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<u>Draft</u>

MEETING MINUTES
December 12, 20182nd - Floor Conference Room, Public Safety Complex
491/2 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 Joe Brant called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

Since this was the first official EMC meeting for new member Rod Tozzi, and since the two guests have expressed an interest in serving on the EMC, all present introduced themselves.

2. Roll Call, Determination of Quorum: <u>A quorum WAS present.</u>

Members present: Catherine Bennett; Jennifer Berbrich; Joseph Brant, *Chair*; Ryan Burkum; Alex French; Richard Marshall; Don O'Shea, *Vice-Chair*; Tiernan Smith; Rod Tozzi; Pat Whalen, *Secretary*. <u>Members absent:</u> Larry Denesha, *BOL Liaison*; Sue Rau; Lance Rudiger; Andrew Soutar; Bob Zimmerman. <u>Guest(s):</u> Emily Sheridan, Eastern Great Lakes Watershed Coordinator, Great Lakes Program, NYS DEC. David Barnes; Brian Washburn. <u>Staff:</u> John Tenbusch.

- 3. Acceptance of Order of Business, Items for New Business, and Items for Unfinished Business: Order of Business was accepted by consensus.
- 4. Approval of the June, July, and September EMC Meeting Minutes: <u>Minutes of the above-referenced meetings were approved (Whalen / Marshall).</u>
- 5. Board of Legislators Report. No report.
- 6. Hearings, Comments from the Public.

The invited speaker was Emily Sheridan, Eastern Great Lakes Watershed Coordinator, Great Lakes Program, NYS DEC. She described the mission of the Great Lakes Program: "To protect, restore, conserve and enhance the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the waters



and associated resources within the Great Lakes basin for sustainable use and enjoyment by the people of New York."

Sheridan reported on several complex threats to the Great Lakes basin; these include: ag and nutrient management; coastal erosion; harmful algal blooms; invasive species; microplastics; pharmaceuticals; etc.

She then explained the "Ecosystem-based Management" (EBM) process that DEC uses to address issues; see illustration, right.

Sheridan discussed the Great Lakes Action Agenda, whose components include:

- 1. Clean Up Pollution Sources and Restore Beneficial Uses;
- 2. Conserve Natural Resources;
- 3. Promote Resilient Communities and Sustainable Development

Emily reported that St. Lawrence County is part of the Northeast Lake Ontario sub-basin (see map, Pg. 1). Sub-basins have developed working groups, with stakeholders such as agency staff; NGOs, including land trusts; universities; county Planning &/or Soil & Water; etc.



The NLO sub-basin group has developed the following priorities:

- 1. Water quality monitoring and source trackdown; implementing agricultural BMPs; addressing failing septic systems.
- 2. Natural Resources enhancing culverts to promote fish passage; restore priority habitat for endangered and threatened species; promote stewardship.
- 3. Promote Sustainable/Resilient Communities conduct Vulnerability Assessments; integrate FEMA community Rating System into decision making / hazard mitigation planning; promote recreation and tourism.

Sheridan talked about the *Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) Program* (<u>https://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/4774.html</u>). She noted that 2018 awards will be announced shortly (<u>https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/water_pdf/wqipawardr15.pdf</u>). She also noted that WQIP is expected to have a funding round in 2019.

Chair Brant thanked Ms. Sheridan for her presentation, and presented her with EMC note cards as a small thank-you. He called a five-minute recess. The meeting resumed at 7:15 PM.

7. Reports by EMC Members on Conversations with County Legislators: None.

- J. Tenbusch described the purpose for pairing EMC members with County legislators; namely, to foster personal relationships between members of the BOL and the EMC in order for the EMC to be better able to advise the BOL on environmental issues.
- Tenbusch distributed the current EMC:BOL Contacts List; with the recent election for BOL and resulting new BOL members, and with the current turnover on the EMC, Tenbusch proposed that any EMC member looking to switch BOL assignments can do so. An updated list will be prepared.

8. Report of the Committees:

- a. Executive Committee: No meeting; no report.
- **b.** Conservation of Resources Committee (CRC): P. Whalen gave the Committee report; see attached.
 - C. Bennett reported that she has substantially completed a preliminary analysis of the Survey of Opinions about County Fishing Resources.
 - ii. E. Sheridan noted that DEC has several fishing survey projects that might dovetail with the EMC project.
- **c.** Environment + Economy Committee (E+E): R. Burkum gave the Committee report. See attached.
- d. Invasive Species Committee (ISC): D. O'Shea gave the Committee report; see attached.
- e. Watershed Management Committee (WMC). J. Brant gave the Committee report; see attached.
- 9. **Report of the Staff:** Tenbusch reported on two items:
 - a. During November, CPO staff had submitted two applications for CDBG funding: one app for \$300,000 to help low-income households pay for repair/replacement of deficient septic systems; another app for \$600,000 to fund the 23rd round of the Direct Homeownership Assistance Program. CPO anticipates hearing about grant awards in January.
 - b. On December 12th, the Planning Office received word that the County has been awarded \$1 million to help low-income households address problems with lead in their older homes.

10. Unfinished Business: None.

11. New Business:

- Tenbusch reported that the EMC typically approves resolutions of thanks to retiring EMC members. This year there are three retiring members: Dana Smith; Andy Soutar; Bob Zimmerman. By consensus, the EMC approved resolutions to be prepared thanking these EMC members for their service.
- O'Shea distributed copies of an article regarding the Spotted Lanternfly. See attached.

12. Announcements: None.

13. **Message to the Board of Legislators:** EMC members were asked to let their assigned BOL member know that the EMC will begin a program to promote reduction in the use of single-use plastics.

14. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned by consensus at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Patrick Whalen

Secretary



St. Lawrence County Environmental Management Council Conservation of Resources Committee Meeting Wednesday December 5, 2018

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

The meeting began at 4:45 PM.

Item 1: Priority Projects.

- *Survey regarding Conservation of Sport-Fishing resource*. No report from Cat Bennett, who had volunteered to do a preliminary analysis of survey tabulations.
 - Tenbusch will follow up with Bennett.
 - Whalen will speak to DEC staff. DEC conducts several different surveys about fish/fishing; Whalen will find out if DEC data might augment the data from our survey.
- Project to Reduce Plastic Pollution.
 - Tenbusch reported that Chester W. "Skip" Bisnett, General Manager at Casella Waste Systems, Inc. in Potsdam spoke at the October EMC meeting.
 - Tenbusch reported that he saw/found fiber-based "to-go" boxes for sale at St. Lawrence Supply; these are compostable. He will check with other suppliers (SYSCO?) about availability of alternatives to single-use plastics.
 - Whalen and Tenbusch generally discussed ways to improve the rate of recycling in the community. They agreed that not enough materials in the community that COULD be recycled are, in fact, recycled.
 - Tenbusch reported that the County office facilities recycle paper, but not soda bottles, or other metal, glass or plastic items; these go right into the trash.
 - Tenbusch noted that some individuals, and individual offices, might so some level of increased recycling, but nothing systematic has been developed for County facilities.
 - Whalen and Tenbusch discussed the possibility of developing some local industry/ies that would use recycled material/s as feedstock. Tenbusch will make inquiries at Clarkson University.
- *Conservation of fur-bearing species*. No report.

Item 2: Other Possible Projects.

• Proposal that the Committee look into promoting composting at institutional levels (schools, etc.) and municipal levels. No progress was reported.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 PM.



St. Lawrence County Environmental Management Council Environment + Economy Committee Meeting Monday, December 3, 2018

Meeting started at 5:00 PM. Present: R. Burkum; P. Whalen. J. Tenbusch attended as staff.

Projects.

- *Recycling Activities*. Tenbusch reported that Chester Bisnett, General Manager of Casella Waste Systems, Potsdam, spoke at the October EMC meeting about the state of recycling in St. Lawrence County as part of the waste-hauling process.
 - Bisnett reported that national recycling markets have basically collapsed for many/most materials.
 - Bisnett stated that "zero-sort" recycling has caused an increase in materials being recycled, but recycle materials are increasingly contaminated hindering their usability.
 - Bisnett noted that recycling markets will rebound, since they have cyclically moved up and down.
 - He stated that St. Lawrence County is hindered in achieving economies of scale regarding recycling because of its relatively small population, and its remoteness.

There was general discussion about issues related to recycling. The question was asked whether there might be an opportunity for a local entrepreneur to use some recycled material to produce a marketable product. Tenbusch will ask Alex French, who works at Clarkson University, to inquire.

• Survey of Businesses Involved with the Environment. J. Tenbusch reported that 10 businesses have replied to the Survey of Businesses; among these, 9 businesses have indicated a willingness to speak to the EMC. After discussion, the Committee decided to invite Mapleview Dairy LLC as a speaker. A second choice would be Curran Renewable Energy, LLC. A third choice would be Hosmer's Marina and Smuggler's Café.

Priority Projects for 2019.

- *Continued Outreach to Businesses*. Burkum stated that he would like to see continued outreach by the E+E Committee to businesses in the County.
 - Burkum suggested that the Committee produce a newsletter for businesses.
 - It was also suggested that the Committee might work with the County Chamber of Commerce to do outreach to businesses.
 - Question: does the Co. Ch. Of Comm. have its own newsletter? Might the E+E Committee participate in that newsletter?
 - It was suggested that the EMC ask Brooke Rouse, Ex. Dir. of the SLC Camber, to speak at an EMC meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 PM.

The next E+E Committee meeting will be held on Monday January 7th at 5:00 PM.



St. Lawrence County Environmental Management Council Invasive Species Committee Meeting Tuesday December 4th 2018

Meeting started at 1:00 PM.

Present: Don O'Shea, Chair; P. Whalen. John Tenbusch attended as staff.

Item 1: Review Priority Projects.

Emerald Ash Borer. P. Whalen reported that he and Aaron Barrigar (SLC SWCD) had found evidence of EAB in ash trees at the Massena Country Club on SH 131 in Louisville. See attached email from Aaron Barrigar.

- Whalen has 3 more sentinel trees on Wilson Hill; he will cut down and peel these trees, and several additional trees at the Golf Course.
- Tenbusch reported that 4 mature ash trees have been taken down at Groulx Park in Ogdensburg.
 - Plans are being made to find where those tree sections might be located, and to peel them.
 - These findings of EABs were in addition to 2018 findings in Hammond (at the same site as earlier EAB finding) and in Lisbon.



• There was general discussion about asking others who had reported that they had sentinel trees to report their results.

Tenbusch reviewed the report of the November EAB TF mtg, including:

- The Regional EAB Meeting was held in Adams NY on 11/14. Approx. 25 persons attended, including tree professionals, and local officials.
 - John Payton had given one presentation.
 - Another presentation was given by Eba Brown, of Onondaga Co. SWCD.
- P. Hetzler and J. Payton made a presentation about EAB to SLC Town Supervisors on Tues., Nov. 27th.
- P. Hetzler reported that Brian Skinner and Any Soutar had recently died.
- There was discussion about whether all ash trees in an infested are should be removed ASAP, or whether there are benefits to a more gradual cutting schedule.
- W. Samphier reported that staff at Robert Moses State Park had taken down 50 ash trees. He and A. Johnson reported they found EAB in cut wood from those trees. Park staff reported that they would use wood from these trees for firewood, and that the wood would remain at the Park.

- L. Denesha stated that SLC needs to survey its roadways to determine where ash trees are located, and where they might pose a hazard to infrastructure (power lines, etc.) or the roadway.
 - This idea generated considerable discussion, out of which the EAB TF decided to conduct roadside surveys of ash trees over the winter months.

Projects for 2019. It was agreed that in addition to continuing work related to EAB, the ISC 019 would like to make progress on the following:

- Harmful Algae Blooms (HABs).
- Eurasian Watermilfoil.
- Wild Parsnip. There was some discussion about speaking to Town Highway crews about their mowing practices/schedules, and about training volunteers to pull up early-season parsnip shoots.

Speakers for EMC Meetings. Tenbusch proposed asking Lee Harper to speak at an upcoming EMC meeting. Harper has done considerable work locally on Eurasian Watermilfoil.

The meeting ended at 1:35 PM. Next ISC meeting will be at 1:00 PM on January 8th.

Tenbusch, John

From: Sent: To: Subject: Attachments: aaron@slcswcd.org Thursday, December 06, 2018 11:06 AM Tenbusch, John; 'Pam Whalen'; 'Paul Hetzler' EAB Found @ Massena Country Club EAB Massena Country Club..pdf

To all,

Here is Pat's summery of yesterday's sentinel tree peeling and visit to the Massena country Club (see attached photos)

On December 5, 2018, Aaron Barrigar and I inspected the three sentinel trees that were established on Wilson Hill WMA. Aaron dropped the trees and we peeled most of the bark from them. We found no evidence of EAB on any of them.

After finishing the sentinel tree inspection we went to the Massena country club to check the ash trees that they reported to be infested with EAB. It was obvious to us that was truly the case. We saw extensive blonding, the distinctive galleries and "D" shaped exit holes on every tree in that one area. We found sloughing bark and galleries as far down the stem as the root flare, etc. Aaron remarked that the trees were in the worst condition of anything he's seen this far north and that it has been at the golf course for at least 5 years.

We were able to excavate galleries on two separate trees and retrieve larvae, (photos attached) which further confirms the presence of EAB.

We explored other parts of the property nearby but found no obvious indication of EAB, although it's safe to assume the bug is there but the signs have not developed yet.

It's interesting to note the evidence of the super infestation is so tightly confined to one small area. The sentinel trees were less than 2 miles from the county club and other trees on the golf course remain free of EAB evidence, so far.

I will be emailing Jason Denham with the NYS DEC lands and forest, Forest health division to give him the bad news...

Also here are the locations of Pat's sentinel trees that were not infested:

44.934172, -75.018198

44.916377, -75.043177

44.903873, -75.110504

And my sentinel tree in Winthrop which was also not infested

44.6950230, -74.8556320

Aaron Barrigar District Forester St. Lawrence County Soil and Water Conservation District 1942 Old Dekalb Road Canton, NY 13617 Phone: (315) 386-3582 Fax: 855-401-1956











St. Lawrence County Environmental Management Council Watershed Management Committee Meeting Tuesday, December 4th, 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 on stenciling projects occurring in Potsdam and in Canton.
 - In Potsdam, A. French had submitted a report about college students from Clarkson. See attached.
 - In Canton, Tenbusch reported that in November Adrienne Rygel at SUNY Canton called to ask for materials so that a women's engineering society (SWE) might stencil storm drains. He has not gotten a report from Dr. Rygel.
- *Shoreline Resiliency Planning Project*. Tenbusch reported that the Planning Office is holding monthly teleconference meetings with the consultants hired to conduct the Study. At the meeting held Dec. 3rd:
 - The consultants had updated CPO staff about their progress with compiling data sources and sets.
 - M. Larson of CPO had created numerous GIS shapefiles; she sent them to the consultants.
 - At the request of the consultants, J. Tenbusch will contact staff at the Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council. This organization had previously prepared a FloodSmart Action Plan.
 - In preparation for Focus Group meetings to be held in February, CPO staff will begin to compile names of possible stakeholders.
- *J. Brant reported on the* **Great Lakes Action Agenda Work Group / Northeast Ontario Sub-Basin Meeting** held in Potsdam on November 29th.
 - Approx. 15 people attended, including representatives from SRMT; NYS OPRHP; SLC SWCD; Franklin Co. SWCD; etc.
 - Brant reported that OPRHP has a new staff with job title "Resilience Specialist". Brant suggested that the EMC hear from this person / work with this person, possibly on "No-Mow Zone" areas for State Parks.
 - Brant reported that C. Miller of Franklin Co. SWCD had reported on the St. Lawrence River Watershed Project: an RFP had been issued for the St. Lawrence River Watershed Revitalization Plan; proposals will be reviewed and contracts awarded in early 2019 for that project.
 - Brant reported that DEC will conduct its Rotating Integrated Basin Studies program in SLC during 2019. For more information, see https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/30951.html
 - Brant reported that U.S. E.P.A. has issued **"Getting In Step: Engaging Stakeholders in Your Watershed"**. See <u>https://cfpub.epa.gov/npstbx/files/stakeholderguide.pdf</u>
- Black Lake Issues. No report

Item 2: Speakers for Future EMC meetings.

- Tenbusch will try to contact Scott Schlueter about making a presentation to the EMC (U.S. Fish & Wildlife; coordinator of the Fish Enhancement, Mitigation and Research Fund FEMREF.
- Tenbusch will also try to schedule Richard Henderson, president of the Black Lake Association.

Tenbusch reported that the next **Save the River Winter Conference** will be held in Clayton on Saturday Feb. 2nd.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 PM.

The next meeting of the Watershed Management Committee will be held on Wednesday, January 9th, 2019 at 4:00 PM.

Tenbusch, John

From:	Alex French <afrench@clarkson.edu></afrench@clarkson.edu>
Sent:	Monday, October 22, 2018 10:35 AM
To:	Tenbusch, John
Subject:	Re: missed your call

I just sent him a message. Hopefully I'll get back to you soon. My best guess is that there were 10 volunteers or more (I saw several of them that day), they hit most of the drains in the downtown area of Potsdam (Market, Raymond, Main) and a bit on Maple, Waverly, and Leroy. That's where I've seen the stencils and I know I pointed them in those directions. I may have also suggested that they go down Pierrepont towards SUNY Potsdam. They separated into as many teams as the amount of stencils or spray cans you gave me (I think 4 teams). There is one in front of my house on Waverly Street. It's starting to fade now.

On Fri, Oct 19, 2018 at 1:49 PM Tenbusch, John <<u>JTenbusch@stlawco.org</u>> wrote:

Alex,

I was looking for a report from the Clarkson fraternity about their storm drain stenciling project last spring.

Looking for:

of storm drains painted (approx. locations, e.g.: "Maple, Clinton and Market Streets, between Cherry Street and Pine St.")

volunteers who participated

cans of paint used

Our funder, SLC Soil and Water Conservation District, asked for the info because they were having a Board mtg last night and wanted to be able to report.

I would still like to get that info so I can report to SWCD.

Thanks.

John

BYFG SUMMER NEWS 2018

Alien Invaders

By Andrew Weidman

I have seen the enemy, and it is — a bug. Well, a plant hopper, really, a big one. It's the Spotted Lanternfly, and it's pretty well entrenched in Southeast Pennsylvania by now. They were first reported in 2014, in Berks County, not very far from my home. The best guess is they hitchhiked into the country as couldn't get close enough with my macro. The adults don't fly eggs on a skid of landscaping stone.

The PA Dept. of Ag was doing its best to stop them, enforcing a guarantine area of two or three townships in Berks Coun-Today, the quarantine covers 13 As tiny as they were, they could jump tv. counties in Pennsylvania, including Leb- surprisingly well, reaching at least two anon county, and they've been reported in New York (a dead adult), Delaware (a guess. A tiny little insect tends to be live adult), and Virginia (multiple live adults and eggs). I've been told the Virginia sighting is just off Interstate 81, in of a research experiment to test control Virginia's fruit and wine country.

little beasties live and in the flesh. "Little" is a relative term, here; the adults are site had several different trees outfitted about an inch long and just under a half with different sticky trap materials, from inch wide, with a wingspan of just under duct tape and fly tape to commercial two inches, pretty impressive for a plant whitefly traps and Tanglefoot® traps. hopper. They're pretty distinctive, too, decked out in red, white, black and grey glefoot® paper covered in thousands wings.

The ones I saw that Saturday, however, were a good bit smaller. They were little jet black nymphs adorned with stark white polka dots, and could have sat comfortably on a pencil's eraser. Βv now, they've most likely added bright- Lanternflies, and they have the potential carmine red to their color scheme.

They're lively little buggers, too, scuttling quickly up and down the tree trunks and even rocks. They must be camera shy,

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lens for a good shot. I think my breath- very well, but they ing must have been the issue, because do hang on like they didn't seem to mind pictures taken nobody's business, with my cell phone.

feet of travel. At least, that was our best hard to track when it takes a flying leap.

One of the places we visited was the site measures. Apparently, the nymphs mi-Father's Day weekend, I got to see the grate up and down tree trunks daily, and can be captured on sticky traps. This Judging by the bare duct tape, and Tan-(ves, you read that right!) of nymphs, commercial traps seem to be the way to go. Too bad there were still lots of free nymphs crawling up and down the trunks.

> I've been following the news on Spotted to create a nearly Biblical plague. They feed on just about any plant, sucking sap from walnut and apple trees to grapes, eggplants and even horseradish. The

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- Heavy wall white PVC water pipe to swap for preserves or cider. 1 piece of each: 3" dia x 4', 16', 20'. 1) piece 6" dia x 9' - 6" and 1) piece 8" dia x 9' - 6". Available just east of Harrisburg, PA. Call Pete Fisher 🕿 717-545-9848.
- Wanted: Someone to prune and direct me with organic orchard of 30 young fruit and nut trees. Permaculture a bonus. Holly 🖀 717-809-1725 e-27 maximom@yahoo.com York County

only constant seems to be that they apparently need to feed on Tree-of-Heaven at least once in order to breed. They tend to feed in swarms numbering in the thousands., and produce so much honevdew that fungal disease outbreaks soon follow.

They also hitchhike like a boss. Remember how thev got here? clinging to cars, trucks, cargo, boats,... you get the idea. More to



the point, the females lay their egg masses on anything, and I mean anything. They seem to prefer rusty metal, rough wood, and concrete, but they Each egg case aren't awfully picky. holds a few hundred eggs. In other words, it's a self contained invasion force roughly the size of a big postage stamp

If you live on the Eastern Seaboard, keep an eye out for these alien invaders. If you see one, catch it, photograph it and kill-it. Call the PA Dept. of Ag at (717) 772- 5205 and ask for Dana



if Rhodes, even you're not in PA. Inspect your car. truck and trailer for hitchhikers, and don't transport firewood long distances. They're headed your

way, but maybe we can stop them before it's too late.

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