

Ulster County Environmental Management Council
Monthly Meeting, Howard C. St. John Room, SUNY Ulster
March 30, 2011

Attendance:

Steve Noble, Chairman
Ann Brandt, Woodstock, at large
John Sansalone, Gardiner
Aaron Bennett, Department of Environment
Gregg Swanzey, Kingston
Virginia Stark, Hurley
Cindy Lanzetta, Marlborough
Dave Haldeman, Shawangunk
Wm. A. More, at large
Renno Budziak, Ulster
Lillian Green, Rochester
Joe Liuni, Rosendale

Guests:

Mary Kramarchyk--NYS DEC
Meredith Taylor--Catskill Center - EAB Taskforce

Call to Order and Welcome:

Steve Noble called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.

Guest Speaker:

Mary Kramarchyk, NYS DEC Central Office, spoke about the problem of the Emerald Ash Borer. There will be a conference in July at New Paltz about this problem. Town committee personnel may receive credits for attending. There are Federal funds available to towns to help with tree replacement programs. Members of the DEC can come to speak at Town meetings about tree protection. There is another invasive species called the Asian Longhorn Beetle that is also causing damage to Maple trees. The damage from the EAB has been drastic in the western part of the country and is spreading east. The Ulster County CACs and ECCs should be made aware of this problem and plan for the event that it comes to their areas. Mary suggested several steps that towns can take and her department is available to help with planning and replacement measures. She mention contacting Jeff at the DEC office in New Paltz.

Minutes:

Cindy L. made a motion to approve the minutes of the Feb. 23, 2011 meeting, Dave H. seconded. The minutes were approved.

Department of the Environment:

Steve introduced Aaron Bennett, Deputy Coordinator for the Department of the Environment.

EMC Annual Report:

Steve distributed a draft of the report to be read by EMC members for any comments and changes. It will be brought up for acceptance at the April meeting.

Old Business:

Creek Week will be held Sept 17th through Sept 25th.

New Business:

Steve brought up the idea of holding a CAC Roundtable event like we had last year, to be held in place of the June EMC meeting. A discussion took place about what type of speakers we should have at the Roundtable. An Ashokan Watershed speaker was suggested. Water resources and ground water theme

was suggested and attendees would be able to receive credits for their positions on town boards. It was suggested that each CAC member bring a member of the town board to the Roundtable. Aaron Bennett addressed the Ulster County Recreation Map that he is working on. He distributed town maps to EMC member to take to their towns to verify all and any recreation areas on the maps or areas that might have been missed when putting the map together. He would like to have any changes within the next week.

2nd Guest Speaker:

Meredith Taylor of the Catskill Center EAB Taskforce was the second speaker of the evening. She also spoke about the Emerald Ash Borer and the ramifications of their spread. One of the problems that town need to understand covers a health hazard, ie., the liabilities from dead tree limbs falling and injuring residents. She suggested getting our communities involved in a countywide taskforce. Some communities are not affected yet, but must make plans to deal with this problem and it is our job to get the messages out to our communities. Discussion was held about what EMC members could do in this regard. Ms. Taylor stated that there are CRISP funds available to help defray municipal costs.

Round-About:

- John S. made a motion to forgo the Round-About due to the time. Bill M. seconded the motion. The motion was accepted.
- Before the meeting was adjourned, Cindy L. informed the members of some things going on with the Hudson River Greenway program and Bill M. informed the members of an upcoming household pharmaceutical cleanout and Dave H. said that there was an April 16th Pharmaceutical collection scheduled. Ann Brandt informed of a Woodstock resolution on hydrofracking.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Lillian Green, Secretary