

2013 Annual Report Ulster County Environmental Management Council

EMC Background

With the activation of the Department of the Environment in 2008, the Ulster County EMC was able to continue 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, which allowed for the EMC to continue to provide essential networking and communication among the county's environmental commissions and boards.

Environmental Management Council

Twelve of the twenty-four municipalities in Ulster County had active Environmental Council/Commissions (See Exhibit A), in 2013.

At the end of 2013 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 2013, the EMC hosted a few special presentations. These included:

- a. RiverKeeper – How's the Water Presentation
- b. Ulster County DOE Rain Garden and Green Infrastructure Project Tour
- c. Shana Smiley, Mohonk Preserve Climate Change Presentation
- d. Chris White, Catskill Rail Trail Presentation
- e. Green Infrastructure Presentation by Green Infrastructure Center and the Department of Environment

Another effective communication tool 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. In 2013, Ulster County released a new Sustainability Guide, which acts as a framework for municipalities to “green” their municipal operations. A joint workshop/roundtable was held in June of 2013 to explore how to utilize this guide at a municipal level and provided purchasing and building and ground department’s case studies. Additional work included taking part in a NYS DEC Green Infrastructure Mapping initiative and also the successful implementation of a Green Infrastructure Grant on the Ulster County Office Building Complex.

CreekWeek 2013

During September of 2013, 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 2013 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. 15 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
- 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 2013):

12 Municipal Members

- Henry Bartosik, Town of Wawarsing
- Mary Odonnell, Town of Saugerties
- Jorge Gomes, Town of Rochester
- Joseph Liuni, Town of Rosendale
- Catherine Quick, Town of Esopus
- John Sansalone, Town of Gardiner
- Virginia Starke, Town of Hurley
- Julie Noble, City of Kingston
- Dave Haldeman, Town of Shawangunk
- Stephen Osborn, Town of Marlborough
- Mary Philips Burke, Town of Woodstock
- Jim Littlefoot, Town of New Paltz

5 At Large Members

- Ann Brandt
- Cindy Lanzetta
- William More
- Steve Noble
- Julie Noble
- Kristen Schara

1 Ex-Officio Representative:

- Dennis Doyle, Ulster County Planning

Appendix B

The 2013 CreekWeek celebration was held from September 14-22th. The 4th 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 2013 CreekWeek:

EVENT	ATTENDANCE
Say No to Knotweed!	4
Hudson River Morning Kayak Tour	6
Kayak Tour of the Tidal Lower Esopus	22
Restoration Workday – Black Creek Preserve	6
Rondout Creek Clean-up	12
Hudson River Evening Kayak Tour	6
Youth Fishing Frenzy	50
Gear-Cleaning Demonstration	5
“Sailing the Belle Aventure”	TBD
Esopus Creek Critters...	9
Catskill Native Plant Society Hike	6
Hudson River Morning Kayak Tour	6
Kayak Tour, Esopus Bend Nature Preserve	TBD
Mine Hole Waterfall and Point Lookout Hike	21
Kids Fishing Day at the Ashokan Reservoir	79
Rosendale Fishing Day on the Rondout Creek	45
Climate Change at the LOCAL Level	14
Hudson River Morning Kayak Tour	7
Kanape Brook Stream Walk	20
Hudson River Evening Kayak Tour	4
	318
Total Participants	