



St. Lawrence County Environmental Management Council

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www.Stlawco.gov/Departments/Planning/AdvisoryBoards/EnvironmentalManagementCouncil

Meeting Minutes Wednesday, February 19, 2025 6:00 p.m.

Classroom A, One Stop Career Center, Human Services Center

80 State Highway 310, Canton, NY 13617

- I. Call to Order:** Chair called the meeting to order 6:10 p.m.
- A. Land Acknowledgment** S. Rau read a land acknowledgement provided by Tony David, Director of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Environment Division, and used with his permission: “As we meet today, let us first give thanks and acknowledge that the land upon which we are gathered is part of the traditional indigenous territories, including the Rotinonshionni (Low-dee-no-SHOO-nee), the People of the Longhouse, also known as the Iroquois Confederacy; and the Kaniienkehaka (Ga-nyun-geh-HA-gah), the People of the Land of Flint, also known as the Mohawk Nation.”
- B. Roll Call and Introductions** 7 of the 12 members present. **Quorum was obtained**
1. Members Present: L. Bage; R. Graham; A. Pearson; S. Rau, *Chair*; L. Rudiger; B. Washburn, *Vice-Chair*; N. Woodworth, *Secretary*.
 2. Members Absent: L. Hanss; S. Hurlbut; M. Iversen; N. Terminelli, *BOL Liaison*; M. Weaver.
 3. St. Lawrence County: S. Joseph, *Planner II*.
- C. Acceptance of Order of Business** (accepted)
1. **Items for Unfinished Business**
 2. **Items for New Business**
- D. Approval of Minutes** (January 15, 2025)
1. Motion to approve minutes with amendment to add in Section I. E. 1. “new New York State wetland regulations” (Washburn / Pearson) (passed unanimously)
- E. Council Logistics**
1. Nominating committee: Executive board elections will take place next month. Nominating committee consists of S. Rau, B. Washburn, and N. Woodworth. The selected slate of candidates are B. Washburn for chair, N. Woodworth for vice chair, and L. Bage for secretary. Candidates can also be nominated from the floor next meeting.
 2. The Ranger School in Wanakena selected as possible meeting location in July. R. Graham will check in to see the status of reserving the space for July 16 evening. Discussion on possible tour, other activities and possible overnight accommodations.
 3. Discussion of meeting in Ogdensburg in March, connecting to the topic of walleye stocking. Tabled to later in the meeting under Walleye Stocking.
 4. Agenda Setting: Send items to staff or Eboard prior to Eboard meeting to get item onto agenda. Voting on Agenda is important
- F. Public Comments:** None
- II. Reports**
- A. Report of Board of Legislators:** None
- B. Report of Staff:**
1. Question about Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza. Multiple positive cases found in wild birds. Shared presentation from Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board presentations. Some discussion on HPAI
 2. SLC Public Health is collaborating with local universities on a mosquito monitoring program, and a survey on issues affecting the County. See correspondence.
 3. Compost for good: S. Powers asked for letter of support for USDA grant expanding compost communication and education. Discussion on what collaboration looks like and the letter of support.

- a. Motion to sign the letter of support (Woodworth / Graham) (passed)
- b. Discussion on whether get approval with BOL before sending letter of support. Suggestion on reviewing the statute that created the EMC.

C. Report of DEC: None

D. Member Update: B. Washburn: interest in water resources, strong understanding of techniques with environmental sciences. Lives by example has geothermal, photovoltaic, hybrid vehicle. Principal goal with EMC is fact checking. Review plans, SLRRP and Eco Adapt reviews. Representative on Fisheries Enhancement Mitigation Research Fund (FEMRF) (last NYPA relicensing) that supports fisheries. Connects with Thousand Islands Biological Station (TIBS) and US Fish and Wildlife research projects.

III. Unfinished Business:

A. Yearly Report: Discussion on revisions to yearly report.

B. Trees on County Property: Planning director has reached out to the buildings and grounds director to arrange a meeting. Discussion on motion to support tree planting. Request for more exact wording of resolution.

C. Events:

- 1. Repair fair is switching gears to scheduled talks. We can help advertise
- 2. Earth Day: Motion to submit resolution to Proclaim Earth Day in County. (Bage/Woodworth) passed
 - a. Discussion on events during that time period, potentially a longer term idea
 - b. Possible collaboration with SWCD or Public Health through mosquito monitor or dunk distribution
- 3. Sustainability Day: make some cool maps and material from our yearly report

IV. New Business:

A. Walleye Stocking:

- 1. BOL has pending resolution opposing the ending of the DEC Walleye stocking program, and moving towards a habitat management and improvement.
- 2. DEC gave presentation to the BOL on the reasons for moving away from stocking that can be viewed here: <https://stlawrencecony.portal.civicclerk.com/event/328/media>
- 3. DEC plans on engaging in public education on habitat management
- 4. Discussion on the science the DEC is using. Suggestion that the science is sound, but public communication and stakeholder engagement was lacking
- 5. Discussion on meeting in Ogdensburg. Decided too soon to plan so will not change March meeting location.
- 6. General discussion.

B. Black fly / Mosquito control:

- 1. Discussion on Colton's program
- 2. Bage will reach out to contact that runs the Colton black fly control program to come to a future meeting.

V. Announcements:

A. Sustainability Day and Green Living Fair Saturday, March 29, 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. SUNY Canton

B. Repair Fair May 3

C. NYS Invasive Species Expo September 14- 16 in Saratoga Springs, no cost for general attendance

VI. Adjourn: Woodworth/ Graham 8:35 p.m.