St. Lawrence County Environmental Management Council
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MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday June 15, 2022 at 6:00 PM
2nd-Floor Conference Room, Public Safety Complex
49½ Court Street, Canton, NY

1. Call to Order
In the absence of EMC officers, John Tenbusch called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM.

2. Land Acknowledgement
Tenbusch read a Land Acknowledgement, provided by Tony David, SRMT Environment Division:

"As we meet today, let us first give thanks and acknowledge that the land upon which we are gathered is part of traditional indigenous territories, including the Rotinonshionni (Low-dee-no-SHOO-nee), the People of the Longhouse, also known as the Iroquois Confederacy; and the Kanienkehaka (Ga-nyun-geh-HA-gah), the People of the Land of Flint, also known as the Mohawk Nation."

3. Roll Call, Determination of Quorum. ***A quorum was NOT present.***

Members present: Herb Bullock; Lance Rudiger; William Stephens III; Nicole Terminelli; Rod Tozzi; Brian Washburn.

Members absent: Catherine Bennett, Chair; Dustin Bowman, Secretary; Joe Brant; Herb Bullock; Lucas Hanss; Richard Marshall; Sue Rau; Tiernan Smith.
There are three vacancies.

Guest : Scott Schlueter, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.
Staff: John Tenbusch.

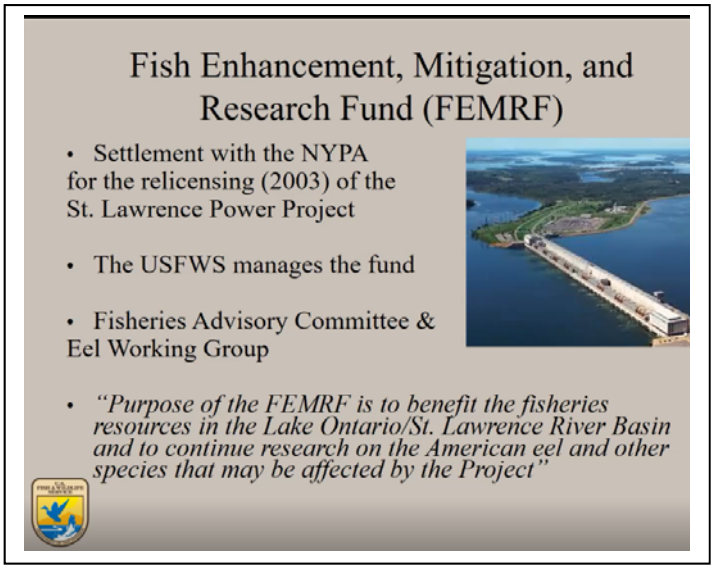
4. Acceptance of Order of Business, Items for New Business, Items for Unfinished Business
The Order of Business was accepted by consensus.

5. Approval of the Minutes of the May 2022 EMC Meeting. Due to lack of quorum, the Minutes could not be accepted.

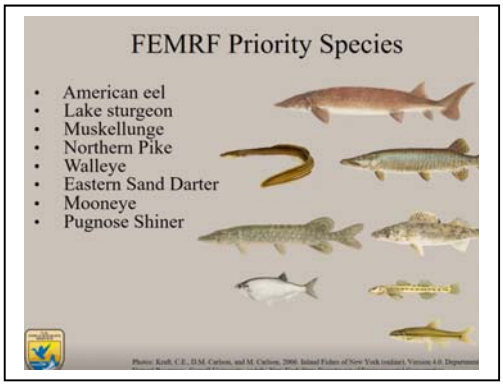
6. **Comments from the Public / Speaker:** The speaker was Scott Schlueter, from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. His presentation was titled "Fish Enhancement, Mitigation, and Research Fund (FEMRF): Update to SLC EMC".

Scott began by describing the four topics he will cover:

- FEMRF
- Tributary assessments
- St Lawrence River Telemetry Project
- American Eel Light Guidance study

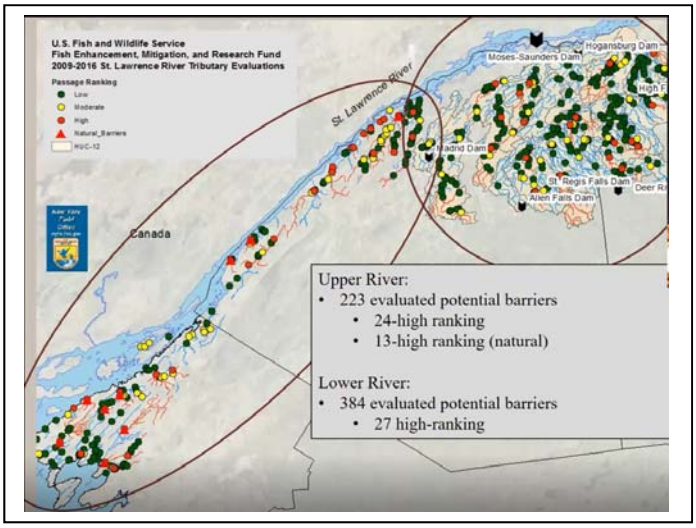


He reported that FEMRF is a research fund established as part of the relicensing of the St. Lawrence – Franklin D. Roosevelt Power Project (see https://www.fws.gov/project/fish-enhancement-mitigation-and-restoration-fund). Originally funded at $24 million, the Fund currently has a balance of approx. $13 million. Scott also reported that the St. Lawrence County Environmental Management Council is part of the Fisheries Advisory Committee, that reviews research proposals under FEMRF. (See EMC Minutes, 4/20/2022, under Watershed Management Committee Report, for Brian Washburn's report on the spring FAC meeting; https://stlawco.org/foldershare/file/15809?foldershareprefix=//sites/default/files)



Scott reported that FEMRF works on eight priority fish species, including American eel, Lake sturgeon, Muskie, Northern pike, Walleye, Eastern Sand Darter, Mooneye, and Pugnose Shiner. (Absent from this list of fish to be researched is bass, large- or small-mouthed).

Schlueter next reported on the St. Lawrence River Tributary assessments program, which began in 2006 and continued until 2016.



Staff from USFWS did a comprehensive evaluation of tributaries, and recorded fish barriers, in-stream habitat, and the fish communities present (migratory and resident species). This was an effort to identify possible mitigation projects. Collected data was provided to NYS DEC for their database.

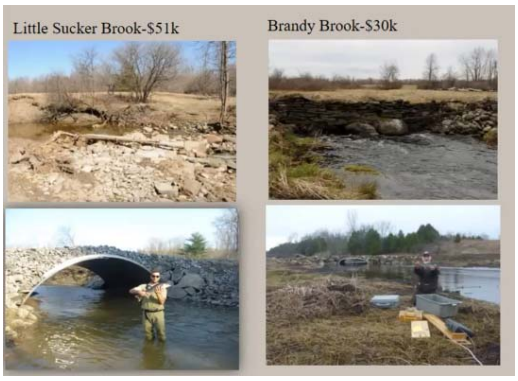
They identified 223 potential barriers in tributaries in the Upper River (from Waddington to Lake Ontario), and 384 potential barriers in tributaries in the Lower River (Louisville to Akwesasne).

Through their mitigation efforts, Scott reported that they have restored 70 miles of previously inaccessible-to-fish tributaries in the Upper River, and 40 miles in the Lower River.

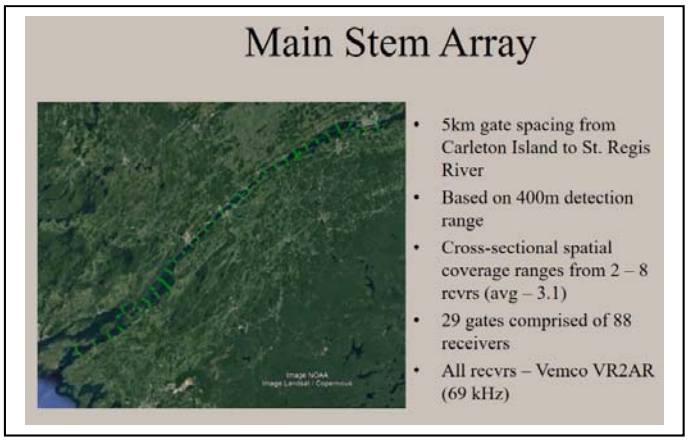
In response to a question, Schlueter noted that ongoing monitoring of tributaries might be a good project for local college students.

In response to another question, Scott offered his personal opinion that efforts to restore Atlantic salmon would not be cost-effective.

Examples of tributary restoration projects:



Scott then discussed a project that is just starting: the St. Lawrence River Telemetry Project. Tracking devices can be attached to or implanted into fish; they emit codes with information about that specific fish. Receivers are installed along the river; they record the signals from passing fish. Once per year, the receivers are retrieved and data downloaded. By installing receivers in a series of "gates", fish can be tracked as they move up or down the river. Another 20 receivers are placed at the mouth of tributaries, to document spawning activity. In 2022, Schlueter's crew have tagged 82 walleyes; they also tagged 25 juvenile lake sturgeon.



Scott reported that, since there has been interest in the movements of bass during and after tournaments, he would be willing to tag captured bass before they are released back into the water. Their movements would then be followed. He noted that his budget would not support this, since bass are not one of the priority fish set by the FEMRF program; however, if tournament sponsors or officials wanted to cover the cost of the tags, he could attach them.

Finally, Scott reported on ongoing studies on American eels. He noted that we know very little about eels. We do know that eel populations on the Upper St. Lawrence and in Lake Ontario have substantially declined. Eels migrating upstream are diverted to eel ladders at hydro dams; eels headed downstream suffer a 40% mortality rate, due to turbines at hydro-power dams. It has been estimated that 40% of eggs that show up in the Sargasso Sea come from St. Lawrence River / Lake Ontario eels; with high mortality rates caused by hydro on the St. Lawrence River, the impact on the overall eel population will be significant.

Schlueter will install an Eel Guidance Light Array (710 feet long, positioned 30 degrees to the current) to move eels to the American side of the River at the Iroquois dam, where they can be collected and transported past the hydro dams.

In response to questions, Schlueter reported that there will be a fish assessment of the Oswegatchie River dam in Ogdensburg, as part of the relicensing process.

Regarding the dam in Madrid, Scott reported that a unique strain of muskies live in the river upstream from the dam. If the dam was removed, those fish would disappear.

Tenbusch thanked Schlueter for his presentation. There was a 5 minute break.

7. Report by the Representative of the Board of Legislators. Nicole Terminelli reported:

- The comment period for the Climate Action Plan has been extended to July 1st.
- There has been much discussion regarding solar/renewable energy projects in the County. The BOL is concerned about the reduction in farms, and negative impacts on other parts of the economy (feed stores, implement dealers, etc.).
- Rick Marshall was re-appointed to the EMC, for a term lasting until July 2024.

8. Report of the Committees

a. **Executive Committee**. None.

b. **Conservation of Resources Committee**. See attached report.
   i. Tenbusch gave the report.

c. **Environment & Economy Committee**. See attached report.
   i. Tenbusch gave the report.

d. **Invasive Species Committee.** No meeting held. Tenbusch described other activity that Committee members have done/will do during the month.

e. **Watershed Management Committee**. No meeting held. Tenbusch described other activity that Committee members have done/will do during the month.

9. **Report of the Staff.** No verbal report; EMC members have the Planning Office written report for May.

10. Unfinished Business

a. Tenbusch referred to the Draft Climate Scoping Plan comments by EMC members. See attached. These comments will be submitted by staff.

b. Draft "EMC Opinion on Nuclear Energy". Tenbusch reported that he and Dakota had made changes to the draft Opinion, based on comments from last month's EMC meeting.
   i. Washburn asked if there was any momentum for building a nuclear facility in the County; Tenbusch reported that he is not aware of any activity.
   ii. There was a question about whether to list "Potential problems". After discussion, the group agreed that all EMC members would be asked to vote on that bullet point. If a majority of 9 votes is reached for either alternative, that version of the bullet point will be included with the final EMC Opinion.

11. New Business. None.

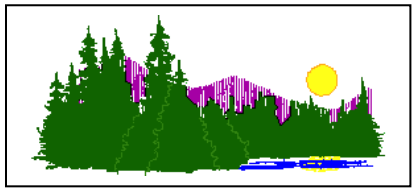
12. Announcements

- Tenbusch reminded EMC members about the SLELO PRISM water-chestnut-pulling event to be held at Heuvelton on June 25th.

13. Message to Board of Legislators. None.

14. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm by consensus.

Minutes prepared by John Tenbusch



SLC EMC Action Item Agenda for Conservation of Resources Committee

Members: C. Bennett; D Bowman; L Hanss; R. Marshall; S. Rau
STAFF: Dakota Casserly **Guest:**
Meeting Date: Wednesday June 08, 2022 at **5:00 PM** via Zoom

Time	Item	Outcome	Responsibility	Next Steps / Notes
5:00pm	Meeting starts	Join Zoom Meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81820123194?pwd=NlNJSjRFdThaSU1OTFBnSThJcUpsZz09 Meeting ID: 818 2012 3194 | Passcode: 868437 One tap mobile: +19292056099, Meeting ID: 818 2012 3194 | Passcode: 868437		
5:05	Review Report of last committee meeting (May 2022)		All	
5: 10	Discuss Priority Projects	• NYS Climate Act Scoping Plan comments - Due 7/1 • Organic Pollinator Garden Project - Update ○ Thank yous • Nuclear power discussion and letter to BOL • Oswegatchie River canoe launch New/Ongoing project ideas • Wise use of resources - table	All	
5:40	Discuss speakers for EMC meetings (1-3 speakers per year)	Pollinator garden (July opening or 2023 is wide open)	All	
5:45	Discuss ideas for EMC Public Service Announcements	This Committee will develop 1-3 PSAs per year on CR topics • Pollinator garden project	All	
5:50	Set date/time for next mtg.	**Next Mtg: July 13, 2022**		
5:55pm	Adjourn			

Attendance: Dustin Bowman (DB), Dakota Casserly (DC)

NYS Climate Act Scoping Plan comments - Due 7/1

- This will be shared with the full EMC before the June meeting.

Organic Pollinator Garden Project - Update

- Thank yous
  - Canfield, Goldie, Elmer, Town and Village for woodchips.
- DB talked about a sunflower planting project he organized at the United Helpers' Partridge Knoll facility in Canton.
- DB is attending a lasagna garden course and will report back

Nuclear power discussion and letter to BOL

- DC said the updated letter will be share with the full EMC before the June meeting.

DB and DC talked about solar projects and host community benefit agreements that are a part of some solar projects.

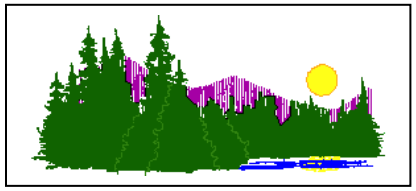
Oswegatchie River canoe launch

- CRC will tackle

Pollinator garden project press release, DB will draft.

New/Ongoing project ideas

- Wise use of resources - table



SLC EMC: Agenda for Environment + Economy Committee

Members: Herb Bullock; Rick Marshall; Tiernan Smith (Chair); Rod Tozzi
Staff: D. Casserly **Guest(s)**:
Meeting Date: Wednesday, June 08, 2022 **at 6:00 PM** via Zoom

Time	Item	Outcome	Responsibility	Next Steps
6:00 PM	Meeting starts	Join Zoom Meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81820123194?pwd=NlNJSjRFdThaSU1OTFBnSThJcUpsZz09 Meeting ID: 818 2012 3194 | Passcode: 868437 One tap mobile: +19292056099, Meeting ID: 818 2012 3194 | Passcode: 868437		
6:05	Review Report of Last Committee Meeting (May 2022)		All	
6:10	Priority Projects for 2022			
	Nuclear Energy Letter	Update		
	DEC Deer Management Program	Preparation/Update (All)		
	Ogdensburg Dam FERC (P-9821) Relicensing	5/31/22 - Plan to track/participate in the project.		
	Road Salt	Speaker recap		
	Recreation	SLC Snowmobile economic impact, speaker in the fall		
6:45	Discuss speakers for EMC meetings	DEC Deer Management Program • Steven Heerkens, NYS DEC Wildlife Biologist (10/16) Scott Schlueter, USFWS, June 15	All	
6:50	Develop Pub. Service Announcements	This Committee will develop 1-3 PSAs per year on E+E topics	All	
6:55	Set date/time for next meeting	**Next Mtg: July 13, 2022**		
7:00	Adjourn			

Attendance: Herb Bullock (HB), Dakota Casserly (DC), Tiernan Smith (TS), Rod Tozzi (RT)

Nuclear Energy Letter

- DC said that this will be shared before the June meeting for review.

DEC Deer Management Program

- DC talked about emails he has had with Steve Heerkens (DEC) and Ray Rainboldt (Fort Drum, Natural Resource Branch) about deer management and venison donation
- HB
    - What are the names and locations of local foodbanks in the County?
    - Local meat processors (Bellingers, Canton, $100/deer) (McClatchy, Russell) (Tri-Town Packing/ADK Smoked Meats, Winthrop)
    - What kind of inspection process is required for venison processing?
    - How do farms navigate the State's deer management program? Farmers to contact: Dave Fisher, John Smith, John Greenwood, Steve Morrill. Are villages and colleges participating in deer management?
- TS do processors need a DOH certification?
- HB reminded the Committee that the permit process is cumbersome and some choose not to follow it.

Ogdensburg Dam FERC (P-9821) Relicensing

- DC will keep the Committee updated on progress.

Road Salt

- We will look forward to the report coming from the State's road salt task force in September.
- We will reach out to municipalities to gather info on how much road salt they buy/use annually to form a baseline. TS will contact the Ogdensburg. DC will contact some munis.

Recreation

- Deb Christy to speak to the EMC in November.

Oswegatchie River canoe launch. This Committee would like to work on this in conjunction with the CRC. DC will reach out to Co Hwy to get the conversation going.

Adjourn @ 6:39 pm

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Draft Scoping Plan Comments
NYSERDA
17 Columbia Circle
Albany, NY 12203-6399

June 8, 2022

To: New York State Climate Action Council.

The St. Lawrence County Environmental Management Council (EMC), which is based in the State's largest county in the northern part of the State along the St. Lawrence River and within a portion of the Adirondack Park, asked its membership to provide comments on the Climate Action Council Draft Scoping Plan. They are listed below with their respective page numbers in this PDF.

Chapter 6. Achieving Climate Justice… pgs 2-3

Chapter 11. Transportation… pgs 4-5

Chapter 15. Agriculture and Forestry… pg 6

Chapter 15. Agriculture and Forestry… pg 7

Chapter 19. Land Use… pgs 8-9

Entire plan… pgs 10-12

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to the final scoping plan.

St Lawrence County EMC

EMC: Everybody Must Care!

Comments on Chapter 6 of the Draft-Scoping-Plan by the
NYS Climate Action Council
Submitted by Sue Rau and John Tenbusch

Overview:

"The Climate Act recognizes that climate change especially heightens the vulnerability of Disadvantaged Communities, which bear environmental and socioeconomic burdens as well as legacies of racial and ethnic discrimination."

The sentence above acknowledges that Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) may be affected by climate change more than other groups. Funding for the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) (Climate Act) goes through the Clean Energy Fund (CEF). This scoping plan addresses the next 5 years of this project 2022-2025. Since 2022 is a planning year some items are for 2023-2025.

One of the ways that the plan addresses DACs is to require that 35% of the funding needs to be used for these communities with a hoped for goal of 40%. On the DEC website 40% of all NYS households are considered Low or Middle Income (LMI) which is defined as having an income less than 80% of the average income of the community. Income is only one of the criteria that determines if a community is a DAC.

The Climate Justice Working Group (CJWG) is the group given the task of defining DAC criteria and determining the methodology of dispersing the benefits and reporting on whether their fair share was given to them. The CJWG had 3 rural groups representing rural NYS. They are ANCA, CCE Oneida and Madison County and Adirondack Diversity Solutions. The group closest to SLC is the Adirondack Diversity Solutions group based in Saranac Lake.

It is likely that SLC will have several DACs. These comments are focused on trying to make it easier for our residents to have their voices heard in this new and exciting project that will hopefully reach its goals of lowering carbon emissions and helping DACs catch up with technology and jobs.

Comments:

1. If 40% of all households in NYS are LMI without the environmental component being considered and only 35% of total funding is promised to DACs, then the funding amount for DAC's probably is not sufficient and will not fulfill the goal of protecting and helping DACs.

1A. The amount to be allocated to administrative costs should be set and be transparent. It is suggested that 20% might be a fair number.

2.The CJWG is a key group because they will define DACs and methodology for funding their needs. In reading Chapter 6, there is no specific mention of rural vs urban. Until the list of DACs is available, there is no information on the split of rural vs urban, or if funds will be allocated by geographic area or population. *** *John was told that in the next week or so the list of DACs should be released, so we should know more about this topic and can comment*

on how rural areas are treated and suggest methods of determining funding either geographically of by population.

3. Rural areas have often been “left behind” from a rural resident’s perspective. The criteria for funding urban vs rural projects must be should be fully transparent and justified. Rural needs should be considered equally beside urban ones.

4. Any future regional or focus groups should include North Country representatives and similar groups from other rural parts of the state that were not represented in the past.

5. Each economic development council of NYS was given the opportunity to form a Climate Hub in their region. Thirty six million dollars was offered. The North Country Region Economic Development Council should use the funds to set up a North Country Climate Hub. We recommend SUNY Canton.

6. The Climate Act created a program to measure and record air pollution. The plan is to monitor 10 communities that would cover about 5 million residents in order to get a broad picture of air quality in DACs. The DEC is to “further define areas for monitoring and other details” in consultation with the CJWG and community members. Rural areas should be included in this monitoring program. It is suggested (but not limited to) that emissions from DuPont Canada and ALCOA/Arconic be measured along the river east of Ogdensburg and on the Akwesasne Reserve respectively.

Chapt 11. Transportation (pgs. 94-118)

11.1 State of the Sector

- Overview
  - Mobility-oriented development (MOD)
    - Just another name for transit-oriented development (TOD)
    - How does complete streets policy fit in?
- Vision for 2030
  - ZEVs goals are lofty, are the projections based on existing single occupancy vehicle demand? Incentivize ridesharing.
- Vision for 2050
  - "Retire older internal combustion vehicles," is it worth exploring how to electrify existing ICE vehicles, instead of building new?
  - Dreamy text here, how will it be equitable?
- Existing Sectoral Mitigation Strategies
  - "NYSERDA and the electric utilities are required by the electric vehicle supply equipment Make-Ready order of 2020 to undertake feasibility studies for MHD fleets, including for school districts & transit agencies …"
    - Transit agencies and schools need to collaborate to share services. School buses sitting idle outside of the morning and afternoon commute. Sharing resources with public transit could provide improved service and break silos of community resources.
  - "The 2011 New York State Complete Streets Act …"
    - This is great; more incentives and promotion of success stories are needed.
- Key Stakeholders
  - "municipal sponsors" County, towns, and villages?
  - "Market-Based Solutions and Financing" Not one representative from the private sector (This is addressed below)?

11.2 Key Sector Strategies

- Transitioning to Zero-Emission Vehicles and Equipment
  - T1. Light-Duty Zero Emission Vehicle Adoption
    - Components of the Strategy
  - T2. Adoption of Zero-Emission Trucks, Buses, and Non-road Equipment
    - Components of the Strategy
- Enhancing Public Transportation and Mobility Alternatives
  - T3. Community-Based Service Enhancements
    - Components of the Strategy
  - T4. Customer Convenience and Service Connectivity
    - Components of the Strategy
      - Land use regulations dictate locations of uses; improved focus on municipal centers and less sprawl could ease convenience and connectivity (addressed in the Smart Growth section below).
  - T5. Fleet Modernization and Electrification
    - Components of the Strategy

- Smart Growth and Mobility-Oriented Development
    - T6 Mobility-Oriented Development
        - Components of the Strategy
    - T7. Smart Growth Public Education and Awareness
        - Component of the Strategy
    - T8. Expanding the Availability of Low-Carbon Transportation Alternatives
        - Components of the Strategy
    - T9. New Technology Integration
        - Components of the Strategy
- Market-Based Solutions and Financing
    - T10. Transportation Sector Market-Based Policies
        - Components of the Strategy
            - Should vehicle weight be included b/c heavier vehicles, especially loaded trucks, have more impact on roadways than smaller passenger vehicles?
    - T11. Unlock Private Financing
        - Components of the Strategy
    - T12. Lower Carbon Renewable Fuels
        - Components of the Strategy

Overall, the shift to electrification of the transportation sector, seems like a continuation of existing transportation practices, which is expensive to maintain. New Yorkers may very well continue to support existing practices. However, "will market-based solutions and financing," and other strategies, lead to a better understanding of the "true cost(s)" of our transportation infrastructure and therefore influence behavior change. There was no mention of road salt usage and there are successful reduction examples in the State (https://www.adkwatershed.org/road-salt-research) .

Chapter 15. Agriculture and Forestry

Upon reviewing this chapter and consulting our agricultural experts, we conclude that for dramatic, lasting change is needed hands-on solutions, fueled by research of experts like Lady Eve Balfour, Rowen White and Kiss The Ground. Funding allocated towards industrialized agriculture should shift to proven soil and community-based, multi-dimensional carbon sequestration projects.

Real-world examples include:

Scaled-up municipal and on-farm composting: https://www.nationalgeographic.com/culture/article/130618-food-waste-composting-nyc-san-francisco

Educating on and promoting regenerative agriculture: https://soilhealthacademy.org/

Ban synthetic pesticides and fertilizers: https://www.ehn.org/banned-pesticides2655520575/pesticide-industry-influence-at-the-local-level

By concentrating resources and efforts on these three objectives, the goal of carbon neutrality will be within our grasp.

Hello,

I read through several sections of the NYS Climate scoping plans, but mostly the forestry sections, chapter 15, pages 193 to page 206. This scope is generally very complete and very complex, and well documented while recommending multiple, mostly state, programs that are already in place, with extensions. There are few weaknesses that I was able to discern, if any. The forestry section involved a great deal of "sequestration and storage" of carbon through forest wood products, and their management strategies, which were all good.

All that is being suggested is good planning, but I want to suggest one area of weakness to which I would recommend having more emphasis placed. The issue is the multiple plans and agencies in this climate plan offer "sequestration" involving NYS, whereas the corporate financial world is not mentioned much, if at all.

It seems that corporations are becoming very interested in conducting private contracts involving " sequestration" with farmers to keep their forest lands intact and to use these contracts to promote "trade and cap" forest acreage to their own advantage. Corporations are often funding tree landowners with these private contracts, however, most local smaller forest owners have little knowledge of what these contracts involve and how the forests need to be managed. There is little if any oversight from these corporations; they often do not care as long as they can claim acreage under contract mitigating climate change contracts to be used in their advertising brochures. These contracts often offer large sums of money to the land owners.

Therefore, when the climate plan mentions only 18 percent of privately owned forest lands are properly managed, there is plenty of room for improvement. Corporations can and should play a large part in helping with carbon storage and "sequestration" and forest management.

The plan mentions goals of establishing a "NYS Carbon Bank", which is a good idea and could establish guidelines, but these guidelines, rules, regulations need to be spelled out and coordinated better with corporations establishing these private contracts. In other words, corporations establishing private contracts with forest land owners need oversight from knowledgeable NYS or other certified foresters. More foresters are needed and more state monies are needed for the state to be able to compete with these corporations to purchase forest acreage contracts in order for a state carbon bank to be successful

In addition, it seems that local forest owners often times can be easily taken advantage of by corporations. Often times, corporations use their advertising, which benefits more the corporate visibility, while any true "forest sequestration", proper management strategies, or carbon storage is minimal.

In other words, forest owners might benefit from more educational assistance programs and more instruction to help make decisions when trusting and dealing with a state run "Carbon Bank", rather than dealing with a private corporate contract that has no oversight.

Of course, money talks, and tree farmers will likely will go where there is the most money --- despite the various available better programs.

Thanks, Herb Bullock

Chapt 19. Land Use (pgs. 272-301)

19.1 Overview

- "Clean energy siting assistance" With regards to solar in our county (St. Lawrence), there are issues with proposed solar developments covering prime agriculture lands. County and municipal boards have language in their local land use regulations to avoid prime agriculture land and encourage, this type of development, on marginal lands.
- Existing Strategies
- Key Stakeholders
    - Improved coordination and information sharing among stakeholders can be beneficial. The "silo" nature of some of these organizations can present challenges when working on small and large-scale projects.
    - Municipalities, who regulate land use, often times have decision-making boards that are all volunteer. Additional incentives (stipends, tax break(s), etc..) for community members to volunteer would be helpful.

19.2 Key Strategies

- Table 14. Land Use Key Strategies by Theme
- Protection, Restoration, and Monitoring of Natural and Working Lands
    - Clearing forest(s) for renewable energy project siting is the wrong approach. More focus on marginal lands is needed. Developers will often say that marginal lands are located too far from existing electrical infrastructure. Therefore, should the State and utilities (public and private) cost share needed infrastructure expansion?
- LU1. Mitigate Carbon Emissions by Protection of Forest Lands
    - Components of the Strategy
- LU2. Afforestation and Reforestation
    - "..by the 1880s, less than 20% of New York State was forested." This fact is amazing and the State has come a long way.
    - Looking for "using only native tree species" language and I'm not seeing it.
    - Components of the Strategy
        - "Establish NY Tree or Climate Corps." This sounds great.
- LU3. Avoid Agricultural and Forested Land Conversion
    - Components of the Strategy
        - "Strengthen Right to Practice Forestry law." Why strengthen, doesn't this law already provide exemptions and protections?
        - "Mitigate impact from renewable energy projects on forests." NYSERDA should have more oversight on design and require developers to improve design to avoid forest clearing.
- LU4. Protect and Restore Wetlands
    - "Other possible mitigants include cross-agency and cross-industry communication and coordination." How can we be successful with this effort? The silo nature and culture can be significantly challenging.
    - Components of the Strategy
- LU5. Mapping, Research, Planning, and Assistance
    - No "GIS" language. Please include as its use extends from a local to global level and critical in decision making. The public could use improved understanding of GIS.
    - Components of the Strategy

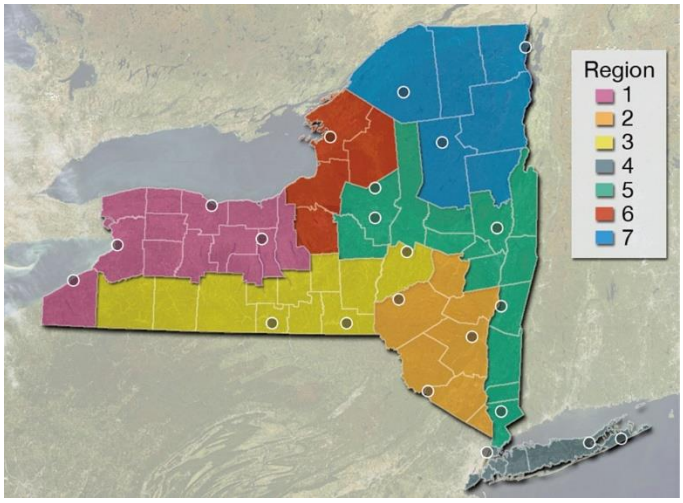
        - "Consider technologies" NYS agencies are already using LIDAR technologies for State projects. Source NYS examples.
            - https://gis.ny.gov/elevation/lidar-coverage.htm
            - https://www1.cuny.edu/sites/sustainable/solar/ny-solar-map-and-portal/
        - "Develop a service corps program" This is proposed in other chapters of the plan; one corps with a variety of options: wetlands, trails, tree, climate, etc..
- Forests and Farmland in Municipal Land Use Policies
    - LU6. Provide Guidance and Support for Afforestation and Reforestation to Local Communities
        - Components of the Strategy
            - "Establish NY Tree or Climate Corps" A repeat? Is there a better way to promote this type of strategy throughout the plan with the same title (Environmental Corps)?
    - LU7. Increase Forest and Farmland Protection in Municipal Comprehensive Plans
        - Components of the Strategy
        - BMPs are great. Easier access to (and sharing of) this information on the web would be helpful
    - LU8. Provide Guidance and Support on Clean Energy Siting to Localities
        - Components of the Strategy
        - Rural parts of the State are easy targets for energy siting, which some communities welcome. Should NYSERDA focus siting efforts closer to demand sources and reduce transmission needs? If rural parts of the State are to be used for energy sites, the host communities should benefit from development by lower power bills, property tax relief, and community investment.
- Smart Growth
    - Single family residential zoning should be revisited to permit accessory dwelling units (ADUs) and thus, more density where appropriate. (Addressed in the plan)
    - Affordable housing it a growing issue.
    - LU9. Regional and County Planning and Technical Assistance
        - Components of the Strategy
        - In rural parts of the State we are still planning around the automobile. How can we incorporate more "walkable" design(s). This is challenging when our land use developments require the use of a car.
    - LU10. Direct Planning, Zoning, and Pre-Development Assistance to Municipalities
    - LU11. Align State Funding Priorities
    - LU12. Accelerate Transit-Oriented Development

Draft Scoping Plan Comments

Brian Washburn

- Overall the plan fails to consider any specific aspects of climate change with respect to NYS Climate Region 7 which includes St. Lawrence, Franklin, Clinton, Essex, Hamilton, and Warren counties.
- The NYSERDA ClimAID report appears to have served as the major data source for the plan. A review of the ClimAID report's specific sections i.e. water resources totally ignores Climate Region 7. The focus of the NYSDERA ClimAID reports and the plan is NYS from Interstate Route 90 south to the greatest extent.
- The NYSERDA ClimAID report with respect to potential impacts on temperature and precipitation used data from Indian Lake located in Hamilton County within the AP. This county has virtually no agricultural activity, no established villages, a population of approximately 5100, a majority of its land area is forested, and is located at the southern edge of the climate zone. The climate and land usage for the larger counties of the St. Lawrence floodplain and those with Lake Champlain shoreline are ignored. The following are the temperature and precipitation projections for Climate Region 7. Of note is the large variance between the low percentile change and the high percentile change. Overall, as would be expected, atmospheric temperatures and precipitation are projected to increase. The second data set maybe of greater significance since it looks at specific climatic events. Of significance is the reduction in days below 32 degrees. Since it was presented that 38% of NYS carbon emissions are from buildings, is not this projection of decreasing days below 32 degrees a positive change?

Figure 1. ClimAID Climate Regions



Region 7 (Indian Lake) – Temperature

Baseline (1971-2000) 39.9 °F	Low Estimate (10th Percentile)	Middle Range (25th to 75th Percentile)	High Estimate (90th Percentile)
2020s	+ 1.8 °F	+ 2.3 to 3.4 °F	+ 3.8 °F
2050s	+ 3.7 °F	+ 4.5 to 6.4 °F	+ 7.4 °F
2080s	+ 4.2 °F	+ 5.8 to 10.1 °F	+ 11.8 °F
2100	+ 4.4 °F	+ 6.2 to 11.9 °F	+ 13.9 °F

Region 7 (Indian Lake) – Precipitation

Baseline (1971-2000) 40.8 inches	Low Estimate (10th Percentile)	Middle Range (25th to 75th Percentile)	High Estimate (90th Percentile)
2020s	0 percent	+ 3 to + 6 percent	+ 9 percent
2050s	+ 2 percent	+ 4 to + 12 percent	+ 15 percent
2080s	+ 3 percent	+ 6 to + 13 percent	+ 17 percent
2100	- 2 percent	+ 8 to + 20 percent	+ 26 percent

Potential Impacts

2020s	Low Estimate (10th Percentile)	Middle Range (25th to 75th Percentile)	High Estimate (90th Percentile)
Days over 90 °F (0.3 days)	0.5	0.8 to 2	2
# of Heat Waves (0 heat waves)	0	0.1 to 0.2	0.2
Duration of Heat Waves (3 days)	3	3 to 4	4
Days below 32 °F (193 days)	159	162 to 172	177
Days over 1” Rainfall (7 days)	7	7 to 8	9
Days over 2” Rainfall (0.8 days)	0.7	0.8 to 1	1

2050s	Low Estimate (10th Percentile)	Middle Range (25th to 75th Percentile)	High Estimate (90th Percentile)
Days over 90 °F (0.3 days)	2	3 to 6	10
# of Heat Waves (0 heat waves)	0.2	0.3 to 0.7	1
Duration of Heat Waves (3 days)	3	3 to 4	4
Days below 32 °F (193 days)	131	138 to 154	161
Days over 1" Rainfall (7 days)	7	8 to 9	10
Days over 2" Rainfall (0.8 days)	0.8	0.9 to 1	1

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2080s	Low Estimate (10th Percentile)	Middle Range (25th to 75th Percentile)	High Estimate (90th Percentile)
Days over 90 °F (0.3 days)	3	5 to 19	27
# of Heat Waves (0 heat waves)	0.2	0.5 to 2	3
Duration of Heat Waves (3 days)	4	4 to 5	5
Days below 32 °F (193 days)	107	118 to 143	156
Days over 1" Rainfall (7 days)	8	8 to 10	11
Days over 2" Rainfall (0.8 days)	0.8	0.9 to 1	1

- As I have encountered many times there are errors. Some examples include the statement that there are 7 thermoelectric facilities in Climate Region 7 for which there are virtually 0 and in the ClimAID water resources section it is stated there are only 6 municipalities relying on one surface water source for domestic water all located south of Interstate 90. Look up the Village of Potsdam water system and it states the water source is surface water i.e. the Raquette River.
- All of the Scoping Plan's scenarios include restricting new construction to electric space heating and increased insulation of existing structures to reduce heat loss. One significant factor not mentioned is if the building envelope of an existing structure is improved what happens to indoor air quality. Currently NYS requires an Air Change per Hour of 3.0. This requirement necessitates an air exchange system (Heat Recovery Ventilator for new construction and in some areas building codes require ventilator systems (non-heat recovery) for rehabs of a certain value). The need of ventilation systems dramatically will increase the cost of a building envelope upgrade.