



St. Lawrence County Environmental Management Council

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Approved

MEETING MINUTES

November 17, 2010 7:00 PM

Room 226, County Courthouse, 48 Court Street

Canton, New York

Action items in bold italics

- 1. Call to Order:** P. Skomsky, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM.
- 2. Roll Call, Determination of Quorum:** A quorum was NOT present.
Members present included: T. Cutter, B. Flavin, A. Heidenreich, R. Horst, D. O'Shea, J. Rosales, P. Skomsky, B. Zimmerman
Members absent included: G. Hart, D. Howard, G. Johnson, D. Katz, L. Perry, L. Rudiger, A. Soutar.
Staff: J. Montan, J. Tenbusch, K. Zimmerman.
Guests: Mary Jane Watson, Larry Patzwald.
Press: None.
- 3. Hearings, Comments from the Public:** P. Skomsky introduced Larry Patzwald, Supervisor of the Town of Colton. Patzwald introduced the Raquette River Blueway Corridor (RRBC), and explained Colton's role as lead agency for the project.

Mary Jane Watson then discussed the RRBC; the project area includes the Raquette River watershed, and involves 16 communities and Akwesasne in three counties (St. Lawrence, Franklin, Hamilton). Watson stated that the basic goal of the Blueway Corridor is to use the natural resources of the river to bring in tourism and to stimulate local economies. She described the process of getting all sixteen communities involved with the corridor planning process. Watson reported that the project has received grants to develop a revitalization strategy (6,000), to develop a Blueway Corridor plan (\$50,000), and now to implement the plan (\$104,000). She reported on a number of Blueway Corridor activities, including Raquette River Awareness Week, which has been held for to successive years. Watson noted that a Blueway Corridor information center has been established in the hamlet of Colton.

In response to a question, Watson stated that the Blueway Corridor planning process has not supported motor restrictions for boats on the river.

EMC: Everybody Must Care!

Skomsky thanked Patzwald and Watson for their presentations, and declared a 5-minute recess. The meeting reconvened at 7:55 PM

4. **Acceptance of Order of Business, Items for New Business, Items for Unfinished Business:** With no quorum, an order of business could not be adopted.
5. **Approval of the Minutes of the October 2010 Meeting:** With no quorum, the minutes of the October meeting could not be approved.
6. **Report by the Representative of the Board of Legislators (BOL):** No report.
7. **Reports by EMC Members on Conversations with County Legislators:** No reports.
8. **Report of the Committees:**
 - a. **Executive** – D. Katz. No report.
 - b. **Education** – J. Rosales reported for the Committee that:
 - R. Horst had reported on the continued phenomenon of white-nose syndrome in bats. Horst stated that the Indiana bat is already virtually extinct.
 - D. O’Shea reported that the Ogdensburg tree commission is preparing a public workshop regarding the Emerald Ash Borer.
 - The Committee began to revise its tasks for the EMC Work Plan for 2011. Projects that the Committee will emphasize include: public education about Emerald Ash Borers; climate change; new business. Ongoing issues that the Committee will monitor include: hydro-fracking to obtain natural gas; solid waste; wind power development; Black Lake. The Committee suggested that the Natural Resources Committee take responsibility for reviewing the Joint Observational Study by the Seaway Development Corp.
 - Speakers for future EMC meetings, J. Rosales will present recent news regarding the annual United Nations Climate Change Conference (held 11/29 - 12/10). In early 2011, Jeffrey Chiarenzelli of SLU will speak about his drinking water research. Other potential topics for presentations include fracking, or Indiana bats.
 - c. **Natural Resources** – A. Heidenreich reported that:
 - She will resign as chair of this committee; P. Skomsky has agreed to serve as committee chair.
 - J. Montan reported that the Committee had worked on its tasks for the Work Plan.
 - J. Montan reported that the Committee discussed the NYS Interim Climate Action Plan. A comment period for this draft Plan is open and will extend until February 7, 2011. Montan will send out the Table of Contents for the draft Plan to EMC

members, so that they can get an idea of what is in the Plan. A meeting will be set up in early December to begin the process of developing EMC comments on the Plan; it may be necessary to hold an EMC meeting in December in order to forward EMC comments on the Plan to the BOL for their consideration in January, in order to submit comments before the Feb. 7th deadline.

J. Rosales suggested that the EMC should inform the Board of Legislators about their Work Plan for 2011. *No action was taken.*

d. **NYSAEMC** – No report.

9. Report of the Staff:

- J. Montan reported that the County Attorney had stated an opinion that an ex officio member of the EMC would count for purposes of determining a quorum, and would be able to vote on any matter before the EMC.
- J. Montan reported that the User's Guide to the Adirondack Park in St. Lawrence County has been published on the Web. It can be viewed at:
<http://www.co.st-lawrence.ny.us/Departments/Planning/UsersGuide>
- Montan reported that the County's Climate Action Plan is in preparation.

10. Unfinished Business: A. Heidenreich reported that she attended the presentation on persistent organic pollutants held in Canton on November 9th. She felt that Dr. Carpenter, the main speaker, was very credible in his presentation. Per Heidenreich, a critical problem is the practice of feeding animal fat to livestock; this bio-accumulates POPs. This practice is an indictment of the industrial meat producing industry. However, grass-fed locally-produced meat does not suffer from bio-accumulation of POPs. Heidenreich felt that there might be an opportunity for the EMC to conduct an educational program about the benefits of locally-produced grass-fed meat. She suggested that the EMC write a letter to the County Public Health Department to ask for their assistance in an education campaign. J. Rosales proposed asking Public Health to come to an EMC meeting to discuss the issue. K. Zimmerman suggested inviting local meat producers to discuss how they might ramp up their production.

11. New Business: None.

12. Announcements: None.

13. Message to Board of Legislators: No specific message was proposed.

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

Minutes prepared by J. Tenbusch

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