

MONROE COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes for November 15, 2023

In Attendance:

Tom Dooley – At Large; *Chairperson*

Haines Lockhart – At Large; *Program and Presentations Committee Chair*

Bill Santos – At Large; *Nominating and Community Liaison Committee Chair*

Paul Johnson - *Town of Brighton*

Jake Straub - *Town of Clarkson*

Larry Lazenby - *Town of Chili*

Charles Johnson - *Town of Gates*

Steve Rutherford - *Town of Hamlin*

Andy Less - *Town of Honeoye Falls*

Bill Parkhurst - *Town of Ogden*

Cynette Cavaliere - *Town of Penfield*

Mark Gaul - *Town of Perinton*

Pat Kraus – *Town of Rush*

Charles Zlotkus – *Town of Webster*

Clement Chung - *MCDES*

Yasmin Guevera - *MCDES*

Steve Olufsen - *MC Planning & Development (non-member)*

Starr O’Neil - *MCDPH*

Madison Quinn - *MCDES (non-member)*

Brendon Fleming - *County Law Department*

Deb Muratore - *(non-member)*

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 – Add Pat Kraus (Rush) to attendance list, Change Chris to Charles (Johnson) under Other Business. Motion to approve with changes by Bill Santos; seconded by Steve Rutherford.

Meeting Topic(s):

Rochester Accessible Adventures

Anita O'Brien 585-491-6011

aobrien@rochesteraccessibleadventures.org

- 1 in 4 Americans living with a disability (26%)
 - 300,000 in the Greater Rochester area
 - These numbers do not include people that are impacted by someone who has a disability (spouse, child, etc.)
 - 80% of health and wellness occurs outside of medical offices
 - ADA Compliance is a low/minimum standard
- Case studies
 - Erie Canal Boat Company in Fairport – accessible biking and kayaking
 - Updating bathrooms to include changing table stations able to hold 400+ lbs.
 - Inclusive fishing (adaptation to fishing rod to provide needed support)
 - Birding outing at Braddocks Bay
 - Check accessibility of trails/trips BEFORE sending invite – manage any barriers if possible, include descriptive information on invite so people know ahead of time if they would be able to access
 - Bring ideas and adaptations that work (kayaking in Fairport) to other municipalities, such as accessible boat launch in Brockport
 - On the Canals Program (NYS Canal Corporation) provides funding for equipment and standard/adaptive programming
 - Accessible itinerary available on the Erie Canalway Heritage Corridor website
 - Victor Parks & Rec – adaptive mountain biking; altered existing Trail (Hog Hollow) to be AMTB friendly
 - DEC Region 8
 - Instead of meeting just ADA compliance, wanted to determine what would be a better enhancement
 - Have people with disabilities come to the function that want to update to see how they work and their current usability. These individuals can then provide feedback on how to make the function more accessible/usable
- Whole community and creating a culture of inclusion
 - Process = Learn, Assess, Plan, Implement
 - Remove barriers – attitudinal, policy, programmatic, physical
 - Return on investment
 - increased participation (including individuals impacted by a person with a disability)
 - increased revenue for local economies (destination travel/staycation)
 - Working age people with disabilities have a \$490 billion (after tax) disposable income
 - Rochester Accessible Adventures has mentored inclusion partnership services
 - Will come out to help review municipality plans
- Look through the lens of inclusion when developing plans. You are either intentionally including people with disabilities or you are excluding them.

Committee Reports:

- **Executive** - Tom Dooley
 - 2024 Meeting Location – Group agreed that Fleet Center is still good for location
- **Program and Presentations** - Haines Lockhart
 - Speaker for December meeting will be Madison Quinn (Monroe County Sustainability Coordinator) on the Climate Action Plan.
 - January is joint meeting with Recycling Advisory Committee (RAC) and will be held Wednesday, January 17th at 3pm (note TIME change)
- **Nominating and Community Liaison** - Bill Santos
 - Still need Vice Chair and Natural Resources Committee Chair There are also vacant positions on Executive Committee to be filled.
 - Council has also been asked to review liaison list.
 - Deb Muratore was nominated as At Large Member. Motion approved by Steve Rutherford and seconded by Mark Gaul. Motion passed.
 - Letter to Legislature to go out soon – Brendon from MC Law Dept to assist
- **Natural Resources Committee**
 - Doodle poll went out for in person meeting at 111 Westfall Rd

Staff Reports:

- **Starr O'Neil** – Have child with very high lead level – reminder that lead poisoning is still a concern in our area. Discussed how lead in paint is still the leading cause (not lead in water). Also discussed need for permit for public market food vendors.
- **Yasmin Guevera** – Food scrap program in full swing, some issues with higher amounts than expected. Also working with Foodlink to act as repository for restaurants to donate extra food waste.
- **Brendon Fleming** – Change in legislative body. Likely EMC letter will not be referred until January and adopted February
- **Steve Olufsen** – Aquatic Invasive Species Roundtable Discussion 12/7 at Chili Community Center from 9am-12 noon
- **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).
- **Madison Quinn** – Speaking next month at full EMC meeting. Thanked everyone who helped distribute and complete CAP survey. Will be conducting more public outreach and stakeholder opportunities in January 2024.

Other Business and Announcements:

- Cynette Cavaliere – Seneca Park Zoo Environmental Leadership Awards are taking nominations. Starr will forward information to the group

Adjourn:

- Meeting was adjourned at 5:35. Motion to adjourn by Steve Rutherford; seconded by Bill Santos.