



**LIVINGSTON COUNTY
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
COUNCIL**

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**ANNUAL REPORT
2001**

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 14 members in 2001. The membership is comprised of representatives of agriculture, business, 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, 2001 through December 31, 2001 and provides a proposed program for 2002.

2001 ACTIVITIES

Livingston County EMC Web Site

The EMC web site (<http://www.co.livingston.state.ny.us/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 the current year EMC Annual Report.

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 (Frances Gotcsik, William McCleary, Randy Fuller and Larry Schongar) 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. The Committee was expanded in 2000 to include Betsy Abert, Robert Donnan, Patricia Lyke and Susan Walker.

In 2001, the Committee met five times to continue efforts to update the NRI. 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 for 2001.

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 Larry Schongar made a presentation to the Town and Village Boards in Avon.

Planning staff continued to gather environmental data sets from County, State, and Federal agencies to add to the County's GIS mapping system. This work is ongoing.

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 observation 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 2001, there were two recipients of the Earth Day Award: John (Jack) Baldwin and Don Root. They were both commended for their exemplary efforts to improve water quality in Conesus Lake and Hemlock Lake, respectively.

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 is the official decision-making body of the Plan. Participation on the CLWMP Policy Committee continued in 2001.

Adopt-A-Highway Program

In celebration of Earth Day 1998, the EMC adopted a two-mile stretch of roadside along Route 256 from Maple Beach Road south to Bath Road in the Towns of Conesus and Groveland. This area of the County is part of the environmentally sensitive Conesus Lake Watershed. In 2001, the EMC members participated in four clean-ups of this stretch of highway as part of its continuing commitment to the environment.

Update Bylaws

In February 2001, the EMC adopted updated bylaws to clarify language and change meeting times and dates.

Communication with the Board of Supervisors

A goal for 2001 was to continue a dialogue with the County Board of Supervisors through the Legislative & Agricultural Affairs 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 monthly activities of the EMC to the Board of Supervisors and the Legislative & Agricultural Affairs Committee.

Public Education Program

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

- Presentation on the Livingston County Department of Environmental Health
- Foot and Mouth Disease & West Nile Virus
- Update on the activities of the Genesee Valley Greenway
- Presentation on Bioterrorism
- Tour of Letchworth Park
- Tour of the City of Rochester Hemlock Lake Filtration Plant

When appropriate, EMC 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 Aquatic Weeds Strategy
- Conesus Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations and Inspection Program

Genesee Valley Health Partnership Environment and Health Committee

Larry Schongar and Planning staff represented the EMC at the meetings of the Genesee Valley Health Partnership Environment and Health Committee. This committee has addressed issues such as the spread of West Nile Virus and waterfowl contribution of pathogens to Conesus Lake.

Environmental Permit Review

The EMC (Larry Schongar) continued its participation in the environmental permit review process through information from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation web site. The EMC reviewed and commented on this permit and project information where appropriate.

Information Requests and Technical Assistance

Planning Department staff provided information to other agencies, consulting firms, realtors, real estate appraisers, banks and the general public about flood plains, waste sites, zoning, aerial photography, wetlands, soils, topographic maps and contours, land use and other topics of environmental concern. Planning Department staff also provided State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) assistance to municipalities, upon request.

2002 PROPOSED PROGRAM & ACTIVITIES

Conesus Lake Watershed Management Plan (CLWMP)

The EMC recognizes the need for a Conesus Lake Watershed Management Plan and will continue to participate in the planning process as needed. (William McCleary and Jean Meekin as Alternate will continue to represent the EMC on the CLWMP Policy Committee.)

Natural Resources Inventory (NRI)

The EMC will continue efforts to update the Natural Resources Inventory to create a better tool for making land use decisions and policies.

The NRI Committee (Robert Donnan, Frances Gotcsik, Patricia Lyke, William McCleary, Larry Schongar and Susan Walker) will continue efforts to gather natural resource information from municipalities and local organizations. With the assistance of the Committee, the EMC will complete the historical resources section and begin the recreational resources section of the NRI. The Planning Department will continually maintain the computerized inventory of existing maps on file with capability to sort and list under category called "NRI". The Planning Department will also continue entering new and historic geographic data, such as zoning and base map information, into the County's GIS mapping system to create maps for municipal boards and officials.

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 and in the three 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, 2002. 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 a recognition of efforts over many years time. Whatever the accomplishment, it must be based on work above and beyond what most would consider as regular duties.

The 2002 recipient of the Earth Day Award will be selected at the regularly scheduled March meeting of the EMC. The Nomination Committee includes Frances Gotcsik, Barbara Davis and David Parish.

Adopt-A-Highway Program

The EMC will continue to participate in the Adopt-A-Highway Program to continue its commitment to protecting the environment and the Conesus Lake Watershed.

Environmental Permit Review

The EMC (Larry Schongar) will continue its participation in the environmental permit review process through information from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation web site.

Communication with the Board of Supervisors

The EMC will continue its normal activities and assist the Board of Supervisors when needed. The Planning Department will continue to communicate monthly the activities of the EMC to the Board of Supervisors Legislative & Agricultural Affairs Committee. The EMC would like to present the 2001 Annual Report to the Legislative & Agricultural Affairs Committee in 2002. The EMC would also like to invite members of the Legislative & Agricultural Affairs Committee, or a representative from the Committee, to attend EMC meetings in 2002.

Public Education Program

The EMC will continue its monthly speakers/presentation program as needed. The program will focus on prevalent environmental issues facing the County. It is expected that this 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. Some programs proposed for 2002 include discussions on the old growth forest in the Hemlock Lake watershed and the Finger Lakes Community College otter release program in Honeoye Lake. Over the long-term, the EMC would like to visit an area in the County that shows innovative design and incentive development for the preservation of green space, and the EMC would also like to sponsor a presentation by Anton Nelessen on environmentally friendly design. 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:

- ◆ Transportation issues in Livingston County;
- ◆ The roles and responsibilities of NYSDEC Conservation Officers;
- ◆ Ron Walker's raptor rehabilitation project;
- ◆ The deer population in Livingston County;
- ◆ Alternative energy sources (i.e. wind power)
- ◆ The effect of sprawl on health;
- ◆ The roles and responsibilities of the Conesus Lake Watershed Inspector; and
- ◆ The activities of the Livingston County Chamber of Commerce.

The EMC will invite the public to attend these presentations 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 March to include 2002 membership information and a link to the 2001 Annual Report.

Genesee Valley Health Partnership Environment and Health Committee

The EMC will continue its participation on the Environment and Health Committee in 2002. Larry Schongar will continue to represent the EMC on this Committee.

Information Requests and Technical Assistance

Planning Department staff will continue to provide information to other agencies, consulting firms, realtors, real estate appraisers, banks and the general public about flood plains, waste sites, zoning, aerial photography, soils, topographic maps and contours, land use and other topics of environmental concern. Planning Department staff will also continue to provide State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) assistance to municipalities, upon request.

**LIVINGSTON COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
MEMBERSHIP LIST
2001**

All terms expire December 31, 2001

Original Appointment

INDUSTRY-COMMERCE

Kimberly Dalton Ferris, SUNY Geneseo (Geneseo)	3/98
Betsy Abert, Acorn Landscape Design (Geneseo)	8/00
3 Vacant	

AGRICULTURE

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

GENERAL CITIZENS

Ellen Coyne (Avon)	9/81
Barbara Davis (Geneseo)	9/79
Thomas DePuy (Ossian)	5/01
Frances Gotcsik (Lima)	8/98
Patricia Lyke (Geneseo)	9/00
William McCleary (Livonia)	8/98
Jean Meekin (Livonia)	9/79
David W. Parish (Geneseo)	11/82
Laurence Schongar (Avon)	3/98
Ralph Van Houten (Lima)	2/98