

MONROE COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

October 16th, 2024

In Attendance:

EMC

At Large - Tom Dooley; EMC Chair
At Large – Haines Lockhart
At Large - Deb Muratore
City of Rochester – Rosemary Jonientz
Town of Chili - Larry Lazenby
Town of Gates - Charles Johnson
Town of Ogden – Bill Parkhurst
Town of Mendon – Carol Cloen
Town of Penfield – Cynette Cavaliere
Town of Perinton - Mark Gaul
Town of Riga – Jennifer Balonek
Town of Rush – Pat Kraus
Town of Webster - Charles Zlotkus
Ex Officio Alternate - Clement Chung; MCDES
Ex Officio Alternate – Yasmin Guevara; MCDES
Ex Officio Alternate – Starr O’Neil; MCDPH
Ex Officio Alternate – Steve Olufsen; Planning & Dvpt
Monroe County Legislature Majority - Susan Hughes-Smith
Monroe County Legislature Minority - Virginia McIntyre
Recording Secretary – Liz Kaptein

Guests

Brian C. Eshenaur – Seth Green Trout Unlimited
Jill Werner – Seth Green Trout Unlimited
Nathaniel A. Jones – MCDES
Madison Quinn - MCDES
Sally Howard – FMCE
Aaron Deruyter- Seth Green Trout Unlimited
Catherine (Dana) McCarthy- Churchville Chili HS
Hunter Reece- Churchville Chili HS
Collin Pieters-West Irondequoit HS
Jack Debes-West Irondequoit HS
Mark McDermott- East Rochester Parks Commission

Meeting location:

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

Call to Order:

- Meeting was called to order at 4:02pm by Chairman Tom Dooley.

Introductions:

- Introductions were made from all present

Review of Minutes:

- Motion to approve March minutes by Bill Santos; seconded by Deb Muratore. All in favor; approved.

Meeting Topic(s):

Irondequoit Creek Conservation Efforts

Lance Lascari, Trout Unlimited- Seth Green Chapter

The [presentation pdf](#) and other information is available at: <https://www.sethgreentu.org/irondequoit>

- The purview of Trout Unlimited is coldwater fisheries.
- Trout Unlimited is a conservation organization that generally oversees class A, B, and C trout waters. Irondequoit Creek is a class C creek.
- TU raises money to fix things that are impacting coldwater fisheries, such as repairing culverts. There are currently three orphan dams being addressed in the area. Municipalities can reach out to see if there are projects that they can collaborate on.
- Homeowners/Property owners are often unaware of the long term impacts of removing vegetation from stream banks, may be hesitant to follow buffer zone recommendations on their property.
- Buffer zone of waterbody – based on town code and what EPODs say; may be dependent on the water type/class.

Follow Seth Green TU on Social Media:

- o Instagram: @sethgreentu
- o Facebook Group: Trout Unlimited Seth Green Chapter #073
- o X/Twitter: @TUSethGreen

Trout Unlimited has monthly gatherings at the Orvis store in Pittsford Plaza, all are welcome.

Trout unlimited is always seeking volunteers to engage and collaborate with the community.

If interested, please contact: Lance@RFdude.com

Committee Reports:

- **Program and Presentations**
 - o Next meeting is Nov 20 at 3:30pm at the RTS 1372 E Main St Location on the RTS Zero Emissions Program. **NOTE START TIME IS EARLIER THAN NORMAL.** Will forward parking information.
- **Nominating and Community Liaison**
 - o Next meeting on 10/30
 - o Reappointments for the next 2 years are due. Nomination request letter will include who the current representative is. Municipalities will receive no later than Friday. At Large members need to submit a resume to Liz.
 - o Brighton has identified their new member (replacement for Paul Johnson)
 - o Mark McDermott identified to represent East Rochester as an At Large member (no conservation board). Have to go through nomination process. .
 - o At-Large members must be Individuals, not groups/organizations, as per Rules of Operation.
 - o Student Membership
 - Looking at developing Student/Youth EMC as a committee of the EMC – The committee would be composed of students from all Monroe County high schools that want to participate. Chair/vice chair of committee would be

students elected as At Large members that would then have input along the larger EMC committee.

- Development of this new committee would be a part of the Nominating Committee utilizing faculty, aiming to involve any school that would like to be involved.
- Tom Dooley proposed motion to pursue development of this committee, seconded by Sue Hughes. All in favor; approved.
- Students present added that Environmental clubs are expanding in popularity and there could be a lot of interest. Some schools are more developed in their environmental programs than others and it could create a productive balance if pursued.
- Potentially opening up to juniors in addition to seniors. Help with the expansion of program and talking about it as a positive experience for recruitment, especially for passionate students.
- Students are interested in helping. Students in current pilot program were asked to participate in the development of the new committee.
- Open spots in the Nominating committee. If anyone is passionate about the youth aspect, joining the nominating committee is an option.

- **Natural Resources**

- No updates
- There are a handful of EMC members that have not yet chosen a committee to be on.

Descriptions of Committees:

- **Nominating and Community Liaison Committee** - Responsible for proposing nominees to the County Legislature for appointment as at large members; coordinating with city, town, or villages to identify conservation board or conservation advisory council nominees to the County; proposing a nominee for vice chairperson of the Council; proposing nominees for election by the Council to the Executive Committee (Meets normally the 4th Wednesday of the month at 4pm, as needed). Development of Youth EMC Committee will also be part of this committee
- **Program and Presentations Committee** - Responsible for organizing the program and feature of the month to be made at the regular Council meetings and is also responsible for running the EMC awards program. (Meets as needed)
- **Natural Resources Committee** - Responsible for developing and maintaining an inventory of natural resources within the County and such other environmental information as may be appropriate. Said inventory shall include wetlands and open spaces. (Meets normally on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 4pm).

Monroe County Staff Reports:

- Yasmin Guevara (Environmental Services)
 - EcoPark will be closed on November 30
 - Education and outreach- Solid waste and recycling newsletter that can be signed up to receive is now live: [Monroe County, NY - Recycling Newsletter Signup](#)
 - Participated in Hilton apple fest in October
 - Will be participating in Halloween at the public market on October 27th

- Madison Quinn (Environmental Services)
 - Received letters from NYSERDA for 1 and 2 star designations for Monroe County. \$135k is the amount the county has been approved for.
 - Vehicle electrification initiative is being worked on – diversifying. Adding feedback into annual report.
 - Additional charging stations are being added to county parks. NYSDEC has hinted that electric heavy duty vehicle funding may be available for municipalities
 - Virginia McIntyre inquired if all funding amounts given to the County for Climate initiatives were available. Madison will look on putting together information.
 - Make-Ready installations for electric charging stations funding provided by RGE
- Clement Chung (Environmental Services)
 - No report
- Steve Olusfen (Planning & Development)
 - Responsible for 239 review- Stream bank issues and electric vehicle charging station input. Comments returned to municipality. Town declares as lead agency but solicits comments from other agencies. Post-review in order to speed line the process for efficiency.
 - Land Use Training is already sold out, however they are looking to get larger classroom to fit in a few more people. If interested, send email to Yixuan Lin at yixuanlin@monroecounty.gov.
- Starr O’Neil (Public Health) - Officially delisted Rochester embayment AOC- there’s a video link on YouTube https://youtu.be/meslP_RTyus?si=di2I08n9T3hL_RTQ

Other Business/Announcements

- Tom Dooley requested that everyone take some time to think about how nature works and how impressive it is. It is important to absorb the change in season.

Privilege of the Floor

- Charles Johnson (Gates): Gates has last farmers market on 10/20 from 11-3 at Westmar Plaza

Adjourn:

- Meeting was adjourned at 5:31 by Tom Dooley