

MONROE COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes for January 17, 2024

In Attendance:

EMC

At Large - Tom Dooley; EMC Chair
At Large - Haines Lockhart
At Large - Deb Muratore
Town of Brighton - Paul Johnson
Town of Chili - Larry Lazenby
Town of Clarkson – Jake Straub
Town of Gates - Charles Johnson
Town of Hamlin – Steve Rutherford
Town of Henrietta - Bill Santos
Town of Honeoye Falls - Andy Less
Town of Ogden - Bill Parkhurst
Town of Penfield - Cynette Cavaliere
Town of Perinton - Mark Gaul
Town of Pittsford – Caroline Kilmer
Town of Riga – Greg Adams
Town of Rush – Beth Hoak
Town of Webster - Charles Zlotkus
Ex Officio Alternate - Clement Chung; MCDES
Ex Officio Alternate - Steve Olufsen; MC Planning & Development
Ex Officio Alternate - Starr O’Neil; MCDPH
Ex Officio Alternate - Yasmin Guevera; MCDES
Recording Secretary – Ryan Parra-Merrell

RAC

Jeff Meyers – RAC Chair, Cascade Recovery
Eric Longnecker, Rochester Chamber/Diamond Pkg
Marc Porray, Waste Management
Nancy Pickering, MCSBA
Ram Shrivastara, Larsen Engineers
Joyel Bennett, Goodwill of Fingerlakes
Meagan Evans-Saurini, MCDES
Nathaniel Jones, MCDES
Ciaran Hanna, MCSA, Town of Perinton
Morgan Kelly, Foodlink
Daniel David, RAC
Theodore Maxey, City of Rochester

Guests

Madison Quinn - MCDES
Brendon Fleming – Monroe County Law Dept.
Brian Green – Monroe County Law Dept.
Stephen Peletz – MCDES, Ecopark
Virginia McIntyre – County Legislator District 4,
CSC Task Force Coordinator Gates
Dick Spade

Meeting location:

- Monroe County Fleet Center, Building 1 Conference Room
145 Paul Road, Rochester 14624

Call to Order:

- Meeting was called to order at 4:01pm

Introductions:

- Introductions were made from all present (EMC, RAC, and guests)

Review of Minutes:

- Motion to approve with changes by Bill Santos; seconded by Mark Gaul. All in favor; approved.

Meeting Topic(s):

Overview of the Environmental Management Council (EMC)

Tom Dooley, EMC Chairperson

- Monroe County Environmental Management Council established in 1971 under Monroe County Charter, as per charge of Environmental Conservation Law (ECL), Article 47
- EMC Mission - The EMC is an agency composed of an environmentally focused professional staff and an appointed non-partisan volunteer citizen group. The EMC recommends and implements solutions and advises and informs the government and community on the conservation, protection and use of the environment. This is done for the benefit and enjoyment of the present and future inhabitants of Monroe County.
- Membership consists of representatives from municipal conservation boards, members at large, and representatives from county departments and legislature.
 - Drop in membership and attendance due to COVID-19, but starting to increase again
 - The EMC has focused on regaining membership participation, finalizing letter to legislature and annual report
 - Looking at possibility of student members
- In 2023, decided to rejuvenate Council and rebuild – go back to basics, as per the EMC Rules of operation and ECL Article 47
 - Two standing committees – Presentation and Nominating
 - One Ad Hoc – Natural Resources; to meet requirement of natural resources inventory
 - Trying to determine what was done in the past
 - Meeting with GIS for way forward
 - Developed workplan for 2024
- Role of municipal representatives – Comprehensive plans, 100-acre plan assessments, SEQR

Overview of the Recycling Advisory Committee (RAC)

Jeff Meyers, RAC Chairperson

- Introduction
 - General Manager for Cascade Recovery, representing the side of the waste haulers on the RAC
 - RAC Chair
- RAC grew out of the law that created the curbside recycling program
 - Membership includes education representative and business alliance representative
- Conduct about 2 tours per year at meetings
- RAC involvement over the last year
 - Food waste (impact earth, Foodlink tour)
 - Sustainability plans
 - Material handling (economic impact on waste haulers)
 - Insulation – recycled fiber
 - County transfer station
 - Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) = funding for recycling and disposal of the material and packaging

Overview of the Monroe County EcoPark

Stephen Peletz, Monroe County Compliance Coordinator, MCDES

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www.monroecounty.gov/ecopark

- Monroe County Department of Environmental Services
 - Over 300 employees
 - Many Divisions
 - Fleet Center
 - Engineering
 - Facilities Management
 - Pure Waters
 - GIS
 - Solid waste management
- In 1972, there were about 40 wastewater facilities in Monroe County.
 - In 1967, Pure Waters was formed
 - Shut down local facilities that mostly only had primary treatment
 - Made regional facilities that had both primary and secondary treatment
 - Four Pure waters districts were developed.
- Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), is a federal law governing the disposal of solid waste and hazardous waste. At the time it was enacted, there were over 40 solid waste sites in the County.
- EcoPark Overview
 - 439,500 residential customers
 - Over 300 businesses served in 2023 (Business waste)
 - EcoPark Ask a Question www.monroecounty.gov/des-recycle-question
- EcoPark collections
 - Total annual weight of recycled scrap metal, cardboard, bulky plastics, etc. has been increasing over the years – 2023 was record year
 - Additional materials collected include propane tanks, cooking oil, sharps/syringes, plastic bags, rechargeable batteries, tires, Freon devices, US flags, printer cartridges, and shredded paper.
 - Tires do still have \$5 charge to turn in. Generally turned into crumb rubber and often made into traffic cones
 - US Flags are sent for a retirement ceremony at Covanta for disposal
 - New York State Electronics Equipment Recycling & Reuse Act – enacted January 2023; mandates that electronics manufacturers provide free and convenient recycling of electronic waste.
 - No longer a charge to dispose of CRT TVs
 - 3,640 tons of electronics collected (Sunnking is electronics handler)
 - EcoPark mobile collections – Wegmans, Town of Clarkson, Town of Mendon.
 - Home hazardous waste collection locations - Chili/Gates, Perinton, Hilton, Webster, & Irondequoit.
 - PaintCare recycling – to divert paint from the solid waste stream. Fees are added when buying paint. No charge when turning in to recycle. Many local hardware accept used paint for recycling

- Vape/e-cigarette takeback program – disposal of devices containing lithium ion battery and hazardous wastes.
- Pharmaceutical takeback – approved pharmaceuticals can be collected and disposed of at designated locations including local police stations.
 - New York State Drug Takeback Act mandates that pharmaceutical manufacturers establish, fund, and manage an approved drug takeback program for safe collection and disposal of unused covered drugs.
 - DEA drug takeback days (last Saturday of April and October).
 - Around 15,000 pounds of pharmaceuticals collected in 2023 at PDs.
 - New York State has partnered with companies Inmar and MED-Project for pharmaceutical takeback.
 - <https://med-project.org/>
 - <https://safemedicinedrop.com/>
- Textiles are provided to Goodwill. Items are sorted:
 - If in good shape - Sold for resale at Goodwill stores
 - If not – sent to Goodwill Clearance Center and sold by the pound
 - Any materials not sold are baled and sold
 - Ultimate goal is textile recycling
- Recycling Education
 - WHEN IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT
 - Recycle Right! Alexa App
 - Recycle Right! Infographic signs (available for download) www.monroecounty.gov/des-recycle-right-signs

Committee Reports:

- **Program and Presentations** - Haines Lockhart
 - This was the best attended joint EMC/RAC meeting
 - Next EMC meeting will be February 21 with topic on SEQR Refresh, presented by Pat Gooch with Monroe County Planning Dept.
- **Nominating and Community Liaison** - Bill Santos
 - Nomination Request Letter and Annual Report delivered to the Monroe County Legislature on January 10th.
 - Next committee meeting will be on January 31st.
 - Still looking to fill position of vice chair and executive spots.
- **Natural Resources**
 - Next committee meeting on January 24th.
 - GIS will be presenting

Other Business and Announcements:

- Haines Lockhart nominated as EMC representative on the RAC for 2024-2025. Motion to approve by Bill Santos; seconded by Steve Rutherford. All in favor; approved.

Staff Reports:

- Brendon Fleming – Nominating materials went to the new president of legislature. Brian Green will be new representative from Law Department for the EMC.
- Clement Chung – Steve Peletz is the PFAS “guru” for MCDES

Privilege of the Floor

- Bill Santos - Monroe County Planning Board starting new season. Planning board public hearing on the Capital Improvement Plan occurring on March 14.
- Cynette Cavaliere – Penfield has a Woodland EPOD but asked for other municipalities that may also have them for comparison. Honeoye Falls and Webster responded that they have these EPODS in place and can be used for reference
- Seneca Park Zoo Innovation Awards application due February 8th; award ceremony March 28th
- How to dispose of LED fixtures – generally scrap metal
- Kudos to Nate Jones, Wastewater Treatment Operator at Van Lare Treatment Plant!

Adjourn:

Meeting was adjourned at 5:35.