

St. Lawrence County Environmental Management Council
49½ Court Street, Canton, New York 13617-1169
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Draft

MEETING MINUTES

May 16, 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 **THERE WAS A QUORUM.**
Members present included: Jennifer Berbrich; Joseph Brant, *Chair*; Larry Denesha, *BOL Liaison*; Alex French; Rick Marshall; Don O'Shea, *Vice-Chair*; Sue Rau; Lance Rudiger; Dana Smith; Tiernan Smith; Andrew Soutar.
Members absent included: Ryan Burkum; Pat Whalen, *Secretary*; Bob Zimmerman.
Speaker: Hogan Dwyer, student at St. Lawrence University.
Guest(s): Cassidy Scott; Rod Tozzi.
Staff: J. Tenbusch.
3. **Acceptance of Order of Business, Items for New Business, and Items for Unfinished Business:**
Approved (D. Smith / T. Smith).
4. **Approval of the Minutes of the April 18, 2018 EMC Meeting:** Approved (D. Smith / S. Rau).
5. **Report by Representative of the Board of Legislators.** Mr. Denesha reported that:
 - He had just returned from a trip to Europe. While in Marseilles, he noticed that sycamore trees across the city are dying from an invasive blight. He waxed philosophically the parallels between that experience and our own infestation by EABs.
 - 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 Hogan Dwyer, a rising senior at St. Lawrence University.

Mr. Dwyer reported that he has been volunteering with the Citizens Climate Lobby (<https://citizensclimatelobby.org/>); he has been working on the issue of Carbon Pricing.

Dwyer began by reviewing some of the basic facts of climate change, including:

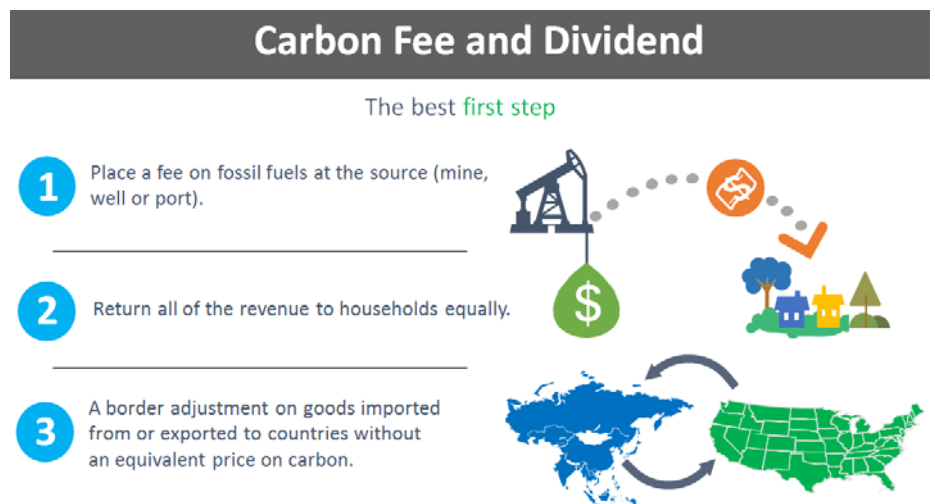
- Burning fossil fuels emit carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases;
- Since the Industrial Revolution began, carbon dioxide emissions have risen by 43%, and over 100% for methane;
- Since 1900, average temperatures worldwide have risen more than 1.5°F. While worldwide temperatures are known to fluctuate over time, this increase in such a short time is unprecedented.
- In New York State, winters have become warmer (over 4°F); sea level has risen; precipitation patterns have changed.

Dwyer reviewed several policy options to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; these include:

- Regulations;
- Subsidies to favor low-carbon energy;
- Limiting carbon allowance (“cap-and-trade”);
- Taxes on carbon (funds raised are used by government);
- Carbon Fee and Dividend.

Dwyer reported that a Carbon Fee and Dividend program would:

- Place a fee on fossil fuels at the source. The fee would be small initially, and rise over time.
- All funds collected would be held in a trust fund; every household would receive an equal check annually, paid out of this fund.
- Tariffs would be charged against fuels of products imported from other countries that do not have carbon fees.



Dwyer reported that in 2014, Regional Economic Models, Inc. (R.E.M.I.) determined that Carbon Fee and Dividend proposal would reduce emissions quickly, grow GDP, increase jobs, and save lives.

Dwyer stated that he was asking the EMC to consider drafting a letter of support for the Carbon Fee and Dividend concept. Such a letter would be forwarded to Citizens Climate Lobby and aggregated with other letters and resolutions of support.

After considerable discussion, the EMC decided (L. Denesha / A. Soutar) to have Mr. Dwyer make this presentation at a future meeting of the County Board of Legislators. (Nine Yes votes were tallied; one No vote was recorded.)

Chair Brant thanked Mr. Dwyer for his presentation, and called for a five-minute recess. The meeting reconvened at 7:18 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):** Tiernan Smith reported. **See attached.**
 - c. **Environment + Economy Committee (E+E):** Tiernan Smith reported. **See attached.** After some discussion, the EMC decided (T. Smith / L. Rudiger) that the E+E Committee survey should be sent to every business on the compiled list that has an email address.
 - d. **Invasive Species Committee (ISC):** John Tenbusch reported. **See attached.**
 - e. **Watershed Management Committee (WMC).** Joe Brant reported. **See attached.**
9. **Report of the Staff:** Tenbusch reported:
 - On Saturday May 19th, there will be a *Household Hazardous Waste Collection event in Canton* (at the Human Services Center, 80 SH 310). Volunteers from the EMC are needed.
 - Tiernan Smith volunteered to help out.
 - Bob Flavin has invited interested persons to a meeting on May 22nd of the SLC Fisheries Board in Louisville. There will be a presentation, followed by a walk to/around the Nichols Pond area.
10. **Unfinished Business:** None.
11. **New Business:** Jennifer Berbrich reported on recent efforts to reduce plastics in the waste stream, especially the use of straws. She cited a Web site, Lonely Whale (<https://www.lonelywhale.org/>); this Web site includes several links to projects that reduce plastic in the waste stream; promote the elimination of drinking straws; etc.
12. **Announcements:** None.
13. **Message to the Board of Legislators:** The EMC looks forward to bringing Mr. Hogan to speak to the Board of Legislators at some date in the next year.
14. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned by consensus at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Patrick Whalen

Minutes prepared by J. Tenbusch



St. Lawrence County Environmental Management Council Conservation of Resources Committee Meeting Wednesday May 9, 2018

Present: Tiernan Smith. J. Tenbusch attended as staff.

The meeting began at 4:45 PM.

Item 1: Priority Projects.

- *Review materials related to carbon-fee-and-dividend proposal.* Smith and Tenbusch discussed generally the use of market mechanisms to influence the economic behavior of people.

This is not a new idea; cap-and-trade is one common technique used. Tenbusch noted that governments at all levels use taxes, and tax incentives, to influence people to modify their behavior. Therefore, the basic concept of imposing a carbon fee in order to reduce usage of products that produce greenhouse gases is not unusual.

What is unusual about the carbon-fee-and-dividend proposal is the idea that fees collected should be returned to people as “equal monthly dividends”, rather than being kept by the government and used for some other purpose (as typically happens with taxes and fees).

There was some discussion about how the pressure to modify one’s behavior in the face of higher prices (resulting from the carbon fee) might be reduced in effectiveness by the knowledge that the higher cost would be returned to the consumer.

Item 2: Other Possible Projects.

- T. Smith suggested that this Committee might look at issues related to conservation of sport-fishing resources.
 - Conservation efforts might maintain and enhance to viability of this fish resource.
 - Tenbusch reported that the EMC will invite Scott Schlueter (U.S. Fish & Wildlife), who had done numerous conservation projects in and around St. Lawrence County, to speak at an upcoming EMC meeting.
- Smith also proposed looking at trapping, which is a traditional North Country activity. How might we manage that resource?

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 PM.

Next CRC meeting will be held Wednesday, June 13th at 4:45 PM.



**St. Lawrence County
Environmental Management Council
Environment + Economy Committee Meeting
Monday, March 12th, 2018**

Meeting started at 5:00 PM.

Present: T. Smith. J. Tenbusch attended as staff.

Projects:

- ***Survey of Businesses Involved with the Environment.*** J. Tenbusch reported that:
 - A survey form was developed (see attached):
 - An Internet survey was developed (see <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SFNNKJQ>);
 - Ryan Burkum had provided an initial list of potential recipients (see attached).

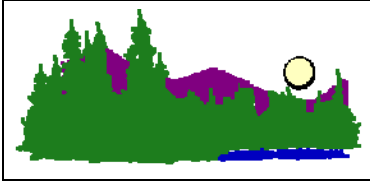
After some discussion, ***it was decided to send the survey*** electronically to those on Burkum's list with email addresses, and to U.S. mail survey forms to those on the list without email.

- Tenbusch suggested sending the electronic survey to all those on the original list with email (another 24 respondents). ***No decision was made.***
- No decision was made about sending to any other businesses on the original list.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 PM.

The next E+E Committee meeting will be held on Monday June 11th, 2018 at 5:00 PM.

Report by John Tenbusch



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May, 2018

Dear Local Business Owner:

We are reaching out to you on behalf of the St. Lawrence County Environmental Management Council (EMC). The EMC is an advisory board to the County's Board of Legislators; it is a group of citizen-volunteers appointed by the BOL. The purpose of the EMC is to explore issues affecting the County's natural resources, report these issues to the county legislature, and help to engage the public to address those issues.

Traditionally the EMC has focused on issues such as conservation of resources, invasive species, and watershed management within St. Lawrence County. Recently we have started an initiative to look at the role of economics and the use of natural resources within the county. A primary goal of this initiative is to reach out to individuals, organizations, and businesses engaged in the use of natural resources in an economic capacity (whether through direct or indirect use).

Ultimately we want to learn about such businesses and organizations, and what they see as opportunities and more importantly challenges to their operation. We hope to share this information with the county legislature and positively impact both economic growth and responsible use of the County's natural resources.

We have identified your business as one involved in the use of natural resources in some capacity. Would you be willing to tell us about your operation? If so please take a few minutes to answer (and return) the following questions on the next page. If you would rather fill out and return the survey via the Internet, please go here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SFNNKJQ>

Thanks in advance for your help!

Sincerely,

Joseph Brant
Chair, EMC

EMC: Everybody Must Care!

Environmental Management Committee
Environment and Economics Questionnaire

Please tell us about yourself and your business:
(Please use additional space as necessary.)

How does your business make use of the environment and/or natural resources?
(Please use additional space as necessary.)

Would you be interested in talking to the EMC about your business?

Yes _____ No _____

Would you be interested in meeting with other business or groups involved in the use of natural resources?

Yes _____ No _____

May we contact you to learn more about your business?

Yes _____ No _____

Please provide your preferred contact information:

Your Name: _____

Business/Organization Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please turn form over; fold and tape as instructed; place stamp and mail.

THANK YOU!

Fold Here

Tape This Edge

Tape This Edge

Tape This Edge

Fold Here

Place
Stamp
Here

**St. Lawrence County EMC
48 Court St.
Canton, NY, 13617-1169**

	Name	Address	Town	Phone	Email
1	Blind Bay Marina	115 Blind Bay Rd	Hammond NY 13646	(315) 324-5350	
2	Hosmer's Marina	54 East River St	Ogdensburg NY 13669	(315) 393-3324	info@hosmersmarina.com
3	Curran Renewable Energy, LLC	20 Commerce Drive	Massena NY 13662	(315) 769-2000	info@curranpellets.com
4	Divid Kingsley Hardwoods	2659 State Highway 184	Heavelton, NY 13654	(315) 344-2380	
5	Partidge Run Golf & Country Club	70 Sullivan Dr	Canton, NY 13617	(315) 386-4444	
6	Potsdam Town & Country Club	6194 State Highway 56	Potsdam, NY 13676	(315) 265-2141	
7	GardenShare	PO Box 516	Canton NY 13617	(315) 261-8054	info@gardenshare.org
8	North Racquette Greenery	486 N Racquette River Rd	Massena, NY 13662	(315) 769-1162	
9	Northrup's Hilltop Nursery	9209 State Highway 56	Massena, NY 13662	(315) 705-0138	
10	Wheat's Greenhouse	468 Campbell Rd	Edwards, NY 13635	(315) 562-8325	
11	Maple Run Emporium	49 Market St	Potsdam NY 13676	(315) 274-0102	Info@MapleRunEmporiums.com
12	Parker's Real Maple	19 Commerce Ln Suite 4	Canton, NY 13617	(315) 854-4988	r6.ump@dec.ny.gov
13	SLC Maple Producers Assoc.	1139 CR 35	Potsdam NY 13676	(315) 244-5256	
14	Sweeter Creations Sugar House	3345 SH 345	Waddington NY13694	(315) 322-5535	sweetercreationsugarhouse@gmail.com
15	Squeak Creek Apiaries	437 Hurley Rd	Brasher Falls, NY 13613	(315) 769-2566	markberninghausen@yahoo.com
16	Fobare's Fruits	180 Johnson Rd	Rensselaer Falls, NY 13680	(315) 344-1207	
17	Kilcoyne Farms	116 Barnage Rd	Brasher Falls, NY 13613	(315) 389-5640	
18	Harmony Farm	273 Randall Rd	Waddington, NY 13694	(315) 569-6144	greg@harmonyfarm.net
19	Squeak Creek Apiaries	437 Hurley Rd	Brasher Falls, NY 13613	(315) 769-2566	markberninghausen@yahoo.com
20	Seaway Timber Harvesting	15121 SH 37	Massena NY 13662	(315) 769-5970	sth@twcnv.rr.com
21	North Fork Christmas Tree Farm	219 Baker Rd	Lisbon, NY 13658	(315) 393-4036	
22	Friends of the RMSP Nature Center, Inc.	19 Robinson Bay Rd	Massena, NY 13662	(315) 705-5022	
23	Grasse River Heritage	PO Box 722	Canton NY 13617	(315) 854-8130	http://grasseriverheritage.org/
24	Colton Sno Skipper Inc	P.O. Box 536	South Colton, NY 13687	(315) 212-0070	
25	Edwards Snowmobile Club	214 Talcville Rd	Edwards, NY 13635	(315) 562-2320	
26	Hermon Sledders	1248 County Route 20	DeKalb Junction, NY 13630	(315) 347-1779	
27	Prospect Hunting Club Inc	525 Irish Settlement Rd	Waddington, NY 13694	(315) 769-5721	
28	St Lawrence County ATV Assn. Inc.	P.O. Box 185	Canton, NY 13617	(315) 261-4229	
29	SLC ATV Association	PO Box 383	S Colton NY 13687	(315) 261-4229	
30	Massena Rod & Gun Club, Inc	155 Patterson Rd	Massena NY 13662	(315) 769-3205	
31	Captain Bob and Mates Charters	116 Ogden St	Ogdensburg, NY 13669	(315) 393-2709	
32	Captain Jack's Charters	115 Blind Bay Road	Hammond, NY 13646	(518) 569-4407	



St. Lawrence County Environmental Management Council Invasive Species Committee Meeting Friday May 8th 2018

Meeting started at 1:00 PM.

Present: D. O'Shea, chair; T. Smith; P. Whalen. J. Tenbusch attended as staff.

Item 1: Review Priority Projects.

- ***Emerald Ash Borer.***
 - D. O'Shea reported on the Arbor Day event in Ogdensburg. A ginkgo tree was planted in Centennial Park.
 - o O'Shea reported that the City celebrated its 150th anniversary in conjunction with the Arbor Day observance.
 - O'Shea reported that Ogdensburg intends to girdle an ash tree in 2018; a site has not yet been selected.
 - Tenbusch reported that there will be another ash-tree-tagging event held in Canton during the week of May 21-25. In addition, EAB Task Force members will girdle a tree (probably at Bend-in-the-River Park) in a public demonstration. No news yet about participation by Canton High School students.
- ***Re-Leaf Committee Conference.*** Tenbusch reported that he was called by staff at DEC-Watertown about staging a regional conference on EAB. DEC staff plan to hold this meeting in Watertown. They will set the date and agenda. Tenbusch will report their progress.

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).
- Countywide/regional meeting on the topic of Eurasian Water Milfoil. No progress.
- Tenbusch reported that DEC's Urban and Community Forestry grant round has opened; applications are due on July 12th.
 - Tenbusch is not sure if he will be writing another application for funds to inventory trees in the Villages of Gouverneur and Potsdam, as was done last year. He will check with his supervisor and with the EAB Task Force

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 PM.

The Next ISC meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 12th at 1:00 PM.



St. Lawrence County Environmental Management Council Watershed Management Committee Meeting Tuesday, May 8th, 2018

Meeting started at 4:00 PM.

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

Item 1: Review Priority Projects.

- *Stencils for storm drains.*
 - Tenbusch reported no report from the students at Clarkson stenciling storm drains in Potsdam.
 - Tenbusch reported that the students at SUNY Canton were not able to do any stenciling before their semester ended. He will try to work with them again in the Fall.
- *Regional Meeting on Eurasian Water Milfoil.* No progress.
- *Shoreline Resiliency Planning Project.* Tenbusch reported that the Planning Office has secured \$25,000 through NYS Sea Grant, in order to research and develop concepts for improved resiliency along shorelines in Hammond, Morristown, Oswegatchie, Ogdensburg and Lisbon. Contract documents are being processed. An RFP to hire a consultant will be out soon.
- *St. Lawrence River Watershed Project: Watershed Study.* Tenbusch reported that a kick-off meeting for this \$225,000 study will be held later this month.
- *Raquette River Advisory Council / West Branch St. Regis River Advisory Council.* Tenbusch reported that these two Councils will meet later this month.
- *Discussion of Blue Green Algae.* J. Brant look for 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.
- *No Mow Zones.* Brant reported that NYPA and Cornell are working on a pollinator protection project in and around Waddington. He wondered if this could be coordinated with the “No Mow Zone” proposal.
- *Septic Project.* Brant reported that his office had used Will Neves (?) from SLC Public Health to evaluate septic systems. Neves also had done final inspections on new systems.
- *Trees For Tribs.* J. Brant suggested that the Committee might work with SLLT on this project.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM.

The next meeting of the Watershed Management Committee will be held on Tuesday June 12, 2018 at 4:00 PM.