

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 Friedenber
Joanna Galdone
William Herguth
Elizabeth Lamoureux
Natalie Patasaw

Environmental Management Council
Working Group Meeting Minutes

Date: September 7, 2023

Time: 5:00 pm

Location: Rockland County Executive Conference Room
Allison-Parris County Office Building
11 New Hempstead Road, New City, New York

Native / Invasive Working Group Meeting

Members present: Joanna Galdone, Catherine Mazzocchi, Glenn Sungela

Members absent: None.

Additional EMC Members Present: Beth Lamoureux

Staff Present: Brianna Rosamilia

1. Roll call was conducted, quorum was present, and meeting was called to order at 5:01 pm.

2. EMC native plant bed at Kennedy Dells county park
 1. Plants continue to thrive due.
 2. Catherine reviewed the proposed information sign and accepted comments and suggestions from meeting participants.
 3. Beth offered to research pollinator garden certification programs and to offer recommendations.
 4. Catherine will distribute final sign mock-up for Glenn to include in materials reimbursement request from the Rockland County Soil and Water Conservation District.

3. Attendees discussed creating a native plant garden at Demarest Kill county park, currently closed due to construction to replace the dam. There was consensus to walk through possible spots when the park reopens and to plant next Spring. Brianna offered that depending on the size of the spot it could be a collaborative effort by the EMC, the Soil and Water Conservation District, and other county agencies.

4. Joanna led discussion on the types of oak trees and their role in ecosystems. Joanna offered to create a display for the CCE Sustainability Walk and Showcase on October 13 in Congers Lake Memorial Park.

5. Glenn led discussion on the status of invasive species spotted lanternfly and tree-of-heaven. Both are widespread in the county, and there is some mixed messaging from state agencies on 'calls to action'. Meeting attendees provided comments on a one-page document about mechanical means to control tree-of-heaven. Glenn will confer with CCE to ensure there is no negative overlap of EMC and CCE displays at the Sustainability Walk and Showcase.

6. Meeting attendees reviewed potential objectives for 2024, including posting an informational sign at EMC created plant beds, keeping information about native plants and invasive species current on DER's web pages, collaborating with other environmentally-minded agencies, and finding ways to make physical displays accessible year-round as opposed to "one and done".

7. Motion to adjourn was made by Catherine, seconded by Joanna, and approved unanimously at 6:00 pm.

Carbon Reduction Working Group Meeting

Members present: Darwin Keung, Glenn Sungela

Members absent: Chana Friedenber

Additional EMC Members Present: Beth Lamoureux

Staff Present: Brianna Rosamilia

1. Roll call was conducted, quorum was present, and meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm.

2. Glenn reported the County agreed to the EMC's suggested language on reducing carbon footprints in the County's air quality notices. The language was

reviewed and approved by multiple county agencies and individuals including the Planning Department, Transportation Department, and County Executive's office.

3. Attendees discussed the pros and cons of publicly recommending the county have gold level Climate Smart Community certification as a goal of the county Sustainability Project. Gold level certification is currently being revised by NYSERDA to align it with the goals of New York State's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA). There was consensus on holding off until members could review the talking points John Lyon gave to legislative committees on the county's proposed Climate Action Plan and Sustainability Coordinator.

4. Darwin reported that he sent an email on 9/7/23 to the county Department of Public Transportation to restart a dialogue on enabling county public transportation information e.g. bus schedules in wayfinding applications.

5. Meeting attendees provided comments on a proposed social media post by Glenn on transitioning from gas- to battery-powered landscaping tools. Glenn will apply attendees' suggestions and send the revised language electronically.

6. Motion to adjourn made by Darwin and seconded by Glenn passed unanimously at 6:39 pm.