



St. Lawrence County Environmental Management Council

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

Meeting Minutes Wednesday, January 21, 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 6:03 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 (arrived at 6:07 p.m.); E. Harriman; A. Pearson; S. Rau; N. Terminelli, *BOL Liaison*; B. Washburn, *Chair*; N. Woodworth, *Vice Chair*.
 2. Members Absent: L. Rudiger; M. Weaver.
 3. St. Lawrence County: S. Joseph, *Planner II*.
 4. DEC: Nance Arquette, *Region 6 Public Information Officer and External Affairs Representative for States Ready Program*
 5. Guests: Ryan McAuliffe (Applicant to the EMC)
- C. Acceptance of Order of Business** (Rau/Bage) (passed unanimously)
- D. Approval of Minutes** (November 19, 2025) (Bage/Woodworth) (passed unanimously)
- E. Public Comments:** none
- F. Council Logistics:**
1. Around County meeting: Discussed in other meeting locations beyond Canton. One tentatively scheduled for May in Massena. S. Rau will contact the Nicandri Nature Center.
 2. Shared Council Contact list. Discussion on membership reappointments.
 3. Google Drive Discussion
- II. Reports:**
- A. Report of the Board of Legislators:**
1. Reappointments and announcements
 2. SWCD board looking for members
 3. Septic funding Black lake is now included
 4. DEC hosting four meetings and webinars on developments with PFAS
- B. Report of the DEC**
1. **Regenerate Forestry Grant:** The DEC has made available more than \$5 million in funds in the Regenerate NY Forestry Cost Share Grant Program, supporting tree planting, forest restoration, and improved forest health on private land. Eligible landowners can apply for grants ranging from \$10 thousand to \$1 million applications accepted through August 27th submitted through the State’s Financial System (SFS). Projects must be 5 acres or more and guided by a DEC forester or Natural Resources professional.
 2. **PFAS V. Norwood:**
 - a. Why was the Village of Norwood wastewater testing for PFAS? DEC response: The wastewater facility was under a full SPDES permit review, which includes PFAS as a parameter, and detected presence of PFAS. The Village needs to conduct further sampling and assess the facility for potential sources. This is part of a larger State effort to sample municipal and industrial sources for emerging contaminants.

Webpage on emerging contaminants: <https://dec.ny.gov/environmental-protection/water/emerging-contaminants>

- b. EMC question: They changed the effluent from non-toxic to toxic due to positive detection presence of PFOA and PFOS. The Village is required to conduct further tests for 20+ PFAS chemicals and evaluate sources of contamination. The waste treatment plant does not include storm water, and the drinking water annual report indicates cleanliness and no detection of PFAS. Drinking water source is three ground wells. Questions are arising. Where did the contaminants originate from? Is the Village responsible to identify the source? Is the Village liable to clean it?
 3. **Deer River:** In October, the DEC issued a Notice to Modify the SPDES permit for North Country Dairy (NCD). In November, NCD objected to the Issuance of the Permit, and requested a hearing to challenge the terms of the modifications. The hearing will be held in the Town of Brasher's town hall on February 9th at 6 p.m. and includes a public comment period. <https://dec.ny.gov/environmental-protection/water/water-quality/monitoring/ongoing-special-studies>
 4. Question on proposed SEQR modifications for housing. DEC will follow up as it develops.
 5. Question on the EPA announced rule changes regarding applying substances with PFAS to crops grown for human consumption and how will NYS's respond to that for mitigation.
- C. Report of the Planning Department:** See work report
1. Septic System Replacement Grant: DEC added Black Lake as an eligible waterway. Discussion on the recent SEQR for the creation of a wastewater district along black lake..
 2. Countywide Housing Repair Program 6 (CHRP 6) grant from NYS OCR was approved. Submitted Application for Mobile Home Housing grant. (It was not approved).
 3. Discussion on Events in the County and which ones the EMC should participate in:
 - a. HWA workshop discussion with potential collaboration and leaning on the PRISMs
 - b. Earth day event discussion and Youth Bureau Trash Dash. Watershed discussion.
 - c. Sustainability Day: Setting up a table, potential talk
- D. Report of PRISM monthly meeting**
1. L. Bage gave report for SLELO and APIP: Discussion on partnership with PRISMs.
 2. APIP end of year meeting Dec 4, 2025 gave partnership award to Eagle Bay Lake Association.
 3. APIP Partnership: Executive Director offered assistance in leading an HWA workshop. Staff will follow up to solidify dates. Webinar on January 26th to kick off and then we will host a workshop locally. Discussion on benefits of partnership.
- E. MUT Report:**
1. Liaison to Clarkson Study. CEM consulting group that has a comprehensive review on the 130 miles of the Multiuse Trail and 600 miles snowmobile trails on impacts to rural economy, public roads, and accessibility. Met 3 times Oct 28, Dec 3, and Jan 7th. Public information session is postpone week of Feb 23. Discussion on Environmental Impact Statement. Discussion on funding.

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. 39 out of 65 inactive landfills in St. Lawrence County have been tested 2 are below 10 ppt and the remaining are within a large range (between 10 ppt and 1,900 ppt). Discussion on size of the project to organize the files. R. Graham and E. Harriman are working on sorting through the data.
- B. Invasive Species Management plan:**
1. iMap Invasive species dataset: Chair reviewed analysis he performed on iMap data. on which species are present in SLC.
 2. The people who submit data are part of larger organization that tend to specialize in invasive species such as the PRISMs, DEC, APA, SWCD etc.
 3. Observations tend to clump around roadways

Question on SWCD DEC invasive species funding. Request about SWCD speak to EMC. Discussion on grants and applying for grants.

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