



**LIVINGSTON COUNTY  
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT  
COUNCIL**

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**ANNUAL REPORT  
2000**

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. It is a 20 member council 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, 2000 through December 31, 2000 and provides a proposed program for 2001.

**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 2000.

## **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.

In 2000, the Committee met a number of times to continue efforts to update the NRI, and Fran Gotcsik presented the NRI update project to the Groveland Town Planning Board. In addition, Planning staff continued to gather environmental data sets from County, State, and Federal agencies to add to the County’s GIS mapping system. The Committee was expanded to include four additional members (Betsy Abert, Robert Donnan, Patricia Lyke and Susan Walker).

## **Adopt-A-Highway Program**

In celebration of Earth Day 1998, the EMC adopted a 2-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 2000, the EMC scheduled four clean-ups of this stretch of highway as part of its continued commitment to the environment.

## **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. The 2000 recipient of the Earth Day Award was Jean Meekin of Livonia, NY.

## **Relations with the Board of Supervisors**

A goal for 2000 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:

- ◆ Production agriculture and the scope of agriculture in Livingston County
- ◆ The Livingston County Agricultural Districts Program
- ◆ How the Genesee Valley Conservancy operates
- ◆ Historic Preservation
- ◆ Tour of Letchworth Park

In addition, the EMC had educational displays at the Livingston County Farmer & the Neighbor Dinner (Susan Walker) and at the County's Millennium Celebration (Angela Ellis). In celebration of Earth Day, the EMC (Angela Ellis) prepared a display in the lobby of the Livingston County Government Center. The EMC also heard regular reports on the County Millennium Committee (David Parish).

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
  - Loss of water in a number of wells in Lima (Ralph Van Houten)

### **Environmental Permit Review**

The EMC (Larry Schongar) continued its participation in the environmental permit review process through cooperation with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. The EMC received permit applications or information about pending projects and reviewed and commented when appropriate.

## **Update Bylaws**

The EMC (Larry Schongar) prepared and discussed updates to its bylaws at a number of meetings in 2000. The intent was to clarify language and change meeting times and dates as 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 Federal Emergency Management (FEMA) 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 (SEQR) assistance to municipalities, upon request.

## **2001 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 (Betsy Abert, 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. 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, with the assistance of a student intern, will also begin 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.

### **Livingston County Website**

The Planning Department is in the process of developing its area of the County's website. With guidance from the EMC, the Planning Department will include an area which describes the EMC and its functions and which displays a copy of the current EMC annual report.

### **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 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 19, 2001. 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 2000 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 2001 recipient of the Earth Day Award will be selected at the regularly scheduled March meeting of the EMC. The Nomination Committee includes Betsy Abert, Fran Gotcsik and Susan Walker.

### **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 cooperation with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

### **Update Bylaws**

The EMC will approve the updates to its bylaws in 2001. The intent is to clarify language and change meeting times and dates as appropriate.

### **Relations 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 2000 Annual Report and the Natural Resources Inventory to the Legislative & Agricultural Affairs Committee in 2001.

### **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 2001 include discussions on West Nile Virus and Mad Cow Disease. 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 like to hear presentations on transportation issues in Livingston County and on the activities of the Livingston County Chamber of Commerce.

### **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 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) 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 assistance to municipalities, upon request.