



Schuyler County Environmental Management Council

105 Ninth Street, Unit 39
Watkins Glen, NY 14891

Phone: 607-535-8211
Fax: 607-535-8193

Minutes Wednesday, January 19, 2022 ~ 6:30 p.m. VIA ZOOM

PRESENT: Kate Bartholomew, Martha Hawksworth, Gita Devi, Jessica Rogers, David Hertel
EXCUSED: Michael Lausell

CALL TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE: Meeting was called to order by Kate Bartholomew at 6:32 pm. Quorum was present.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

- A. Chair-Gita nominated Kate Bartholomew to continue as Chair. Kate accepted the position.
- B. Vice-Chair- Kate nominated David to be the Vice-Chair. David accepted.
- C. Secretary- Gita and Martha will continue to alternate secretary.

Gita made a motion to accept the officers as discussed. All were in favor.

A discussion was had among members regarding the election of officers and changing layout of the council and the number of meetings. The council will meet quarterly in 2022.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

- A. The December 2021 minutes were reviewed. No changes were made. David made a motion to approve the minutes, Gita seconded the motion. All were in favor.

CHAIR & STAFF REPORT

ENB Review-

Kate emailed the current ENB report. There is a public notice for the NYS DEC for the proposed program policy for solar projects on closed landfills. Draft comment letters are due by February 18th, 2022.

Comment Letters: No new comment letters to report.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. **Project Seneca Update:** Nothing new to report.
- B. **Natural Resources Inventory:** Nothing new to report.
- C. **Annual Report:** Nothing new to report.
- D. **Solid Waste Management Plan:** Nothing new to report.

E. Strategic Plan: Nothing new to report.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Cryptocurrency: Is becoming a greater issue countrywide. The oral arguments for the Greenridge site have been postponed until Mid-February.

B. NextEra Solar Project: Nothing new to report.

C. Committee Updates

1. **Recycling Committee:** Jessica emailed out the new recycling flyer to be found on the county website. The flyer is easier to read and has the most current information regarding recycling in each of the towns. Kristin is still working on establishing the Facebook page. Martha and Gita will send Kristin the posts for the page once it is established. Jessica has a colleague that would be available to tour the Casella recycling facility in the spring. All on the council were interested in the tour.

D. Solid Waste Alternatives: Nothing new to report.

E. Community Reports: Gita shared the new recycling guidelines with the Town of Reading. She will inform the council on their response. Jessica reported that the Hector Sustainability Committee shared some ideas for collaboration including reviving the Earth Day Celebration.

F. Future Projects: Jessica recommended an education campaign regarding septic system health and maintenance, especially on properties nearer to the lakes.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:26 pm. Gita made a motion for adjournment and Jessica seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Martha Hawksworth

Next Meeting –April 20, 2022



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Minutes Wednesday, April 20 2022~ 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

I. Call to Order and Attendance – Confirmation of Quorum.

Gita Devi, Kate Bartholomew, Martha Hawksworth, Jessica Rodgers, Kristin VanHorn, Michael Lausell

Missing: David Hertel

II. Public Comments – As of next Wed, Kate will know if she's on the National Board of Directors of the Sierra Club. We wish her the best.

III. Approval of Mins

A. January 2022

Motion to approve: Gita

2nd: Martha All approved

IV. Chair and Staff Report

A. ENB Review

Kate emailed the latest ENB reports to the EMC members just prior to the meeting. She reviewed the content. They are regionally important issues.

- a. Newfield Draft Management Plan – partially in Schuyler County, behind the MRF in Cayuta
- b. Fishing species issues are now simplified and easier to understand
- c. Expanded polystyrene packaging
- d. Positive declaration about Seneca County's decision to expand Seneca Meadows (landfill)/
- e. Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act passed. Now we have to put it into action. 800 plus page scoping plan now available. Written comments can be submitted until June 10th. We might want to have a separate call to discuss this.

B. Comment Letters - none

V. Old Business

A. Project Seneca Update – Michael/Kristin said they'll try and bring it back to life in the next 6 months. Burdett looking at implementing a waste-water feasibility study.

B. Natural Resources Inventory Update – nothing new

C. Annual Report – Kate working on it

D. Strategic Plan – Discussion of ideas for 2022 projects – nothing new

Recycling Updates

Jessica – Michael, Kristin and Jessica met with Casella about Casella servicing all of

Schuyler Cty. Looked at curbside pickup and drop-off in Watkins Glen. Hasn't gotten too far with this. Then discussed a possible pilot program in the town of Hector that will be building a new Highway Garage that would include a recycling center. If that happens would curbside recycling be needed? Casella said they'd need to dedicate 3 trucks for all of Schuyler.

She also talked with the Tyrone Supervisor because they already have implemented a septic inspection law on the books that requires residents to show proof of inspection every 5 years. She looked at some of the septic laws in various towns. One issue: how do you determine if a site is lakefront. The Tyrone supervisor said he'd be interested in discussing a county-wide program, but wasn't sure how many other supervisors would be interested. Kristin provided some input on this. Council of Governments meeting is on the 28th.

Jessica talked with several people about grants about a month ago. Needs to follow-up on this via the Recycling Committee.

Hector has the most robust recycling program and that means it would probably be the costliest to run/maintain. Could be a good testing ground because if it didn't work in Hector, it probably wouldn't work in other towns. It only costs \$18 per resident in Hector for 6 giant dumpsters of household recycling per week, weekly composting, electronic recycling and an annual Dumpster Day”

Suggested the possibility of setting up recycling districts where residents could opt-in.

Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) Recycling. Jessica and another Hector Town Board member received a tour of an EPS manufacturing company in Syracuse that recycles household EPS. They made us aware of a small community focused EPS recycling unit that Jessica will look into further on costs. Would need a grant for the machine which may make more sense to be purchased by the County and be located centrally rather than just in the Town of Hector. Kate wants to help with this. Discussion ensued.

VI. New Business, Committee and Member Reports

- . IPCC Report – Kate sent the link to the web site to us. We have until 2025 to turn things around 😊 Please read the report and then get back to Kate.
- A. NYS Budget – Environmental Programs
Quite a few things fell out of the budget including electrification. Some good things also were included: wetlands protection. Kate sent us a 2-page flyer on this. Increased environmental/water protection funds (Sierra Club). Bond Act coming up that could provide substantial funding. Lots of new DEC staffing included in the budget that will help to get them caught up as they have been so short-staffed for a long time.
- B. HHS – Household Hazardous Waste Day - July 23 – in Schuyler Cty.
Michael will follow up on the details. We need volunteers.
- C. Cryptocurrency – moratorium hopefully coming out. Bad judgement on town of Torrey/Dresden. We're waiting for the air permits decisions.

Kate had to leave the meeting to attend another meeting.

D. Committee Updates



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Minutes

Wednesday, July 20 2022~ 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

I. Call to Order and Attendance – Confirmation of Quorum.

Gita Devi, Kate Bartholomew, Martha Hawksworth, Jessica Rodgers, Kristin VanHorn
Missing: David Hertel, Michael Lausell
Quorum is present.

II. Public Comments – None

III. Approval of Mins

- A. April 2022
Motion to approve: Martha
2nd: Gita All approved

IV. Chair and Staff Report

- A. ENB Review
Kate emailed the latest ENB reports to the EMC members just prior to the meeting. She reviewed the content. They are regionally important issues.
 1. There is an extension of the public comment period for the advised New York solid waste management facilities. It is extended through August 24, 2022. One interesting aspect of this rule is that it will prohibit the expansion of landfills if they are within 1000 feet of schools, state highways, and other areas.
 2. Notice of proposed rulemaking on the forest tax law. Comment period ends September 13, 2022.
 3. The New York State Water Infrastructure improvement fund has some grants available to deal with PFOA and PFAS contaminants.
- B. Comment Letters - none

V. Old Business

- A. Cayuta MRF- Kristin reported that this was approved by the DEC on June 15th. This is a materials recovery facility. The permit has several conditions to address concerns. The property in front of the facility will become a Dollar General Store. There is a limit to the amount of material that can be stored in the facility and the number of vehicles that will be allowed on the property. Multiple types of waste will be accepted. The waste will be sorted and recycled if can be recycled. The remaining waste will be bundled for garbage.
- B. Project Seneca Update – Nothing new to update.
- C. Natural Resources Inventory Update – Nothing new to update.
- D. Annual Report – Nothing new to update.
- E. Strategic Plan – Discussion of ideas for 2022 projects – Nothing new to report.

F. Recycling Updates

Gita reported that the Town of Reading is back to providing trash pickup and recycling. The recycling is all mixed.

VI. New Business, Committee and Member Reports

- A. IPCC Report – Kate reported that new studies have shown that the ozone hole is no longer closing and there is an additional ozone “hole” forming. Please read the report and then get back to Kate.
- B. NYS Budget-Environmental Programs- Kate reported that there are multiple bills in the NY State budget that have the potential to have significant positive environmental impacts.
- C. HHS- Household Hazardous Waste – July 23.
- D. Cryptocurrency – Kate reported that Greenridge got their air permits denied but is able to continue to function until the appeals are exhausted.
- E. Kate reported that the Town of Reading board is reviewing a proposal for an expansion of a current business that would be a custom concrete business. The original business is in Yates County.
- F. Committee Updates
 - 1. Recycling Committee Report – Jessica reported that the Hector Dumpster Day was a big success. The next dumpster day, they will potentially have a special bin for hard plastic such as 5 gallon buckets and hard plastic kids toys.
- G. Solid Waste Alternatives – Nothing new to report.
- H. Community Reports- Kristin reported that the County is in the process of hiring an additional planner for the planning office.

VII. Next Meeting – October 19, 2022

VIII. 7:06 pm - Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: Gita

2nd: Jessica

All approved.

1. Recycling Committee Report – no updates other than what Jessica reported about her meeting with Casella. They said the US recycling markets are opening back up.

Solid Waste Alternatives – no updates

Community Reports

- E. This Saturday at Hector Fire Grounds is Hector Earth Day Volunteer Day which is a combination of Earth Day events with Fire Department recruiting - from 11 – 4.
 - a. CCE (Cornell Cooperative Extension) – Queen Catharine Marsh and making it more accessible to the public. Could now have a new trail on the east side of the trail. Nathan really liked that idea of possibility of nature walks and how CCE could get involved. The Humane Society has an easement on this property so the trail could lead off from there. This could be a project for the EMC in 2022 to work with the CCE.
 - b. Seneca Watershed 9 elements plan is done and ready for review. First step to open up funding for projects to protect water quality of Seneca Lake. Will be a presentation at Hector Town Hall on this.
 - c. SWIO 9-Element Plan – Public Outreach & Participation Session #4 on April 25th: <https://senecawatershedio.wordpress.com/9e/>

- Other

VII. Next Meeting – July 20, 2022

VIII. 7:15 pm - Adjournment
Motion to Adjourn: Gita
2nd: Jessica
All approved.



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Minutes - October 19, 2022 ~ 6:30 p.m.

I. Call to Order and Attendance – Confirmation of Quorum.

Name	Town/Organization
Gita Devi	Reading
Kate Bartholomew	Montour
Jessica Rodgers	Hector
Michael Lausell	Schuyler County Legislature
Jacob Kotler	Schuyler County Planning
Excused: Martha Hawksworth	
Missing: David Hertel	

II. Introduction – Jacob Kotler

Jacob has been on the job as a Schuyler County Planner, assisting Kristin, for about 1 month. He is from Trumansburg and is looking forward to working with us to help achieve our goals.

III. Public Comments -None

IV. Approval of Mins

A. July 2022

Motion to approve: Gita
2nd: Michael – all approved

V. Chair and Staff Report

A. **ENB Review** – Kate emailed the latest Review prior to the meeting and she highlighted several of the items. Only 1 is relative to our area: the Greenidge Facility. Kate gave background information to Jacob about the issues with the project that the DEC has basically ignored/overlooked or excused.

a. A series of adjudicatory hearings need to held

B. **Comment Letters** - none

VI. Old Business

A. **Project Seneca Update** – none

B. **Discussion about the Transfer Station.** Cayuta MRF.

Schuyler County submitted an opposition letter. Seneca Lake Guardian and Earth Justice are suing because of the PFAs issue.

C. **Natural Resources Inventory Update**

Hector has done this with Gary Judson working with the Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE)

D. **Strategic Plan – Discussion of ideas for 2023 projects**

- **Climate Smart Project**

E. **Solid Waste Management Plan** – Jacob in charge of this (see info below)

F. **Recycling Updates**

Jessica gave some background info on what the Town of Hector has been doing and we agreed

that we need to have another meeting of the subcommittee. We discussed if this could be a way to recruit people outside of the EMC to get involved.

The County has been discussing the Climate Smart issue. Gary Judson in Hector would be a great resource for Jacob and Jessica provided Jacob with Gary's contact information.

G. Solid Waste Management Plan – Jacob Kotler

– Jacob is working on this. He is updating the prior County plan as it's several years old.

- a. He has reports from state counties of their Solid Waste Plans. Right now, there is no real clear data from the towns so this is a challenge/problem. The towns might be more responsive if they can save money, add jobs, etc.
- b. Discussion ensued.
- c. There will be target rates for reduction going forward and strategies to support the waste reduction
- d. The health issue of using sewerage sludge as a soil amendment was discussed
- e. We need to know what is going on in Schuyler County.

VII. New Business, Committee and Member Reports

A. 2023 Membership

We are all up for renewal. Please let Kristin/Jacob know by mid-November if you plan to stay a member of the EMC. We need new/more members from the 8 towns. During the discussion the following ideas were discussed:

- a. Draft a letter to Town Boards
- b. Advertise on the Schuyler County web site
- c. Advertise via Facebook
- d. We can share ideas via email and discuss at our January meeting and then decide on a course of action going forward. Jessica will send out an email to start the discussion.
- e. Kate will email the By-Laws to current members

B. Cryptocurrency – see info under section V.A, above.

C. Committee Updates

1. **Recycling Committee** - no updates but we agreed that we should schedule another meeting.

D. Solid Waste Alternatives – see above

E. Community Reports

Jessica gave an update on Hector's zoning issues and that they are currently in a pause-mode until the current election is over. They are redoing their Comprehensive Plan.

F. Other – no updates

VIII. Next Meeting – January 18, 2023

IX. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: Gita

2nd: Jessica All approved.