

2012 Annual Report Ulster County Environmental Management Council

Overview

The Ulster County EMC has had a very successful year with the council members growing and sharing many experiences throughout the year in the efforts to use, protect and conserve the environment for the benefit of all the people. With the activation of the Department of the Environment in 2008, the council was able to revert back to its primary role of reviewing and advising the county and local governments on environmental issues. In 2008, The Department of the Environment completed the county's first Environmental Plan which has been used as a management tool for multiple county departments' environmental activities. The EMC also began operating under the new Charter form of government in early 2009.

Environmental Management Council

Sixteen Conservation Commissions exist in Ulster County with Twelve of them being very active in local and regional environmental issues. (See Exhibit A).

At the end of 2012 the membership of the Environmental Management Council Board included 12 town representatives, 6 at-large members and one ex-officio member for a current total of 18(See Exhibit A). Throughout the year, attendance was excellent with a quorum at most meetings.

One of the goals of the Ulster County EMC is to educate the membership about local environmental initiatives and organizations in the area by hosting guests at the monthly meetings to share their information.

During 2012, the EMC hosted a few special presentations. These included:

- a. Michael Courtney with the Green Jobs/Green NY Program
- b. Kathy Nolan with Catskill Mountain Keeper
- c. Cornell Cooperative Extension Xeriscape Garden Tour

Another of the more effective communication tools has been to document in detail the information that is exchanged at each meeting in minutes and sharing these minutes both with the members of the council and the municipal supervisors/mayors.

Department of the Environment

The Department of the Environment helped advance the county in the areas of sustainability, stormwater and natural resources with exciting energy efficiency work including a photovoltaic project, continued work on “greening” the county office building, and providing GIS support to towns and CAC’s to advance natural resource planning. One key project was the development and launch of Ulster County ReConnect. This online mapping portal for recreation and environmental amenities accompanied a paper map distributed by Ulster County Tourism. Additionally, the EMC and the Department worked to distribute and collect a 2012 EMC/CAC Survey to all CAC’s in Ulster County.

CreekWeek 2012

During September of 2012, dozens of community organizations and CAC’s across Ulster County came together to offer a wide variety of educational, watershed based programming to Ulster County residents and visitors. A complete listing of the 2012 CreekWeek programs can be found in Appendix B. Positive press was received in many local papers including Ulster Publishing’s community newspapers.

Web/Communication Development

Staff of the Ulster County Department of the Environment and participation from the Ulster County EMC continued to grow the ucenvironment.org website which includes posting past EMC agenda/minutes and county-wide environmental events.

Exhibit A

Municipal CACs and EMC Membership

1. 16 Municipalities with Environmental Commissions/Committees (CAC):

- Town of Esopus
- Town of Gardiner
- Town of Hardenburgh
- Town of Hurley
- City of Kingston
- Town of Lloyd
- Town of Marbletown
- Town of Marlborough
- Town of New Paltz
- Village of New Paltz
- Town of Rochester
- Town of Rosendale
- Town of Saugerties
- Town of Shawangunk
- Town of Wawarsing
- Town of Woodstock

2. Environmental Management Council Current Membership (End of 2012):

12 Municipal Members

- Henry Bartosik, Town of Wawarsing
- Joseph Damrath, Town of Saugerties
- Lillian Green/Hank Bartosik, Town of Rochester
- Joseph Liuni, Town of Rosendale
- Julie McQuain, Town of Hardenburgh
- Catherine Quick, Town of Esopus
- John Sansalone, Town of Gardiner
- Virginia Starke, Town of Hurley
- Gregg Swanzey/Julie Noble, City of Kingston
- Dave Haldeman, Town of Shawangunk
- Stephen Osborn, Town of Marlborough
- Mary Philips Burke, Town of Woodstock

5 At Large Members

- Ann Brandt
- Cindy Lanzetta
- William More
- Steve Noble
- Julie Noble
- Lynn McCormick

1 Ex-Officio Representative:

- Dennis Doyle, Ulster County Planning

Appendix B

The 2012 CreekWeek celebration was held from September 15-23th. The 3rd annual Creek Week was sponsored by Ulster County Environmental Management Council and Ulster County Department of the Environment.

CreekWeek is intended to help build awareness and encourage the enjoyment of water and watersheds in Ulster County. The Ulster County Department of Environment and the Environmental Management Council believe that an annual CreekWeek will better connect people to our fantastic Ulster County environment – particularly our watersheds and water resources. We hope that people use these events to learn more about what is just outside their door, learn something about how they can protect or improve the environment, enjoy time outside with friends and family, and to have fun.

Events held as part of the 2012 CreekWeek:

EVENT	ATTENDANCE
Say No to Knotweed!	4
Hudson River Morning Kayak Tour	6
Kayak Tour of the Tidal Lower Esopus	22
Hudson River Sunset Paddle	6
Sunset Seining	16
Rondout Paddle	5
Stream Monitoring	TBD
Muddy Waters!	23
EBNP Mushroom Walk	25
Creek Speak	23
Frost Valley Hike	13
How's the Water	16
Last Call at the Oasis	12
Rosendale Fishing Day on the Rondout Creek	40
Kayak Tour of the Tidal Lower Esopus	31
Guided Kayak Paddle on Rondout Creek	7
John Burroughs Slabsides Ramble	TBD
Total Participants	245