St. Lawrence County Environmental Management Council
49½ Court Street
Canton, New York 13617-1169
Phone: (315) 379-2292 Fax: (315) 379-2252
E-mail: **Planning@stlawco.org**
Web Site: www.stlawco.org/Departments/Planning/AdvisoryBoards/EnvironmentalManagementCouncil

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday October 20, 2021 at 6:00 PM
Via ZOOM

Action items in bold italics / Motions underlined

1. **Call to Order:** In the absence of the Chair, Vice-Chair Rau called the meeting order at 6:04 pm.

2. **Land Acknowledgement:** Vice-Chair Rau read a Land Acknowledgement.

   "As we meet today, let us first give thanks and acknowledge that the land upon which we are gathered is part of traditional indigenous territories, including the Rotinonshionni (Low-dee-no-SHOO-nee), the People of the Longhouse, also known as the Iroquois Confederacy; and the Kanienkehaka (Ga-nyun-geh-HA-gah), the People of the Land of Flint, also known as the Mohawk Nation."

2. **Roll Call, Determination of Quorum:** ***A quorum was NOT present.***

	Name	Not Present	Present		Name	Not Present	Present
Members				Guests			
1	Catherine Bennett (Chair)	X			Peter D'luhosch (DEC)		X
2	Dustin Bowman		X		Ashleigh Grosso (DEC)		X
3	Joseph Brant	X			Emily Fell (DEC)		X
4	Hebert Bullock		X		William Sheridan (BOL)		X
5	Steven Manders	X			Tom Vandewater		X
6	Richard Marshall	X					
7	Lucas Hanss	X		Staff			
8	Sue Rau (Vice-Chair)		X		Dakota Casserly		X
9	Lance Rudiger	X			John Tenbusch	X	
10	Tiernan Smith		X				
11	Nicole Terminelli		X				
12	Gerard Tozzi (Rod)		X				
13	Brian Washburn		X				
14	Pat Whalen (Secretary)		X				
15	Vacant						
16	Vacant						
			8/16				

3. **Acceptance of Order of Business, Items for New Business, Items for Unfinished Business**
   a. None.

4. Approval of the Minutes of the September 2021 EMC Meeting

a. A quorum was not present. Therefore the minutes were not approved.

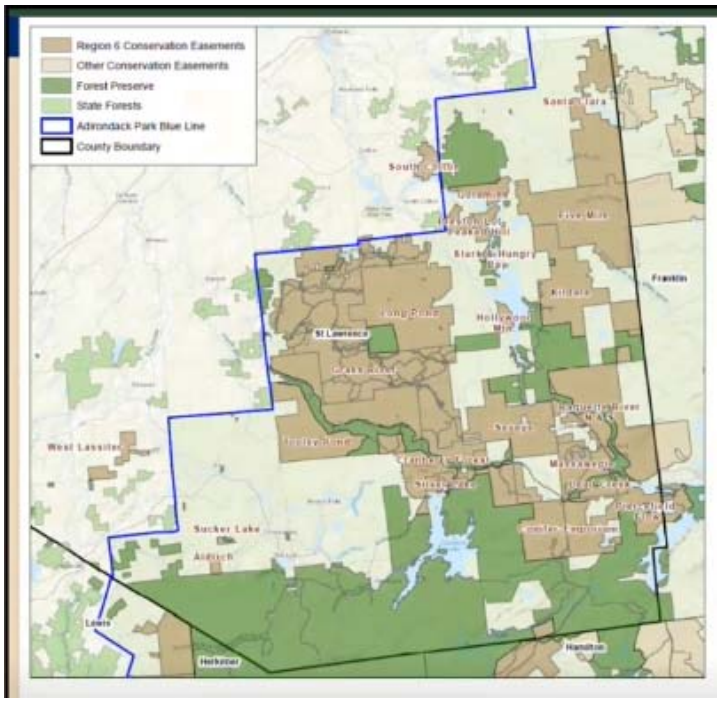
5. Comments from the Public / Speaker

a. There were no comments from the Public.

b. Speaker

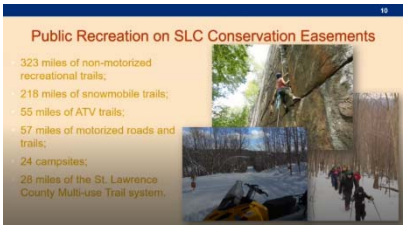
Peter D'luhosch and Ashleigh Grasso, DEC, Division of Lands and Forests, Region 6, Conservation Easement Program, provided an overview of this Program. Including its historical significance, present-day operation, and future vision.

The NYS DEC Conservation Easement (CE) Program manages voluntary and legal agreements that protect "natural resources of a parcel of land by restricting future land use and/or development on the property 'in perpetuity.'" Conservation easement agreements ensure that a landowner (grantor) maintains ownership while securing a partnership with a government agency (grantee) or land trust based on negotiated "rights" to the land. It should be noted that easements are not state land and each easement is unique (none are the same).



The speakers' provided background information in regards to the state and its relationship to land. State owned lands (State Forest and the Forest Preserve (fee land)) and CEs share similar management techniques, i.e., providing public access and information, unit- and recreation management plans (UMP and RMP), work plans, monitoring, temporary revocable permits, and volunteer stewardship agreements. The Elk Lake CE (Region 5) was the state's first and acquired in the mid-1900s.

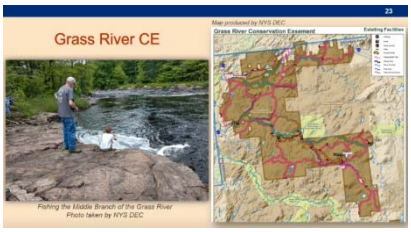
Statewide there are about 900,000 CE acres. In Region 6 there are 42 CEs that protect over 360,000 acres and in St. Lawrence County (SLC), 29 CEs protect over 228,000 acres (most managed by the DEC Potsdam Office). A majority of CEs in SLC (located within the Blue Line) are working forests that restrict development (subdivision), they preserve existing uses (hunting camps (the Heartwood Forestland Fund CE renegotiation changed a past practice that removed these camps)), they connect state and CE lands, and this is guided by management language in the deed and RMP. Most recent, the Cranberry Forest CE was created in 2021 from an acquisition from the Conservation Fund.



Public access to CEs is an important component in our area because it provides access to miles of trails (motorized and non-motorized), campsites, roads, lakes and rivers, and preserved open space that would otherwise be closed to the public. The DEC Potsdam Office manages 6 CEs that have no public access. Along NYS Rt. 56 from South Colton to Sevey's Corners there is access to many CEs with a variety of public uses, some of these are: Long Pond (19,000 acres), Dead Creek (2,200 acres), and Hollywood Mtn (1,000 acres).

The DEC administers a multitude of projects to enhance CE public access e.g., bridges, canoe and boat launches, signage, maps, public outreach, and trail building and maintenance. Additionally, hunting is commonly restricted on CEs as negotiated by the landowner, however in some cases this will sunset in the future and then open to the public.

The relationship between CEs and other public lands is important for preserving connectivity for all users. For example, the Conifer Emporium CE (19,600 acres) connects the Massawepie CE to other public lands (Cranberry Lake Wild Forest, Five Ponds Wilderness, and Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest).



Planning CEs can occur at the "complex" level which we see in the Grass River and Raquette Boreal Complexes. This allows for coordinated planning among other CEs and public lands. The Grass River CE, the largest in SLC (52,000 acres), offers access to a variety of uses, different ecological zones, connections to other CEs (Tooley Pond and Long Pond), and to the Grasse River Wild Forest Stone Dam Parcel.

The maintenance of infrastructure on CEs is no small feat and requires work plans that designate duties for all partners involved. Commonly, partner duties are explained in Volunteer Stewardship Agreements (VSAs).

Discussion:

- Bowman asked about connectivity for wildlife and carbon sequestration. D'luhosch replied that that state is limited here because they don't own the land, however he does see this possibility in future easements.
- Bullock asked about the financial details for CEs. D'luhosch replied that the state offers both tax incentives and cash payment(s) for CEs. D'luhosch commended Bullock for the management of his woodlot.
- Whalen commended D'luhosch and Grasso for a job well done.

6. Report by the Representative of the Board of Legislators

a. Nicole Terminelli reported:
   i. Tenbusch's September 20th presentation to the BOL on the Black Lake project was well received.

ii. She met with Tony David and Lee Harper, discussed invasive species, and will forward her notes to Staff.
iii. The results of the broadband study are available to the public and a committee was formed to address actions from the study.
iv. Rau asked that Black Lake related content be forwarded to her and the Invasive Species Committee going forward.

7. Report of the Committees

a. **Executive Committee:** None.

b. **Conservation of Resources Committee**
   i. Rau gave the report; see attached.
   ii. Bullock asked about Climate Smart Communities and how can the EMC help share information with County municipalities.
      1. Rau replied that there is an application process and it requires additional work.
      2. https://climatesmart.ny.gov/
      3. **EMC will promote. (Possible Committee PSA)**
      4. **Rau suggested that we reach out to Potsdam to hear about their recent certification.**

c. **Environment & Economy Committee**
   i. Casserly gave the report; see attached.
   ii. Bullock talked about how any sort of future dam project in Massena would impact our support of fish ladders on existing dams.

d. **Invasive Species and Watershed Management Joint Committee**
   i. Washburn gave the report; see attached.
   ii. Casserly said that Tenbusch was at the Black Lake Chamber of Commerce annual dinner this evening and that the Black Lake Summit is October 29th, 4-6 pm, at the Morristown Fire Dept. Hall.

8. Report of the Staff

a. Casserly talked about:
   i. The upcoming Black Lake Summit;
   ii. CDBG grant submission for housing projects;
   iii. The County's redistricting project; and
   iv. County Planning Board workings with project review.

9. Unfinished Business: None.

10. New Business: None.

11. Announcements

a. Bullock announced that the Canton Tree Committee was awarded a grant from SLELO PRISM for tree planting. The event will take place at Bend in the River Park in Canton. There is not a date yet; questions can be sent to Bullock.

b. Rau talked about the coming public hearing for North Side Energy Center on October 26th, 1 and 6 pm.
c. Casserly talked about River Rapport events, a link shared by Emily Fell.
d. Rau asked to have the links from the chat shared with the EMC in the enviro news weekly email.

12. Message to Board of Legislators

a. Rau would like the Board to be aware of the State's Climate Smart Communities program.
b. Bullock thanked Bill Sheridan (BOL Chair) for attending the meeting. Rau extended this thanks to Nicole Terminelli, as well.

13. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:36 pm by consensus.

14. Bill Sheridan was able to talk about the following after adjournment:

a. He thanked the EMC for all of the work they do and noted that in many cases it happens behind the scenes;
b. He thanked Nicole Terminelli for the great work she does;
c. He reminded the group to keep an eye on invasives in the County and that funding will have to come from state and federal sources, not the County; and
d. The potential increase in calls for support from area organizations to assist with invasive species.
e. Rau responded with confirmation that the EMC will continue its work on invasives.
f. Fell said that biological controls should not be discounted and gave the weevil example that is being considered by the Indian River Lakes Conservancy to combat milfoil.

Respectfully submitted by:

Patrick Whalen

Patrick Whalen, Secretary

Minutes drafted by Dakota Casserly

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St. Lawrence County Environmental Management Council
Conservation of Resources Committee Meeting
Wednesday October 13, 2021

Overview of the *Conservation of Resources Committee.*

- "Conservation" can mean "saving" or "effective/efficient/wise use".
  - Thus, "conservation of resources" might include topic areas including solid waste management; household hazardous waste management; recycling; energy efficiency; wise use of natural resources of St Lawrence County
- "Conservation" might also mean "preservation", as in preservation of endangered/ rare/ significant flora (plants) or fauna (animals/creatures).
- "Conservation" also means addressing issues such as the climate crisis that threatens environmental devastation for our region.

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Present: Sue Rau, chair. John Tenbusch attended as staff.

The meeting began at 4:48 PM.

Report of September Meeting. No comments were made.

Priority Projects:

- Climate Crisis. No report
- Working with Youth Advisory Board
  - Tenbusch will check with L. Hanss re: wildflower planting projects.
  - Tenbusch will check with D Bowman re: ideas on working with YAB
- Flora and Fauna. No report
- Wise use of resources.
  - There was general discussion about the article from Consumer Reports, "The Big Problem With Plastic" (CR: 9/8/2021; see attached).
  - There seem to be three primary take-aways from this article:
    - There is a movement to require national minimum standards for recycled plastics in products. The EMC could promote this standard.
    - There is a movement toward establishing Extended Producer Responsibility regulations on a state-by-state basis.
      - Oregon and Maine have passed this legislation
      - Six other states, including NYS, have introduced legislation.
        - In NYS, Sen. Todd Kaminsky introduced Senate Bill S1185, which would "boost recycling rates and increase the use of recycled materials".
      - The EMC could promote this legislation.

- There is a continued push to eliminate single-use plastics.
  - The EMC can continue to promote this.
    - Last holiday season, the EMC had promoted giving reusable tableware as holiday gifts, so that recipients would not need to use single-use utensils. See attached.
  - Rau reported that, when she served on the NYS PTA, they had voted to not use polystyrene (Styrofoam).
  - **NOTE**: the Village and Town of Canton have proposed local ordinances to eliminate single-use plastics.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 PM.

Meeting report prepared by John Tenbusch

CR Consumer Reports

The Big Problem With Plastic

CR reveals where most of the plastic you throw away really ends up and explains what to do to limit its environmental harm

By Kevin Loria
September 08, 2021

ILLUSTRATION: SPOOKY POOKA

Consider the amount of plastic you put into the trash or recycling on a typical day. There's the lid to your coffee cup, and perhaps a bag from a newspaper. There's the wrapper from a granola bar, a yogurt container, a salad clamshell, and the plentiful packaging from inside a box that arrived in the mail.

Many of these plastic items are useful and convenient, but they also come with a high environmental cost. In 2016, the U.S. generated more plastic trash than any other country–46.3 million tons of it, according to a 2020 study published in Science Advances. That's 287 pounds per person in a single year. By the time these disposable products are in your

hands, they've already taken a toll on the planet: Plastics are mostly made from fossil fuels, in an energy-intensive process that emits greenhouse gases and creates often hazardous chemicals.

And then there's what happens when you throw them away.

If you're like most people, you probably assume that when you toss plastic into the recycling bin it will be processed and turned into something new.

MORE ON PLASTICS & RECYCLING

How to Quit Plastic

What's Gone Wrong With Plastic Recycling

How to Recycle Old Electronics

How to Eat Less Plastic

Most Plastic Products Contain Potentially Toxic Chemicals, Study Reveals

The truth is that only a fraction of plastic is actually recycled. According to the most recent data estimates available from the Environmental Protection Agency, just 8.7 percent of the plastic that was discarded in the U.S. in 2018 was recycled.

The popular perception that plastic is easily and widely recycled has been shaped by decades of carefully calculated messaging designed and paid for by the petroleum and gas companies that make most of that plastic in the first place, and the beverage companies that depend on plastic to bottle their products.

"Recycling is sold as a means of not worrying about the problem," says Judith Enck, a former regional administrator at the EPA, now a visiting professor at Bennington College in Vermont and president of Beyond Plastics, a group focused on ending plastics pollution. The companies paying for the ads that frame recycling as an easy solution to a potentially devastating environmental problem know that recycling cannot keep up with the flood of new plastic, Enck says.

One of four things happens to plastic after you're done with it. If it's not recycled—and it's usually not—it is landfilled, incinerated, or littered. The EPA estimates that in 2018, about 16 percent of U.S. plastic waste was incinerated. A relatively small amount was littered. Most of the rest ended up in landfills—including a lot of the plastic people dutifully put into recycling bins.

Over decades or even centuries, much of that littered and landfilled plastic breaks down into tiny particles known as microplastics, which contaminate our food, the air, and water. They also accumulate in our bodies, potentially increasing our risk of chronic inflammation and other ills.

Experts say that while cutting back on plastic use is a worthy individual goal (see "How to Quit Plastic"), the only way to stem the rising tide of plastic is for companies to make less of it and for recycling programs to be retooled so that more of what we throw away is actually turned into something useful.

There's little to suggest this will happen anytime soon. Plastic production is expected to more than double by 2050, and even if it doesn't, the plastic trash that people continue to throw away will still have to go somewhere.

> **Find out how to quit plastic with tips from CR on ways to reduce this kind of waste and its environmental impact.**

The Truth About Plastic Recycling

Dedicated bins for plastic waste are a common sight, and plastic recycling is widely promoted. So why does only a fraction of the plastic we toss actually get recycled?

One reason is that most plastic isn't easily recyclable, says Jan Dell, a chemical engineer who heads up The Last Beach Cleanup, a nonprofit focused on plastic pollution. Plastic products are often made of mixtures of many chemicals, which can stymie recycling processes by making it harder to isolate a base material that can be recovered and reused.

Perhaps the most important reason is that there is very little financial incentive to recycle: It's far less expensive to manufacture most types of plastic from scratch than it is to recycle old plastic into something new. The least recyclable plastic products include many labeled with the numbers 3 through 7 in the recycling triangle, as well as the majority of plastic bags and packaging film.

Certain types of plastic, however, are economically viable and relatively easy to recycle, and even in high demand. These include PET plastic bottles, like the ones soda and water are sold in, and HDPE milk jugs (respectively labeled with a number 1 or 2 inside the recycling triangle). But just 29 percent of the plastic used in these jugs and bottles was recycled in 2018.

According to guidelines from the Federal Trade Commission, at least 60 percent of Americans should have access to a program that recycles a particular item before it can be labeled as recyclable without some language noting that access to recycling may be limited. But these guidelines are rarely followed, according to a 2020 report from Greenpeace. (The FTC did not respond to a request for comment.)

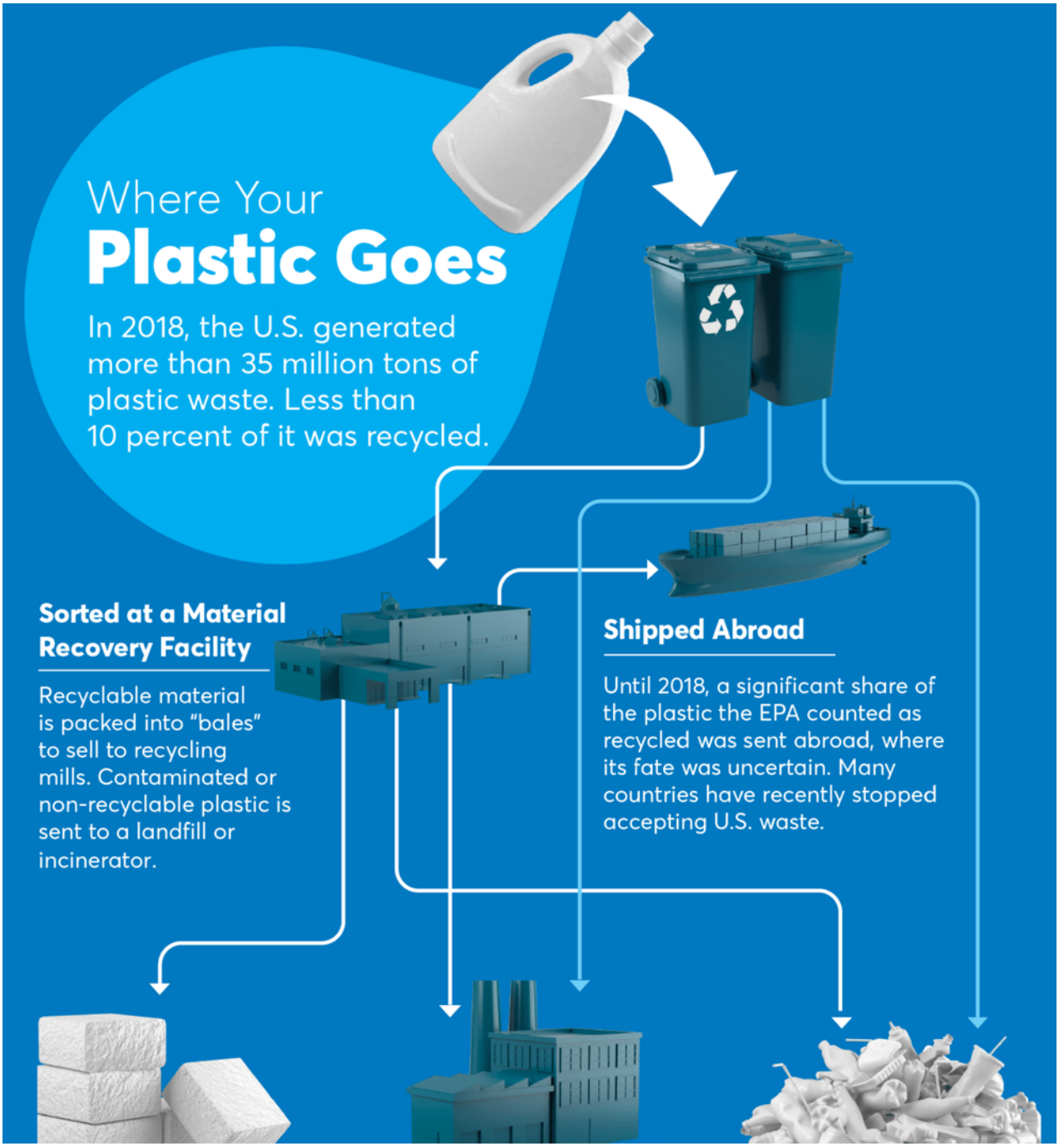
Only numbers 1 and 2 bottles and jugs are recycled consistently; labeling other items as "check locally" inside a recycling triangle is just greenwashing, Dell says—a way for a company to imply that something will be recycled when it will almost certainly end up in a landfill.

Well-intentioned consumers are also partly responsible for the low plastic recycling rate. "Wishcycling," or tossing every type of plastic into the recycling bin and hoping for the best, can make separating out useful material more difficult and actually reduce the amount of plastic that is recycled, says Jeff Donlevy, the general manager at a California recycling facility who has been in the industry for more than 25 years. This can lead to recyclable plastic ending up in landfills and incinerators.

In theory, sorting plastics and depositing only readily recyclable types into the recycling bin would help fix this problem. (According to a May 2021 nationally representative survey of 2,079 U.S. adults by CR (PDF), 65 percent of Americans say they typically separate plastics for recycling.) But U.S. recycling trends have worked against this type of careful sorting. Many municipalities have switched to single-stream recycling, in which aluminum cans, glass bottles, plastic jugs, and paper and cardboard all get dumped into the

same bin. That can make things easier for the consumer, but it also makes sorting out the recyclable plastic more difficult, so more ultimately ends up discarded rather than recycled, says Brandon Wright, vice president of communications for the National Waste & Recycling Association.

On the bright side, most discarded plastic bottles are collected and recycled in states that require people to pay a bottle deposit. But only 10 states currently have such laws.



Illustrations: Spooky Pooka

Burning Questions

Until 2018, the U.S. shipped as much as half of its plastic recycling abroad, mostly to China and Hong Kong (where it was not always recycled). Tired of dealing with contaminated plastic bales that were largely waste, China in 2018 stopped taking all but the most pristinely sorted plastic. Other countries quickly followed suit. With fewer offshore disposal options, more and more plastic is piling up in the U.S., where it is landfilled or routed to municipal solid waste incinerators that burn non-recyclable plastics along with other trash to generate electricity.

Because it generates power, incineration can sometimes be framed as a form of renewable energy or reuse (the EPA describes it as "combustion with energy recovery"). But it is not clean energy.

Incineration of plastic in these facilities has led to a slight increase in greenhouse gas emissions in recent years, according to EPA data. Burning plastic also creates dioxins and furans, two types of toxic chemicals that can spread through the air and contaminate food, water, and soil. Over

time, inhaling these chemicals can increase cancer risk, according to Marilyn Howarth, MD, an occupational and environmental medicine physician at the University of Pennsylvania.

What's more, incinerators are often situated in poorer communities that already have a high burden of air pollution from sources such as heavy industry and transportation. Residents of these areas face health concerns, including cardiovascular disease, childhood asthma, exposure to carcinogenic pollutants, and preterm births, according to a 2019 report published by the New School's Tishman Environment and Design Center, with support from the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA). About 4.4 million people in the U.S. live within a 3-mile radius of an incinerator, according to that report.

The plastics industry has proposed alternatives to incinerators and landfills. One breaks down plastic into a type of fuel; others use a chemical process to separate plastic into its component chemicals, which could then be used to make new plastic products. But these alternatives are not likely to solve the plastic problem anytime soon.

One assessment of an advanced plastic-to-fuel recycling process, commissioned by a plastic bag company, found that in some cases it could emit more greenhouse gases than landfilling or an incineration process.

In a statement, the American Chemistry Council, an industry group representing plastics manufacturers, said it expected such facilities—which are still relatively new—to operate more efficiently over time. Experts say that recycling with a chemical process is not economically viable because making

new, virgin plastic from oil and gas is still much cheaper. “It fundamentally doesn’t work,” Enck says.

A Cleaner Future?

From an environmental perspective, the biggest benefit of increasing the plastic recycling rate is not keeping plastic out of landfills or incinerators. “The value of recycling is displacing virgin production, because the amount of pollution generated when producing virgin materials is much greater than that generated when using recovered materials,” says Reid Lifset, associate director of industrial environmental management at the Yale School of the Environment.

> **“Consumers really can change the market. Plastic companies are looking into better recycling methods because it is such an important consumer issue.”**
>
> SHELIE MILLER, PHD, PROFESSOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN SCHOOL FOR ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

Legislative changes and consumer pressure could certainly create more of a market for at least some of the plastic that is now going straight into incinerators and landfills, says Wright, of the National Waste & Recycling Association. A legal requirement or company commitment to use more recycled material in plastic products, including those made of less frequently recycled plastics, could create incentives for manufacturers to make more recyclable products and for recycling facilities to do a better job sorting, processing, and actually recycling that material.

For example, the high demand for the type 1 plastic used in PET beverage bottles is largely due to consumers pressuring beverage companies to improve recycling processes and lawmakers requiring them to use a certain percentage of recycled plastic in their products. A California law passed last year, for instance, requires beverage bottles to be made of 15 percent recycled plastic. That will increase to 25 percent by 2025 and 50 percent by 2030. Requirements like these "force manufacturers to change the makeup of their products, to use more recyclable plastic or more environmentally friendly materials," says Shanika Whitehurst, associate director of product sustainability, research, and testing at CR.

"Consumers really can change and push a market," says Shelie Miller, PhD, a professor at the University of Michigan School for Environment and Sustainability. "Plastic companies are actively looking into better recycling methods and how to design plastics to be more easily recyclable because they know this is such an important consumer issue." The American Chemistry Council recently said it supports a national standard that would require all plastic packaging to contain at least 30 percent recyclable material by 2030.

Another part of the solution, according to Enck, Lifset, and others, is extended producer responsibility (EPR), which would require plastic makers and sellers to be responsible in some way for the life cycle of their products, including cleanup after they are sold. EPR usually involves producers either implementing collection programs themselves or funding local collection programs to ensure more products are recycled. An EPR system in British Columbia, for

example, increased the share of plastic waste collected for recycling from 42 percent in 2018 to 52 percent in 2020.

In 2021, Maine became the first state in the U.S. to pass EPR legislation addressing packaging waste. The law will levy fees on companies that create or use packaging; fees will be lower for practices with less environmental impact, like using more recyclable materials. The fees will be used to fund local recycling efforts. Oregon passed an EPR law soon after Maine, and six other states have EPR bills in the works.

Enck says another worthy goal is eliminating single-use plastics, like plastic bags and polystyrene foam. But for such a change to have a positive impact, the items that replace them have to actually be reused—and often, says the University of Michigan's Miller. "Someone who goes to the grocery store and forgets to bring reusable bags and every time buys a new reusable bag is creating a more [harmful] single-use item," she says.

That suggests the real shift consumers need to make: More than just avoiding plastic, we need to evaluate our behavior and move away from unnecessary consumption and living a throwaway lifestyle. "If we're really honest, any solution will require us to analyze our own consumption to try to understand what we're consuming and why, and whether there are ways to reduce our individual consumption," Miller says. She acknowledges that's a tall order for a lot of people. It's much easier to say "I can consume anything I want. I'll just recycle it."

Editor's Note: This article also appeared in the October 2021 issue of Consumer Reports magazine.

St. Lawrence County Environmental Management Council
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Phone: (315) 379-2292 Fax: (315) 379-2252
E-mail: ***Planning@stlawco.org***
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Press Release -- For Immediate Release

Get Ready for the Holidays, and Help Save the World

How many shopping days are left before Christmas? You don't have to look around much to find that out: TV, radio Internet, social media are all telling us that we must hurry up to get the best deals for gift-giving time for our family and friends. Spend! Spend! Spend!

What if we want to prepare for the holidays another way? What if we want to give to the special people in our life something special, something intentional, something that … may Help Save the World? Wouldn't that be a "best deal for gift-giving for family and friends"?

One intentional gift might be a set of table utensils, that your friend can carry in his/her backpack, lunchbox, purse, or briefcase. You know: a knife, fork, and spoon (and, if you want to get fancy, a metal straw). You can buy a set in a camping-goods store, or at various specialty stores. These can be made from stainless steel, or bamboo, or even cellulose fibers. The important thing is that these utensils are not throw-away; they are not plastic. They can be re-used indefinitely, or, if lost or thrown out, they can be recycled, or even decompose.

Single-use plastic, on the other hand, like the knife, fork and spoon you might use at a food court or coffee shop, does get thrown away; it does not get recycled, and does not decompose. Most of the plastic ever made remains on our planet, in the form of tiny pieces or fibers. These pieces and fibers have been found in the air we breathe, in our soils and waters, even on mountaintops and at the North and South Poles. These microfibers have even been detected inside our bodies.

EMC: Everybody Must Care!

So, you can see how a simple gift of table utensils can help slow down the proliferation of plastic across the environment, and thereby help to save the Earth.

And here is a simple and intentional way to make this gift, for any/all your friends and family:

Visit your local thrift store. They will have a large selection of table utensils available, usually at rock-bottom prices. Take a minute or two to pick out a set; you might want them to match, or to be unusual in appearance. Maybe you know someone who loves soup; pick a soup spoon for him/her.

Then look for cloth napkins or decorative tea towels. Buy a different napkin or towel for each set of utensils you get. You can wrap your utensils in the napkin, tie it up with a ribbon, and there you have it: a simple, intentional gift that will help to save the world. (If you want to include a metal straw, you may need to go to a camping-goods or specialty store.) If you can sew, fold up one end of the napkin, and sew pouches for each utensil.

Make sure to get a set of table utensils for yourself, too. You, too, can help save the world by the intentional choices you make.

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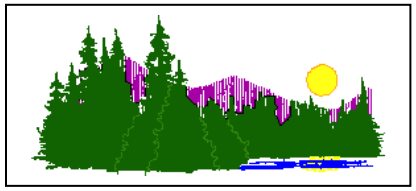
For more information, please contact:

John Tenbusch, SLC Planning Office
315-379-2292



SLC EMC: Agenda for Environment + Economy Committee

Members: Herb Bullock, Tiernan Smith (Chair), Rod Tozzi
Staff: D. Casserly **Guest(s)**:
Meeting Date: Monday, October 18, 2021 **at 5:00 PM** via Conference Call

Time	Item	Outcome	Responsibility	Next Steps
5:00 PM	Meeting starts	Call 1-605-475-2090 Access: 1197050#	Committee members MUST CALL IN	
5:05	Review Report of Last Committee Meeting (September)		All	
5:30	Priority Projects for 2021			
	Fish Ladders/Passage Project on the Grasse and Oswegatchie Rivers.	TLAS Conference Call (Smith) PSA (see below)		
	SMRT fish studies	Update (Smith)		
	Ogdensburg dam FERC relicensing	Update (Casserly) • Active license expires 5/31/2027 • Relicensing begins 5/31/2022		
	DEC Deer Management Program	Preparation		
5:45	Discuss speakers for EMC meetings	DEC Deer Management Program • Joe Lydon (DEC), 1/19/21 (scheduled)	All	
5:50	Develop Pub. Service Announcements	This Committee will develop 3 PSAs per year on E+E topics (at least 1) • Discuss 2nd draft of fish ladder PSA.	All	
5:55	Set date/time for next meeting	**November 8, 2021 @ 5pm**		
6:00	Adjourn			

Attendance: Bullock, Casserly, and Smith.

Priority Projects
Fish Ladders:

- TLAS (Tunison Laboratory of Aquatic Science)
  - Smith, still trying to coordinate a date.
  - Talked about Atlantic salmon in Lake Ozonia.
    - Smith says DEC has info on Atlantic salmon in Lake Ozonia and DEC are stocking "landlocked" salmon in this lake.
      - Star Lake, in the Town of Fine, is also stocked with landlocked salmon.
    - Bullock asked if eDNA could be used to test if salmon are in the lake and its tributaries.
    - Fish Creek Atlantic Salmon Club, stocked 63,000 fry in the Fish Creek watershed (Oneida County) (**Casserly will contact for reference**)
    - SMRT is currently stocking Atlantic salmon in the St. Regis River.
- PSA
  - Tozzi and Bullock critiqued, Smith is going critique this week.
  - We will plan to send after this month's full EMC meeting, additional comments by 10/25 and send by 10/29.
  - Send Smith a reminder about intro paragraph.
- SRMT

DEC Deer Management Program

- Smith talked about deer populations and EHD (Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease), identified in Jeff Co, not sure in SLC, transmitted by biting midges.
  - Cranberry Lake deer die-off event due to EHD, not confirmed.
- Bullock asked if humans can contract, Smith says no, meat is still good. Transmissible from deer to deer, no.
- Smith suggests to ask DEC speakers about deer event. Possible PSA and share with SLC Legislators
- Casserly will share EHD info, linked above.
- Casserly will share info on deer management.
  - DEC New York's Deer Management Program.
- Casserly to report on response from Village of Massena officials meeting with DEC reps about their LWRP (Local Waterfront Revitalization Program).

Adjourn @ 545 pm

St. Lawrence County Environmental Management Council
Invasive Species Committee /
Watershed Management Committee
Joint Meeting
Tuesday October 12, 2021

Meeting started at 4:05 PM.

Present: Sue Rau, Chair, ISC; Brian Washburn, Chair, WMC. John Tenbusch attended as staff.

Review Previous Committee Meeting Reports. S Rau reported that she had not attended the previous meeting.

Comments re "Diet for a Small Lake":

- S. Rau asked about consideration of small run-off sites along the Black Lake shoreline. Her reading of the "Diet" book indicates that these can be significant sources of nutrient-filled run-off and should be looked at.
- B. Washburn reported that the involvement of all stakeholders is of primary importance in the success of a lake management plan.
- Rau reported that the Diet book estimated that it would take 3-5 years to develop a strong Management Plan. She also noted that continuity is key; once the initial stakeholders move on, there needs to be resources to continue.
- Washburn reported that he had read other lake management plan. They all discuss the need to survey all shoreline owners.
- Rau reported that the book includes a list of all the kinds of stakeholders who should be invited to participate.
- Rau stated that outreach to community needs to be continual.
- Rau asked if someone from SWCD is able to be involved. Tenbusch will inquire.

Black Lake: Discussion of GEI50 proposal:

- S. Rau asked if consultants are on schedule. Tenbusch does not know.
- Discussion about the DEI proposal's optional sonar mapping of plant density.
    - It is an additional $4,000 cost, but seems to be worthwhile

Black Lake: Miscellaneous:

- S. Rau asked if consultants are on schedule. Tenbusch does not know.
- Tenbusch will inquire when DEC will do the next Waterbody Inventory/Priorities Waterbody assessment of Black Lake (https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8459.html)
- Tenbusch will check with SLELO PRISM about their involvement with Black Lake
- S Rau asked if we can post notices about the upcoming Black Lake Summit (10/29; see attached flier) at local businesses.

Discussion of e-DNA Sampling Workshop

- FROM LAST MONTH: At present, the project appears to be undoable unless/until TNC/SLELO PRISM can figure out logistics.
- No change

Discussion of BOL request to develop comprehensive plan to deal with invasive species

- No progress since last month

The meeting ended at 4:55 PM.

Meeting report prepared by John Tenbusch

Black Lake:

Milfoil Remediation through Watershed Management

A Project of the Black Lake Association

and the

St. Lawrence County Environmental Management Council

2021 - 2022

ENHANCE PRESERVE PROTECT

St. Lawrence County Environmental Management Council

Project Timeline

- In March 2021, St. Lawrence County Legislator Joseph Lightfoot asked the County Planning Office (CPO) and the County's Environmental Management Council (EMC) to work with the Black Lake Association (BLA) on plans to address the problem of Eurasian Watermilfoil on Black Lake.

- In mid-May, staff from CPO and representatives of the EMC began working with representatives from BLA.

- Representatives from BLA asked local governments in the Black Lake area for contributions toward cutting milfoil on the Lake. Contributions were received from Morristown and Macomb.

- In July, BLA submitted a request to the County Board of Legislators requesting funds to help pay for cutting milfoil on the Lake. The BOL approved this request at their meeting held August 2nd.

- Milfoil cutting was done during August. A channel was mowed the length of the northern portion of the Lake:
  - 110 boatloads of milfoil were removed; this totaled 330 tons of milfoil.
  - A channel was cut: 45 ft. wide by 8 miles long.
  - Weeds were cut to a depth of 6 ft.

- What are / should be the next steps to ensure the future of Black Lake?

COME TO THE BLACK LAKE SUMMIT

Friday, October 29, 2021 / 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Morristown Fire Hall, 200 Morris St, Morristown, NY

We're looking for residents, business owners, local government officials, seasonal visitors, community leaders, etc. In short, we're looking for YOU!

Tell us what you want the future of Black Lake to be.

For further information, call 315-379-2292