



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 17, 2024~ 6:30 p.m.

Attending: Kate Bartholomew, Michael Lausell, Gita Devi, Marian Saks

Excused: Martha Hawksworth

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

II. Public Comments - none

III. Vote To Confirm Officers for 2024

Chairperson: Kate Bartholomew

Secretary: Gita Devi and Martha Hawksworth

Motion to approve: Gita Devi

2nd: Kate Bartholomew - all approved

IV. Approval of Mins – August 2023

Motion to approve: Gita Devi

2nd: Kate Bartholomew - all approved

V. Chair and Staff Reports

Kate said the ENB is not very robust anymore.

Michael talked about a study to by Hunt to add backup generators to the municipal building while maintaining its historical look. Cost estimated to be \$200K to provide backup for the entire facility. Michael will continue to talk with other legislators about various funding sources.

VI. Old Business

A. Climate Smart Communities -Failed 6-2 in Legislature. Michael gave some background history. It is an ideological debate of conservatives vs. liberals. Also, a debate about funding. Marian talked with Mike Brown of CCE about how to approach this from a funding prospect. Suggested that Jim Howell talk with Jim Ryan of Montour Falls about how MF has benefited financially from this. Michael will talk with Jim Howell.

B. Seneca Meadows Resolution – Approved

VII. New Business, Committee and Member Reports

A. **2024 Membership** - Need to get more members. Doubtful that Cayuta will join. Michael will contact people in Hector. Need members from Orange, Tyrone, Hector, Catharine, Dix.

B. **Padua Ridge Sand and Gravel expansion**

Kate has the history of the project on her hard drive and will share the info. Michael suggested that he, Kate, and Marian have a follow-up Zoom meeting on Monday 1/21/2024 to go over the details.

DEC is the lead agency, must approve the project and there is a public comment period open until 2/28. The plan is to expand the current facility from 14.3 acres to 60.3 acres. Hearings are being held on 2/12 (virtual) and 2/13 at Clute Park.

Fred Bonn, with the State Park, is against this project. A hydrologic study needs to be done by the DEC. Kate said that Glen Creek has shifted course and the hydrogeology of the cliffside is one of the reasons why this project would negatively affect the ecology of the hillside.

The project was rejected in 2008/2009 by the County Legislature. Can we get Fred Bonn to talk with the Legislature/CDNR? The financial impact this expansion could have on tourism could be a motivating factor in persuading the Legislature to again reject this project.

Michael will discuss at the next Legislative meeting and the CDNR meeting on 1/23. Marian said she can add this to the agenda or bring it up as part of the discussion.

C. **Committee Updates - none**

D. **Other**

- Michael brought up Mike Bergen bulldozing the drumlin in Hector. There is a lot of discussion on this on the Hector Facebook page.

- The Dam at the RV park in Cayuta. Marian will discuss at her meeting tomorrow.

VIII. Next Meeting – April 17, 2024

IX. 7:30 p.m. - Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Gita, 2nd: Kate – all approved



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Minutes – May 15th, 2024 ~ 6:30 p.m.

- I. **Call to Order at 6:35 pm by Kate and Attendance – Confirmation of Quorum.**
Gita Devi, Kate Bartholomew, Martha Hawksworth, Joann Lindstrom, Michael Lausell
- II. **Public Comments - None**
- III. **Approval of Minutes**
 - A. January 2024
Motion to approve: Gita
2nd: Martha – all approved
- IV. **Chair and Staff Report**

Kate welcomed Joann as the new Schuyler County Planner. We are excited to have her in the area.

 - A. **ENB Review** – No significant new notices for Schuyler County.
 - B. **Comment Letters** - none
- V. **Old Business**
 - A. **Climate Smart Communities** – Michael reported that we should keep this on the agenda because it is in the best interest of the legislature to
 - B. **Padua Ridge Sand and Gravel expansion** – Michael reported that a comment letter was submitted by the attorneys. Both the Town of Dix and The Village of Watkins Glen also submitted their resolutions regarding the expansion. No news yet on the permit application. Kate recommended that they submit copies of the letter to the governor.
 - C. **2024 Membership** - Joann spoke with Shawn regarding the need for new members from several townships. Joann has also contacted several townships. Martha will ask Margaret Coffey if she would be interested in representing the town of Orange. Michael will ask Anne Secord from Hector if she is interested in joining. A communication will be sent to the science teachers to see if there are any students interested. Michael will follow up on the science teacher. Kate will consider Dix representatives.
 - D. **NYSERDA- Clean Energy Communities.** Joann reported that this is separate from Climate Smart Communities. Mike Brown is our representative. There are several actions for the county to take. We have EV chargers, county lightbulbs are being replaced. County staff are moving forward with certain activities on the NYSERDA list. A discussion ensued regarding the future potential of presenting options to the legislature regarding clean energy changes within the county.
- VI. **New Business, Committee, and Member Reports**
 - E. **Community Updates-** Michael reported that he was at the DRI state meeting last week and reported that several community leaders talked about their experiences and how to draft plans

that are interesting to the state. Michael also reported that the feasibility study for sewer along 414 to the water treatment plant from Hector and the Village of Burdett will move forward. Kate reported that there is a group of citizens engaged with the Mayor of Montour Falls regarding the re-naming of the marsh in Montour Falls that aligns more with history.

VII. Schedule 3rd Quarter Mtg: July 10th.

VIII. Adjournment Motion to Adjourn: Gita 2nd: Michael - All approved.

Next Meeting – Wednesday July 10th, 2024.