



**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, May 20, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.**

Nicandri Nature Center

23 Robinson Road, Massena, NY 13662

- 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** 7 of the 10 members present. **Quorum was obtained**
1. Members Present: L. Bage, *Secretary*; R. Graham; E. Harriman; 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: Nance Arquiatt
  5. Guests: Patricia Wilson, *NYPA*; numerous see sign in sheet
- C. Acceptance of Order of Business as amended** (moved Data Center Presentation before Public Comment) (passed unanimously)
- D. Approval of Minutes** (April 15, 2026) (Bage/Woodworth) (passed unanimously)
- E. NYPA Economic Development Power Program.** See slides  
<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1rXMbsmWF-QIzaW4z-9MlisrjgT8TUeYn/edit?usp=sharing&oid=113216999194892503532&rtpof=true&sd=true>
- F. Data Center application Massena** Staff reviewed the proposed data center in Massena that was reviewed by the County Planning Board
- G. Public Comments:** Numerous comments mostly opposing data center.
- II. Reports:**
- A. Report of the Board of Legislators:**
1. Two resolutions passed at full board meeting in May
    - a. Resolution in support of proposed State legislation on increasing size of legal weight of ATVs.
    - b. Resolution opposing State legislation on renewable energy development on State forest land without local control.
  2. Three resolutions up for vote at the June full board meeting.
    - a. Mosquito Surveillance Public Health is monitoring diseases in mosquitos and this resolution is to sign a contract with Dufrow in case Eastern Equine Encephalitis out break necessitates aerial spraying
    - b. Four parcels added to the Ag District 132 acres
    - c. Affirming local authority over data center siting, part of NYSAC block of resolutions
- B. Report of the DEC:**
1. Alcoa submitted new modeling for emission to DEC Division of Air regarding SO<sub>2</sub> nonattainment
  2. Regarding North Country Dairy waiting for the Judge to set the evidentiary hearing date, where witness can be called. <https://dec.ny.gov/environmental-protection/water/water-quality/monitoring/ongoing-special-studies> Question on if there have been any reports this spring. There have been reports of odor and foam. EMC member mentioned friends that live along Deer River say the rocks look bleached. DEC recommends

reporting directly to DEC so all these observations can be compiled into one place for tracking remediation efforts.

3. Cranberry Lake campground is open for season, but construction will require it to close on Labor Day September 7<sup>th</sup>.
4. Urban and Community Forestry grant Aug 12 due date
5. Resilient Watershed grants are accepting applications June 26<sup>th</sup>
6. Another round of Climate Smart Community and Water Quality Improvement Program will be available soon
7. Question regarding Cranberry Lake water skiing slalom permit request that was denied and then the permittee requested a public hearing. What is the current status of that? N. Arquiatt will inquire and report back to us. Member expressed concerns about loon nesting habitat.

**C. Report of the Planning Department:** See work report

1. Staff participated in a DEC, SWCD, and County Planning working group for Region 6 meeting in Lowville on May 4<sup>th</sup>. The working group will meet quarterly and numerous topics were brought up mostly connected to permitting that will be discussed.

**D. Report of FEMRF** (see report)

[https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1wZ0ft\\_rXepsf9jFop4pz2oBWCs82Mo8p](https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1wZ0ft_rXepsf9jFop4pz2oBWCs82Mo8p)

1. Chair reviewed Fisheries Enhancement Mitigation Research Fund annual meeting, with no new applications, but received updates on current projects.

**E. Report of Great Lakes Action Agenda Sub Basin Work Group meeting**

1. Good network meeting. Next work group meeting will be this fall
2. Tom Langdon Clarkson Professor talked about efforts to revitalize the Grasse River
3. Lee Willbanks talked about Talking Rivers Raquette River watershed sampling for emerging contaminants including microplastics
4. SWCD is working on ecosystem based management stream smart training program in coordination with Nature Conservancy <https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1k3OV2QbRzwWiM3-nOgEHUBIzbhcFhiBQ>
5. Michale Glennon From Adirondack Watershed Institute water quality monitoring project and SCALE Survey of Climate in Adirondack Lake Ecosystems project
6. Bob Flavin fisheries advisory board working the DEC on where Walleye Fisheries habitat can be enhanced, with fish tagging to understand their movement hoping to identify where they are spawning.
7. Anthony Bruno from the DEC Region 6 Fisheries spoke about engaging volunteers in surveys for brook trout in Adirondack lakes to update the Adirondack Pond Brook Trout Management Plan through 2040. Tagging Lake Sturgeon and updating the Lake Sturgeon Management Plan. Also working on identifying and enhancing Walleye spawning habitat.

**F. MUT update:**

1. The draft report from public input session felt general and not specific. Bage provided some feedback to project director. Met May 6<sup>th</sup> the proposed feedback from Bage was not reflected in the minutes for public input session. Survey is posted to County website and should be available through July. Suggestion on advertising the survey more widely to target so users of the trail that are not engaged in motorized use. Clarkson students will monitor use and speed on the trail this summer. All data collection should be complete by end of August and will perform in depth analysis. The next public input session is June 18<sup>th</sup> at Brasher Falls Central School.
2. Discussion on if too much emphasis on the economic component and not the environmental issues. Original request from BOL was an economic evaluation of the trail.

**G. Report on APIPPP Spring Partners Meeting::**

1. May 6<sup>th</sup> in Akwesasne. Good networking event, met all the APIPP staff and numerous regional partners. EMC officially listed on the APIPP dashboard as a partner.
2. To fulfill our partnership agreement we will need to participate in their events, organize our own events, contribute location data to their database. There is a great need for citizen science and engagement.

3. Reviewed some upcoming events. One event Aug 11 will be a lake protectors in person training at Cranberry Lake fire hall. Suggestion of possibly doing the EMC picnic same day and location and participate in the training.
4. Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe presented an Emerald Ash Borer mitigation strategies, by Angela Johnson, Acting Land Resource Program Manager.
5. Ari Giller-Leinwohl, APIPP Terrestrial Invasive Species Manager reviewed forest pest hunter program HWA and noted HWA workshop hosted by EMC this past spring.
6. New landowners guide to knotweed control.
7. New mapper on their website that has all the tier four species such as knot weed mapped.
8. Anna Hardiman APIPP Aquatic Invasive Species Manager, and suggestion for EMC to help facilitate a Cranberry Lake Management Plan

**III. Unfinished Business:**

**IV. New Business:**

1. **Data Center resolution:** postponed

**V. Member Updates:**

**VI. Adjourn: (Woodworth / Rau) 8:23 p.m.**