



St. Lawrence County Environmental Management Council

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MEETING MINUTES

Submitted by Samuel Joseph

Wednesday November 15, 2023 at 6:00 PM

2nd-Floor Conference Room, Public Safety Complex

And via ZOOM

1. **Call to Order** Vice-Chair called meeting to order 6:02 p.m.
2. **Land Acknowledgement** B. Washburn read a Land Acknowledgement, provided by Tony David, Director of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Environment Division, and used with his permission:

“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 Rotinoshionni (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. **Comments from the Public / Speaker:**
 - a. Miles Manchester Wood Heat
4. **Roll Call, Determination of Quorum 8 members of the 12 filled membership**
A QUORUM WAS OBTAINED
Members Present: H. Bullock; S. Hurlbut; M. Iversen; A. Pearson; S. Rau, *Chair*; N. Terminelli, *BOL Liaison*; B. Washburn, *Vice-Chair*; N. Woodworth.
Members Absent: S. Cunningham; L. Hanss; R. Marshall; L. Rudiger
Staff: S. Joseph, *Planner II*;
Guests: Nance Arquiatt, *DEC*; Lynda Bage, *EMC member applicant*; Miles Manchester, *citizen interested in cleaner and safer wood heat education*
5. **Acceptance of Order of Business, Items for New Business, Items for Unfinished Business**
Motion to approve (Bullock/Rau) passed unanimously
6. **Approval of the Minutes of the Oct 2023 EMC Meeting**
Motion to approve Octobers Meeting Minutes (Bullock/Rau) passed unanimously
7. **Report by Nicole Terminelli, Representative of the Board of Legislators (10 min)**
 - a. Lynda Bage received second review in front of the BOL
 - b. Verbiage from the census question regarding wood heat “which fuel is used the most for heating this house, apartment, or mobile home”
8. **Report of the Committees**
 - a. Shannon Hurlbut: PAG GLAM 2014 Phase 2 review (15-20 min)
 - i. Public Advisory Group (PAG) met Oct 4-5th Saunders Hydro Dam Visitor

Centre in Cornwall, ON

- ii. The meeting included
 1. International Joint Committee (IJC)
 2. Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Adaptive Management (GLAM)
 3. International Lake Ontario St. Lawrence River Board (ILOVSLRB)
- iii. PAG committee reports to GLAM, GLAM reports to ILOSLRB
- iv. The ILOVSLRB consists of Canadian and USA citizens, board presents recommendations to the IJC for approval
- v. Plan 2014 review phase 2 with focus on public engagement the PAG was created for a mechanism to interact with community members that will be impacted along the St. Lawrence River.
- vi. <https://www.ijc.org/en/glam>
- vii. https://www.ijc.org/sites/default/files/IJC_LOSR_EN_Web.pdf Plan 2014 in effect 2017

9. Report of the Staff (10 min)

- a. Solar in county –
 - i. Developing Solar Mapping Tool to identify areas in county suitable for solar development
 - ii. Battery Storage issues of safety and environmental contamination
 - b. Ag District Review –
 - i. NYS Ag and Market Rep toured the county
 - c. Questions and discussion regarding Rich Road Solar Project
 - d. Discussions about Solar Lease agreements with landowners and battery storage
 - i. NYPA building new sub stations and battery storage facilities tying in 2025-2027
 - ii. S. Hurlbut offered to have someone from NYPA regarding battery storage
10. DEC updates
- a. Climate Smart Communities
 - i. Ogdensburg
 - ii. Village and Town of Potsdam
 - iii. Village of Canton
 - iv. Village of Norwood
 - v. Town of Colton
 - b. DEC Info locator
 - c. Black Lake Report Process
11. Election of New Secretary
- a. Adam elected as Secretary unanimously
12. Reviewed Power and Duties and SMART goal
13. Discussion on Invasive Species List task from BOL
14. Conifer-Emporium RMP
15. Visioning Document
- a. Fourth bullet public participation so much state and county land available for public use. More specific language about EMC assist a broader understanding of the opportunities for land management issues. Public doesn't understand DEC decision making. Place that EMC can play a larger role in that DEC process. Revise that bullet

and send it out. Under bullet of “general understanding of the natural world we all live” make more specific on public opportunity input on state land management

16. Goal/ Activity Creation

- a.** Brain storm of activities
- b.** Recruitment
 - i. Request of map of members
 - ii. Reach out to towns
- c.** List of organizations
- d.** Vote on projects

17. New Business

- a.** Earth Day Event
 - i. April 22 event Youth Advisory Bureau

18. Announcements

- a.** No meeting in December. Next meeting January 17, 2024
- b.** Lake George Water keeper presentation on Road Salt Preliminary Report
 - i. Main culprit NYSDOT.
 - ii. Reduced application rate, but happening more frequently
 - iii. Dakota did a questionnaire to town highways on salt use. Sam to look for this info

19. Adjournment 8:00 (Bullock/Rau)