



## St. Lawrence County Environmental Management Council

48 Court Street Phone: 315-379-2292  
Canton, NY 13617-1169 Email: [Planning@stlawco.gov](mailto:Planning@stlawco.gov)

[www.Stlawco.gov/Departments/Planning/AdvisoryBoards/EnvironmentalManagementCouncil](http://www.Stlawco.gov/Departments/Planning/AdvisoryBoards/EnvironmentalManagementCouncil)

**Meeting Minutes Wednesday, April 15, 2026 at 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 6:04 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** 6 of the 10 members present. **Quorum was obtained at 6:34 pm.** Meeting proceeded without quorum initially
1. Members Present: L. Bage, *Secretary*; R. Graham; E. Harriman (arrived 6:09); S. Rau; N. Terminelli, *BOL Liaison*; B. Washburn, *Chair*; N. Woodworth, *Vice Chair*.
  2. Members Absent: ; R. McAuliffe; A. Pearson; L. Rudiger.
  3. St. Lawrence County: S. Joseph, *Planner II*.
  4. DEC: Randall Young, *Region 6 Director*; Emily Fell
  5. Guests: Anne Hiedenrich; Jon Rosales
- C. Acceptance of Order of Business as amended** (passed unanimously)
- D. Approval of Minutes as corrected** (March 18, 2026) (Rau/Woodworth) (passed unanimously)
- E. Public Comments:** Guests spoke to a letter opposing nuclear energy development in North Country.
- II. Reports:**
- A. Report of the Board of Legislators:** R. McAuliffe was appointed to the EMC.
- B. Report of the DEC:**
1. Reviewed the court decision that invalidated the 664 part of the wetland regulations, which was to implement the revised Article 24 that the State legislators passed in 2024. The DEC is conducting a comprehensive review of the ramifications of the court decision because they are still required to implement the statute. Current projects under reviewed pending wetland regulations will be decided on a case by case basis using existing law as applicable.
  2. Question on status of North Country Dairy. Still waiting on the judge’s decision.
  3. Question on Total Maximum Daily Load on Phosphorus for Black Lake.
  4. Question on abandoned versus qualified abandoned road through State forest land and impact on jurisdiction. Full abandonment means that the easement of the right of way reverts back to the landowner after 6 year period of nonuse. A qualified abandonment means that the public retains the right of way, but ceases to maintain it, and the retains the right to start maintaining it again.
- C. Great Lakes Action Agenda (GLAA)** is planning to hold the next sub-basin work group meeting in Canton on May 7<sup>th</sup> 1-4 pm at the Grasse River Heritage Room. There will be a webinar April 24<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm to review status and updates on current programs <https://dec.ny.gov/nature/waterbodies/watersheds/management/great-lakes/action-agenda>
- D. Report of the Planning Department:** See work report
1. Discussion on data center application in Massena
  2. Request the Council looks at the Ag Plan and get feedback.  
<https://www.stlawco.gov/sites/default/files/Planning/2016AgDevPlan/SLC%202016%20Ag%20Plan.pdf>
  3. Planning Office is performing a comprehensive plan with the Village of Norwood.

4. Staff plans to participate in a DEC, SWCD, and County Planning working group for Region 6 meeting in Lowville May 4<sup>th</sup>

**E. MUT update:**

1. The draft report from public input session felt general and not specific. Bage provided some feedback to project director. Survey not posted to County website but available through other means. A map of the trail was created, and suggests expansion. The next public input session is June 18<sup>th</sup> at Brasher Falls Central School

**III. Unfinished Business:**

**A. HWA:** Discussion on workshop debrief. Reviewed the event and what went well and areas for improvement. Staff relayed Brasher School teacher connection that would like to incorporate the HWA programming into her class curriculum.

**B. PRISM partnerships:**

1. Chair has communicated with SLELO and will represent EMC.
2. L. Bage is in contact with APIPPP and will act as representative. They will add the EMC to their partners list. The spring APIPP partners' meeting is scheduled for May 6<sup>th</sup> at Akwesasne. We should try to help advertise. Discussion on contributions EMC has made to partner with SLELO and APIPP. Suggestion to focus on aquatic invasives with SLELO. Discussion on County resolution regarding Northern Pike harvest regulations by DEC in Black Lake.

**C. Village of Norwood:** The Planning Office is performing a comprehensive plan with the Village of Norwood. Through that process Staff is hoping to keep tabs on the SPDES permit and PFAS issue, as well as the Norwood Lake Association. Discussion on potential sources of PFAS in wastewater and ramifications.

**IV. New Business:**

**A. IJC GLAM PAG:** Chair has been in communication with Tony David a PAG member, and he mentioned that PAG is no longer active. It was part of a public information gathering process with Phase two of the Expedited Review of Plan 2014 managing water levels in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River. The public input is done and now IJC is reviewing the plan. Therefore not necessary to find an EMC representative.  
<https://www.ijc.org/en/glam/phase2>

**B. Wetlands:** Discussion on court decision

**V. Member Updates:**

**A. PFAS:** R. Graham gave a status update on FOIL request regarding PFAS levels in their inactive landfill testing. Field activity summary report is the document that is pertinent to our interest. She received ten reports in St. Lawrence County. Three additional sites that supposedly have been sampled, but we do not have the reports and so Graham is going to follow up on those sites. The largest concentration is in St. Lawrence County at the Potsdam Specialty Paper. R. Graham will clean up the data and post onto the google drive. For private drinking water that is contaminated only solution is water filtration at use.

**B. SLELO webinars:** <https://www.sleloinvasives.org/events/> Two upcoming SLELO webinars and a planting project in Potsdam Ives Park.

**VI. Adjourn: (Bage / Woodworth) 8:04 p.m.**