



St. Lawrence County Environmental Management Council
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Draft

MEETING MINUTES

February 19, 2020

**2nd - Floor Conference Room, Public Safety Complex
49½ Court Street, Canton, New York**

Action items in bold italics / Motions underlined.

NOTE: In the pandemonium surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, my original notes from the Feb. EMC meeting have been lost. What follows is my best recollection of the meeting. I DO KNOW that we lacked a quorum, and that no decisions were made or motions approved. I apologize for my error; it will not happen again.

- 1. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:08 PM.
- 2. Roll Call, Determination of Quorum: *A quorum was NOT present.***
Members present: David Barnes; Aaron Barrigar; Catherine Bennett; Ryan Burkum; Richard Marshall; Lance Rudiger; Tiernan Smith; Nicole Terminelli, *BOL Liaison*; Rod Tozzi; Brian Washburn; Pat Whalen, *Secretary*.
Members absent: Joseph Brant, *Chair*; Jennifer Berbrich; Erica Leonard (resigned); Don O'Shea, *Vice Chair*; Sue Rau.
Guest(s): Jon Rosales, presenter and EMC alumnus; Lee Willbanks. Staff: Matilda Larson.
- 3. Acceptance of Order of Business:** Whalen said an EMC policy on its response to citizen speakers will be tabled until February. ***The Order of Business was accepted by consensus.***
- 4. Approval of the Minutes of the January 2020 EMC Meeting: Due to lack of quorum, the minutes of the January EMC meeting could not be approved.**
- 5. Hearings, Comments from the Public.**
Bob Flavin, Don Lucas, and several others representing the St. Lawrence County Fish Advisory Board spoke about issues regarding local sale of locally-caught contaminated fish. . They had spoken at the January meeting of the EMC's Watershed Management Committee; the WMC had recommended that they speak at an EMC meeting.

- 6. Report by the Representative of the Board of Legislators:**
Nicole Terminelli reported on current activities concerning the Board of Legislators.
- 7. Reports by EMC Members on Conversations with County Legislators:** None.
- 8. Report of the Committees:**
 - a. Executive Committee:** No report.
 - b. Conservation of Resources Committee (CRC):** No meeting.
 - c. Environment + Economy Committee (E+E):** See attached.
 - d. Invasive Species Committee (ISC).** No meeting.
 - e. Watershed Management Committee (WMC).** No meeting.
- 9. Report of the Staff:** Tenbusch reported:
 - Staff are preparing an application to NYS for funding to support promotional efforts to ensure a Complete Count in the 2020 Census
- 10. Unfinished Business:** None.
- 11. New Business:** None.
- 12. Announcements:** None
- 13. Message to the Board of Legislators:** Members of the EMC might speak to County Legislators about issues related to local sale of locally-caught contaminated fish.
- 14. Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned by consensus.

Respectfully submitted:



Staff



St. Lawrence County Environmental Management Council Environment + Economy Committee Meeting Monday, February 10th, 2020

Purpose of the Environment + Economy Committee.

- To explore the relationship and interactions of the environmental resources of St. Lawrence County with the local and regional economy.
 - To reach out to individuals, business, and organizations involved in the use of natural resources in an economic capacity and to learn from these individuals and organizations about the challenges and opportunities in their endeavors.
 - To act as the interface between business, residents, and lawmakers of St. Lawrence County with regards to the role of natural resources in the economy, with an emphasis on sustainable use.
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Meeting started at 5:05 PM. **Present:** Tiernan Smith; Rod Tozzi. J. Tenbusch attended as staff.

Item 1: Review Report of last meeting

- Fish ladder proposal in Madrid.
 - Tenbusch has not yet been able to follow up on funding ideas for a feasibility study.
 - Smith reported that he had spoken with Tony David of SRMT Environmental Division.
 - Per Smith, the Tribe would likely have no opinion on a fish ladder the dam at Madrid.
 - Per Smith, T. David thought that NYS might object to a fish ladder due to the possibility of spreading VHS (viral hemorrhagic septicemia; http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Factsheets/pdfs/viral_hemorrhagic_septicemia.pdf).
 - Discussion about various species of fish, their locations, and strategies for sport fishing.
 - Tenbusch reported that members of the Fish Advisory Board felt that fish contaminated downstream might introduce contamination into the Grasse River above the Madrid dam.
 - Tozzi asked how a study of the effects of a fish ladder might be put together; Tenbusch reported that he would likely consult with Brad Baldwin, SLU; Glenn Johnson, SUNY Potsdam; John Farrell, SUNY ESF. Smith suggested speaking with Save The River, and with Lee Willbanks.

Item 2: Priority Projects for 2020. No progress on:

- Develop workshop to include reps from various parts of the agriculture industry.
 - Include maple producers (after their season).
 - Tenbusch will make inquiries with the County Maple producers association.
 - Outreach to / meet with reps from Clarkson to develop local technical solutions to some environmental problems. No progress.

Item 3: Other Business.

- Fiftieth anniversary of Earth Day in 2020 (Wednesday April 22nd).
 - It was suggested that a day-long meeting be developed for all environmental groups in SLC; there could be presentations, displays, possibly a pot-luck meal.
 - Smith reported that the Mohawks at Akwesasne are also planning a day-long experience. He will inquire whether/how we might participate with them.

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 PM.

Next E+E Committee meeting will be held at 5:00 PM on Monday, March 9, 2020.