

Livingston County EMC



Letchworth State Park, Genesee River Gorge

Annual Report 2011



**LIVINGSTON COUNTY
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**
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ANNUAL REPORT 2011

The Livingston County Environmental Management Council (EMC) is a formal citizens advisory group that was formed by the Livingston County Board of Supervisors in 1979. The EMC has an authorized membership of 20 members, and there were 11 members in 2011. The membership is comprised of representatives of agriculture and the general citizenry. Its charge is to work cooperatively with the Board of Supervisors, local municipalities, and citizens of the County on the protection, preservation, development, and use of the County's natural resources.

This annual report documents the activities of the EMC from January 1, 2011, through December 31, 2011, and provides a proposed program for 2012.

2011 ACTIVITIES

Livingston County EMC Web Site

The EMC web site (http://livingstoncounty.us/plan_emc.htm) was created in March 2001. The site provides a description of the EMC, a list of current members, and information on meeting dates and times. The site also has a link to EMC Annual Reports and the 2012 Earth Day Award Nomination form.

Natural Resource Inventory (NRI)

The New York State Environmental Conservation Law, Section 47-0107(5-a) Powers of Council state that -

“The council shall develop and maintain an inventory of natural resources within the county and such other environmental information as may be appropriate. Said inventory shall include wetlands and open spaces and may include, but not be limited to factors relating to geology, soils, slope, water resources, vegetation, wildlife habitat, unique natural areas, and scenic, historic, and archaeological sites.”

In 1999, the EMC appointed a Committee to begin updating the NRI to create a better tool for county agencies and municipal boards to use when reviewing development applications and making land use decisions and policies.

In 2001, the NRI Committee identified a number of issues for which EMC members could be directly involved in gathering information and promoting contact with local governments. These issues included historic resources, unique natural areas, recreational resources and scenic viewsheds. The Committee decided to focus the information gathering effort on historic resources in 2001.

In 2002, Planning Department staff prepared maps showing sites in each town and village that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Based on information from the State Historic Preservation Office, staff also

prepared a list of sites eligible to be listed on the National Register. Committee Members and EMC members were assigned the task of contacting members of their local government, including Town Supervisors and Village Mayors, Town and Village Historians, and Town and Village Planning Boards, to present them with the historic site maps and lists. The purpose of the meetings at the local level was to confirm Planning staff information, raise awareness to historic resources in Livingston County, and gather any additional information available on historic resources at the local level. Several interviews were conducted, and former EMC member Larry Schongar made a presentation on the NRI to the Town and Village Boards in Avon. William McCleary and David W. Parish made two presentations to County, Town, and Village Historians.

In 2003, the NRI Committee decided to expand the information gathering effort to focus on the inventory of open spaces in Livingston County. The Committee also requested the assistance of Town and Village historians with the gathering of historical building information.

In 2004, the historic resources research continued, and Planning Department staff began drafting chapters for a county-scale NRI that described such resources as floodplains and wetlands, watersheds, topography, and state parks, forests and wildlife management areas.

In 2005 and 2006, the EMC completed Volume 1 of the NRI and began working on Volume 2. The historic resources research continued, and the EMC created a Historic Resources Nomination Form and brochure. These materials were distributed to Town and Village Historians for their review, comment, and use.

In 2007, the NRI underwent final revisions and was published and distributed to Towns, Villages, local libraries, and other interested parties. Presentations of the NRI were given at a meeting of the West Sparta Town Board, and at the Association of Villages meeting.

In 2009, NRI comments were added to Livingston County Planning Board staff reports, which are generated for County Planning Board zoning referrals. NRI comments provide information on the presence and location of natural resources and advisory comments regarding impacts.

In 2010, a Natural Resources Inventory training was given to the Livingston County Planning Board. The Planning Department continues to get updates from the Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation whenever a site is included on the State and National Registers of Historic Places. The EMC anticipates conducting overall updates of the NRI every five years.

Earth Day Recognition Award

A primary goal of Earth Day is to achieve a global demonstration of concern for protecting and preserving the environment. In observance of Earth Day, the EMC began an awards program where an individual(s), organization, group, or business is recognized for their positive contribution to the environment. In 2011, the Conesus - Livonia Environmental Action Network (C.L.E.A.N.) Recycling Center was the EMC Earth Day Award recipient. The Recycling Center was nominated for providing 20 years of recycling services, operating a self-sufficient program, engaging the community through program education and volunteerism, and providing an environmental benefit to all Livingston County residents. Also in 2011, the EMC awarded the Livingston County Special Environmental Recognition Award. For their dedication to the permanent protection and preservation of Hemlock and Canadice Lakes, the following recipients were recognized: the Towns of Livonia, Springwater, and Conesus; City of Rochester; Nature Conservancy; New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; Sierra Club; and the Coalition for Hemlock and Canadice Lakes.

Conesus Lake Watershed Management Plan (CLWMP)

In 1998, the EMC recognized the need for a Conesus Lake Watershed Management Plan and expressed a willingness to participate in the planning process. The purpose of the Plan is to develop a framework for improving the water

quality conditions in Conesus Lake and the Conesus Lake Watershed.

Increasing development pressure, degradation of the water quality in the Lake, and more stringent Federal and State standards for public drinking water supplies make it crucial that a comprehensive watershed management approach to conserving and protecting Conesus Lake be developed.

In 1999, the EMC appointed two members (William McCleary and Jean Meekin as Alternate) to serve on the CLWMP Policy Committee. The Policy Committee was the official decision-making body of the Plan. EMC participation on the CLWMP Policy Committee continued through 2003.

After the Plan was completed in 2003, the Conesus Lake Watershed Council was created in December 2003. The Conesus Lake Watershed Council is responsible for Plan implementation and support of the Conesus Lake Watershed Inspection Program. The EMC receives updates on the Plan at each bi-monthly meeting.

Communication with the Board of Supervisors

A goal for 2011 was to continue a dialogue with the County Board of Supervisors through the Human Services Committee to improve communications, foster good relations and gain a better understanding of how the EMC can best serve the County's environmental needs. The Planning Department continued to communicate bi-monthly activities of the EMC to the Board of Supervisors and the Public Services Committee.

Public Education Program

Many of the general bi-monthly meetings served an educational purpose as they usually featured a speaker and promoted a better understanding of environmental issues. All meetings were open to the public and included the following environmental topics:

- Environmental Factors and Their Impact on the Caledonia Fish Hatchery
- Tour of Tennant Park/MacKay Wildlife Preserve, Caledonia, NY
- Tour of Letchworth State Park

When appropriate, EMC bi-monthly agendas also included status reports on various relevant County programs and activities including but not limited to the following:

- Water Quality and Supply issues, including:
 - Conesus Lake Watershed Management Plan
 - Conesus Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations and Inspection Program
- Project to relocate the rail bridge in Portageville
- Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) threat
- Marcellus Shale

In 2011, the EMC co-sponsored the Livingston County Emerald Ash Borer Homeowner Workshop, a free public educational workshop designed to present homeowner information and strategies to address the threat of the EAB.

2012 PROPOSED PROGRAM & ACTIVITIES

Conesus Lake Watershed Management Plan (CLWMP)

Planning Department staff will continue to update the EMC on the progress of Conesus Lake Watershed Management Plan recommendation implementation.

Natural Resources Inventory (NRI)

The goal for 2012 is to initiate the 5-year update of the NRI, and upon completion, distribute the NRI to municipalities. In addition, public education on the NRI will be offered to the municipalities, upon request.

Recognition Award

A primary goal of Earth Day is to achieve a global demonstration of concern for protecting and preserving the environment. In observing Earth Day, the EMC will continue its awards program where an individual(s), organization, group, or business is recognized for their positive contribution to the natural environment in Livingston County.

The EMC will publicize its award program through press releases, contacts with Earth Science teachers and other school officials in the County, Livingston County Board of Supervisors, the Chamber of Commerce, SUNY Geneseo, the NYSDEC, and in local advertisements. Nominations may be presented by both the public and private sector. Nominees are not required to reside in the County. Members of the Livingston County EMC will not be eligible to receive the award.

The nominations deadline will be February 27, 2012. Nominations may be for outstanding technical contributions to the environment, or for contributions of time and energy towards a positive environmental goal or objective. Such activities may have occurred during the previous year or may be recognition of efforts over many years' time. The accomplishment must be based on work above and beyond what would be considered as regular duties.

The 2012 recipient of the Earth Day Award will be selected at the regularly scheduled March meeting of the EMC. The Review Committee will be selected in January 2012.

Environmental Permit Review

The EMC will continue its participation in the environmental permit review process through information from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

Communication with the Board of Supervisors

The EMC will continue its normal activities and assist the Board of Supervisors. In 2011, reporting of the activities of the Planning Department was transferred to the Public Services Committee. The Planning Department will communicate bi-monthly the activities of the EMC to the Board of Supervisors Public Services Committee. The EMC will present the 2011 Annual Report to the Public Services Committee in 2012. The EMC will also invite members of the Public Services Committee, or a representative from the Committee, to attend EMC meetings in 2012. In addition, the EMC will include Supervisors on the mailing list to receive EMC meeting minutes.

Public Education Program

The EMC will continue its bi-monthly speakers/presentation program. The program will focus on prevalent environmental issues facing the County. The program will help educate the membership and others about County environmental issues and better enable the EMC to advise the Board of Supervisors on making decisions for dealing with these pressing issues. The EMC would like to hear from businesses and industries in the County that have positively contributed to the environment and possibly schedule tours of those facilities. A continued tour of Letchworth State Park is planned. The EMC would also like to hear presentations on the following:

- ◆ Tour of the Conesus C.L.E.A.N. Recycling Center, Saturday morning;
- ◆ Potential trail in Lima on abandoned rail line to Honeoye Falls, trails in general or Genesee Valley Greenway;
- ◆ White-tail deer population;
- ◆ Wind turbines;
- ◆ Emergency Management Services presentation, with Director Kevin Niedermaier;
- ◆ Marcellus shale updates;
- ◆ Agricultural awareness presentation;
- ◆ Radon;
- ◆ Lead paint;
- ◆ Proper pharmaceutical disposal.

The EMC will invite the public to attend these presentations through communications to the Board of Supervisors, through press releases and by submitting the events to newspapers for inclusion on their event calendars.

Livingston County EMC Web Site

The EMC web site will be updated in February to include 2012 membership information and links to the 2011 Annual Report and the 2012 Earth Day Award Nomination form.

Membership

The EMC is looking for new members, especially from the industry/commerce sector, to join the Council. Interested parties can call the Planning Department at (585) 243-7550 for more details.

**LIVINGSTON COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
MEMBERSHIP LIST
2012**

All terms expire December 31, 2012

Original Appointment

AGRICULTURE

Robert Donnan (York)	3/86
Amos Smith (York)	4/08
David H. Swanson (Mount Morris)	2/82
Susan Walker (Springwater)	5/94
1 Vacant	

GENERAL CITIZENS

Ray Case (Livonia)	3/10
Barbara Davis (Geneseo)	9/79
Barry Ganzhorn, Sr. (Caledonia)	9/08
William McCleary (Livonia)	8/98
David W. Parish (Geneseo)	11/82
Wendy Stevenson (Springwater)	4/08
4 Vacant	

INDUSTRY-COMMERCE

5 Vacant