

Annual Report



Monroe County Environmental
Management Council
(EMC)

2023

**Monroe County
Environmental Management Council
Rochester, New York**

Executive Committee

Thomas Dooley, MBA, EMC Chair
Haines Lockhart, Jr., PhD
William Santos, BSEE, EIT, LEED AP BD+C
Paul Johnson
Clement Chung, PE
Starr O'Neil, EMC Coordinator
Ryan Parra-Merrell, Recording Secretary

Adam Bello
County Executive

Yversha Román
President of the Legislature

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INTRODUCTION

The EMC was established in 1971 and formed under New York State enabling legislation and the Monroe County Charter. The charge of the EMC is to advise on all matters affecting the preservation, conservation, and ecologically suitable use of the natural resources of the county for the benefit and enjoyment of the present and future inhabitants of the county.

This has been a challenging year for the EMC. Over the years, enthusiasm and efforts around the organization have waned and the COVID Pandemic was particularly hard on the organization. It was decided the best way to reinvigorate the organization was to start fresh by going back to the originating and governing documents. This has led the EMC to a basic structure with the plan to drive the Council forward from there. The two Standing Committees set out in the bylaws (Program and Nominating) were established with a charge of establishing a solid base to build from. An Ad Hoc Natural Resources Committee was also established to accomplish some of the efforts spelled out in Article 47 of NYS Conservation Law. Many hours of community volunteer time has been put into these efforts to rebuild.

We would be remiss if we did not acknowledge the support we have received from the County staff associated with the Council.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Each council member was appointed to at least one Standing or Ad Hoc committee. Ad Hoc committees were created as needed to address specific issues.

Executive Committee

In addition to meeting monthly to execute its responsibility of overseeing member activities, the Executive Committee served as a planning committee charged with reinvigorating the EMC. The first stages of this have been focused on membership and a more focused program.

Standing Committees

Nominating and Community Liaison Committee

The primary goal of the Nominating and Community Liaison Committee was to fill out the membership of the Council and the Executive Committee and they have been particularly busy during this EMC rebuilding phase. This committee has accomplished the following:

- Proposed a Vice Chair to the EMC. Unfortunately, the elected Vice Chair had to step down from his duties half way through his term. A new Vice Chair is currently being sought.
- Facilitated nominations and elections of the EMC Council Executive Committee, Standing Committees, and Ad Hoc Committee chairs
- Developed and distributed a letter to municipal leaders requesting EMC membership nominations
- Reached out to each municipality facilitating their membership appointments
- Increased membership activity and engaged the County's ex-Officio members
- Discussed and recommended requirements to the Executive Committee for At-Large Student memberships
- Reviewed and updated the Community and Agency Liaisons list

Program and Presentation Committee

The primary goal of the Programs and Presentations Committee this year has been to provide EMC members with an understanding of the resources available to them through Monroe County Departments, and to identify subject experts within the County that members could contact if they needed information for their conservation board activities. Here is the list of topics presented at the 2023 EMC Meetings:

January	Joint meeting with Monroe County Recycling Advisory Committee (RAC)
February	George Thomas Genesee River Watch
March	Dr. Marielena Velez de Brown, Deputy Commissioner Overview of the Monroe County Department of Public Health
April	Rochelle Bell, Senior Associate Planner Overview of the Monroe County Department of Planning and Development
May	Michael Garland, P.E., Director Overview of the Monroe County Department of Environmental Services
June-August	Summer Break (no meetings)
September	EMC members shared with items of interest and needs in their respective municipal conservation boards.
October	Robert Kiley, Deputy Director Overview of the Monroe County Parks Department
November	Anita O'Brien Rochester Accessible Adventures
December	Madison Quinn, Sustainability Coordinator Monroe County Climate Action Plan

Ad Hoc Committees

Natural Resources Committee

This Ad Hoc committee was created to address a specific task identified in Article 47 of NYS Environmental Conservation Law. This committee was just recently established and has developed three main goals:

- To compile an inventory of natural resources within the county, to include wetlands, open spaces, open marsh lands, swamps, factors relating to geology, soils, slope, water resources, vegetation, wildlife habitat, unique natural areas and scenic/historic/archaeological sites
- Develop a way to readily access these resources (possibly via GIS)
- Documented ways to maintain and update these resources

INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

EMC Administrative representatives participated in the following committees:

- Water Education Collaborative (WEC)
- Environmental Health Sciences Center Community Advisory Board (CAB)
- Southwest Lake Ontario Sub-Basin Work Group
- Irondequoit Bay Technical Staff (IBTS)
- New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) Standing Committee on Climate Action
- Monroe County Climate Action Plan Advisory Committee

EMC citizen volunteers participated in the following committees:

- Monroe County Planning Board
- Monroe County Recycling Advisory Board
- Monroe County Fishery Advisory Board

EMC MEMBERSHIP

Members-At-Large

Thomas P. Dooley, MBA
Haines B. Lockhart, Ph.D.
Deb Muratore

Municipal Representatives

Brighton	Paul Johnson
Chili	Larry Lazenby
Clarkson	Jake Straub
Gates	Charles Johnson
Hamlin	Steve Rutherford
Henrietta	William Santos
Honeoye Falls (V)	Andrew Less
Irondequoit	Vacant
Ogden	William Parkhurst
Mendon	Vacant
Penfield	Cynette Cavaliere
Perinton	Mark Gaul
Pittsford	Caroline Kilmer
Pittsford (alternate)	Jacqueline Ebner
Riga	Greg Adams
Rochester	Charles Wes Grooms
Rush	Beth Hoak
Rush (alternate)	Pat Kraus
Sweden	Richard Popen
Webster	Charles Zlotkus

Municipalities without an Active Conservation Board or Advisory Council:

Brockport (V)	Greece (T)	Spencerport (V)
Churchville (V)	Hilton (V)	Webster (V)
East Rochester (T)	Parma (T)	Wheatland (T)
East Rochester (V)	Pittsford (V)	
Fairport (V)	Scottsville (V)	

Monroe County Administrative Representatives (Ex Officio Members)

Deputy County Executive	Jeff McCann Adrienne Green (alternate)
Director of Planning and Development	Ana Liss Steven Olufsen (alternate)
Director of Environmental Services	Michael Garland, P.E. Clement Chung, P.E. (alternate)
Chief of Engineering and Facilities Management	Sean Murphy Yasmin Guevara (alternate)
Commissioner of Public Health	Michael Mendoza, MD Starr O'Neil (alternate)
Recording Secretary (non-voting member)	Ryan Parra-Merrell

Monroe County Legislature Representatives

Three members yet to be appointed.

Community Liaisons

Climate Solutions Accelerator	Bree-Ana Dukes
Color Henrietta Green	Pat Wartinger
Federation of Monroe County Environmentalists	Sally Howard
Genesee River Watch	George Thomas
Genesee Valley Audubon Society	June Summers
Livingston County EMC	Mary Underhill
Town of Parma Liaison	Mike Reinschmidt
RENEW	Elizabeth McDade
UR Environmental Health Sciences Center	Katrina Smith Korfmacher
Water Education Collaborative	Paul Sawyko

Agency Liaisons

City of Rochester	Shalini Beath
MC Department of Planning & Development	Patrick Gooch
MC DES Sustainability Coordinator	Madison Quinn
MC Law Department	Brendon Fleming, Esq.
MC Parks Department	Robert Kiley
MC Soil & Water Conservation District	Kelly Emerick
NYSDEC, Division of Air Resources	Margaret LaFarr
NYSDEC, Great Lakes Coordinator	James Lehnen
NYSDEC, Western Great Lakes Watershed Coordinator	Ryan Elliott