



St. Lawrence County Environmental Management Council

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

MEETING Minutes Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Classroom A, One Stop Career Center, Human Services Center

80 State Highway 310, Canton, NY 1361

I. **Call to Order:** Chair called the meeting to order 6:10 p.m.

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 Rotinonshionni (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. **Quorum was obtained**

1. **Members Present:** L. Bage; L. Hanss; M. Iversen ; A. Pearson (arrived 6:23 p.m.); S. Rau, *Chair*; B. Washburn, *Vice-Chair*; M. Weaver; N. Woodworth, *Secretary*;
2. **Members Absent:** H. Bullock; S. Hurlbut; L. Rudiger; N. Terminelli, *BOL Liaison*
3. **Staff:** S. Joseph, *Planner II*;

C. Acceptance of Order of Business: Accepted unanimously

D. Approval of July 17, 2024 Minutes (Washburn/ Bage) Passed Unanimously

E. Council Logistics

1. Recruitment
 - a. Received 6 applications to join the EMC, will currently have 4 vacancies, will have 5 in November
 - b. Discussions on the merits of each candidates, what factors we should favor in the selection process
 - c. Discussion on continuing to use the NCPR for recruitment and outreach
 - d. (Washburn/Iversen) motion to distribute the applications to the entire council and at the October meeting discuss possible actions and write the criteria on how we should rank them

F. Comments from the Public None

II. **Reports**

A. Report of Board of Legislators (BOL Liaison not in attendance)

B. Report of Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC representative not in attendance)

C. Report of Staff (see work report)

1. Discussion on A2A
 - a. Roads as barrier, DOT more receptive
 - b. Discussion of wolves in ADK and Algonquin and whether wolves are in ADK and how to manage them and in relation to deer
2. Discussion of Canton wastewater and flooding
3. Discussion of storm water management in village of Canton, undersized systems
4. Discussion on weather stations, need more data

III. **Unfinished Business**

A. Deer River

1. Website by North Country Dairy. www.northlawrencecommunityupdate.com
2. Discussion in discrepancies of data collection. Questions for DEC. Staff will follow up on questions.
3. Discussion on macroinvertebrate sampling, and continued need to follow up with DEC

B. PFAS

1. Discussion on database of public water supplies in St. Lawrence County.

2. EPA reduced the maximum amounts of allowable amounts of PFOS/PFAS
3. Morristown, Louisville and Heuvelton have notable amounts, and potentially exceeds allowable amount
4. New chemical of concern PFBA. Seems omnipresent, and higher water solubility. NYSDOH added this chemical to the water analysis.
5. Survey of fire departments only 21 submitted survey
6. Discussion on spreading biosolids. DEC question what are municipalities doing with their biosolids

C. 30x30

1. Localities are doing a great deal of open space conservation
2. Success of Forestry tax law has been limited because localities took the revenue hit not the state, and so an idea is if some of the environmental protection fund could be directed toward the municipalities if they have a certain percentage of land in open space forestry.
3. Discussion of letter from Neil. Staff will make sure to send out to EMC
4. Question on smaller forest owners. Need a management plan developed by professional Forester. DEC has come and developed ones for some of the members. Family Forest Carbon Sequestration Program.

IV. New Business

A. Multiuse Trail

1. Discussion on meetings and public feedback
2. ATV and snowmobile. ¼ of mile on state highway 56. South Colton, new connection
3. Discussion on licensing and driving on roads side by sides, atv, utvs. Insurance, accidents, liability, rules.
4. Discussion of enforcement issue. Who enforces the rules? Potential to identify where it is occurring and suggest enforcement of rules in these specific spots.

B. EEE

1. Discussion of Amish community and EEE and vaccination of their horse, public health
2. Concerns of aerial spraying. Not spraying because widespread distribution of cases and large number of wetlands in the county
3. All the reported horse fatalities were unvaccinated
4. Staff will follow up on the funds designated by the State.
5. Discussion on sampling/monitor

C. Burning buildings

1. Amish are burning old buildings.
2. Suggestion for Earth Day Burn Barrel awareness.

D. New Solar Projects

1. Two Rivers new solar project Massena Area. Info Sheet

E. Walleye Hatchery

1. L. Bage will reach out to connect / update on this program
2. Water is warming that might affect breeding

F. FEMRF

1. Mooneye DNA evaluation

G. TEDx in Oct at Wild Center (Oct 26 2024)

H. SLU heating plant tour (September 19)

V. Adjourn 8:15 p.m.