (Hart, Heidenreich) was made to have the presentation made as drafted; it failed (8 yes; 3 no). Finally, *a motion was made (Soutar, Howard) to have the presentation made, while remaining silent on who should be eligible applicants for funding; this motion was approved (10 yes; 1 abstention)*.

- b. **Review of Hassig Request** – L. Rudiger presented an argument that Mr. Hassig has been well-served by the EMC – witness the number of times he has been invited to present at EMC meetings – and that the EMC needs to concentrate on its own work. T. Cutter noted that the topic which Mr. Hassig wants to have presented (cancer prevention) is important; he supported the previously-mentioned idea of a separate event with additional speakers and additional sponsors. Rudiger made a motion that the Natural Resources Committee develop a meeting related to cancer; there was not a second. *Heidenreich and Cutter made a motion asking staff to make inquiries about the feasibility of holding a public presentation concerning cancer prevention; the motion was approved unanimously*.

11. New Business: None.

12. Announcements:

- Montan announced the next Household Hazardous Waste/Pharmaceuticals/Controlled Substance Collection Day, which will be held at the Ogdensburg Transfer Station on August 7th. B. Zimmerman, D. Katz, B. Flavin and D. Howard agreed to help.
- S. Rau announced that the Wilson Hill Goose Drive will take place on June 29th.
- Howard announced that the Envirothon had been very successful. She thanked R. Horst, L. Rudiger and staff for their participation.
- Flavin announced that the Raquette River Blueway Corridor (RRBC) planning effort will establish motor restrictions on the Raquette River.
 - J. Tenbusch reported that Ruth McWilliams of the RRBC has asked to speak to the EMC; *staff will work to schedule McWilliams' presentation.*

13. Message to Board of Legislators: None.

14. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Minutes prepared by J. Tenbusch

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