

St. Lawrence County Environmental Management Council
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Draft

MEETING MINUTES

June 20, 2018

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

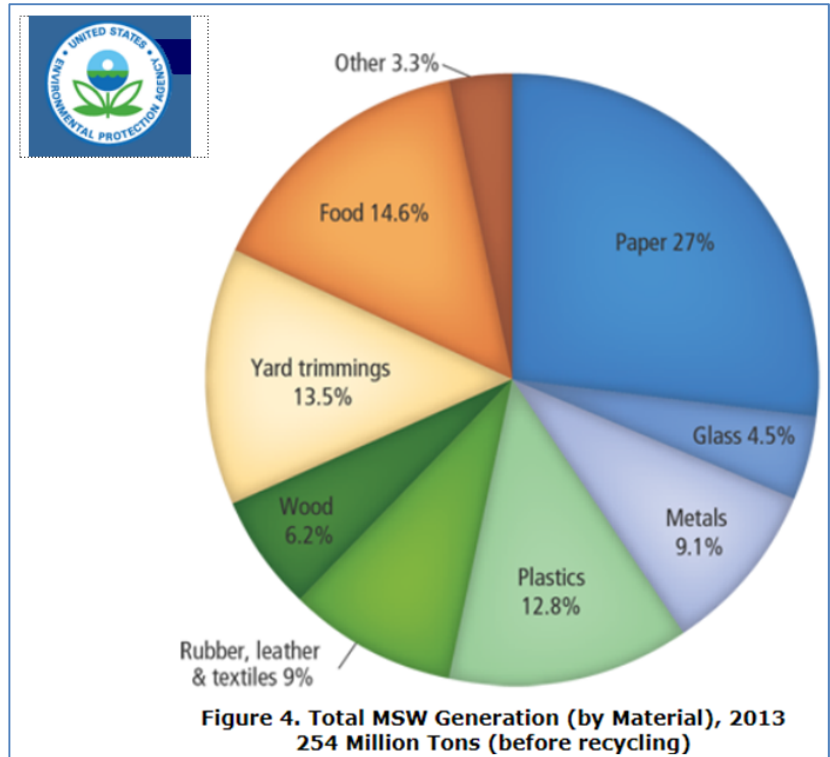
Action items in bold italics / Motions underlined.

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: Catherine Bennett; Jennifer Berbrich; Joseph Brant, *Chair*; Ryan Burkum; Larry Denesha, *BOL Liaison*; Don O'Shea, *Vice-Chair*; Sue Rau; Lance Rudiger; Dana Smith; Tiernan Smith; Andrew Soutar.
Members absent included: Alex French; Richard Marshall; Pat Whalen, *Secretary*; Bob Zimmerman.
Speaker: J. Tenbusch, SLCPO.
Guest(s): Allison Pilcher; Rod Tozzi; Ann Heidenreich.
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 May 16, 2018 EMC Meeting:** Approved (D. Smith / S. Rau).
5. **Report by Representative of the Board of Legislators.** Mr. Denesha reported that:
 - Phase 2 of the J+L project will begin July 9th. Twelve more buildings will come down.
 - The year-end report from the Treasurer reveals a \$4.7 million increase in balance over last year. A \$10-11 million fund balance is anticipated by the end of this year.
6. **Hearings, Comments from the Public.** Brant recognized John Tenbusch, CPO Staff. Mr. Tenbusch gave his presentation "Let's Talk Dirty: The Plastics In Our Trash and How We Can Reduce, Re-Use, and Recycle."

Tenbusch reviewed statistics about waste generation and plastics recycling:

- In 2013, Americans generated about 254 million tons of trash- an average of 4.40 pounds of trash per person per day.
- On average, we recycled and composted 1.51 pounds of our daily individual waste generation, which is equivalent to a 34.3% recycling rate.
- Some plastics are easier to recycle than others. Even the easiest to recycle, PET and HDPE, are recycled at a rate of 31.3 and 28.2 percent in the U.S., respectively.
- National Geographic estimates that 91% of plastic worldwide is not recycled.



Tenbusch reported that plastics have infiltrated our water more than we are aware of.

- Plastics do not break down chemically, only physically, until they are small enough to pass through water treatment facilities. These are known as microplastics.
- In certain areas of the Great Lakes, surface water densities of plastics are as high as those reported for areas of litter accumulation within oceanic gyres.
- Plastic debris may act as a vector for contaminants and can transport microbes.
- Dr. Sherri Mason from SUNY Fredonia found microplastics in nearly all brands of bottled water.

Tenbusch described the challenges to plastic recycling

- Many recyclable items cannot be recycled due to insufficient technology.
- Collectors frequently change rules regarding what they will and will not accept.
- Now that China will no longer

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC According to National Geographic:

THE CHALLENGE OF RECYCLING

Globally, 18 percent of plastic is recycled, up from nearly zero in 1980. Plastic bottles are one of the most widely recycled products. But other items, such as drinking straws, are harder to recycle and often discarded.

Ease of recycling by type*
 64% = ▲ Easy ▲ Manageable ▲ Difficult ▲ Very difficult = 35%

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
PET Polyethylene terephthalate	HDPE High-density polyethylene	PVC Polyvinyl chloride	LDPE Low-density polyethylene	PP Polypropylene	PS Polystyrene	OTHER
Beverage bottles, food jars, clothing and carpet fiber, some shampoo and mouthwash bottles	Detergent and bleach bottles, snack boxes, milk jugs, toys, buckets, crates, plant pots, garden furniture, trash bins	Credit cards, window and doorframes, gutters, pipes and fittings, wire and cable sheathing, synthetic leather	Packaging film, shopping bags, bubble wrap, flexible bottles, wire and cable insulation	Bottle tops, drinking straws, lunch boxes, insulated coolers, fabric and carpet fiber, tarps, diapers	Plastic-foam cups, egg boxes, meat trays, packing peanuts, coat hangers, yogurt containers, insulation, toys	Nylon fabrics, baby bottles, compact disks, medical storage containers, car parts, watercooler bottles
11%	14%	5%	20%	19%	6%	24%

Percentage of global plastic waste, 2015

import our recyclables, there is no market for this waste.

- Refusing plastic is a better alternative to recycling. For example, individuals can avoid using plastic straws and plastic shopping bags.

The presentation was followed with discussion about agricultural plastics and opportunities for recycling and plastic reduction in the community.

Chair Brant thanked Mr. Tenbusch for his presentation, and called for a five-minute recess. The meeting reconvened at 7:12 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):** Jennifer Berbrich reported. **See attached.**
 - c. **Environment + Economy Committee (E+E):** No meeting, but John Tenbusch reported that the E+E Survey had been emailed two a second round of recipients and some responses had been received from the first round. **See attached.**
 - d. **Invasive Species Committee (ISC):** Don O'Shea reported. **See attached.**
 - e. **Watershed Management Committee (WMC).** Joe Brant reported. **See attached.**
9. **Report of the Staff:** Tenbusch reported that there is a vacancy on the EMC following Glen Butler's resignation.
10. **Unfinished Business:** None.
11. **New Business:** None.
12. **Announcements:** Jennifer Berbrich shared that a child on a dock at Taylor Rd. Park in Canton had been bitten by a muskie from the Grasse River.
13. **Message to the Board of Legislators:** Plastics have become ubiquitous in the natural environment. The EMC intends to initiate a campaign against single-use plastics.
14. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned by consensus at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Patrick Whalen

Minutes prepared by A. Pilcher



St. Lawrence County Environmental Management Council Conservation of Resources Committee Meeting Wednesday June 13, 2018

Present: Pat Whalen, chair; Jennifer Berbrich; Tiernan Smith. J. Tenbusch attended as staff.

The meeting began at 4:45 PM.

Item 1: Priority Projects.

- *Report on Household Hazardous Waste Collection event.* Tenbusch reported that the recent HHW event was held on Saturday May 19th at the Human Services Center in Canton (it is usually held in Canton during May; the second HHW event, held in September, moves around the County).
 - EMC members who assisted included: J. Berbrich; Gaige Gagnon; S. Rau; P. Whalen. Jon Montan also volunteered.
 - A total of 240 cars came through the event. This compares with an overall average of 217 cars (averaged over 22 past HHW events). The average number of cars for HHW events in Canton (8 events) has been 243.
 - Sheriff's Deputy Chris Duciewicz reported taking in approx. 120 lbs. of pharmaceuticals.
- *Report on Indian Creek Nature Center Conservation Field Day.* Tenbusch reported that he and Derrick Conway had staffed the EMC's teaching station for CFD on Thursday May 31st. They made presentations to 8 groups from the following schools: Colton-Pierrepont; Gouverneur; Hermon-DeKalb; Trinity. The topic was **"RECYCLING: WHY DO IT?"**
- *Conservation of sport-fishing stocks.* Tiernan Smith reported that he was interested in making sure that the sport-fishing industry in SLC remains healthy; he understands that this requires active management of fish resource, and more generally conservation of water quality.
 - After some discussion, the Committee decided to try to put together a short questionnaire that could be administered during the Bassmasters tournament in Waddington, on 8/23-25.
 - The purpose of this survey would be to assess the opinions of people who are interested enough in sport-fishing that they attend a Bassmaster tournament.
 - The Committee will hold a conference call before the EMC meeting on 6/20 to further develop the survey.
- *Conservation of fur-bearing species.* Tiernan Smith reported that he was interested in making sure that the traditional activity of trapping remains healthy in SLC. No action taken.

Item 2: Other Possible Projects.

- Tenbusch suggested that this Committee might look at issues related to reducing plastics pollution.
 - The Committee asked Tenbusch to prepare a presentation on the topic for the next EMC meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 PM. Next CRC meeting: Wednesday, July 11th at 4:45 PM.

<i>Please tell us about yourself and your business</i>	<i>How does your business make use of the environment and/or natural resources?</i>	<i>Would you be interested in talking to EMC about your business?</i>	<i>Would you be interested in meeting with other businesses or involved in the use of natural resources?</i>	<i>May we contact you to learn more about your business?</i>
Massena Rod & Gun Club, Inc. Opened in 1947, 1,000 members- have to see it. Facebook- Rod & Gun Massena	Cross country ski trails, shotgun sports, woods walk, hunting, rifle, pistol shooting	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hosmers Marina and Smugglers Café. Marina (dockage and gas), bait and tackle store, kayak rentals, bar and restaurant	Provide dockage for boaters, kayak rentals to enjoy the river, fishing tackle to enjoy the river	Yes	Yes	Yes
Grasse River Heritage is not a business. We are a private, non-profit corporation that owns and maintains Heritage Park, the Grasse River Heritage Sculpture Garden, and Dwight Church Park for the use of the public in Canton.	Our parks are locate on islands in the Grasse River and on the waterfront directly adjacent to it. Some of our park space is landscaped, but most of it (Falls Island) is left to grow as it will apart from walking trails. We've also installed interpretive signage that provides information about the ecology and natural history of the site. Our work has involved reclaiming abandoned and, in one location, polluted land on or adjacent to the river, restoring it to health, and making it available for a variety of uses by the public.	We have already talked to a member of the EMC, Ryan Burkum, who has volunteered his services and consulted with us about the care and management of the trees and other plant life in the parks	We're all volunteer- no paid staff- and have a lot to manage, so we're pretty careful with our use of time. But if there is a prospect of useful collaboration or exchange of information that furthers our mission, yes, certainly.	Yes
Curran Renewable Energy, LLC & Seaway Timber Harvesting, Inc.	STH sustainably harvests low grade timber through continuous conservation efforts. CRE manufactures wood pellets for renewable fuel from locally sourced timber through STH.	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sweeter Creations Sugar House maple producer	Making maple products	No	No	Yes



St. Lawrence County Environmental Management Council Invasive Species Committee Meeting Tuesday June 12th 2018

Meeting started at 1:00 PM.

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

Item 1: Review Priority Projects.

- ***Emerald Ash Borer.***

- J. Tenbusch reported that Nature Up North (<https://www.natureupnorth.org/>) a local organization that uses the Internet and social media to connect people with the environment here in St. Lawrence County has constructed a platform for smart phones and tablets where people can record (and geo-locate) observations about ash trees in the County. See <https://www.natureupnorth.org/surveyashtrees> (See attached survey form.)
 - o These observations can be tabulated and mapped by N-U-N.
 - o Tenbusch also reported that N-U-N is willing to develop another survey form on which people can record sentinel trees (including lat/long data).

- D. O'Shea reported on the ash-tree tagging event held at Veterans Park in Ogdensburg on May 23rd.

- o Veterans Park is a small, triangular area located at the intersection of Ford Street, Proctor Avenue, Chaplain Street and Greene Street. The park has 7 mature ash trees; at least 4 of these trees will require removal in the near-term.

- o (Note: no evidence of EAB infestation has been seen on these trees. Tree decline is due to age, and inexperienced pruning.)



- D. O'Shea also reported that he and Steve Sherwood (DEC) girdled an ash tree; the location is downtown, at the far end of Ford Street, on a small hill overlooking the municipal parking lot.
 - S. Rau reported that, in April, she had received and deployed 1 EAB trap. She has been directed to collect, every 2 weeks, whatever insects are caught in the trap. She freezes the collected specimens, and delivers the samples to Paul Hetzler, the team leader. Rau will turn in her EAB trap in September.
- ***Re-Leaf Committee Conference.*** No report.

Item 2: Projects for 2018.

- Tenbusch reported that Joe Brant has received draft/model language for an inter-municipal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between multiple communities regarding cooperation to deal with invasive species. More on this later.
- Countywide/regional meeting on the topic of Eurasian Water Milfoil. No progress.

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 PM.

The Next ISC meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 10th at 1:00 PM.



Date _____
Community Ash Tree Survey

Materials: measuring tape (inches), writing utensil, flagging tape, & smart device/GPS to record Lat/Long

Name(s) _____ Group _____

Latitude, Longitude _____

Location/Street Name _____

Tree Circumference (inches): _____

Tree Condition (circle one):

- Excellent – completely healthy and vigorous, no signs of damage of any kind
- Good – minimal signs of damage, tree appears healthy
- Fair – clear signs of damage, structure of tree is still intact
- Poor – substantial damage that indicates tree structure is weakened, tree may be dying
- Dead – tree is dead, in danger of collapse

Evidence of emerald ash borer (circle one; if yes please indicate type of evidence in comments):

- Yes
- No

Building risk (circle one):

- None
- Low
- Medium
- High

Power Line Risk (circle one):

- None
- Low
- Medium
- High

Flagged? (only flag trees on public property)

- Yes
- No

Recorded on Survey 1-2-3?

- Yes
- No

Comments: _____

Thank you



St. Lawrence County Environmental Management Council Watershed Management Committee Meeting Tuesday, June 12th, 2018

Meeting started at 4:00 PM.

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

Item 1: Review Priority Projects.

- *Stencils for storm drains.* No report.
- *Shoreline Resiliency Planning Project.* Tenbusch reported that the Planning Office has secured the services of an intern for 10 weeks. This intern has been working on a desk study for this project, in advance of hiring a consultant. The intern has been reviewing, analyzing and summarizing land use codes, planning documents, etc. in the study communities. She has analyzed data regarding damage claims from last year's high water / storm events. She participated in a tour of the study area, and met with planning and conservation officials in the study area.
- *St. Lawrence River Watershed Project: Watershed Study.* Tenbusch reported that a kick-off meeting for this \$225,000 study was held during May. He agreed to provide a copy of the map for the St. Lawrence River Watershed Area in NYS. **See attached.**
- *Raquette River Advisory Council / West Branch St. Regis River Advisory Council.* Tenbusch reported that these two Councils met during May. Each of these Councils has a small discretionary budget that is spent on recreation and conservation projects in their respective river-sheds.
 - The Raquette River Advisory Council (RRAC) receives \$5,000 each year from Brookfield Power. Current balance is \$30,876.
 - The Piercefield Flow agreement (administered by the RRAC) receives \$500 annually. Current balance is \$899.
 - The West Branch-St. Regis River Advisory Council receives \$750 each year. Current balance is \$3,560.
 - The Oswegatchie River Advisory Council (being developed) receives \$2,000 (with adjustment for inflation) each year. Current balance is \$10,000.
- *Regional meeting on Eurasian watermilfoil.* No report.
- *Discussion of Blue Green Algae.* J. Brant distributed text of a Memorandum of Understanding from the Lake George area about coordinated action by several communities on environmental issues. He will adapt the text to fit Black Lake communities.
 - We will look for feedback from the municipalities, SWCD, DEC, etc.
 - 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.* No report.
- *Septic Project.* No report.

- *Trees For Tribs.* No report.

Item 2: Speakers for Future EMC meetings.

- Tenbusch reported that he has contacted Scott Schlueter (U.S. Fish & Wildlife; coordinator of the Fish Enhancement, Mitigation and Research Fund FEMREF; for more information, see <https://www.fws.gov/northeast/nyfo/FEMRF/femrfmain.htm>).
 - Mr. Schlueter will try to schedule a presentation to the EMC.
- Tenbusch suggested asking Spencer Busler, Director of Conservation for the Thousand Islands Land Trust (T.I.L.T.), as a speaker.
- T. Smith suggested asking someone from Brookfield Power to speak about the fish ladder being constructed at the Oswegatchie River dam in Heuvelton.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 PM.

The next meeting of the Watershed Management Committee will be held on Tuesday July 10, 2018 at 4:00 PM.

St. Lawrence River Watershed Area in NYS

