



St. Lawrence County Environmental Management Council

48 Court Street

Phone: 315-379-2292

Canton, NY 13617-1169 Email: Planning@stlawco.gov

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

MEETING Minutes Wednesday, June 19, 2024

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 6:00. Do to leak in building the meeting was moved to online last minute.
- A. Land Acknowledgment:** Sue 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 Rotinoshionni (Low-dee-no-SHOO-nee), the People of the Longhouse, also known as the Iroquois Confederacy; and the Kanienkehaka (Ga-nyun-geh-HA-gah), the People of the Land of Flint, also known as the Mohawk Nation.”
- B. Roll Call** 7 of the 13 members present
- Members Present:** L. Bage; S. Hurlbut; M. Iversen; A. Pearson; S. Rau, *Chair*; B. Washburn, *Vice-Chair*; N. Woodworth, *Secretary*;
 - Members Absent:** H. Bullock; S. Cunningham; L. Hanss; L. Rudiger; N. Terminelli, *BOL Liaison*; Michael Weaver;
 - Staff:** S. Joseph, *Planner II*;
 - DEC Representative:** Randy Young;
- C. Acceptance of Order of Business**
- Items for Unfinished Business**
 - Items for New Business**
 - Added Tick Blitz
- D. Approval of Minutes** (May 15, 2024)
- E. Council Logistics** Comment on wrong date on agenda
- F. Comments from the Public** No comments from the public
- II. Reports**
- A. Report of Board of Legislators**
- N. Terminelli not here but shared an email regarding Deer River
- B. Report of Staff**
- Comment on wanting to give a notice and participation regarding the River Councils. Sam will communicate with Preston regarding this
- C. Report of Department of Environmental Conservation**
- Deer River
 - A lot of misinformation out there. No one should state that a specific farm or manufacture plant is responsible without evidence of discharge. Most likely multifaceted problem with numerous variables and many possible sources and most likely multiple sources.
 - DEC sampled the water most recently the week of June 10th. Thorough analysis of organics and nutrients to get an assessment of the nutrient levels in the river causing the growth.
 - DEC is setting up a meeting with county to discuss results.
 - Working with North Country Dairy. The lagoons are not full, they are functioning as they are supposed to. They are facultative lagoons that are designed to settle sludge to the bottom of them. The treatment system is functioning as it is permitted. No whey is being dumped directly into the river. There are multiple ways to improve and optimize function that are being explored and deployed
 - Rangers Academy currently underway 9 Candidates left
 - Interim Commissioner Sean Mahar

4. Appreciation for Peter D'Luhosch's work on the Five Pond Wilderness Unit Management Plan
5. PFAS question: Testing around the county, is there any indication of serious PFAS contamination? Answer: No indication of widespread contamination, but part of a program to monitor and look for it.
 - a. ProcCellaCOR, an herbicide approved to use to treat aquatic invasive species Eurasian Water Milfoil, has been deemed by State of Minnesota as a PFAS. NYSDEC does not classify it as a PFAS, but has potential ramifications on its use in future. EPA issued a statement that it does not consider ProcCellaCOR as a forever chemical or PFAS, PFOS
6. Question regarding a lake management plan for Tide Lake Franklin County. Unsure will follow up
7. Land and Forest Management group injecting 25 ash trees with pesticide for emerald ash borer
 - a. The insecticide is effective but it is expensive because it needs to be done on a tree by tree basis

III. Unfinished Business

A. Deer River (S. Joseph)

1. Planning Office with help from university professors sampled some water and will share results
2. Discussion on what role EMC can play in this. Agreed on as a mechanism for communication and education
3. Pollution seems to be abating a bit when our office went out to sample

B. iMap Invasives Workshop Planning (S. Rau)

1. Event took place June 28, 2024
2. Discussion on more advertising, and some logistics

C. Resolution in support of Fisheries (S. Joseph) (See Attachment for final copy)

IV. New Business

A. PFAS

1. EPA reduced maximum amount in drinking water
2. Washburn has a newspaper article that was shared (attached)
3. Main source spreading biosolids from waste treatment and papermill plants
4. City of Portland Maine has sued the EPA about the fact that the EPA did not reduce the limits within an appropriate amount of time
5. What are the rest of the municipalities

B. Weevil for Biocontrol Milfoil

1. Goosebay Reclamation Corporation has been fighting milfoil since 2008 and they have a potential biocontrol (weevil) (Channel 7 news report)
2. Discussion on the effectiveness of the biocontrol
 - a. Need large amount of the organism.
 - b. Adirondack Water institute and the richer lake regions of ADK have experimented with using that organism
 - c. Upper Saranac Lake paying \$300,000 a year for divers to hand pull

C. Picnic

1. John provided the food
2. Reserved the picnic
3. Reach out to alumni

V. Ongoing Projects

A. Directory

1. No real updates

B. New Member Packet

1. Version in google drive

C. Battery Storage Presentation

1. John Finnegan agreed to do a presentation we just need to schedule it
2. We are thinking Fall or later

D. Recruitment

1. Need more people from western and southern part of county

VI. Member Updates:

A. Tick Blitz (N. Woodworth)

1. Good training materials and good kits

2. Number participants 22
3. Successful model of citizen science

B. Brasher / Massena Solar Array (S. Rau)

1. Gateway Solar
2. Developer did overview of plans 180 MW no battery storage
3. No plans or thoughts on agrivoltaic
4. 2 team members dedicated to environment
5. NYSERDA program 5 million 750K for demonstration projects
6. 2600 acres with 900 fenced in
7. Most panels wont be visible
8. Plan to submit by Aug, By Dec 2024 notice of completion, with expected permit approval Dec 2025 construction 2026 and running by 2027

VII. Announcements:

A. Water chestnut pull Black Lake July 25, 2024 10 AM – 4 PM Village Heuvelton

B. Hazardous Waste Days May 11th and September 28th HSC

<https://stlawco.gov/Departments/SolidWaste/HHW>

VIII. Adjourn

IX. Action Items:

A. Staff:

1. Advertise iMap, prep for that (Done)
2. Submit fishery resolution (Done)
3. Send updates on Deer River to council
4. APIP regarding Weevil <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dwriz7dOTes>
5. Contact info for PRISMS:
 - a. SLELO PRISM <https://www.sleloinvasives.org/contact-us/>
 - b. APIP PRISM <https://adkinvasives.com/About/About-Us/>

B. DEC:

1. Question regarding Tide Lake Management Plan?
2. Question regarding weevil for milfoil control

C. Members:

1. L. Bage: contact walleye fish raising project and get updates