



St. Lawrence County Environmental Management Council

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MEETING MINUTES Wednesday, January 17, 2024

Submitted by Samuel Joseph

Classroom A, One Stop Career Center, Human Services Center

80 State Highway 310, Canton, NY 13617

I Call to Order: Chair called meeting to order 6:05

A. Land Acknowledgment: S. Rau read a Land Acknowledgement, provided by Tony David, Director of the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Environment Division, and used with his permission:

1. “As we meet today, let us first give thanks and acknowledge that the land upon which we are gathered is part of the 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.”

B. Comments from the Public: None

C. Roll Call: 11 members of the 13 filled membership **Quorum was obtained**

1. Members Present: H. Bullock; L. Bage; L. Hanss; M. Iversen; R. Marshall; A. Pearson, *Secretary*; S. Rau, *Chair*; L. Rudiger; N. Terminelli, *BOL Liaison*; B. Washburn, *Vice-Chair*; N. Woodworth.
2. Members Absent: S. Hurlbut; S. Cunningham;
3. Staff: S. Joseph, *Planner II*;
4. Guests: Randall Young, Department of Environmental Conservation;

D. Adoption of Agenda: Agenda was adopted

E. Approval of Minutes: S. Rau suggested edit of minutes to include link for DEC info locator

1. Approved (Bullock / Pearson)

II Reports

A. Report of Board of Legislators Liaison:

1. Resolution on encouraging use of solar development mapping tool going through the BOL for approval
 - a. Discussion on land owner rights, zoning rules
 - b. Discussion on Rich Road Solar Project
 - (1) Office received Notice of Completion of Application 1/3/24 60 days to have 30 day public input. Will keep the EMC up to date on the comment period.
2. Resolution on 8 year review

B. New Member: Lynda Bage

C. Council Logistics: (22 min) (11 min 1-5) (10 min Facebook)

1. 2024 Meeting Schedule (Hanss / Pearson) Approved
 - a. Discussion on which months to take off
2. Membership list contact review
3. Notice of new member application: Michael Weaver
4. Discussion on election of new Executive Board Members.
 - a. Nominating committee February
 - b. Election March
5. Will not have speakers unless part of intentional project goal
6. Facebook
 - a. Cannot access current facebook page. Will create a new one
 - b. Discussion on who will manage and if allowed by County (yes)

- c. Discussion on digital communication
- d. **Action:** Staff will check in office on authority to post, press release, etc.

D. Report of Committees:

1. **Emerging Invasive Species Presentation** B. Washburn, S. Rau (1/5/24) (24 min discussion)
 - a. Four main species of concern
 - (1) Spotted Lantern Fly (Located South of I-90)
 - (2) Elm Zigzag Fly (Found in three forest of SLC county)
 - (a) Wilson Hill Wildlife Management Area
 - (b) Lost Nation State Forest
 - (c) Brasher State Forest
 - (3) Boxwood Tree Moth
 - (4) Beech Tree Disease
 - b. <https://tnc.app.box.com/s/juayp5xblem83ws2fsdbzlt63oku9f7p> (slides)
 - c. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u4ZcciYsUTs> (recording)
 - d. Discussion on Climate Change and Invasive Species
 - (1) <https://bioone.org/journals/environmental-entomology/issues> (resource recommended by Lucas)
 - (2) <https://naisma.org/event/international-invasive-species-climate-change-conference/> (Virtual Conference Jan 30-31 on invasion biology and climate change)
 - (3) NYS Forester for SLC Steve Sherwood
2. **Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC update)**
 - a. Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking regarding Freshwater Wetland Regulation
 - (1) <https://dec.ny.gov/regulatory/regulations/proposed-emergency-recently-adopted-regulations/fish-wildlife-revisions>
 - (2) Comments are due Feb 19th
 - (3) DEC is not changing area of jurisdiction. Legislation changed the Article 24 of Conservation Law.
 - (a) Currently to have jurisdiction over wetland it has to exist on a map. The legislature changed that, now maps are informational, and DEC has jurisdiction over wetlands whether it exists on a map or not. Takes affect 2025
 - (b) Wetlands that are under DEC jurisdiction will shrink from 12.4 acres to 7.4 acres takes effect 2028
 - (c) Clarifies criteria of wetlands of unusual local importance
 - (d) Discussion on local jurisdiction for smaller acre wetlands
 - (e) 300' buffer zone on fragile wetlands
3. SLC SWCD no update
4. **Report of Staff** (25 minutes)
 - a. GLAA meeting New York's Great Lakes Action Agenda 2023 (17 minutes)
 - (1) https://extapps.dec.ny.gov/docs/water_pdf/greatlakesactionagenda2023.pdf
 - (2) Area of Concern near Massena
 - (3) Grant application for implementing St. Lawrence River Watershed Revitalization Plan (SLRWRP) through Department of State in collaboration with Franklin County SWCD
 - (4) Potential project is assist culvert assessment through North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative (NAACC) Assessment <https://streamcontinuity.org/naacc> for the St Lawrence River Watershed.
 - (5) Canton Contracted with DANC to assess culverts in the village
 - (6) Action Item: Send watershed / culvert info to EMC
 - (7) Discussion on USGS gauging station, monitoring streams
 - (a) A. Pearson and B. Washburn knowledgeable regarding this information
 - (b) <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/new-york-water-science-center>
 - b. Planning Office Updates (8 minutes)
 - (1) See report
 - (2) Discussion on River Advisory Board
 - (a) **Action Item:** Planning staff find out who is representing County River Advisory Board

- (b) DEC chairs these committees.
 - i. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) licensing proceedings
 - ii. Hydro Electric Facilities set aside money for improvements along the river, often dealing with recreation.
 - iii. Action Item: DEC will get list of who is on these committees Dick McDonald
 - iv. Oswegatchie River Council has not been formed yet

III Unfinished Business:

- A. Environmental Management Council Vision Document
 - 1. Reviewed Document and edits with discussion
 - 2. Motion to approve the Vision Statements with edits (Washburn / Bage) (Approved)
- B. Review SMART goals for Liaison to Environmental Groups (did not get to will put on Feb agenda)

IV New Business:

- A. Goal Activity Focus
 - 1. Discussion on EcoAdapt (10 min)
 - a. Action Item (Iversen, Washburn, Rau) Review EcoAdapt and reach out to contacts
 - 2. Rau suggested having members send suggestion on projects to work on to staff.
 - 3. Earth Day
 - 4. DEC Wetland Comments Due Feb 19 Prepare something for E Board Review by Feb 6
 - a. **Action Item:** L. Bage and A. Pearson will review info and give suggestion to E board
 - 5. **Action Item:** Staff send out Solar Development Mapping Tool link
 - 6. Discussion on Solar Development and Agriculture

V Announcements:

- A. Solar Eclipse (4/8/2024)
 - 1. Nature Center Lucas Hanss a lot of eclipse programing if anyone wants to collaborate
- B. Earth Day (4/22/2024)
- C. B. Washburn
 - 1. Appointed EMC representative to US Fish Wildlife Fish Enhancement, Mitigation and Research Fund (FEMRF) meetings
 - 2. Fish Advisory Committee Red mills area gave away 100 acres without consult USFWS (audio not audible) B. Washburn will send out a report
- D. Long EMC member Ray Horst Passed Away. John Tenbusch donated \$100 in the name of the EMC to Bat Research Society on Ray's behalf.

VI Motion to Adjourn (Washburn / Hanss) Meeting ended 8:13 p.m.

VII Action Items:

- A. Staff:
 - 1. Check in on authority to post digital information, facebook, press releases, website
 - 2. Info regarding River Advisory Councils
 - 3. Mail information regarding SLRWRP, GLAA, LOI grant
 - 4. Send Solar Development Mapping Tool link
- B. Wetland Regulation comments due to E board by Feb 6th
 - 1. L. Bage and A. Pearson
- C. EcoAdapt review / reach out to contacts
 - 1. B. Washburn and M. Iversen