

MONROE COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes for December 20, 2023

In Attendance:

At Large - Tom Dooley; EMC Chair

At Large - Haines Lockhart; Program and Presentations Committee Chair

At Large - Deb Muratore

City of Rochester – Wes Grooms

Town of Brighton - Paul Johnson

Town of Chili - Larry Lazenby

Town of Gates - Charles Johnson

Town of Henrietta - Bill Santos; Nominating and Award Committee Chair

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 MCDPH - Starr O’Neil; MCDPH

Madison Quinn - *MCDES (non-member)*

Brendon Fleming – *Monroe County Law Department (non-member)*

Virginia McIntyre – *County Legislator District 4, CSC Task Force Coordinator Gates*

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

Review of Minutes:

- Changes needed to Committee Names– Motion to approve with changes by Starr O’Neil; seconded by Bill Santos.

Meeting Topic(s):

Monroe County Climate Action Plan (CAP)

Madison Quinn, Monroe County Sustainability Coordinator

madisonquinn@monroecounty.gov

www.MonroeCountyClimateAction.com

- Climate
 - Adaptation – actions to manage impacts
 - Mitigation – actions to reduce GHG emissions that cause climate change
- Climate Action Plan (CAP)
 - Develop community-wide climate mitigation actions
 - Measures impacts
 - Measures the cost of doing nothing
 - Review best management practices
 - Identify reduction goals
 - Outline key policies, strategies, and actions to reduce impact
- There are lots of plans happening in Monroe County that intersect
 - Plan Forward (Comprehensive Plan)
 - Active Transportation Plan
 - Climate Action Plan
 - Received Bronze-level Climate Smart Community Certification in April 2023
- Composition of CAP
 - Advisory Committee
 - Internal Working Group
 - Consultant Group
- **Phase I** - County Operations; Adopted September 2022. Just looks at County-owned infrastructure
 - Consists of five sections. Conducted an inventory of GHG emissions using ICLEI method.
 - GHG looks at multiple contaminants, not just CO₂, such as sulfur hydroxide and methane
 - Based on 2019 data, Monroe County produces 45,632 tons of CO₂ equivalent annually
 - Goal is an 80% reduction by 2050 (=7,993 tons)
 - County Legislature funded \$1 million to Phase I CAP projects
 - Ranked actions based on impact, timeframe, and investment
- **Phase II** - Community-wide; Hoping for adoption Quarter 2 of 2024. Looks at sources throughout community.
 - Open invitation to partner with housing, private, industry operations, and transportation infrastructure. Crucial to have stakeholder input
 - Establish framework for implementation
 - Consists of six focus areas/sections (added Partnerships, Education, and Community as the additional area not considered in Phase I)
 - GHG inventory resulted in 9,136,020 tons annually (numbers still in draft form and not finalized)
 - Transportation is the largest piece of the pie at ~37%
 - GHG per capita is 12.10 tons annually
 - Community Engagement Opportunities – Public workshops, pop-up events, project website/ideas wall (currently at 715 visitors), surveys
 - Ranked focus areas and found transportation rated the highest
- How to Stay Involved
 - Visit website, participate in online engagement, attend Advisory Committee Meeting, attend 3rd Public Workshop

Committee Reports:

- **Executive** - Tom Dooley
 - 2024 Meeting Location – Group agreed that Fleet Center is still good for location
- **Program and Presentations** - Haines Lockhart
 - January is joint meeting with Recycling Advisory Committee (RAC) and will be held Wednesday, January 17th at 4pm. There will be three speakers:
 - Tom Dooley – EMC Overview
 - Jeff Meyers – RAC Overview
 - Steve Peletz – Ecopark Overview
 - Requested that if anyone knows of any good speakers, to let Haines, Mark Gaul, or Deb Muratore know
- **Nominating and Community Liaison** - Bill Santos
 - Still have a few municipal spots to fill, as well as Council spots on the Executive Committee
 - Rescheduling January Nominating Committee meeting to January 31st
- **Natural Resources**
 - Had first meeting in November. Future meetings will be in person on 2nd Wednesday of the month at 4pm at 111 Westfall Rd, Room 1036. Looking to have GIS speak at next committee meeting on January 24th.

Other Business and Announcements:

- EMC 2023-2024 Workplan – Presented to council for any input. Send comments to Starr or Tom
- Monroe County Planning Board Nomination – Bill Santos
 - Cynette asked Bill if he liked serving on the Planning Board. Bill responded that yes, he finds it fun. His background in engineering helps. He also gets to work on some of the CAP actions, too
 - Motion to approve Bill’s nomination made by Tom Dooley; seconded by Starr O’Neil. Upon vote, all members in favor, none against. Bill appointed for 2024-2025 term.
- Tom Dooley – Dave Wetter from Town of Mendon has stepped down from his position on the EMC. Will be seeking new representative in future.

Staff Reports:

- **Steve Olufsen** – Land Use Training Program on site plan review. Will be online through February 2024. Steve will forward information for distribution.
- **Clement Chung** – 2024 budget introduced to legislature yesterday. RG&E public utility study – Legislator did not approve. Difficulty in Pure Waters collections – still working on 2023 accounts, but discussing 2024 adjustments; 2024 will be 3% increase (which is down from a 6% increase in 2023).
- **Starr O’Neil** – Working on Rochester Embayment AOC delisting documents. Hopefully full delisting will occur by Fall 2024
- **Brendon Fleming** – January 2, 2024 is the date the new Monroe County Legislature will be seated. Request for member approvals will be sent after then.

Privilege of the Floor

- **Deb Muratore**
 - Location of EMC at Fleet Center works well, as the Ecopark is open late on Wednesdays
 - Suggested that for April meeting/Arbor Day, the group meet someplace to plant a tree. Suggestion referred to Presentations and Program Committee.
- **Andy Less** – Village of Honeoye Falls is now a Climate Smart Community, as of this past Monday. The program is driven by 35 high school students
- **Larry Lazenby** – After hearing Charles Johnson speak to Gates' policy that a certain number of trees are planted a year, Chili has now set up a 5-year pilot in a similar manner. Chili is using in house planting using their Environmental Fund
 - **Bill Santos** – Henrietta has a similar policy of 8 trees per acre

Adjourn:

- Meeting was adjourned at 5:33. Motion to adjourn by Wes Grooms; seconded by Bill Santos.