

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Nicole Laible
Executive Director

Glenn Sungela
Chairperson

Rockland County Environmental Management Council (EMC)

June Board Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Date: June 30, 2022
Time: 5:00 PM
Location: Virtual Meeting

Meeting called to order at 5:01pm

Members present: Chana Friedenber, Joanna Galdone, Gillian Ballard, Glenn Sungela, Natalie Patasaw, Darwin Keung, Catherine Mazzocchi, Bill Herguth (joined at 5:25pm)

Staff Present: Nicole Laible, Charlotte Ramsey, John Lyon

Members of the Public: Teresa Moran, Sarah Carlson

Chairperson's Report:

- PFAS Fact Sheet
 - How we became aware of PFAS
 - Health impacts of PFAS
 - Where PFAS can be found
- Natalie's been working with various coalitions to focus on NYS legislation regarding PFAS
 - Want to reduce the maximum levels of PFAS contamination more
 - Write a letter to the Governor to have her lower the maximum PFAS levels
 - Three bills in the works—these bills discuss PFAS in apparel, personal care products, and carpeting
 - Thinking about how this affects environmental justice disparities

Amendments to the Bylaws:

- **General concept of the bylaw amendment:** The EMC would like to make the Recording Secretary a rotating position.
- The proposed amendment reads:

- *“The Recording Secretary position will not stay with one person for longer than a month. The position will rotate throughout the board monthly to allow for all members to actively participate in meetings. The person serving as Recording Secretary will be approved at the previous month’s meeting to allow for improved meeting efficiency. Members can serve in this executive position for one month to several months.”*
- There is discussion amongst the Board Members regarding the wording of the amendment.
- After various edits proposed by Board Members, the amendment reads:
The R. Secretary position will rotate throughout the board monthly to allow for all members to actively participate in meetings. Recording secretary will be selected at each meeting to serve at the following meeting. Members can serve in this executive position for one month to several months.
- ***Natalie Patasaw makes a motion to approve the amendment to the bylaw as written/read aloud; Glenn Sungela seconds the motion; All present Board Members vote “yes.” No Board Members abstain.***

William Herguth joins the meeting at 5:25 PM

Officers Slate:

- Darwin Keung is added to slate for Corresponding Secretary
- Natalie Patasaw removes herself from Corresponding Secretary and Chairperson
- Updated slate reads:
 - Chairperson: Glenn Sungela
 - Vice Chairperson: Catherine Mazzocchi
 - Corresponding Secretary: Darwin Keung
- ***Gillian Ballard makes a motion to approve the slate as it is listed; Glenn Sungela seconds the motion; No present Board Members oppose. No Board Members abstain.***

Presentation from John Lyon:

- Use your county email!
- Brief explanation of the EMC’s advisory role
- General discussion between John Lyon and present EMC Board Members
 - Glenn Sungela asks for a meeting with John Lyon to discuss the topics of the Carbon Reduction Working Group
 - Natalie Patasaw, John Lyon discuss PFAS
 - John Lyon: the CE’s stance is pretty open-ended. So do the research, talk to me so I know what’s going on and you can help me advocate with the CE
 - Darwin Keung, John Lyon discuss EMC social media posting process
 - Work with Strategic Communications Manager to talk about this process
 - Suggestion from Board Members: Adding John Lyon to receive EMC minutes with highlighted action items, so he can be more in tune with what we’re discussing

Old Business:

- Glenn Sungela shares a document that contains ideas for EMC generated content to post on social media (including the County’s Facebook page)
- Glenn Sungela and Catherine Mazzocchi discuss meeting with Beth to develop a schedule and cadence for posting on the Facebook page, as well as what an approvals process might look like

- ***Glenn Sungela makes a motion to adopt the “Green Spotlight Program” to post these aforementioned topics on social media; Darwin Keung second; Bill Herguth abstains, the rest are all in favor.***
- William Herguth discusses how students have been evaluating how solar blankets have impacted the Piermont marsh without chemicals

New Business:

- Natalie Patasaw to represent the EMC on County Planning Board
 - Glenn Sungela would like more information about this type of position
- Nicole Laible, Charlotte Ramsey discuss the process to approve a new Chairperson
 - Does the Chairperson need to be approved by the Legislature? Is there something that we can change in our EMC charter, so that a new Chairperson does not have to be approved by the Legislature?

Agency Report:

- Nicole Laible discusses the County’s new Sustainability Consultant
- Nicole Laible mentions that Sarah Carlson will hopefully be joining the Board soon
- Our July meeting will be in-person, per Open Meeting Law

Gillian Ballard makes a motion to adjourn. Darwin Keung seconds to the motion to adjourn. Unanimous

Adjourned at 6:32 PM

Respectfully submitted by Catherine Mazzochi