

**COLUMBIA COUNTY  
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
UNOFFICIAL MEETING NOTES  
23 AUGUST 2010**

**PRESENT:**

Ed Simonsen, Chair, Kinderhook  
Harvey Weber, Copake  
Scott Stackpole, Taghkanic  
Kathy Schneider, Stuyvesant  
Kate Cashen, Claverack  
Robert Kessler, Hillsdale  
Dan Marcus, Stockport  
Melissa Sorman, Gallatin  
John Dax, New Lebanon  
Frances Szasz, Germantown nominee

**ABSENT:**

Jamie Purinton, Ancram  
Karl Gabosh, Austerlitz  
John Adams, Canaan  
Dierdre Henderson, Chatham  
Karen Mort, Ghent  
Louise Bliss-Keneally, Greenport  
Phil Leonard, Clermont  
Michael O'Hara, City of Hudson  
Dean Vander Schaaff, Livingston  
Theresa Mayhew, CCE  
Ed Van Nostrand, CCDOH

**STAFF:**

Roland R. Vosburgh, Principal Planner

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Simonsen called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm and noted that a quorum to conduct official business was lacking (9 out of 19 voting members). The members present agreed to hold an unofficial meeting. Therefore, the approval of the July 2010 draft EMC minutes were postponed.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Chairman Simonsen noted several upcoming meetings and urged members to attend.

- 9/13/10: Columbia-Greene Cos. Joint Training Session (Cairo, 5:00-9:30 pm)
- 9/30/10: EMC sponsored speaker (Gretchen Stevens) on biodiversity (Copake Town Hall, 7:00 pm)
- 11/19-21/10: Annual NYSAEMC and NYSACC Environmental Conf. (West Point)
- 12/30/10: Conf. on Water Resources & the Regional Economy (SUNY New Paltz)

There was a short discussion on ways to encourage local officials to attend such conferences. The consensus was that each EMC member personally encourage attendance by their town or city officials in whatever way was most productive.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### ***1) Speaker Series***

The first EMC sponsored speaker series public meeting will be held on Thursday, 9/30/10 at 7:00 pm at the Copake Town Hall. Gretchen Stevens, with Hudsonia, Inc. will be speaking on guidelines for conserving biodiversity in local government land use planning. Bob Kessler agreed to contact Ms. Stevens regarding any equipment needs for the meeting. Melissa Sorman and Scott Stackpole distributed drafts of a media release and flyer for publicity. Members discussed utilizing print and radio media, existing town websites, and citizen organizations within towns to increase the publicity outreach. Ms. Sorman promised to finalize the press release this week as she will be out of town over the weekend and the goal is to get this announcement out to town officials in time for September meetings. The finalized flyer will also be emailed to members and they were encouraged to print multiple copies and post them throughout their respective towns. Harvey Weber will take care of light refreshments for the Copake meeting.

Chairman Simonsen recommended the EMC plan for future speakers now. The consensus was to have Deirdre Henderson confirm a speaker from NYSDEC's Climate Smart Communities office. Other suggestions included inviting a DEC fisheries expert to speak on the status of fish contamination in Columbia County streams and lakes, and Steve Winkley, with NYS Rural Water Association. It was also suggested that speakers address topics with a county-wide appeal and not focus on specific, localized issues. Kathy Schneider offered to arrange for the next meeting to be held at the Stuyvesant Town Hall.

### ***2) Outdoor Wood Boiler Regulations***

Dan Marcus summarized some of the issues raised at the public hearings held by DEC earlier this year, but no new information on when the regulations would be revised and available for public review was presented. During the short discussion comments were made that there should not be relaxed standards for OWBs in rural areas; e.g. that population density is not a factor because of the accumulative nature of air pollutants for impacting human health.

### ***3) Proposed Workshop on Conservation Advisory Councils (CAC)***

The Columbia Land Conservancy is planning to host a workshop on the value of establishing town CACs. Currently, a few towns in CC have CACs. Chairman Simonsen explained that CLC was again seeking co-sponsorship by the EMC as was done with the water resources workshop at CGCC earlier this year. A caution was raised about the possible negative reaction of local governments about the EMC encouraging the creation of CACs. The consensus was that EMC sponsorship of the CLC event was purely educational. Chairman Simonsen promised to discuss EMC co-sponsorship with Commissioner Ken Flood before any final decision, as he had done with the EMC co-sponsorship of the water workshop.

***4) DEC Air Monitoring Station Status***

Kathy Schneider expressed dismay that the 11 months of particulate data collected at the Stuyvesant Town Hall provided no information on mercury levels from the Lafarge Cement Co. plant in Ravena and that DEC has no plans to repair the mobile air monitoring station and continue to gather data.

With no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Unofficial Meeting Notes Prepared by:

Roland R. Vosburgh, Principal Planner