

LIVINGSTON COUNTY EMC



Genesee Valley Canal Lock

Photo: Sandra Wallace

ANNUAL REPORT 2009



**LIVINGSTON COUNTY
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**
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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 13 members in 2009. 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, 2009, through December 31, 2009, and provides a proposed program for 2010.

2009 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 2010 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 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.

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 2009, the Genesee Valley Conservancy (GVC) was the EMC Earth Day Award recipient. The GVC was nominated for a wealth of contributions to the community, which includes the preservation of more than 8,000 acres in Livingston County, completion of the Island Preserve Project in the Village of Geneseo, and successful attraction of external funding to support its local conservation efforts. In addition, the GVC has played a key role in the implementation and continued success of the PDR Program in Livingston County, a program that helps to protect important farmland.

EMC Member Recognition

In May 2009, the EMC formally recognized several of the long-standing committee members that have generously donated their time on the EMC. Chairman Grace gave recognition to committee members with over 20 years of service:

Barbara Davis – 30 years
Jean Meekin – 30 years
David W. Parish – 27 years
David H. Swanson – 27 years
Robert Donnan – 23 years

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 2009 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 Human 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:

- ◆ Energy Forum: Save Dollars, Save Energy, Reduce Waste
- ◆ Tour of Letchworth Park
- ◆ Presentation: "Wildlife in Livingston County: An Exploration of Livingston County's State Wildlife Management Areas: Conesus Inlet and Rattlesnake Hill"

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

2010 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 2010 is to update the NRI as needed, continue the distribution, upon request, of the NRI to municipalities and offer public education on the NRI to the municipalities.

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 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 pennysavers. 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 March 15, 2010. 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. Whatever the accomplishment, it must be based on work above and beyond what would be considered as regular duties.

The 2010 recipient of the Earth Day Award will be selected at the regularly scheduled March meeting of the EMC. The Review Committee includes Eric Grace, David Parish and Wendy Stevenson.

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. The Planning Department will continue to communicate bi-monthly the activities of the EMC to the Board of Supervisors Human Services Committee. The EMC would like to present the 2009 Annual Report to the Human Services Committee in 2010. The EMC would also like to invite members of the Human Services Committee, or a representative from the Committee, to attend EMC meetings in 2010. 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 needs 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:

- ◆ Concentrated Animal Feed Operation (CAFO) regulations and impacts on Livingston County Agriculture;
- ◆ 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.

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 2010 membership information and links to the 2009 Annual Report and the 2010 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
2010**

All terms expire December 31, 2010

Original Appointment

AGRICULTURE

Robert Donnan (York)	3/86
Eric Grace (Geneseo)	6/01
Amos Smith (York)	4/08
David H. Swanson (Mount Morris)	2/82
Susan Walker (Springwater)	5/94

GENERAL CITIZENS

Ray Case (Livonia)	3/10
Barbara Davis (Geneseo)	9/79
Barry Ganzhorn, Sr. (Caledonia)	9/08
Connie Kramer (Nunda)	4/04
William McCleary (Livonia)	8/98
David W. Parish (Geneseo)	11/82
Wendy Stevenson (Springwater)	4/08
Ralph Van Houten (Lima)	2/98
2 Vacant	

INDUSTRY-COMMERCE

5 Vacant