

**ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

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**Brianna Rosamilia**  
*Executive Director*

**Glenn Sungela**  
*Chairperson*  
**Catherine Mazzocchi**  
*Vice Chairperson*  
**Darwin Keung**  
*Corresponding Secretary*  
Gabriella Dwyer  
Chana Friedenberg  
Joanna Galdone  
William Herguth  
Elizabeth Lamoureux  
Natalie Patasaw

**Environmental Management Council (EMC) Minutes**

**Wednesday, July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**Members Present:** Glenn Sungela, Natalie Patasaw, Beth Lamoureux, Gabi Dwyer, Joanna Galdone, Catherine Mazzocchi, Darwin Kueng

**Members Excused:** Chana Friedenberg

**Members Absent:** William Herguth

**Staff Present:** Brianna Rosamilia (DER)

**Public:** Stan Pasco, Michael Zayas

1. Roll call and meeting called to order at 5:43 pm.
  - Quorum: Glenn, Natalie, Beth, Gabi, Joanna, Catherine, Darwin
  - Members of the public: Michael (Meals on Wheels), Stan (County representative for NYS Fish and Wildlife Management board and NYS conservation council, County coordinator and master instructor for NYS DEC Hunter ed programs, President of United Sportsmen's Association of Rockland, County liaison for Venison donation program).
2. Welcome new members
3. Minutes – August 2022 meeting
  - Edits:
    - a. Correct spelling of Glenn's name
    - b. PFOA's should be PFAS
    - c. Correct spelling of member from the public's name
  - ***Catherine makes a motion to approve August 2022 minutes with proposed edits. Darwin seconded.***
4. Working Group updates
  - Carbon Reduction

- a. County letting Darwin speak to DOT about public transportation information in rideshare/mapping applications to get an idea of where the gaps in information are and ways to remedy them
    - b. Currently: the County thinks the state should do it
  - Communications
    - a. Creative Arts Contest awards ceremony in June, 6 students awarded
      - 1. Prep for next year. Working group meeting in August to discuss expanding reach of the program
    - b. Hosting an event (in a park?) around earth day, with an educational piece on the environment in the County and have the kids produce their submission to the creative arts contest at that event
      - 1. Glenn: partner with organizations that do something similar (Strawtown, Friends of Hook Mountain)
      - 2. Natalie: Cornell 4H club
      - 3. Stan: National Hunting and Fishing Day at Congers Lake September 23, 2023, 9am-3pm
  - Native/Invasive
    - a. Pollination garden going really well!
      - 1. Darwin and Beth volunteered to maintain garden over the summer
    - b. New garden site found at Haverstraw Bay County Park, can start momentum to get one there
      - 1. Beth has connections with Haverstraw architectural board that could support
    - c. Work to create a sign with EMC, Rockland Soil & Water, and Rockland Division of Environmental Resources, which identifies the species, note that it is the pollinator garden
      - 1. Send any information about the garden over to Catherine
    - d. Darwin: create a collective name for all of the gardens
      - 1. Beth: pollinator pathway signs you can qualify for, Catherine to look into this and Beth to send over
    - e. Spotted lantern fly: Department of Agricultural Markets is no longer directing residence in Westchester, Rockland or Nassau to report sightings anymore
      - 1. Rockland DER now has Facebook and Instagram pages
5. Agency updates
- DER Instagram and Facebook page (previously just for the Soil and Water Conservation district, now for the whole Division)
    - a. Posts about bears and spotted lantern fly
  - Climate Smart Communities report has not been released yet, slated for August
    - a. Contracted out last year to be created
  - New County website being rolled out in September, Brianna can update it now even though it is not live yet
    - a. The website cannot be previewed, but Brianna assures it looks nice
  - Overall board reconfiguration: County reconfiguring all County boards right now
    - a. End of June: CE office meeting with attorneys to discuss timeline for proposing resolutions to the legislature
    - b. Members can still apply but they will be held until reconfiguration is completed

- Creative Arts Contest: 5 winning entries submitted from 6 students, 29 attendees
  - Outstanding Environmental Volunteer Awards
    - a. Nominate someone who deserves to be recognized
    - b. Ceremony: Monday Sept 18 at 11am, Nominations due late August
  - Additional DER resources: 3 new DER positions, DER staffing back to pre-financial crisis levels
    - a. Around 20 employees within DER
  - Renewable electricity sourcing: currently out to bid, then the contract will be awarded (should be deliberating now)
  - Update to replace Allan Beers, Coordinator for Department of Environmental Resources: the position is open, trying to fill it as quickly as possible
6. Old Business - none
7. New Business
- Cornell Cooperative Extension proposal
    - a. July 5<sup>th</sup>: walked through Dutch Gardens to identify invasive species
    - b. Lower Hudson PRISM purchased vacuums to remove SLF. Adult SLF removed easily, young ones are hard to get
    - c. Dutch Garden and Haverstraw Bay Park selected because they are the most popular
    - d. Endorsement could open the doors to partner with them in the future
    - e. Get this letter out, then have a public statement commending them on their successful program
    - f. ***Darwin motions to provide the endorsement letter to CCE from the EMC, Gabi seconds it. Discussion followed that a note will be added to the letter that the full board approved it on 7-26-23, even though the grant has already been awarded. Motion passed unanimously.***
  - Green Spotlight - Wave 1
    - a. Current post ideas:
      1. Haverstraw King's Daughter Public Library certified as a Sustainable Library
      2. Orangetown and other munis in Tree City USA
        - a. Only towns and villages allowed to be involved, not County
      3. Rebates offered by Veolia
      4. Community Choice Aggregation
      5. Scenic Hudson River access crowdsourcing
      6. Uninvited video on invasive species
      7. Earth911 and ReCycleRightNY
    - b. Will check to see if it needs to be sent to Rockland County Communication department for approval before posting
    - c. Brianna: usually she posts on DER platform, then Rockland County shares it on their social media platforms. Brianna to ask Beth about how the posting process should work.
    - d. The ultimate goal is to create a cadence of types of posts we make on DER social media platforms
    - e. Brianna: tell the organizations we are highlighting them
    - f. Catherine: will tag the organizations as these are posted

- g. **Catherine makes a motion to approve and post these spotlights. Darwin seconded. Unanimously passed.**
    - Modification to Green Spotlight program
      - a. EMC only focuses on launching the program, this gives the communications working group more control over the program and helps it move faster if there is no EMC meeting group.
      - b. **Gabi motions that the EMC communications working group creates Green Spotlight social media posts on behalf of the EMC without full board approval. Beth seconds. Unanimously passed.**
    - Air Quality Alerts
      - a. This is distributed by the County. The board discussed adding an additional sentence to educate the public on the affects of climate change. Once this new language is approved, they will make the suggestion to the County. The additional content would read “Not only does idling pollute the air, it waste expensive fuel and generates greenhouse gas emissions which contribute to climate change.”
      - b. **Beth motions to pass the suggested edit to the Air Quality Alerts that are distributed by the County. Catherine seconded. Unanimously passed.**
    - CCE Rockland Sustainability Walk & Showcase (October 14, 10am-2pm)
      - a. EMC participation: tabling, 4 hour block, 5hr including set up and take down
      - b. Catherine proposed creating an activity
      - c. Have communications group discuss ways to table
      - d. **Gabi motions for the EMC to have a presence at the event. Darwin seconds. Unanimously passed.**
8. Public participation
- Mike: thank you for having me!
  - Stan:
    - a. Does EMC deal with fish and wildlife? Do you have interest in participating in this?
    - b. Testing for deer disease, fish disease, trout management.
    - c. Rockland County has smallest footprint in this at a state level.
    - d. EMC also invited to set up at National Hunting and Fishing day,
    - e. Hunters feed the hungry: hunters donate excess venison.
      - 1. If Rockland has a facility, we can find the manpower to process the meat. Needs a processor, ability to process water, and a refrigerator.
      - 2. Food waste is a component of climate change.
    - f. EMC members can have a one on one informal conversation to learn more from Stan.
9. Member Updates
- Natalie: EMC interest in PFAS? Is EMC interested in helping with legislation banning/limiting PFAS. Could we get an EMC or Rockland County Government letter of support for legislation like this. EMC to think on this for the next meeting (will make an agenda point for this).
10. Next meeting – August 16, 2023
11. Adjourn
- **Darwin makes a motion to adjourn. Catherine seconded. Motion passes unanimously.**

Meeting closed at 7:05 pm.

*Respectfully submitted by Gabi Dwyer.*

DRAFT