



St. Lawrence County Environmental Management Council

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www.Stlawco.gov/Departments/Planning/AdvisoryBoards/EnvironmentalManagementCouncil

MEETING Minutes Wednesday, March 20 , 2024

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 6:07
- A. Land Acknowledgment:** Sue Rau 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 the 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.”
- B. Roll Call** 9 of the 13 members present **Quorum obtained** S. Hurlbut came late (6:35 PM) making 10 members
1. Members Present: L. Bage; H. Bullock; L. Hanss; S. Hurlbut (late); M. Iversen; A. Pearson, *Secretary*; S. Rau, *Chair*; N. Terminelli, *BOL Liaison*; B. Washburn, *Vice-Chair*; N. Woodworth.
 2. Members Absent: S. Cunningham; R. Marshall (notified resignation); L. Rudiger;
 3. Staff: S. Joseph, *Planner II*;
 4. DEC Representative: Randall Young, Department of Environmental Conservation;
 5. Guests: Michael Weaver (Council applicant)
- C. Acceptance of Order of Business**
1. **Items for Unfinished Business**
 - a. Added to agenda **Review Solar Development Mapping Tool**
 2. **Items for New Business**
 - a. Added to agenda **National Grid Email regarding Infrastructure Investment**
 - b. Added to agenda **Forestry Advisory Board**
- D. Approval of Minutes** (February 21, 2024) Approved Unanimously (Woodworth / Pearson)
- E. Council Logistics**
1. Sound Check
 - a. Sound quality with microphone poor again. Planning office put in a request to IT to address.
 2. Nominations and Vote on Executive Board
 - a. Nominating committee put forth the following nominations for the executive board:
 - (1) Chair: S. Rau
 - (2) Vice Chair: B. Washburn
 - (3) Secretary: N. Woodworth
 - b. Nominations from floor: None
 - c. Elections:
 - (1) **Chair: S. Rau** 9 yea, 0 nay, 0 abstention
 - (2) **Vice Chair: B. Washburn:** 9 yea, 0 nay, 0 abstention
 - (3) **Secretary: N. Woodworth:** 8 yea, 0 nay, 1 abstention
 - d. **Congratulations on our new Executive Board! Thank you A. Pearson for serving as previous secretary!**
- F. Comments from the Public**
1. Michael Weaver introduced himself and said looking forward to participating as a member
- II. Reports**
- A. Report of Board of Legislators**
1. Congrats to the E board will put their names forth at the next BOL meeting

2. Second Announcement for M. Weaver
3. Question about Eclipse, Talking about Eclipse EMS task force. Many schools closed or half day.
4. Question about applying to the council.

B. Report of Staff

1. Discussion on persons with developmental disabilities are at high risk for eye damage during eclipse. Will reach out to public health.
2. Question regarding River Councils on if there can be representation by EMC. Referred to Randy from DEC and he suggested contacting Richard McDonald

C. Report of Department of Environmental Conservation

1. Presented info on Air Products plant in Massena (see attached report)
2. Question regarding invasives on DEC managed lands within the park and outside of the blue line. Some discussion on the various invasives

III. Unfinished Business

A. Eclipse Update

1. Discussed earlier in the meeting, but shared the county chamber of commerce website

B. Earth Day Event

1. The youth bureau is planning on doing trash dash at 5 different locations on April 27 and 28
2. N. Terminelli will follow up with more information. S. Joseph will also reach out to youth bureau and highway department to get more info
3. Some training will be required before the event. We will have another EMC meeting prior to the events and so we can check in again

C. Review Directory draft

1. Went through the rough draft. Will add a categorization component
2. Decided to make it a google sheet so members of the council can add directly to it.
3. Will create a google form so members of other groups can submit a request to be on the directory.
4. Will have something internal and something for public viewing
5. Discussion on groups to add
6. Discussion on how it needs to be an ongoing project that is updated and active, especially as active members and contacts change. Want it to be useful and not out of date
7. Make a point to communicate what the EMC is and what we are doing?

D. Website / Communication

1. Lucas and Sue have access to the facebook page
2. The planning office will periodically review posts, but will not post directly
3. Add EMC logo on to the webpage and facebook page
4. Discussion about using google drive. S. Joseph will send out a link to it and set a time to review how to use google drive

E. Solar Development Mapping Tool Demo

1. Walked through the mapping tool
2. Feedback on the “proposal” versus “approved” maybe include more data on the application and the stage where it. Maybe include a link to permits or other information within the data table. Maybe try to communicate
3. Maybe include soil layer, national grid layer assets
4. Endangered species are a difficult component in the model because the data is redacted info

IV. New Business

A. I-Map presentation Did not discuss

B. National Grid Infrastructure Investment

1. Discussion about announcement regarding investment \$4 billion infrastructure
2. Discussion about community solar subscription, who benefits versus who bares the cost
3. Discussion about Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act and the regulation cost of renewable energy in upstate NY versus downstate and how it affects the development of these large solar projects.

C. **Forest Advisory Committee** Did not discuss, but possibly under Soil and Water Conservation District

V. **Member Updates**

A. **B Washburn:** Meeting with Fisheries Enhancement Mitigations Research Fisheries Advisory Committee (FERMRF-FAC) coming up. Will provide a report. Funding a research project on Chain Pickerel breeding. Report will be provided post meeting

VI. **Announcements:**

A. **Solar Eclipse**

B. **Earth Day**

VII. **Adjourn**

VIII. **Action Items:**

1. **Address sound issues** (staff)
 - a. Put in an IT request
 - b. Discussed with Planning Director some strategies
2. **Solar Eclipse:** (staff)
 - a. Emailed public health and verbally mentioned in task force meeting regarding risk regarding individuals with mental disabilities.
3. **Earth Day:** (staff)
 - a. Communicate with youth bureau get details about locations and timing of trash dash (staff +BOL)
 - b. Send email out to all EMC members and those on mailing list to see if they would like to participate (staff)
 - c. Use this moment for recruitment to EMC, post on facebook, do a press release
 - d. Have everyone look at calendars and see if they can participate, encourage participation (Everyone)
4. **River Council question of membership**
 - a. Chair will email Richard McDonald about next meeting
 - b. Staff will check in with department about next meeting
5. **DEC questions regarding invasives**
 - a. Find more info regarding that and email that out part of minutes (staff)
6. **Directory Rough Draft:**
 - a. Put on to google sheet so whole council can edit, share link (staff)
 - b. Add to directory (whole council)
 - c. Create google form, place link on website, facebook, reach out to folks with it.
 - d. Make elevator pitch when sending out to groups
7. **Website and communication**
 - a. Put EMC logo on website
8. **Google Drive:**
 - a. Set something up
9. **Update Solar Development Mapping Tool based on feedback**