



St. Lawrence County Environmental Management Council

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

MEETING Minutes Wednesday, May 15, 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 6:08

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** 9 of the 13 members present **Quorum obtained**

1. Members Present: L. Bage; H. Bullock; 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; L. Hanss; S. Hurlbut; M. Iversen;
3. Staff: S. Joseph, *Planner II*;
4. DEC Representative: Nance Arquette;
5. Guests: Paul Siskind;

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

1. **Items for Unfinished Business**
2. **Items for New Business**
 - a. Public Hearing Rich Road proposed by H. Bullock.

C. **Approval of Minutes** (April 17, 2024) (Bullock / Pearson) Passed Unanimously

D. **Council Logistics** (10-15 min)

1. Google Drive Overview <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1W375f2brqq7FYmYRKhhf70I8lmZct4jn>
 - a. To Do: Send link out again
2. Email Reply all
3. Facebook check in

E. **Comments from Public**

1. No comments at this time. P. Siskind spoke later in meeting regarding iMap Invasives

II. Reports

A. **Report of Board of Legislators**

1. Septic Replacement Program expanded waterways (see attached report)
2. Deer River Issue water contamination issues to be addressed with DEC and water testing
3. From L. Rudiger: Jail house complex awarded national historic register

B. **Report of Staff**

1. Question regarding broadband and where it (**To Do** follow up with Heidi and get back to Rau)
2. Letter thanking Rick for service
3. Digital copy of the septic program map

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

1. Black Bass fishing tournament regulations update receiving public comment until June 10
2. Lows Lower Dam closed for repair until fall
 - a. Questions about bogs public interest in approach to bog river. accessing from mount arab road a lot of questions about that want to use lows lake
 - b. Press release of alternative paddling routes

- c. Henry Dedrick is the contact for lows lower dams
- 3. Environmental Bond Act (See Attached)
- 4. Deer River Questions
 - a. Actively investigating
 - b. Any concerns or information can be directed to information.r6@dec.ny.gov or direct email to Nance nance.arquiatt@dec.ny.gov and it can be directed to the proper connection
 - c. Don't have to wait until meetings to contact DEC.
- 5. From L. Rudiger: DEC awarded Canton \$75,000 grant for trees and Potsdam \$13,000 grant

D. Report Soil and Water Conservation District (see attached)

- 1. Question regarding private forest conservation program

III. Unfinished Business

6:41 p.m.

A. Earth Day Event Trash Dash Debrief (S. Joseph) (5 min)

- 1. Fun event good to think about future earth day events

B. iMap Invasives Workshop Planning (S. Rau)

- 1. Paul Siskind did an overview on how he uses iMap connected with citizen science projects he has worked on such as Spotted Lantern Fly
- 2. Showed how he has used the program and pointed to educational resources
- 3. SLELO Megan Pistolese suggested June 28 1-3
- 4. Discussion about Tiers with a focus on Tier 1
- 5. Training on how to use iMap
- 6. Then field walk at Nature center with known invasives to practice using the iMap
- 7. Discussion on pre-registration, date conflicts, and general planning (planning document)

7:48 p.m.

IV. New Business

A. Rich Road Public Hearing

- 1. Bullock gave an over view of the experience of the public hearing
- 2. Wished that we had a formal statement from EMC that could have been read

B. Resolution in support of Fisheries (S. Joseph / Rudiger)

- 1. Looked at old resolutions (attached)
- 2. Deer River pollution as a component
- 3. Rudiger Natural assets that have real value duty of the county, focus on the positive and avoid negative
- 4. Question about Fisheries Advisory Board.
 - a. Legislator Terminelli is the BOL liaison the Fisheries Advisory Board. They are actively meeting on the fourth Tuesday of every other month in basement of court house 3 members.
- 5. Promote pride in the area on the quality of our fishing, Sportsman groups reintroduced walleyes
- 6. Oswegatchie River council has not met
- 7. Federal Dam in Ogdensburg
- 8. Potential collaborators Janet Lantry from DEC, chamber of commerce
- 9. Discussion on end goal, protection, funding, feel good
- 10. Nutrient runoff is a serious issue. Woodworth suggest being very precise on what we are recommending
- 11. Foster intent to protect these resources
- 12. Grants available
- 13. World record musky caught in Ogdensburg
- 14. Fisheries Enhancement Mitigation Research Fund Advisory Board: Local Universities do not have any programs on fisheries. Thousand Island Biological Station operated by SUNY ESF. USFWS communicated to local universities about this issue

V. Ongoing Projects

- A. Directory** (did not discuss)
- B. New Member Packet** (did not discuss)
- C. Battery Storage Presentation** (did not discuss)
- D. Recruitment** (did not discuss)

VI. Member Updates

A. Tick Blitz (S. Rau)

1. bit.ly/2024TickBlitz Register by May 24
2. https://vod.video.cornell.edu/media/2024+NYS+Tick+Blitz+Informational+Video/1_qdhsvtjb
3. <https://www.neregionalvectorcenter.com/new-york-state-tick-blitz.php>

B. Columbia Paper: Solar, Wind, and Electric Vehicles (B. Washburn)

https://scholarship.law.columbia.edu/sabin_climate_change/217/

C. Clarkson University received grant on Milfoil Monitoring and Control (L. Rudiger)

<https://www.northcountrynow.com/stories/clarkson-university-leading-aquatic-invasive-species-research-in-upstate-ny,239877>

VII. Announcements:

A. Hazardous Waste Days May 11th and September 28th HSC

<https://stlawco.gov/Departments/SolidWaste/HHW>

1. Not well advertised. Should prep to advertise it more.

B. St. Lawrence University started a Center for the Environment

C. iMap workshop June 28 1-3 p.m. Nicandri Nature Center

VIII. Adjourn Washburn/ Bage 8:19 p.m.

IX. Action Items:

A. Staff:

1. Send a letter of thank you to Rick, Bennett for services
2. Draft a resolution proposal regarding economic value of sportsmanship/ protect waterways
3. Feedback mechanism for snowmobile trails
4. Determine an ORES contact with possibly arranging speaking
5. Press Release about EMC
6. Forest Health Board
7. Send digital copy of septic replacement map
8. SWCD contact send out

B. Members:

1. **Rudiger:** Resolution regarding valuing economic value of fishing and sportsmanship
2. **Rau and Bage with staff:** IMap and forest health coalition
3. **Woodworth:** Learn more about ORES

C. Ongoing Projects:

1. **Deer River**
2. **Directory**
3. **Website / Communication**
4. **Google Drive**
5. **Solar development mapping tool**
6. **IMap workshop / training / event June 28th**