

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Catherine Mazzocchi
Vice Chairperson
Darwin Keung
Corresponding Secretary
Gabriella Dwyer
Joanna Galdone
Elizabeth Lamoureux
Natalie Patasaw

Rockland County Environmental Management Council (EMC) Meeting
Tuesday March 19th, 2024 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm
11 New Hempstead Road, New City, County Executive's Conference room

Minutes

<u>Members Present:</u> Glenn Sungela, Natalie Patasaw, Beth Lamoreaux, Joanna Galdone, Chatherine Mazzocchi, Darwin Keung, Gabi Dwyer

Staff Present: Brianna Rosamilia (DER)

<u>Public:</u> Rich Schiafo (County Planning Department) and Tayo Tyler (County Sustainability Coordinator).

Meeting opened at 5:54 pm.

- 1. Roll call and meeting called to order.
- 2. Introductions with Rich Schiafo and Tayo Tyler.
- 3. Minutes and Recording Secretary
 - a. 07/26/23 meeting minutes: *C. Mazzocchi motioned to approve. D. Keung seconded. All approved. Passed unanimously.*
 - b. Gabi Dwyer to record meeting minutes for 03/19/24 meeting.
- 4. Proposed Meeting Dates 2024
 - a. Third Tuesday in the month every month

- b. B. Lamoreaux motioned to approve. G. Dwyer seconded. All approved. No opposed or abstentions. Passed unanimously.
 - i. N. Patasaw will not be here in July or August; B. Rosamilia will not be here in July.
- 5. Working group updates
 - a. Meeting minutes posted online.
- 6. Agency Updates
 - a. Survey Priorities Earth Day Contest will start soon.
 - i. Review communication committee meeting minutes from 1.30.24.
 - b. Recruiting and EMC reconfiguration G. Sungela drafted a letter to the County Executive. B. Rosamilia confirmed the letter was received.
 - c. Spotted Lanternfly Management in County parks by volunteers— Parks department is still trying to hire supervisor positions. Once positions are filled, more information will be available for what volunteers can and cannot do in the parks for Spotted Lanternfly management.
 - d. Large Scale Solar Array B. Rosamilia recommended the community member reach out to Scenic Hudson, but the final decision will be made by the Town of Haverstraw.
 - i. Solar array put over the landfill in Clarkstown has been effective.
 - ii. Solar array in Pearl River is effective.
 - iii. R. Schiafo Municipalities need to add solar array parameters into law for them to go into effect.
 - 1. NYSERDA Model Solar Arrays
 - 2. Some municipalities already have laws.
 - e. Staffing DER
 - i. Kevin McGuinness -- New DER Coordinator.
 - ii. New Admin Being filled now.
 - iii. Adam Bradford Soil and Conservation District Technician
- 7. New Business
 - a. EMC Working Group members
 - i. G. Dwyer to join communications WG
 - 1. C. Mazzocchi motioned. D. Keung seconded. All approved. No objections or abstentions. Passed unanimously.
 - ii. B. Lamoreaux to join carbon reduction WG
 - 1. D. Keung motioned. J. Galdone seconded. All approved. No objections or abstentions. Passed unanimously.
 - b. EMC Affiliation with Nyack 2030 Allow G. Sungela and D. Keung to be cited in all communications as EMC members.
 - i. G. Dwyer motions to allow EMC affiliation. B. Lamoreaux seconds. All approved, no opposed, no abstentions. Passed unanimously.
 - c. Earth Day Creative Arts Contest 2024: Everything is connected like a big, beautiful picture. Ecosystems and interconnectedness.
 - i. Other big announcement rubric for grading system
 - 1. This is a test for right now this is a good step in the right direction
 - ii. Attending or hosting events to engage 5th graders.
 - iii. Slide deck to pair with the Earth Day Contest intro.

- iv. G. Sungela entertains the motion. G. Dwyer motions to approve. B. Lamoreaux seconds. All in favor. None opposed. Passed unanimously.
- v. C. Mazzocchi will circulate the rubric, theme, and PowerPoint. Will circulate to the teachers.
- d. EMC action plan for 2024.
 - i. N. Patasaw mentions sending more letters to elected officials about environmental legislation.
 - 1. PFAS Free New York pushing four bills:
 - a. Consumer and Household Products
 - b. Menstrual Products
 - c. PFAS Discharge Disclosure Act
 - 2. Bills are stuck in committees, need to move to the house floor, could eventually move to the governor's desk.
 - 3. Discussion followed between members. EMC can draft letters to send to the County Executive, need to get clarification or approval to send letters to other elected officials.
 - 4. Challenges include length of the letters, how fast the board can move, how to make quorum to approve the letters. A proposed process would be to have a draft letter template, give all EMC members time to review and give feedback, then send the letter to the County Executive.
 - 5. Task: N. Patasaw to draft letters for the four PFAS bills discussed at today's meeting.
 - 6. The board agrees to add PFAS letter advocacy to the EMC action plan for 2024
 - ii. Keep Rockland Beautiful Park Cleanups something the EMC may support.
 - 1. G. Sungela EMC "sponsors" an event get the EMC on a sign.
 - 2. B. Lamoreaux EMC could coordinate a clean up day "sponsored" (through committee member volunteer work), publicize the committee through community action.
 - 3. N. Patasaw will inquire with Keep Rockland Beautiful.
 - 4. G. Sungela Wait to put this on the action items list, until we can determine how the EMC will be highlighted.
- 8. Public Participation
 - a. R. Schiafo -- Planning Department updating County Comprehensive Plan –
 onboarding a contractor and will be in process for the next 18-22 months. If EMC
 would like to be involved, begin now.
 - i. C. Mazzocchi Is an outside firm usually provided? Catherine has feedback on the people who ran the Orangetown comprehensive plan.
 - ii. R. Schiafo Contractor not chosen yet, but it will be a comprehensive planning team of multiple parties. Key part will be community/stakeholder engagement, which is where the EMC will come in.
 - b. R. Schiafo County Wide Climate Smart Task Force coming soon, but EMC participation is welcome and encouraged. A matter of when at this point.

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- 9. Member Updates
 - a. Chairperson's report
 - b. Communication with and between board members be courteous and responsive of others. Be sure to check County issued e-mail addresses. Request a password reset if you cannot access the e-mail.
- 10. Next meeting date: Tuesday, April 16th @ 5:30 pm.
- 11. Adjourn at 6:58 pm.