



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, February 18, 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 6:05 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** 7 of the 11 members present. **Quorum was obtained**
1. Members Present: L. Bage, *Secretary*; R. Graham (arrived at 6:07 p.m.); E. Harriman; S. Rau; N. Terminelli, *BOL Liaison*; B. Washburn, *Chair*; N. Woodworth, *Vice Chair*.
 2. Members Absent: A. Pearson; L. Rudiger; M. Weaver.
 3. St. Lawrence County: E. Hooker, *Deputy Director Solid Waste*; S. Joseph, *Planner II*.
- C. Acceptance of Order of Business as amended** (Rau/Bage) (passed unanimously)
1. Chair requested adding two agenda items to Council Logistics, nominating committee and IJC membership
- D. Approval of Minutes as corrected (grammar)** (January 21, 2026) (Rau/Bage) (passed unanimously)
- E. Public Comments:** none
- F. Council Logistics:**
1. Around County meeting: May in Massena. S. Rau at the Nicandri Nature Center.
 2. Nominating committee: Current executive board willing to continue in their roles and so nominating themselves. The floor is opened for additional nominations, (none). The floor will be open for nominations prior to the vote during March meeting.
 3. International Joint Commission (IJC) Great Lakes and St Lawrence River Adaptive Management Committee (GLAM) Public Advisory Group (PAG): EMC had a member represented on the PAG. That member is no longer active. The Chair requests another member participate in future PAG events and report back to the EMC. For more info: <https://www.ijc.org/en/glam>
- II. Reports:**
- A. SLC Solid Waste:** Deputy Director of SLC Solid Waste gave an introduction to her background and an overview of the department.
1. Hazardous Waste collection days for 2026 will be May 16th at SUNY Canton, and September 26th at Village of Massena Highway Department.
 2. Free paint collection first Thursday of month between April and October at Highway Department facility.
 3. Ms. Hooker hopes to initiate the return of a tire take back program to reduce the risk of Eastern Equine Encephalitis and West Nile through mosquitoes breeding in discarded tires.
 4. Solid Waste plans to participate with the Youth Bureau’s Trash Dash event with support and disposal.
 5. SLC maintains three closed landfills in Pyrites, Ogdensburg, and Massena. These landfills have post closure for 30 years plan which includes monitoring wells both at the closed landfill and neighboring areas to test for contaminants. The three landfills get tested three times a year. The monitoring of these sites will continue until DEC determines its clear and no longer needs to be maintained. The test include contaminants of water such as petroleum, lead, iron, and sulfate. The one that triggers some concern is sulfate levels at the Pyrites location, but that is naturally occurring in the area. Nothing over exceedance levels. The DEC will test the Pyrites landfill for PFAS in the spring 2026.

6. A project underway is to assess and upgrade the transfer stations to make more handicap accessible.
7. Textile recycling has been postponed because of expense to the County, and investigating potential partners to take over the service.
8. The value of plastics so low, and therefore many plastics intended for recycling end up in the landfill. Partner organizations are exploring options.
9. The State is mandating composting of organics. Currently St. Lawrence County is not required to comply, but likely will need to in the future. SLC currently lacks capabilities for composting because transfer station are not set up to receive and do not have ability to transport the material.
10. Discussion on recycling requirements and enforcement to prevent recyclables entering into the waste stream and waste contaminating recycling.
11. Question on non rechargeable batteries. Wrap in tape, drop off at scale house, and then they get sent via fedex or ups to call2recycle. Discussion on communication and website.
12. Saturdays at Massena transfer station does not having enough trailers for trash, and so piles of trash accumulate and make it difficult to unload with long lines. Labor, old equipment, and budget constraints are causing problems. Solid Waste is working to address this and improve the conditions, but it is dependent on budget, and grant sources, while keeping user fees affordable.

B. Report of the Board of Legislators:

1. DANC gave a presentation to BOL on overview of operation, costs, and cells in the landfill.
2. Proposed updates to leachate regulations that will require leachate to be 99.9% free of contaminants.
3. AFPB brought up protection of farmland from solar development.
4. SWCD holding annual tree sale until Feb 26.

C. Report of the DEC

1. A request for a floating object permit for water ski slalom on Cranberry Lake was denied and applicant withdrew any further request.
2. The DEC held a public comment hearing on February 9th regarding North Country Dairy's objection to the issuance of the SPDES permit, and on February 25, a pre-adjudicatory issues conference at the Brasher Town Hall.
3. Discussion on PFAS in V. of Norwood in sewage treatment.

D. Report of the Planning Department: See work report

1. Application for Mobile Home Housing grant not approved.
2. Ag Development Plan 2016 reviewing goals matrix.
3. Town of Madrid a solar development company threatening legal action arguing for utility variance.
4. Septic System Replacement Grant: DEC added Black Lake as an eligible waterway.
5. GIS work on address points for emergency services.

E. Report of PRISM

1. L. Bage gave updates on recent HWA locations.

F. MUT Report:

1. Feb 23 community input session regarding Multiuse Trail.

III. Unfinished Business:

A. PFAS: Discussion on status of PFAS primer and the FOIL request to DEC that request actual values of the DEC PFAS testing occurring at inactive landfills. R. Graham discovered the file that contains the information desired (Field Activity Summary Report) and so update FOIL to prioritizes those files. Discussion on the files and organization. Graham overlaid landfill points with parcel information.

B. HWA: Discussion on workshop logistics. Tested the app on our phones

C. Invasive Species Management: Discussion on public awareness on dangers of parsnips and communication with highway when to mow to prevent to reduce spread. Discussion on road salt and water chestnut.

IV. Adjourn: (Bage/Rau) 8:02 p.m.