



## St. Lawrence County Environmental Management Council

48 Court Street

Phone: 315-379-2292

Canton, NY 13617-1169 Email: [Planning@stlawco.gov](mailto:Planning@stlawco.gov)

[www.Stlawco.gov/Departments/Planning/AdvisoryBoards/EnvironmentalManagementCouncil](http://www.Stlawco.gov/Departments/Planning/AdvisoryBoards/EnvironmentalManagementCouncil)

### MEETING Minutes Wednesday, April 17, 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 6:05

6:05 pm

##### 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.”

##### A. **Roll Call** 11 of the 13 members present **Quorum obtained**

1. **Members Present:** L. Bage; H. Bullock; L. Hanss; M. Iversen; A. Pearson, S. Rau, *Chair*; L. Rudiger; N. Terminelli, *BOL Liaison*; B. Washburn, *Vice-Chair*; Michael Weaver N. Woodworth *Secretary*;
2. **Members Absent:** S. Cunningham; S. Hurlbut;
3. **Staff:** S. Joseph, *Planner II*;
4. **DEC Representative:** None;
5. **Guests:** Brad Baldwin

##### B. **Acceptance of Order of Business** Accepted

1. **Items for Unfinished Business**
2. **Items for New Business**

##### C. **Approval of Minutes** (March 20, 2024) (Rudiger/Bage) Approved

##### D. **Council Logistics**

1. Stating name before speaking for zoom member benefit
2. Sound check. (Please speak up at any point if you cannot hear)
3. R. Marshall resignation
  - a. **Staff to do:** Send a letter of thank you to Rick for services
4. Livingston EMC request for council member perspective
  - a. N. Woodworth and B. Washburn agreed to speak with Livingston EMC
  - b. **Staff to do:** send along contact list to interested individuals

##### E. **Comments from the Public**

1. Brad Baldwin –Black Lake update and request to solicit feedback
  - a. Worked on black lake issues with eutrophication and and harmful algae blooms for numerous years
  - b. Invasive water chestnut grant from DEC, working with Black Lake Association
  - c. Collaborating with Town of Oswegatchie that has a grant
  - d. Monitoring spread and removal, working with SLELO Prism
  - e. 3 year grant, mixture of hand pulling, mechanical harvest and herbicide investigating into nutrient loading
  - f. Looking for partners to collaborate
  - g. Discussion about DEC Conservationist article
  - h. Discussion about a BOL resolution about its support and value of fisheries, talk of mutual support with local municipalities
  - i. **Rudiger and Staff to Do:** Draft a resolution proposal regarding invasive and water remediation
  - j. Discussion on agriculture and nutrients upriver. Data suggesting Indian River uniquely more eutrophic than other area rivers

- k. More discussion on the resolution and financial implications. Currently there is a moratorium on financial support for invasive species control without a clear plan and more financial support of surrounding communities

6:48 pm

## II. **Reports** (15 min)

### A. **Report of Board of Legislators**

1. Paint disposal program that is going to occur monthly in coordination with DANC and Highway department. Collection will occur at 44 park st at highway department
2. Public meeting about Rich Road May 7<sup>th</sup>
  1. Public Health plan on tick education with the explosion of tick borne diseases in the area
  3. DEC released proposed regulations regarding black bass fishing tournament permit and reporting mechanism
    - a. Accepting public comments till June 10
4. Michael Weaver officially a member
5. Question regarding Hazardous Waste Collection Days
  - a. **Staff to Do:** Check in on the hazardous waste collection run by the Highway department

### B. **Report of Staff**

#### 1. **Hammond comprehensive plan**

- a. St Lawrence River resiliency plan recommended zoning in Hammond along the river
- b. **Staff To Do:** review the St. Lawrence River Resiliency Plan regarding Hammond and share the information with the planning office staff working on the Hammond Comprehensive plan

#### 2. **Septic Repair Program**

- a. How is the program being implemented in the towns of Clifton and Fine?
- b. Interest in helping with that. A lot of people in community interested in helping
- c. **Staff To Do:** Follow up with staff in office regarding question above get back to Woodworth.

#### 3. **Solar Eclipse:**

- a. How many people actually showed up for eclipse
- b. Lower traffic than expected
- c. No emergencies
  - a. Unclear economic impact

#### 4. **Snowmobile Grant**

- a. Public hearing component on the mapping and location of the trails.
- b. Trail Maintenance Entity (TME)
  - (1) St. Lawrence County Snowmobile Association
  - (2) North Country Trail Maintenance Alliance
- c. **Staff To Do:** Look into feedback mechanisms for trail locations of neighbors, and give contact for trail maintenance entities

#### 5. **Rich Road Solar:**

- a. Public hearing May 7<sup>th</sup>
- b. AFPB and CPB to submit comments

#### 6. **Solar Development**

- a. Rich Road (240 MW) Public Hearing May 7<sup>th</sup> Best Western 6 pm
- b. Moss Ridge near Richville 60 MW Notice of intent to submit application
  - (1) Billing credits directly to community in town
- c. Two Rivers (200MW) Massena and Brasher
- d. Question regarding over arching regulatory body over seeing these industrial solar development projects
  - (1) ORES Office of Renewable Energy Siting. <https://ores.ny.gov/>
  - (2) NY State regulatory agency
  - (3) Oversight in projects over 5 MW
  - (4) Can they pre-empt local zoning
  - (5) Discussion on level of permitting, and viewed the permit on website
  - (6) What is the overall plan for upstate ny beyond individual projects but to the whole area

- (7) What is the compensation to upstate ny for this development
- (8) Discussion of aging farmers retiring and children don't have anyone to take it over
- (9) Suggestion on getting a speaker from ORES to explain the process
  - (a) Staff to Do:
    - i. talk with office about ORES contacts
    - ii. See if they will be at public hearing

**C. Report of Department of Environmental Conservation**

- 1. No one from DEC

7:24 pm

**III. Unfinished Business**

**A. Review Previous Action Items (10 min)**

- 1. Sound better
- 2. No major issues on Eclipse
- 3. River Council contact Rich McDonald. Preston will let us know next meeting.
- 4. WMAs with invasives specifically EAB. Who is chemically monitoring the out flow of WMA into fishkill
- 5. Rest are ongoing projects

**B. Earth Day Event Planning (10 min)**

- 1. Trash Dash sign ups and info

**C. National Grid Infrastructure Investment (Mike) (10 min)**

- 1. Substations in area out of capacity
- 2. Are locals benefitting from this development
- 3. Can we require allow local subscription to the solar

**D. Forest Advisory Committee (Lynda) (10 min)**

- 1. With looming threat of invasives question regarding Forest Advisory Committee
- 2. Contacted DEC rep Steve Sherwood (see attached correspondence)
- 3. PRISMS primary entity to deal with invasives
- 4. Bureau of Invasives in Albany
- 5. EAB
  - a. Formerly disbanded
  - b. Considered potentially a forest health quarterly check in, got neglected, can consider reviving
- 6. Soil and Water Conservation District SWCD, Aaron Barriger, developing a management plan for County
- 7. Discussion on IMap and developing a workshop on using it. Maybe an event
  - a. **To Do** Organize IMap event, reach out to Paul Siskind about teaching the EMC using the I Map
  - b. **To Do:** Revisit Forest Health Coalition idea
- 8. Forest practice board on website, but is defunct
- 9. **Motion for action:** The EMC will develop and host a public IMap invasive training event to engage public (Woodworth /Rudiger) Passed Unanimously, Sam, Bage, Rau will work on it
  - a. Suggestion of doing it at the Nicandri Nature Center
- 10. **Motion for action:** Explore the possibility of creating a St. Lawrence Valley Forest Health Coalition (Woodworth / Bage) Passed Unanimously

8:04 pm

**E. Directory (10 min) Did not really discuss but was a quick suggestion to add question to form**

- 1. Google Form
  - a. Suggestion to add a question: "What are their organization's most important accomplishments?"
- 2. Google sheet
- 3. General Check in

**IV. New Business**

**A. Google Drive General Intro**

**B. Website / communication**

**C. Battery Storage Presentation**

## **D. Recruitment**

## **V. Member Updates**

### **A. Tick Blitz Training**

1. Cornell Cooperative Extension running a citizen project to sample for ticks
2. Rau will follow up on this information
3. Sample 1-7 times at the end of June
4. Watch a training video and send a sampling kit
5. Looking if there are two new ticks coming to area
6. Post to Facebook page
7. Suggestion to connect with Youth Bureau, Alexa Backus Chase, achase@stlawco.gov

### **B. Love my Park event**

1. May 4<sup>th</sup> 10- 2pm volunteer opportunity at local parks

### **C. St. Lawrence County Buildings NY State Historic Register**

1. Will most likely be put on National as well
2. Congratulations to our County.

### **D. FERMF-FAC meeting (did not discuss)**

## **VI. Announcements:**

### **A. Earth Day Trash Dash**

1. April 27 and 28

### **B. Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP)**

1. Spring Partners meeting April 25, 9:30-2 pm Whallonsburg Grange

### **C. Solar Development**

1. Rich Road (240 MW) Public Hearing May 7<sup>th</sup> Best Western 6 pm
2. Moss Ridge near Richville 60 MW Notice of intent to submit application
3. Two Rivers (200MW) Massena and Brasher

## **VII. Adjourn: Meeting Adjourned 8:11pm (Pearson / Bage)**

## **VIII. Action Items:**

### **A. Motions:**

1. The EMC will develop and host a public IMap invasive training event to engage public (Woodworth /Rudiger) Passed Unanimously, Sam, Bage, Rau will work on it
2. Explore the possibility of creating a St. Lawrence Valley Forest Health Coalition (Woodworth / Bage) Passed Unanimously

### **B. Staff:**

1. Send a letter of thank you to Rick for services
2. % send along contact list for Livingston EMC to Woodworth and Washburn
3. Draft a resolution proposal regarding invasive and water remediation and economic value of sportsmanship
4. % Check in on the hazardous waste collection run by the Highway department May 11 and Sept 28
5. %Follow up with staff in office regarding question above get back to Woodworth
6. review the St. Lawrence River Resiliency Plan regarding Hammond and share the information with the planning office staff working on the Hammond Comprehensive plan
7. % Resend Trash Dash email (Sent 8:20 pm April 17 after meeting)
8. Feedback mechanism for snowmobile trails
9. Determine an ORES contact with possibly arranging speaking
10. Press Release about EMC
11. %IMap Trainings Reach out to Paul Siskind (emailed 5/6/24 4 pm)
12. Forest Health Board

### **C. Members:**

1. **Rudiger:** Resolution regarding valuing economic value of fishing and sportsmanship
2. **%Rau:** Info on Tick Blitz sent email
3. **Rau and Bage with staff:** IMap and forest health coalition
4. **Woodworth:** Learn more about ORES

**D. Ongoing Projects:**

1. **Directory**
2. **Website / Communication**
3. **Google Drive**
4. **Solar development mapping tool**
5. **IMap workshop / training / event**