

**ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

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**Meeting Minutes – October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Attendee List**

- **Brianna Rosamilia** Executive Director
- **Glenn Sungela** Chairperson
- **Catherine Mazzocchi** Vice Chairperson
- **Darwin Keung** Corresponding Secretary
- **Joanna Galdone**
- **Raymond Fusco**
- **Gregory Sheehan**
- **James Leo Sklar**
- **Gabriella Dwyer** (joined at 5:43 pm)

**Members excused**

- **Elizabeth Lamoureux**

**Meeting Objective**

To review working group progress, discuss ongoing and new initiatives, and address any agency updates and community needs.

**Agenda Overview**

1. Working Group Updates
2. Agency Updates
3. Old Business
4. New Business
5. Public Participation
6. Member Updates

## Discussion Points

### 1. Meeting called to order at 5:34 pm

- *Greg* and *Catherine* motioned to pass the previous meeting minutes.
- Motion passed unanimously.

### 2. Working Group Updates

- **Carbon Reduction:** Updated the group's name and mission statement.
- **Communications:** No new updates. Will meet in the coming month.
- **Native/Invasive Species:** Review of the 8/20/24 meeting minutes.
  - *Pollinator Garden:* Sign installed in August; garden maintenance continues successfully.
  - *Goldenrod Maintenance:* Efforts to maintain goldenrod along the causeway are ongoing. Request made to county highway department, though no response received to date.
    - *Greg* spoke to highway department employees and will pursue this request further through these contacts.

### 3. Agency Updates

- **County Board Training:** Members reminded of mandatory training, available online or in person at the County Fire Training Center.
- **DER Budget:**
  - The 2025 budget was announced early this month.
  - 2024 budget information remains accessible online.
  - *Link:* [County Executive Budget](#)

### 4. Old Business

- **Food Scrap Recycling Program:** Discussion of status in municipalities not yet in the system.
  - *Ramapo:* *Glenn* inquired at town hall; staff was unfamiliar with the program. Contact information was shared for follow-up. *Brianna* reached out to Ramapo's Highway Dept Supervisor, who was also unaware.
  - *Stony Point:* Current bins are not accessible on weekends; new bear-proof bins are expected by 2024.
  - *Haverstraw:* Supervisor's assistant indicated program is in progress with an ad created.

- EMC plans to check in with Stony Point and Haverstraw in January for updates and awaits further response from Ramapo.
- *Orangetown*: Program is well-publicized with clear signage at the Highway Dept intake point.
- **Green Spotlight Program:** Noted recent activities include highlighting 300 EV charging installations and Climate Smart Communities updates.
  - Discussed potential for an EV charging map specific to the county.
    - *Tayo*, the county's Sustainability Coordinator, may have information on an EV charging map.
  - The Communications Committee will explore:
    - Branding and logo creation for the Green Spotlight Program.
    - Developing a template/style guide for posts.
- **Board Recruitment:** Upcoming opportunities to recruit members, including:
  - Rockland County YouthFest on Sunday, 10/20, where *Brianna* will be present.
  - Additional recruitment through tabling at local street fairs and the county farmers' market.
- **Updates to EMC Online Presence:**
  - Membership list and historical documents have been updated.
  - Communications Committee will review the DER website layout and suggest enhancements, including a recommendation to link social media.

## 5. New Business

- **State Bill (S1535A/A4871):** This bill requires EV charging stations at state facilities.
  - Members raised questions regarding costs, power sources, and the number of applicable facilities in Rockland County.
  - EMC decided to table further discussion until the next meeting to gather more information.

## 6. Public Participation

- No public participants were present.

## 7. Member Updates

- **Working Groups:** Discussion on forming new groups focused on waterfront development.
- **Chairperson's Report:** Updates included:

- A FOIL request was submitted to Rockland Green for monthly data on Clarkstown's food scrap efforts.
  - Interest in inviting a representative from Rockland Community Power Community Choice Aggregation to discuss energy initiatives.
  - ARPA funds have been allocated to purchase two new Ford Transit vans for youth in impacted communities, and to create 34 parks and playgrounds in the county.
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#### **Action Items**

1. *Greg* will follow up with county highway department contacts regarding the goldenrod maintenance request.
2. EMC will inquire with Stony Point and Haverstraw in January on food scrap program progress.
3. *Communications Committee* will discuss branding and a style guide for the Green Spotlight Program.
4. *Communications Committee* to review DER website layout and make recommendations on linking social media.
5. *EMC* to gather more information on State Bill (S1535A/A4871) for next meeting discussion.

*Respectfully submitted by Darwin Keung*