

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: <http://www.stlawco.org/Planning/EMC.htm>

Draft

MEETING MINUTES

April 18, 2018

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

Action items in bold italics / Motions underlined.

Blue boxes indicate internal links to sections of these Minutes.

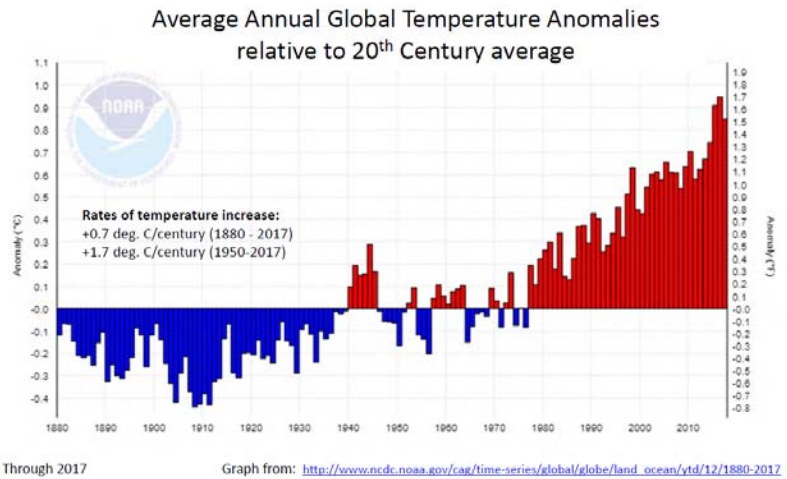
1. **Call to Order:** Chair Joseph Brant called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.
2. **Roll Call, Determination of Quorum:** It was determined that **a quorum DID NOT exist.**
Members present included: Joseph Brant, *Chair*; Larry Denesha, *BOL Liaison*; Rick Marshall; Sue Rau; Lance Rudiger; Tiernan Smith; Andrew Soutar; Pat Whalen, *Secretary*.
Members absent included: Jennifer Berbrich; Ryan Burkum; Glen Butler; Alex French; Don O'Shea, *Vice-Chair*; Dana Smith; Bob Zimmerman.
Speaker: Susan Powers, Director of the Institute for a Sustainable Environment at Clarkson University.
Guest(s): Ellie Oberink and Nicholas Filiannino, students at SLU.
Staff: J. Tenbusch.

Joe Brant invited the guests to introduce themselves. They did; they are students at St. Lawrence University, and both are members of the campus' Environmental Action Organization (EAO).
3. **Acceptance of Order of Business, Items for New Business, and Items for Unfinished Business:** Not done, due to lack of quorum.
4. **Approval of the Minutes of the March 21 2018 EMC Meeting:** Not done, due to lack of quorum.
5. **Report by Representative of the Board of Legislators.** Mr. Denesha reported that:
 - The Town of Clifton will celebrate its 150th anniversary on Saturday April 21st in the hamlet of Cranberry Lake.
 - Geoff Ramm, Director of the County's Office of Weights & Measures, is retiring.
 - There have been ongoing discussions with the Amish community about reflective signage for their buggies and wagons.
 - There will be a bid opening for Phase 2 of the J&L demolition project on April 27th.
 - A third phase of demolition and clean-up may be necessary.

6. **Hearings, Comments from the Public.** Brant recognized Susan Powers, Director of the Institute for a Sustainable Environment at Clarkson University.

Dr. Powers provided a brief overview of the basic science involved with climate change:

- Greenhouse gasses (GHG) in the atmosphere absorb radiation from the sun that reflects off the earth, and re-radiate it back to the earth.
- While GHG keep the earth warm (a net positive effect), higher concentrations of GHG increase the warming effect; temperatures are rising rapidly. (See chart.)



Dr. Powers reported that between 1970 and 2007 in NYS,

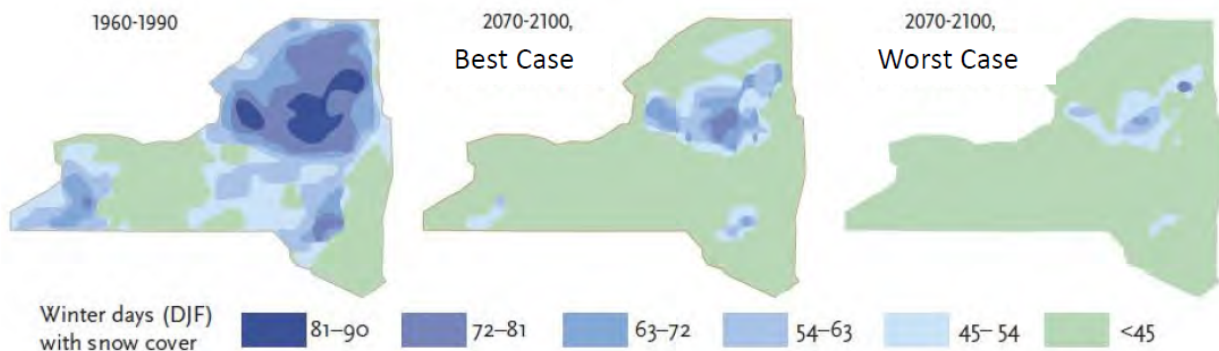
- Annual temperatures have risen almost 2°F.
- Winter temperatures have risen during the period by nearly 5°F.
- There have been, on average, 2 additional summer days with temperatures over 90°F
- The growing season has gotten longer.

Dr. Powers noted that the Northeastern part of the U.S. has been the fastest-warming region in the lower 48 states. It is predicted that by the year 2100, the climate of NYS will feel and behave like the current climate of Virginia (best case prediction) or of Georgia (worst-case prediction). Among predicted changes in NYS:

- Greater frequency of heavy rainfall events
- Warmer winters will mean lower heating costs
- Changes in agriculture (earlier spring, longer summer/growing season)
 - Better for wine grapes; worse for maple production
- Warmer temperatures may reduce milk production
- Fewer cold-water fish (trout); more warm-water fish (bass)
- Less snow cover during winter

From: Climate Change in the Adirondacks, J. Jenkins

PREDICTED CHANGES IN WINTER SNOW COVER



Dr. Powers concluded by stating that climate IS changing; we need to begin to adapt to what the climate will be like. The longer we put off adaptation, the greater will be the costs to adapt.

In response to questions, Dr. Powers agreed that climate has continually changed over time. She noted, however, that during the entire span of human civilization (approx. 10,000 years), the earth's climate has remained within a 10°F range. She stated that the predictions for climate change will push beyond that 10°F range; human development has never experienced the temperatures predicted by climate change models.

Chair Brant thanked Dr. Powers for her presentation, and called for a five-minute recess. The meeting reconvened at 7:35 PM.

7. **Reports by EMC Members on Conversations with County Legislators:** None.
8. **Report of the Committees:**
 - a. **Executive Committee:** No meeting; no report.
 - b. **Conservation of Resources Committee (CRC):** Pat Whalen reported. **See attached.**
 - c. **Environment + Economy Committee (E+E):** John Tenbusch reported that, instead of holding a Committee meeting, members were encouraged to attend the North Country Symposium, held April 16th at SLU.
 - d. **Invasive Species Committee (ISC):** Sue Rau reported. **See attached.**
 - e. **Watershed Management Committee (WMC).** Joe Brant reported. **See attached.**
9. **Report of the Staff:** Tenbusch had no report.
10. **Unfinished Business:** None.
11. **New Business:** None.
12. **Announcements:** None.
13. **Message to the Board of Legislators:** Scientific research has resulted in a consensus concerning probable climate changes and effects on NYS and the North Country. We need to begin the process of adapting to changes in our climate that are already happening, and prepare for predicted change.
14. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned by consensus at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Patrick Whalen

Minutes prepared by J. Tenbusch



St. Lawrence County Environmental Management Council Conservation of Resources Committee Meeting Wednesday April 11, 2018

Present: P. Whalen, chair. J. Tenbusch attended as staff.

The meeting began at 4:00 PM.

Item 1: Priority Projects.

- *Review materials related to carbon-fee-and-dividend proposal.* Whalen and Tenbusch discussed the “Carbon Fee and Dividend” proposal that had been brought to the attention of the EMC by SLU student Hogan Dwyer at the October 2017 EMC meeting.

See this excerpt from the 10.18.2017 EMC Minutes:

Hearings, Comments from the Public.

- Chair Brant recognized Hogan Dwyer, a student at St. Lawrence University. Mr. Dwyer distributed copies of a sample resolution that had been passed in his hometown of South Orange, N.J. to urge Congress to “Put a Price on Carbon and Eventually Greenhouse Gasses Through a Carbon Fee and Dividend”. [See attached sample resolution.](#) Mr. Dwyer asked the EMC to consider proposing a similar resolution to the Board of Legislators. Dwyer cited the organization Citizens’ Climate Lobby as a source for further information. (See <https://citizensclimatelobby.org/carbon-fee-and-dividend/> for additional information.)

After approx. 10 minutes, *Chair Brant asked that the Conservation of Resource Committee review the question of supporting a carbon fee and dividend proposal.*

Attached to this meeting report is:

- a. A summary of the “Carbon Fee and Dividend” proposal.
- b. The above-referenced resolution approved by Township of South Orange N.J. 7.10.2017

Whalen and Tenbusch agreed to ask the EMC to consider an expression of support for this “Carbon Fee and Dividend” proposal.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 PM.

Next CRC meeting will be held Wednesday, May 9th at 4:45 PM.

Legislative proposal: Carbon Fee and Dividend

Findings:

1. **Causation:** Whereas the weight of scientific evidence indicates that greenhouse gas emissions from human activities including the burning of fossil fuels and other sources are causing rising global temperatures,
2. **Mitigation** (Return to 350 ppm or below): Whereas the weight of scientific evidence also indicates that a return from the current concentration of more than 400 parts per million (“ppm”) of carbon dioxide (“CO₂”) in the atmosphere to 350 ppm CO₂ or less is necessary to slow or stop the rise in global temperatures,
3. **Endangerment:** Whereas further increases in global temperatures pose imminent and substantial dangers to human health, the natural environment, the economy, national security, and an unacceptable risk of catastrophic impacts to human civilization,
4. **Co-Benefits:** Whereas the measures proposed in this legislation will benefit the economy, human health, the environment, and national security, even without consideration of global temperatures, as a result of correcting market distortions, reductions in non-greenhouse-gas pollutants, reducing the outflow of dollars to oil-producing countries and improvements in the energy security of the United States,
5. **Benefits of Carbon Fees:** Whereas phased-in carbon fees on greenhouse gas emissions (1) are the most efficient, transparent, and enforceable mechanism to drive an effective and fair transition to a domestic-energy economy, (2) will stimulate investment in alternative-energy technologies, and (3) give all businesses powerful incentives to increase their energy-efficiency and reduce their carbon footprints in order to remain competitive,
6. **Equal Monthly Per-Person Dividends:** Whereas equal monthly dividends (or “rebates”) from carbon fees paid to every American household can help ensure that families and individuals can afford the energy they need during the transition to a greenhouse gas-free economy and the dividends will stimulate the economy,

Therefore the following legislation is hereby enacted:

1. **Collection of Carbon Fees/Carbon Fee Trust Fund:** Upon enactment, impose a carbon fee on all fossil fuels and other greenhouse gases at the point where they first enter the economy. The fee shall be collected by the Treasury Department. The fee on that date shall be \$15 per ton of CO₂ equivalent emissions and result in equal charges for each ton of CO₂ equivalent emissions potential in each type of fuel or greenhouse gas. The Department of Energy shall propose and promulgate regulations setting forth CO₂ equivalent fees for other greenhouse gases including at a minimum methane, nitrous oxide, sulfur hexafluoride, hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons, and nitrogen trifluoride. The Treasury shall also collect the fees imposed upon the other greenhouse gases. All fees are to be placed in the Carbon Fees Trust Fund and rebated to American households as outlined in #3 below.
2. **Emissions Reduction Targets:** To align US emissions with the physical constraints identified by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to avoid irreversible climate change, the yearly increase in carbon fees including other greenhouse gases, shall be at least \$10 per ton of CO₂

equivalent each year. Annually, the Department of Energy shall determine whether an increase larger than \$10 per ton per year is needed to achieve program goals. Yearly price increases of at least \$10 per year shall continue until total U.S. CO₂-equivalent emissions have been reduced to 10% of U.S. CO₂-equivalent emissions in 1990.

3. Equal Per-Person Monthly Dividend Payments: Equal monthly per-person dividend payments shall be made to all American households (½ payment per child under 18 years old, with a limit of 2 children per family) each month. The total value of all monthly dividend payments shall represent 100% of the net carbon fees collected per month.
4. Border Adjustments: In order to ensure there is no domestic or international incentive to relocate production of goods or services to regimes more permissive of greenhouse gas emissions, and thus encourage lower global emissions, Carbon-Fee-Equivalent Tariffs shall be charged for goods entering the U.S. from countries without comparable Carbon Fees/Carbon Pricing. Carbon-Fee-Equivalent Rebates shall be used to reduce the price of exports to such countries. The State Department will determine rebate amounts and exemptions if any.

TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE

**RESOLUTION URGING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO
PARTIALLY ADDRESS THE THREAT OF CLIMATE CHANGE BY PUTTING A
PRICE ON CARBON AND EVENTUALLY GREENHOUSE GASES SUCH AS
LIKE METHANE THROUGH A CARBON FEE AND DIVIDEND**

WHEREAS, South Orange Village Board of Trustees ("Board") and South Orange residents are extremely concerned about the effects of man-made climate change. The costs of climate change — including destabilized weather patterns, rising sea levels, extreme weather events, and other serious impacts — now pose a substantial threat to the health, prosperity, and security of Americans. The costs are real, growing, and are already burdening businesses, taxpayers, municipal budgets, and families. Our economy, infrastructure, public safety, and health are directly at risk.

WHEREAS, Presently the environmental, health, and social costs of carbon emissions are not included in the price paid for fossil fuels, but rather these externalized costs are paid directly and indirectly by all U.S. citizens and global citizens; and

WHEREAS, To begin to correct this market failure, Congress can enact a national carbon fee and dividend on fossil fuels, based on the amount of CO2 the fuel will emit when burned; and send a clear price signal to entrepreneurs and existing businesses to invest in a clean-energy economy, protect lower and middle-income households, create jobs — as the dividend puts money back into local economies — and discourage domestic businesses from relocating where they can emit more CO2 and encourage other nations to adopt an equivalent price on carbon.

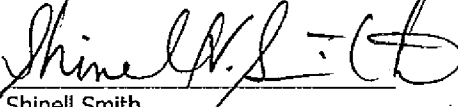
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board expresses its support for, and urges Congress to support carbon fee & dividend as a key element in reducing the risks of climate change. Carbon fee & dividend will significantly reduce carbon emissions, create jobs, grow the economy, save lives, and protect households from higher energy prices. Carbon fee & dividend will place a fee on fossil fuels at the source (at the well, mine, or port of entry), beginning at \$15/metric ton CO2 equivalent emissions, and steadily increase annually at \$10/metric ton. 100% of the net fees are returned to American households on a per-capita basis as a monthly dividend. Finally, a border adjustment assesses a fee or rebate on goods traded with countries without a comparable carbon price.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be sent to Governor Chris Christie, State Senator Richard Codey, State Assembly Persons, Mila Jasey and John McKeon, Essex County Executive, Joseph DiVincenzo, all Essex County Freeholders, U.S. Senators Robert Menendez and Cory Booker, and U.S. Congressman, Donald Payne, Jr.

Trustee Member	Motion	Second	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Clarke		X	X			
Davis Ford	X		X			
Hartshorn Hilton			X			
Levison			X			
Rosner			X			
Schnall			X			

CERTIFICATION

I, Shinell V. Smith, Acting Village Clerk of the Township of South Orange Village, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of the Resolution adopted by the Board of Trustees at their meeting held on July 10, 2017.


Shinell Smith
Acting Village Clerk



St. Lawrence County Environmental Management Council Invasive Species Committee Meeting Friday April 13th, 2018

Meeting started at 9:00 PM.

Present: D. O'Shea, chair; S. Rau; P. Whalen. J. Tenbusch attended as staff.

Item 1: Review Priority Projects.

- ***Emerald Ash Borer.***
 - D. O'Shea reported on the recent workshop on Emerald Ash Borer and Hemlock Woolly Adelgid held on 4/12/2018 at the Best-Western in Canton. The workshop was sponsored by CCE-SLC; it provided updated information about EAB, new information about the HWA, and training on pesticide management options and techniques.
 - o O'Shea reported that approx. 50 persons attended.
 - While EAB is already found in St. Law. Co., HWA has been moving north; it has most recently been observed in Warrensburg, in the SE portion of the ADK Park.
 - There was also information provided about the Balsam Bark Beetle, which has been seen near Indian Lake in Hamilton Co., at elevations above 2,000 ft.
- ***Re-Leaf Committee Conference.*** No progress made.

Item 2: Projects for 2018.

- O'Shea reported that the Ogdensburg Tree Commission will hold a ceremonial tree planting on Friday April 27th to observe Arbor Day. The event will begin at 9:30 near the Elsa Luksich Municipal Pool (100 Washington St., Ogdensburg, in the Greenbelt).
 - The OTC will plant a new tree; it will be a Princeton Sentry (ginkgo) tree, with a 3-inch trunk. O'Shea reported that the tree can be expected to live for over 100 years.
 - This Arbor Day celebration will be combined with a celebration of the 150 anniversary of the incorporation of Ogdensburg as a city.
- The Committee will plan a countywide/regional meeting on the topic of Eurasian Water Milfoil.
- Tenbusch reported that Joe Brant had attended a two-day session on Blue-Green Algae.
 - Brant noted that there may be some model language regarding inter-municipal agreements to deal with Milfoil; he will investigate.

Item 3: Speakers

- Staff will try to schedule Scott Schlueter (USF&G / FEMRF) for a meeting soon.

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 PM.

The Next ISC meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 8th at 1:00 PM.



St. Lawrence County Environmental Management Council Watershed Management Committee Meeting Tuesday, April 10, 2018

Meeting started at 4:00 PM.

Present: J. Brant, Chair; A. French. J. Tenbusch attended as staff.

Item 1: Review Priority Projects.

- *Stencils for storm drains.* A. French reported that a fraternity at Clarkson Univ. is willing to stencil storm drains in Potsdam. They intend to do so on the weekend of April 14-15.
 - Tenbusch will make sure that they have at least two stencils, and several spray-cans of marking paint.
 - French will obtain hi-viz safety vests from Clarkson's B&G dept.
- *"Trees For Tribs".* French reported that St. Lawrence Land Trust will do one planting project in 2018; therefore there may not be much capacity for cooperation between SLLT and EMC on this project. He will get more information.
- *No Mow Zones.* No progress.
- *Regional meeting regarding Eurasian Water Milfoil.* No progress.

Item 2: Other Items From To-Do List:

- *Discussion of Blue Green Algae.* J. Brant reported that there may be model language to create an inter-municipal cooperative agreement to deal with nutrient issues and other issues related to Blue Green Algae.
 - It was suggested that Raeanne Dulanski, of SLC SWCD, be invited to the next WMC mtg to discuss Eurasian Milfoil at Black Lake.

Item 3: Speakers for EMC Meetings:

- Brant proposed Scott Schlueter, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, to speak about the Fish Enhancement, Mitigation, and Research Fund. See <https://www.fws.gov/northeast/nyfo/FEMRF/femrfmain.htm>
- Brant proposed Greg Boyer as a speaker on Blue-Green Algae.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 PM.

The next meeting of the Watershed Management Committee will be held on Tuesday May 8th 2018 at 4:00 PM.