



St. Lawrence County Environmental Management Council

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

Meeting Minutes Wednesday, May 21, 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 6:16 p.m.
- A. Land Acknowledgment** Chair 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 and Introductions** 8 of the 11 members present. **Quorum was obtained**
1. Members Present: L. Bage, *Secretary*; R. Graham; E. Harriman (new member); A. Pearson; S. Rau, L. Rudiger; B. Washburn, *Chair*; N. Woodworth, *Secretary*.
 2. Members Absent: M. Iversen; N. Terminelli, *BOL Liaison*; M. Weaver.
 3. St. Lawrence County: S. Joseph, *Planner II*.
- C. Acceptance of Order of Business** (Woodworth/ Rau) (passed unanimously)
1. **Items for Unfinished Business**
 2. **Items for New Business**
- D. Approval of Minutes** (April 10, 2025 Combined meeting with Planning Board) (Bage /Rau) (passed unanimously)
- E. Council Logistics:**
1. **July Meeting Wanakena:**
 - a. Graham mentioned we would be able to use the space but they are doing some work on water system and it is unclear when that project will happen, and so any overnight stay is unclear.
 - b. Chair wants a good in person showing July meeting. Poll in June of EMC members who plans on attending. Because we are planning a different meeting space it does not make sense for the work involved if everyone is just on Zoom anyway.
- F. Public Comments:** None
- II. Reports**
- A. Report of Board of Legislators:**
1. Feedback from BOL about public comments on behalf of the EMC and would like any formal feedback to be presented to BOL for approval prior to submission (see attached communications). Discussion on role of EMC with suggestion of more direct BOL communication and discuss with Planning Director on EMC role.
- B. Report of DEC:**
1. Deer River found sewage fungus adjacent to outfall. Sampling scheduled upstream and down stream.
 2. Upper and lower lake water control structure rehab which will allow for better water level management that will benefit waterfowl and wetland vegetation.
 3. Wanakena dislodged beaver dam along a culvert along important transit route for Wanakena water supply, and DEC access
 4. May 17 trek with trout, putting signs about protecting brook trout.
 5. US Coast Guard planning an exercise with Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe and DEC on potential impact of petroleum spill on archaeological and cultural sensitivity in event of a spill.

6. Question on in newspaper about two deaths of kestrels in Ogdensburg with potential connection with anticoagulant rodenticide. The article mentioned the birds were being tested at a DEC lab. Randy unfamiliar with this specific case, but necropsy of wildlife to determine cause of death is an activity the DEC engages in. He will follow up on this specific instance.

C. Report of Staff:

1. Ag tour scheduled for 8/15. Chair suggested having EMC representation at the tour if possible.
2. Question regarding County's storm water project and possibility for green storm water management. Staff will ask the Grant's Manager in office for her opinion about it.

III. Unfinished Business:

1. **Tree Support Resolution** (Woodworth/ Bage) (see attached resolution)
2. **Combined meeting debrief**
 - a. Overall it went well. Felt more like a planning board meeting than EMC meeting.
 - b. Suggestion of having more communication and connection the planning board more regularly
 - c. Discussion on Public Service Announcement regarding the new wetland regulations

IV. New Business:

A. Anticoagulant Rodenticide Bill

1. Two bills on banning use and sale of anticoagulant rodenticide one in assembly and one in senate. The bills have not moved pass committee yet. 32 states have already banned them. It has bipartisan support. Suggestion for BOL write some sort
2. Review the legislation and give comments

B. Innovative Storm Water Runoff

1. Fred Hanss mention incorporating green storm water management for Potsdam Pine Street Arena during renovation.
2. The Wild center is another case study with their parking lot
3. DEC Emily Fell might have some more information regarding storm water management
4. Midtown Plaza in Canton another opportunity to think about storm water

C. Dark Sky Resolution

1. Interest in Dark Sky lighting for county property
2. Discussion on individual town land use regulations
3. Discussion on NASA and previous existing County Resolutions
4. Staff will investigate previous resolutions and local town use rules
 - a. Potsdam and Canton have dark sky zoning, but most municipalities do not have it in their code
 - b. CPB recommends it on all project reviews
 - c. County parking lights are already dark sky compliant or will become so next upgrade.
 - d. According to Director of Planning the biggest culprits are billboards and wall pack light on buildings
 - e. Could not find previous resolutions

V. Announcements:

A. World Turtle Day Friday May 23 Nicandri Nature Center Activities 10am-2 pm

B. Water Chestnut Pull: Friday July 11 Heuvelton 9:45a.m. - 3 p.m.

1. Discussion on aquatic invasive species control method

C. SLC Public Health Extreme Weather and Health Workshop: Wednesday June 25 SUNY Potsdam 8 am – 4 pm

VI. Adjourn: (Rudiger/Bage) 7:51 p.m.

Joseph, Samuel

From: Terminelli, Nicole (Hon.)
Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2025 1:11 PM
To: Joseph, Samuel
Subject: Re: Tentative: Environmental Management Council

The one important thing that I wanted to mention to the committee is that when Jason shared the Annual Report, there were two areas that were noted that the EMC contributed feedback on plans, I believe the 30x30 and the Adirondack park plan. The Board would like to see a copy of any feedback given on behalf of the EMC and going forward would like to see those statements prior to submission. I was going to comment that I believed they were made by individual members of the EMC and not on behalf of the Advisory Committee, but wasn't entirely sure if that was accurate, so decided to get the facts first.

Any info you can share would be helpful,
Nicole

On May 14, 2025 5:33 PM, "Terminelli, Nicole (Hon.)" <nterminelli@stlawco.gov> wrote:
Will try to join via Zoom. We have a family event at school that evening from 5:30-7.

Whereas trees provide important ecosystem services for all, including but not limited to shade for all and any nearby buildings, habitat to local wildlife, interception of rainfall, transpiration of soil moisture, and general beautification to the surrounding locale;

Whereas the state of New York has made increased forest size a priority for environmental policy;

Whereas St. Lawrence County has significant properties that have the ability to host a number of trees;

Whereas local community members have spent time and money planting trees where and when possible on county properties.

Be it resolved that the Environmental Management Council (EMC) supports the planting of trees on county properties where and when possible;

Be it further resolved that if no tree landscape plan exists for county properties, the EMC encourages that the county pursue tree landscape plans for each property currently in county possession.