



Oswego County
Environmental
Management Council

2009 STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

AND

ANNUAL REPORT

**Submitted by the Oswego County Environmental Management
Council**

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Oswego County EMC Website: www.co.oswego.ny.us/planning/emc

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INTRODUCTION

The Oswego County Environmental Management Council is a volunteer board, authorized for up to 15 members, established in 1971 by New York State Environmental Conservation Law and Resolution 86 of the Oswego County Legislature. Members are appointed by the Chairperson of the County Legislature. By resolution, the council was created “for the purpose of study and recommendations to this Body of procedures and programs which are deemed advisable and in the best public interest, for reviewing and advising local and state governments on matters pertaining to the use and conserving the environment for the protection of all the people...” As such, the EMC seeks to understand and promote the wise use and development of Oswego County’s natural resources.

Article 47 of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law defines the EMC’s primary mission as a review and advisory board to local and state government on matters affecting the protection, conservation, preservation and proper management of the natural resources of Oswego County. Section 47-0107 Paragraph 2 states, “*The council shall review the state of the county environment as a whole, and shall prepare and submit an annual report of its findings to the county’s governing body. This report also shall include an account of the council’s activities and accomplishments which shall be based on accurate records of its meetings and other works.*”

STATE OF THE OSWEGO COUNTY ENVIRONMENT

1. General

A. Nuisance aquatic vegetation and invasive species: Nuisance aquatic vegetation and invasive species continue to be a problem in Oswego County. Species such as Eurasian water milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*), water chestnut (*Trapa natans*), purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*), Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*), zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*), and round goby (*Neogobius melanstomus*) continue spread unchecked in many areas, impacting native organism habitats and food chains, recreational activities, and aesthetics.

Japanese stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*) was discovered at Selkirk Shores State Park in 2008, the first appearance of this species in all of Central and Northern New York. This species presents a significant threat to open wetland habitats in the County. State Parks made a very rapid response to manually remove the infestation, but continued attention will be needed.

NYS Department of Ag and Markets reports eight known infestations of giant hogweed in the County, three of which were newly reported in 2008.

In the past few years, pale swallow-wort (*Cynanchum rossicum*) has also been observed in a number of places, including the Towns of Oswego, Richland, Palermo, and Volney, but especially in the Town of New Haven. Control costs, including educational campaigns and eradication will continue to require major planning and economic consideration at both Town and County levels. Oswego County lies within the service area of the St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (SLELO PRISM). The PRISM is charged with coordinating efforts among all interested partners regarding prevention, early detection/rapid response, management, and education regarding invasive species of all types. New York State has budgeted up to \$150,000 this year for support of this effort. SLELO received a state contract this year for this funding to hire a coordinator, to be housed at The Nature Conservancy's Pulaski office, and fund priority inventory and management projects. EMC has designated a representative to this body.

Oswego County Soil and Water Conservation District again coordinated both harvesting and chemical treatment of water chestnut. In 2008, 25-30 acres were harvested in the Ox Creek, Pathfinder Island, and Battle Island areas, and two acres on the west side of Horseshoe Island in the Oneida River. About 30 acres were chemically treated in the Ox Creek and Pathfinder Island areas. Continued management will be required for effective control.

Potential insect invasions became a threat to Oswego County in 2008. Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*), Asian Long-horned Beetle (*Anoplophora glabripennis*), and Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (*Adelges tsugae*) are approaching and have the potential to decimate timber resources in the County. Prevention is the most cost effective measure for dealing with invasives, and DEC's recent directive to ban movement of firewood further than 50 miles is an effort to prevent arrival of these insects.

B. Wetlands and Wetlands Legislation: Oswego County is home to many agricultural wetlands (particularly mucks) and isolated wetlands (many of which are vernal pools too small to come under the protection of the 1975 NYS Freshwater Wetlands Act and which are essential breeding habitats for local amphibian populations). State and Federal actions in this arena will bear monitoring in the upcoming years.

Several EMC members are actively participating in the Marsh Monitoring Program (MMP). Bird Studies Canada, in partnership with Environment Canada, developed the MMP in Ontario in 1994. With the financial support of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Great Lakes National Program Office and the Great Lakes Protection Fund, the MMP was launched throughout the U.S. Great Lakes States in 1995. Carried out by a network of volunteer surveyors, the MMP

functions to provide long-term monitoring of marsh-dependent bird, frog, and toad species in marsh habitats throughout the Great Lakes basin. Data collected by MMP volunteers is used to determine long-term trends in species diversity, occurrence and abundance, and to directly inform and guide conservation, restoration and management programs for marshes and their bird and amphibian inhabitants.

C. Hazardous waste sites: Several inactive or delisted hazardous waste sites currently exist in the County. Among them are the PAS site in Oswego, the Fulton Terminals site in Fulton, and the Clothier site in Granby. These sites are a result of activities at the former Pollution Abatement Services (PAS) property in Oswego in the 1970's and 1980's. The EPA remediation plan for the sites includes regular monitoring to ensure hazardous materials are not leaching from the sites. The zoning and location of some of these sites as industrial areas may make them favorable for future re-development. Any such re-development will need to be assessed in relation to the previous presence of hazardous materials at these locations.

D. Household hazardous wastes: In the past, the EMC has promoted and participated in the establishment and implementation of an annual Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection day at local landfills and transfer stations. According to Division of Solid Waste data, Oswego County has held 26 successful HHW collection programs since 1990. This event routinely attracted long lines of local residents desiring to dispose of hazardous consumer products in an environmentally suitable manner. County officials decided to no longer fund this event in 2002. As a result, the potential for illegal disposal (roadside dumping, household trash, discharge into streams, wetlands, storm sewers or household drains) and open burning increased significantly. This poses a serious threat to the health of individuals and the environment due to the extreme toxicity of many of these products.

In a 2006 EMC report to the County Legislature, several potential funding opportunities to help defray the costs of HHW collection were identified. In response to concerns expressed by the EMC and other county groups, the County Legislature approved funding to reestablish the household hazardous waste collection days in 2007. The events resulted in the collection of 150,000 pounds of hazardous waste and 120,000 pounds of electronic goods. The total cost was \$130,000, of which 50% (\$65,000) will be reimbursed by New York State. In addition, the County is planning to build structures to allow year-round drop off of HHW in the future.

In 2008 the County appropriated funds for the construction of a permanent Household Hazardous Waste Facility to be located at the Bristol Hill Landfill. The facility began operation on May 6, 2009. It will operate on Wednesdays and Saturdays from spring through the end of September.

E. Oil and gas drilling: As of 2005, approximately 25,000 acres of land in the County have been leased for their oil and gas mineral rights by outside interests. While very

few sites have undergone any development at this time, there is potential for environmental impacts (habitat destruction, aesthetic degradation, fire, and chemical spills among others) from access road construction and drilling activities should any of these sites be developed. Review of applications to DEC for the development of such leases will be needed to identify and mitigate possible impacts.

F. Wildlife corridors: Current definitions emphasize that a wildlife corridor is a linear landscape element which serves as a linkage between historically connected habitat/natural areas, and is meant to facilitate movement between these natural areas. As open spaces have become divided up and isolated from each other, wildlife corridors have become increasingly important in allowing movement of plant and animal species from one place to another. Several recent studies have confirmed that such corridors have been successfully used by many species. The continued pursuit of additional development in the County (such as the proposed coal gasification project in Scriba along the Lake Ontario shoreline) needs to be managed in relation to the preservation of open space and wildlife corridors, with development planned to mitigate impacts to these valuable habitats and improve the quality of life for County residents.

2. Salmon River Corridor and Tug Hill

A. Salmon River Bio-Inventory

In 2004, NYSDEC initiated a Salmon River Watershed Biodiversity and Ecological Habitat Assessment in order to assess the condition of natural resources within the 173,000 acre Salmon River Watershed. The Tug Hill Commission facilitated the project and administering grant funds awarded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Field work conducted by the NY Natural Heritage Program (which is a partnership between the Nature Conservancy and NYSDEC) has been completed. It can be accessed from the Tug Hill Commission website <http://www.tughill.org/Projects%20Files/Salmon%20River/Salmon%20River%20Watershed%20Natural%20Resources%20Assessment.6.30.08.Final.pdf>.

NYSDEC along with other partners in the project held a series of public participation workshops during the process identifying targets, threats, and strategies. Based on the Natural Heritage Inventory and the public participation workshops the Salmon River Watershed Natural Resources Viability Analysis and the Salmon River Watershed Natural Resources Assessment have now been compiled by Professor Gregory McGee of the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. A final assessment report was produced and distributed in the summer of 2008 to the participant agencies, county, town, village governments, and the public.

B. DEC Initiatives

State efforts starting in 1996 to acquire former Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation land within the Salmon River Corridor have now been negotiated as part of a legal settlement. Surveying of the properties is still ongoing and, along with other technical aspects of finalizing the acquisition process, it is now anticipated to be completed in late 2009 to mid 2010.

The DEC is still actively looking for and pursuing opportunities within the Salmon River Corridor where acquisition or conservation easements with willing land owners can take place. The purpose of any acquisition would be to consolidate the ownership of the parcels with future State Forest Lands for improved protection of the river corridor and to provide additional public access to those lands. Acquisition would be consistent with the New York State Open Space Plan and would only be pursued as a friendly purchase from a willing seller. The property would be paid for with funds from the Environmental Protection Fund. In accordance with Environmental Conservation Law [Section 54-0303] whenever funding from that source is used to acquire land not specifically listed on a prior state land acquisition plan, the town where the land is located must be offered the opportunity to object to the acquisition. Recent budget constraints within NYS have limited land acquisitions at the present time.

Projects to be funded were announced in January 2008 and all of the Salmon River Projects were accepted for funding. Due to the recent state budget crisis these funds have been frozen causing delays in implementation of the projects.

NYSDEC Region 7 Lands & Forest staff have started the Upper Salmon River Unit Management Planning process of DEC managed lands. These include five state forests, a fishing access site, Conservation Easement Lands, and a pending new acquisition from National Grid on the Salmon River Reservoir. A Public scoping meeting was held May 7, 2009 at the Salmon River Hatchery to gain public comments. Development of the management plans for these properties will continue by DEC staff members through 2009/2010, followed by a draft management plan that will be presented to the public for further comment.

C. Tug Hill

Early in 2002 the Nature Conservancy and the NYS DEC announced that they had negotiated the purchase of 45,000 acres of the Tug Hill core forest. Most of the area purchased is in DEC Region 6, with only a small portion in Region 7, which encompasses Oswego County. However, the purchase will help protect the watershed and headwaters of the Salmon River and its tributary streams, so there is a net environmental benefit to Oswego County from the transaction. The area was not removed from the tax rolls, and will remain open to the public for hunting and fishing, providing enhanced recreational opportunities in the area.

D. Other

Potential threats to the Salmon River Corridor and Tug Hill that will need review, monitoring and evaluation in the near future include:

- Snowmobile use, especially in Tug Hill region, has resulted in an increased winter population, which in turn requires more services (gas stations, restaurants, etc.). Increased residential and seasonal camp development will have associated increases in solid waste, water supply needs and septic issues.
- ATV operation on County and State lands raises environmental concerns including degradation of trails and landscape due to ruts, soil erosion, clogging of culverts and sedimentation problems in adjacent waterways, as well as trespassing onto adjacent private lands.
- Invasive species, both aquatic and terrestrial, need to be monitored and a threat assessment determined.
- Water withdrawal projects, such as the one proposed by Nestle Waters of North America Inc. for the Tug Hill Aquifer, need to be monitored and a threat assessment determined. State regulations need to be enacted for mandatory base flows in all streams. A USGS study of the Tug Hill Aquifer needs to be funded in order to have a better understanding of the possible impacts such water withdrawals could have on the streams, wetlands, and the aquatic environment of the region. Due to budget constraints and lack of funding the USGS has been only able to do limited field work and data collection for what would have been an intensive 5 year study of the Tug Hill Aquifer. Enactment of the Great Lakes Annex, which will regulate water withdrawals from the watershed, has been ratified by all the bordering states and Congress. . Loopholes that do not address the withdrawal of bottled drinking water (which is exempt because they are less than 5.8 gallons individually) need to be closed. Presently Nestle has decided not to pursue sites for a water bottling facility along the Salmon River and the Tug Hill Aquifer.

3. Oswego River Corridor

A. General Setting

Over the past several years, the EMC has been active with many groups and programs involving the Oswego River Corridor, including the Oswego River Remedial Action Plan (RAP). The Oswego River watershed includes the Finger Lakes, industries, the city of Syracuse and other municipalities, and extensive areas of farmland and forest, and encompasses an area of over 5,000 square miles. The Oswego River is second only to the Niagara River in size as a tributary to Lake Ontario. Upstream pollutants are known to have traveled through the river and harbor, and impacted the Lake Ontario ecosystem. The Oswego River still has Mirex contamination from previous industrial activities along its shoreline. Oswego County is the only local body addressing problems within the river corridor.

In July 2006 the Lower Oswego River and Harbor were delisted as a Great Lakes Area of Concern (AOC) by the International Joint Commission due to the efforts of several state and local groups and agencies. The delisting of the Oswego Harbor and the river up to the Varrick Dam is addressed as an AOC under other programs.

Region 7 Staff in the Bureau of Fisheries, Lands & Forests, and Real Properties working with Oswego County Planning and Development, the City of Oswego, and NGO The Trust for Public Land have been working actively to hopefully in the future acquire Leto's Island on the Oswego River. Leto's Island is located on the east side of the Oswego River below the Varrick Dam and is privately owned by the Riley family of Oswego. The property is for sale and represents the only public access on the east side of the river. Thousands of anglers use this section of the river each year. This area is a highly popular fishing access site especially during the fall salmon run and provides access to commercial fishing guides to launch their drift boats. Due to the state budget crisis and some technical problems associated with contaminants on the property the acquisition of this property has been delayed. Without acquisition by NYS there is a strong possibility that this property would be sold to the public sector resulting in the loss of public access to the river. This is a unique opportunity to provide public access in a urban area that could be easily lost if delays in acquisition by the state continue when the Rileys feel the necessity of selling.

B. Brownfield Assessments

Brownfields are defined as abandoned, idle, or underused properties where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminants. A project entitled *The Oswego Canal Transformation Project: An Old Pathway to a New Economy* was implemented under the auspices of the Department of Planning and Community Development in the 2004. The objective of this project was to use US EPA Assessment Grant funds to perform environmental assessments on the most critical brownfield sites within the Corridor. The project identified the most critical sites through a standardized process of inventorying sites within the Corridor and prioritizing those sites based on key community and municipal objectives. The two objectives of this project were to: (1)

evaluate sites which are petroleum contaminated; and (2) evaluate sites that are contaminated with non-petroleum or hazardous substances.

In March 2008 the City of Fulton was awarded \$193,500 Brownfield Opportunity Area grant (Grant 2) and the City of Oswego was awarded a \$250,000 BOA grant. The County and City have selected LaBella Associates as their consultant for the BOA Nomination study.

In 2008, Environmental Site Assessments (ESAs) were conducted at 133-139 East First Street and at 25 Utica Street, Oswego. In addition, Phase II field work was completed and an underground storage tank was removed at 308 Harrison St, Fulton. Phase II Work plans were prepared and submitted to US EPA and NYS DEC for 68 West First Street, Oswego. Also, Oswego County terminated its contract with ENSR and hired Clough Harbour Associates to continue its work on the EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant.

To date 107 brownfield sites have been identified in the Oswego Canal Corridor. 24% of these sites have had Phase I Environmental Site Assessments completed. Five sites were prioritized and Phase IIs are underway at two sites in Fulton and one in Oswego. Upon completion of the Phase II work 308 Harrison Street will be sold by the City of Fulton to a private owner and placed back on the tax rolls. Upon completion of the Phase II work at 62 N 5th Street, the site will be transferred to an adjacent property owner. In Oswego, site 68 West First Street will be transferred to a private developer for redevelopment.

The county has a website which describes recent brownfield activity and progress. It can be found at: <http://co.oswego.ny.us/planning/brownfield.html>.

C. Shoreline Erosion

In 2004, the Department of Planning and Community Development received the Oswego River Shoreline Restoration Program Habitat Evaluation Design report from Dru Associates. The report outlines a quantitative model that can be used to easily evaluate a property's condition with respect to wildlife use and bank stabilization. According to the report, the aim of this initiative is to "show riverside landowners how to increase their property values for wildlife and improve stream bank stabilization through a program that teaches and rewards landowners for undertaking actions that stabilize or restore riparian habitats that 'mimic' the original native shorelines."

D. Other Corridor Initiatives

Friends of Great Bear is a group of residents of Oswego County interested in the conservation and protection of the Great Bear property. This unique area is owned by

the City of Fulton, Town of Volney, the Canal Corporation and private ownership. The City of Fulton's property has a number of its municipal water wells on site. The adjacent property is owned by the Town of Volney. A diversity of flora and fauna can be found on the property and the bordering Oswego River and Canal. In cooperation with the City of Fulton, Town of Volney, and other landowners, the group's goals are the advocacy of the preservation and protection of this natural environment so that the public may share and make use of the property wisely as a recreational resource. During the 2008 season, a new trail was developed, color coded, and marked. New bridges were built across streams.

4. Lake Neatahwanta

Lake Neatahwanta in the City of Fulton and Town of Granby has been under evaluation for over 15 years by the Lake Neatahwanta Reclamation Committee to diagnose the causes of its water quality problems, and to develop possible remediation solutions.

The lake is experiencing cultural eutrophication due primarily to high phosphorus levels. The primary remediation goal is to reduce algae and suspended sediment levels to allow swimming and other recreational activities. Possible watershed management strategies proposed by consultants include dredging constructed wetlands to help filter and retain sediments and nutrients, riparian restoration along tributary streams, and possible in-lake bio-manipulation of the food chains.

In 2007 the EPA released funds from a \$750,000 federal grant for watershed improvements, including best management plans (BMP's) and educational efforts. The CNY Regional Planning and Development Board assisted the committee throughout 2008 moving ahead with the grant.

A project coordinator position was established at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Oswego County as part of the EPA Grant to manage the installation of the BMP's. Over 50 BMP's had been identified on agricultural properties throughout the watershed that would act to reduce the sediment and nutrient loading to the lake and its tributaries. In 2007, twenty of the BMP's planned in the watershed were engineered and implementation begun. These are outlined in EMC's 2008 State of the Environment and Annual Report available at <http://www.co.oswego.ny.us/planning/emc/index.html>

Funding for all of these BMP's and project coordinator assistance as provided by the US EPA expired in December 2008. The majority of agricultural improvements for water quality in Lake Neatahwanta Watershed ended at that time, along with grant funded community outreach and educational efforts.

Over the life of grant funded activities over 200 people attended at least one of these educational events related to the lake. Additionally, the Lake Neatahwanta Trail

Extension, which is to be completed with a grant provided to the City of Fulton, will include educational signage about the lake and buffer plantings to reduce erosion and improve water quality on the lakeshore in the City of Fulton.

Currently, consideration is being given to limited dredging to assess effectiveness and feasibility of future efforts.

5. Lake Ontario Coastline and Adjacent Upland Areas

According to NYS Department of State's 2007 Dune Management Study, the sand dunes along the eastern shore of Lake Ontario are an integral part of a coastal barrier environment that consists of beaches, sand dunes, embayments and wetlands. This barrier system, which extends for roughly 17 miles, contains the largest and most extensive freshwater sand dune formations in New York State, and is among the most extensive in the northeast. The dune system contains several rare or unique habitats with associated threatened and endangered species.

The dune wetland complex is a priority conservation site within the Nature Conservancy's Binational Blueprint for Conservation of the Great Lakes and a DEC designated Natural Heritage Area. DEC recognizes several significant fish and wildlife habitats within the complex, and the NYS Department of State has delineated several significant coastal fish and wildlife habitats within the complex as well.

A. Selkirk Fen

In 2005, Selkirk Fen, immediately to the east of Brennan Beach, and south of Deer Creek Wildlife Management Area, was transferred to the State of New York to be managed by DEC. Brennan Beach has completed the septic system upgrades required at that time by DEC. Scientists have been cordially welcomed to access the wetland through the campground property. The bog buckmoth (*Hemileuca sp.*) population (New York: endangered) has been monitored there for four years. The flights in 2005, 06, and 07 were very strong. The 2008 flight was much reduced at Selkirk and the other three Oswego County sites. The data continue to demonstrate that the bog buckmoth population in Selkirk Fen is the largest of the six known colonies in Oswego County (and so, also in New York).

Bog turtle (*Glyptemys mühlenbergii*) (Federal: threatened; New York: endangered) research is also in its third year. The SUNY Oswego request for State Wildlife Grant funding for continuation of these research efforts was denied, as was the request for funding for removal of an invasive shrub- glossy buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*) that threatens the habitat conditions for all rare plants and animals that occur in the site. The Oswego County Sportsman's Federation has requested funding on DEC's behalf from Entergy for the glossy buckthorn removal, as well as removal of pale swallow-wort from Deer Creek Marsh Wildlife Management Area.

B. Basin-wide Collaboration

New York Sea Grant received funding from Entergy for updated signage for dune protection, to be available for use on all public and private dune properties. On behalf of New York Sea Grant, the Oswego County Soil and Water Conservation District received funding from NYS Department of State for a comprehensive set of interpretive panels about the Dune/Wetland Complex as well as the riparian areas upstream of the shore. Sea Grant has developed Advisory Committees of other Dune Coalition participants to assist on both of these projects.

C. Planning

1. The Ontario Dune Coalition, a partnership of about 30 public and private organizations with common interest in the preservation and optimum use of the Eastern Lake Ontario dune system, with respect for private property, several years ago commissioned an update of the NYS Department of State 1989 Eastern Lake Ontario Dune Management Study. The 2007 report, entitled *New York's Eastern Lake Ontario Dune and Wetland System: Guidelines for Resource Management in the 21st Century*, is now available online at <http://www.nyswaterfronts.com/downloads/ny%20elodws/default/nys%20elodws.htm> . The report acknowledges dramatic improvement in resource protection and management over the past 20 years and features a 16 point Stewardship Vision for continued collaboration.

Highlights of the vision include:

- Recognition that the dunes and wetlands they shelter are one system and the goal is to develop widespread public appreciation of the system;
- Active management should aim to benefit the resource, as well as local residents, visitors, and the general public;
- Coordination of the work and interests of all entities is crucial;
- Management plans are needed for the various public properties, and these plans should reflect balance between conservation and beneficial use;
- Regulation should address issues of public health, safety, and welfare, and include dealing with the potential impacts of flooding and erosion, as well as motorized water traffic;
- Activities should seek sustainable economic benefits, while considering the issues of carrying capacity and cumulative impacts;
- Shoreline management should respect the natural protective features and use non-structural methods as much as possible;

- Planning should occur at the municipal and county level as well, especially for inlet management at Sandy Pond;
- Adequate funds should be developed for effective planning and management;
- All plans need to allow for response to changing conditions.

Additional Planning efforts underway in the Eastern Lake Ontario include:

- Comprehensive Plan for Pulaski/Richland (contractor is CNY Regional Planning and Development Board);
- Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Sandy Creek (contractor is CNY Regional Planning and Development Board);
- Salmon River Watershed Plan was completed (contractors are Tug Hill Commission and The Nature Conservancy);
- Sandy/South Sandy Creek Ecosystem-based Management project (contractors are Tug Hill Commission and The Nature Conservancy). While the watersheds of Sandy and South Sandy Creek lie to the north of Oswego County, this project includes the shoreline beaches and dunes as well as the watersheds of Deer Creek, Little Sandy Creek, Lindsey Creek, and Skinner Creek, all of which lie largely within the County. Scientists and interested members of the community have been involved in meetings to select priority issues and strategies for implementation of management projects, and to propose projects. EMC has assigned a member to participate in this process.

D. **Education**

The Eastern Lake Ontario dune system and the adjacent Salmon River Corridor support significant holdings of public conservation lands. Both areas are prized for public recreation. Within Oswego County, these resources include Deer Creek Marsh Wildlife Management Area and Sandy Pond Beach Natural Area, as well as Sandy Island Beach State Park and State Forest holdings in the Salmon River Corridor. For the past four years, NYS Department of State has contracted education of its public recreation users of both systems to New York Sea Grant through a Coordinated Steward Program. In 2008, Sea Grant fielded four, six-month Salmon River Stewards and five summer Dune Stewards. The mission of the Stewards is to educate visitors to use the areas in an environmentally responsible way. The response to the program has been very favorable, from the standpoint of both land managers and resource users.

In addition, New York Sea Grant has developed “Traveling Trunks”, an education program geared to middle school aged children. The project is nearly completed, and will be available to the public by mid-2010. Each trunk will be a plastic tote filled with materials for a hands-on lesson on dunes. Materials cover birds, fish,

muskrats, plants, the bog buckmoth, sediment, and invasive species. Twenty trunks will be distributed among school districts and various other venues where leaders of children's groups may access them. The trunks will come with lesson plans and information on all covered topics.

6. Phoenix/Schroepfel Area

The Village of Phoenix and Town of Schroepfel have a history of water concerns, including water supply and quality, proposed water districts, and zoning issues regarding minimum lot size requirements to protect the extensive Sand Ridge aquifer. Based on 2000 census data, parts of the Village of Phoenix and Town of Schroepfel fall within the Syracuse urban area as defined by the new Phase II Storm Water Regulations. As such, the Town and Village have been designated as municipal storm sewer systems (MS4), requiring them to implement education and management practices to protect the quality of local water bodies. Progress is being accomplished with new water lines, new water districts and new sewage lines being established, and a new water tower completed and online. With the proposed development of Destiny USA in northern Onondaga County (a retail, research and tourism center, which would include the largest shopping mall in the United States), as well as suburban sprawl from Syracuse, there may be increased pressure for development to the north, into the Phoenix/Schroepfel area. Such development will require detailed assessment and planning to ensure the continuation of a high quality water supply to the residents of the southern part of Oswego County.

Of potential impact to the Phoenix/Schroepfel and other downstream Oswego River communities is the new waste treatment facility to be built near Armory Square in Syracuse. During heavy precipitation events, the rebuilt waste water treatment facility on Hiawatha Boulevard could not handle the combined storm sewer overflow and residential waste water. The treatment facility had to discharge to Onondaga Lake, which then drains north ultimately to the Oswego River. If predicted development associated with Destiny USA transpires, it is essential that any new facility be sized and designed to handle high inflow conditions to reduce the need to discharge partially or untreated effluent into local water bodies.

7. Sandy Creek/Lacona and Mexico Area Wellfields

The Towns of Sandy Creek, Lacona, and Mexico have all investigated identifying and developing new wellfields as municipal water sources to support the increasing needs of their residents. The EMC previously delineated the current municipal wellfields and recharge areas for Sandy Creek/Lacona, and provided recommendations regarding

associated compatible development within the various recharge zones. Similar information would be very beneficial for any new wellfield development in these towns, as well as for other wellfields presently in use throughout the County. This will become even more beneficial as towns, and perhaps even the County, establish new water districts in the future. Previously, the EMC was able to accomplish these studies using grant money with matching funds from the involved municipalities. With the loss of EMC funding at the County level, the EMC will likely not be able to support these types of studies in the near term.

8. Oneida Lake North Shore

A. Land Use

Real estate speculators are buying large parcels of forest land north of Oneida Lake, especially near water bodies. Often they are then harvesting the timber without regard for sustained yield, subdividing the land, and marketing it to buyers in large urban areas around the country. These forest blocks are being fragmented, taken out of production, and many are being occupied by low value structures that exploit a loophole in the state building code. A memorandum of understanding from the New York Department of State defines a classification of building referred to as “Group U” that is not required to conform to the standards set forth in the Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code for residential structures. One caveat of the definition is that these structures can not have plumbing, sinks, toilets, or utilities of any kind. Mixed use development is spreading along major roadways into townships that have little or no land use control. The absence of planning and zoning in these communities allows a chaotic and inefficient development pattern to occur. In some places, public utilities are being extended into these unplanned areas without consideration of the impact of the consequential development.

Traffic flow on NYS Route 49 is increasing dramatically and, in the absence of any land use planning or control of driveway penetrations, congestion is occurring, traveling is less safe, and commuting times are increasing. Linear development of mixed uses is spreading along the highway, exacerbating the problems and adversely impacting the rural character of the area.

B. Nuisance/Invasive Species

The north shore of Oneida Lake (the largest body of water wholly within New York State) forms a large part of the southeast border of the county, and represents a major recreation area for residents and visitors. The lake supports populations of at least three invasive plants. Eurasian milfoil has been documented in the lake since

the 1970s, although its population appears to have been kept in check by a non-native insect (*Acentria*) which feeds on the plant. Water chestnut appeared in the western part of the lake in 1999 and has the potential to severely impact shallow water habitats in the lake. Purple loosestrife has out-competed native cattails and other native plants and dominates many marsh areas along the lake. Loosestrife is not used extensively by any native birds or mammals as a food supply and may result in their abandoning areas dominated by this plant. Water chestnut and loosestrife may require extensive remediation efforts in Oneida Lake.

Invasive plant species are making inroads into the interior of the county and they are currently unchecked. Phragmites (*Phragmites australis*) is following the highways northward from the lakeshore and invading the roadside wetlands. The plant is established along the road edge in many places and beginning to spread through the adjacent wetlands.

Japanese Knotweed has established robust stands along State Route 69 and is present in many populated areas. This plant can become dominant and almost impenetrable along stream banks, compromising important riparian habitat and preventing recreational access.

The double crested cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*), a large fish eating bird, has been implicated in the reduction of walleye, yellow perch, and other fish populations in Oneida Lake, as well as disturbing nesting common terns- a threatened species in New York State. The NYS DEC has been authorized by the US Fish and Wildlife Service to destroy cormorant nests to provide nesting sites for common terns. This has been a somewhat controversial decision, as many environmental interest groups oppose the eradication of the cormorants from the lake, while the decision was generally supported by fisherman and other sportsman's organizations.

Zebra mussels are present extensively throughout the lake basin. Zebra mussels filter plankton from the water, which removes a major food source of young fish, and the subsequent improved water clarity may expose them to predators. Zebra mussels also have reportedly caused the extinction of most of the lake's native clams.

Researchers have also speculated that within the next few years, the round goby (already present in Great Lakes) will invade the lake in large numbers. Gobies eat zebra mussels, which collect botulism bacteria. Other fish and birds that eat the gobies can become infected and die.

Studies in Oneida Lake by Cornell University and other researchers are regularly identifying new invasive species. The ecological and economic impacts of these species will be an object of concern for many years to come.

The Oneida Lake Watershed Management Plan, a multi-agency project, was recently established to address water resource protection for the Oneida Lake watershed. Project Information is available at www.cnyrpdb.org/oneidalake. The project

addresses several levels including funding for watershed improvement projects and public education programs and activities. A *State of Oneida Lake and Watershed Final Report* is available online or through the Central NY Regional Planning and Development Board.

9. Lake Ontario

A. Water Withdrawal

In December 2005 The Great Lakes Governors and Premiers signed agreements at the Council of Great Lakes Governors' (CGLG) Leadership Summit that provide protection for the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence River Basin.

The agreements include the following points:

- There will be a ban on new diversions of water from the Basin. Limited exceptions could be allowed, such as for public water supply purposes in communities near the Basin, but exceptions would be strictly regulated.
- The States and Provinces will use a consistent standard to review proposed uses of Great Lakes water.
- The collection of technical data is to be strengthened, and the States and Provinces will share the information, which will improve decision-making by the governments.
- Regional goals and objectives for water conservation and efficiency will be developed, and they will be reviewed every five years. Each State and Province will develop and implement a water conservation and efficiency program.
 - Lasting economic development will be balanced with sustainable water use to ensure Great Lakes waters are managed responsibly.
 - The waters of the Basin are recognized as a shared public treasure and there is a strong commitment to continued public involvement in the implementation of the agreements.

B. Lake Level Regime Change

For the past eight years, The International Joint Commission has been reviewing regulation of water levels and flows for the Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River system. After considering public comment on a draft proposal released in March, 2008, Commissioners concluded that regulation should be based on a revised set of goals and criteria aimed at more natural flows while respecting other interests. It proposed a one year process to resolve outstanding issues and obtain the concurrence of the federal governments. Under this process, IJC has commissioned a Working Group of representatives from each of the federal governments, as well as from New York State, Ontario, and Quebec to develop both Orders of approval and a Regulation Plan that will embrace mitigation measures for any economic hardships that would result to any of the interests affected by the Plan, as well as an adaptive management framework for evaluating the Plan and adapting to changing conditions. IJC's charge

to the Working Group includes a report to IJC by June 2009. Additional information may be found at <http://www.ijc.org>.

C. Lake Restoration Collaboration

Following a public comment period, the final *Great Lakes Regional Collaboration's Strategy to Restore and Protect the Great Lakes* was released in December 2005. The Governors of the eight Great Lakes States expressed strong support for the Great Lakes Collaboration Implementation Act introduced in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. These bills would implement the recommendations of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration, a strategic planning effort in which the Governors played a leadership role. New York Governor George Pataki said: "This legislation is critical to preserving and sustaining these valuable resources and we look forward to continuing to work with our partners as we move forward to implement the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy." In February 2008, the Great Lakes Commission released the following statement regarding the region:

"A united Great Lakes region calls on Congress to strengthen national investment in Great Lakes restoration and protection as outlined in the *Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy to Restore and Protect the Great Lakes*. Increased support from the Federal government is needed to implement recommendations in the Strategy and to match the significant investment of state and local governments, Tribes and private funds in Great Lakes restoration. The following highest priority actions – a subset of the Strategy recommendations – are consistent with the requests of the Governors of the Great Lakes States. We urge Congress to act on these regional priorities to address significant threats and capitalize on high-value restoration opportunities.

- **Stop Aquatic Invasive Species:** Enact comprehensive legislation such as the *National Aquatic Invasive Species Act* (S. 725) to address aquatic invasive species. If passage of a comprehensive bill is not possible in 2008, we urge Congress to strengthen and pass legislation to ensure that commercial vessels entering the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence system meet uniform ballast water discharge requirements and legislation to screen species that might invade the region from non-ballast pathways. Fully fund the Great Lakes Fishery Commission to control sea lamprey and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to complete construction and operation of the dispersal barrier system on the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal.
- **Clean Up Toxic Sediments:** Reauthorize the Great Lakes Legacy Act at \$150 million annually and fully fund the Act in FY2009 to continue to clean up contaminated sediments and restore Great Lakes "toxic hot spots."
- **Restore Great Lakes Wetlands:** Continue existing support and appropriate an additional \$28.5 million for Federal programs to partner with the States, Tribes,

local governments and other non-federal partners in restoring 200,000 acres of Great Lakes wetlands. Appropriate \$16 million for the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act.

- **Protect Water Quality:** Restore funding and prevent further cuts to the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (reduced by more than one-third in FY2008) by appropriating \$1.35 billion for FY2009. Great Lakes States will lose approximately \$143 million in funding this year as a result of the FY2008 cuts.”

For more information, go to <http://www.glc.org/restore/>.

D. Sport Fishing

Research continues on the impact of zebra mussels and quagga mussels (*Dreissena bugensis*) on the Lake Ontario food chain and the lake's salmon and trout fishery. Some reports indicate that the filter feeding mussels have removed large amounts of zooplankton and phytoplankton (microscopic and nearly microscopic animals and plants) from the water column. This has the dual effect of increasing water clarity, and decreasing the amount of food available for the bait fish which rely on this plankton for food. This in turn reduces the available population of bait fish preyed upon by major game fish such as salmon and trout. The number of game fish and their average size may experience a decrease as a result, which would have an impact on the local sport fishing industry. Gobies, another exotic in Lake Ontario have been implicated as a vector in the transport of Type E botulism to sport fish and birds. On a positive note gobies are being predated upon by numerous predator species in the lake and are providing a new alternative food source for many game fish such a bass. New exotic species seem to appear regularly and the impact of these exotics on the natural ecology of the lake is still unknown. Federal regulations governing ballast water discharges / impacts from ocean going ships that transverse the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario have effectively addressed a way to stop the continuing spread of exotic species. Sport Fishing in Oswego County and Lake Ontario provides a multi million dollar economic impact to the local communities along the shoreline.

E. Recreational Diving

The vastly improved water clarity resulting from zebra mussels has contributed to an increase in recreational diving in Lake Ontario. The southern shore of Lake Ontario has many documented shipwreck sites, which have proven to be popular locations for recreational divers to explore.

F. Wind Power Development

Proposals to develop wind powered turbines along the southeast shore of Lake Ontario have generally included turbines sited off-shore. The southeast shoreline of Lake Ontario is widely regarded as an important avian migratory pathway. In the spring, large concentrations of raptors (birds of prey such as hawks, falcons and eagles) have been well documented along the lake's on shore and near shore regions. The impact of wind turbines on these species needs to be further assessed in regard to this particular section of Lake Ontario. The focus of the 2005 New York State Association of Environmental Management Councils annual meeting was on wind powered turbines, indicating the widespread interest and concern over the impacts of developing this resource. In 2006, construction of a large wind farm on the Tug Hill Plateau was completed. Another wind farm is proposed for Jefferson County. As of late 2007, no projects were being proposed for development in Oswego County. However, transmission lines carrying power from neighboring counties may need to be constructed locally to link nearby wind farms to the statewide electrical grid.

10. Air Quality

While Oswego County continues to maintain excellent air quality in general, as a result of recent EPA changes to air quality classifications for ozone and fine particulates, Oswego County was classified as in non-attainment of the new standards- based upon 2004 data. The County's understanding is that more recent test results have continued to decline and as the information is updated the County will return to attainment status.

Because all of New York State is part of the Northeast Ozone Transport Region, Oswego County will remain part of that area for purposes of ozone compliance classification.

OSWEGO COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL 2008 ANNUAL REPORT

INTRODUCTION

By State law and County Resolution, the EMC's primary mission is to serve as a review and advisory board to local and state government on matters affecting the protection,

conservation, preservation and proper management of the natural resources of Oswego County. In 1996, the Council agreed to serve as lead agency for the purpose of implementing eight major strategies of the Oswego County Comprehensive Plan. These strategies are:

- II.4.b. Identify potential wildlife movement corridors between major open space areas and encourage their incorporation into greenway, trail and local comprehensive planning efforts.
- II.4.d. Work with the NYS Natural Heritage Program to inventory habitats of threatened, rare and endangered species throughout Oswego County and identify areas with unique or important ecosystems that warrant protection.
- II.4.e. Encourage landowner agreements or donation of conservation easements by waterfront industries for the purposes of habitat protection, especially along Lake Ontario and major waterways.
- V.2.a. Develop a comprehensive inventory of all data on municipal wellfields, zones of contribution, recharge areas, aquifers and potential aquifers in the County and seek funding to more accurately determine these areas.
- VIII.3.b. Identify resources that have scientific or educational importance and natural heritage value and encourage education, interpretation and research opportunities relating to these resources.
- IX.3.c. Encourage development of and develop nature interpretive facilities focused on the major natural resource areas of the County.
- IX.5.b. Advocate proactive solutions and flexible regulatory approaches to environmental issues so that regulations do not become a hindrance to appropriate development.
- X.4.b. Develop environmental education and research programs to enhance knowledge and awareness of the local environment.

GRANTS RECEIVED AND ADMINISTERED

No additional grants during 2008..

MAJOR EMC ACTIVITIES

1. EMC Strategic Plan and Membership

EMC members developed and approved the 2008 EMC Strategic Plan and assigned members to lead and be responsible for various portions of the plan. Major activities in the 2008 Strategic Plan included continued monitoring of the progress of the Salmon River Corridor Bio-Inventory Project and the Salmon River Watershed Conservation Plan project, participating in many local environmental organizations, monitoring the progress of the NYS Open Space Plan as it pertains to present land acquisition, review and update of the status of invasive species throughout the County, regular review of the Environmental Notice Bulletin for projects with potential impact on Oswego County natural resources, researching and developing informational materials as requested by local governing bodies, and continuing the EMC guest speaker program for education about current environmental issues.

Reports by members were provided at monthly meetings as progress was made on the many aspects of the plan.

The EMC actively recruited new members during the year to fill vacancies, meet permissible membership levels, broaden the Council's knowledge and experience base, and establish a broader geographic distribution of its membership. One member retired during 2008, and two new members were added.

In accordance with its strategic plan, the EMC has established a website with a list of members, links to the Annual Report and other projects. For more information, go to <http://www.oswegocounty.com/planning/emc>.

2. Lake Ontario/St. Lawrence River (Strategies IX.5.b and X.4.b)

After considering public comment on a draft proposal released in March, 2008, Commissioners concluded that regulation should be based on a revised set of goals and criteria aimed at more natural flows while respecting other interests. They proposed a one year process to resolve outstanding issues and obtain the concurrence of the federal governments. Under this process, IJC has commissioned a Working Group of representatives from each of the federal governments, as well as from New York State, Ontario, and Quebec to develop both Orders of approval and a Regulation Plan that will embrace mitigation measures for any economic hardships that would result to any of the interests affected by the Plan, as well as an adaptive management framework for evaluating the Plan and adapting to changing conditions. IJC's charge to the Working Group includes a report to IJC by June 2009. Additional information may be found at <http://www.ijc.org>.

3. Ontario Coastal Wetlands Bioinventory/Salmon River Watershed Conservation Plan/Salmon River Corridor (Strategy II.4.d, II.4.e, VIII.3.b., IX.5.b.)

As part of this project, the EMC originally contracted with the Natural Heritage Program (NHP) in 2001 to conduct a biodiversity inventory of selected coastal wetlands in Oswego County. In early 2004, the current contract to perform a biological inventory on several wetland communities in the Salmon River corridor was amended and extended to September 30, 2005. The New York State Natural Heritage Program (NYSNHP) was contracted to carry out the work. Requests to landowners for permission to access these wetlands were sent out, with 77 landowners responding. The results of this inventory will provide the EMC and other interested parties (NYSDEC, NYSNHP, developers and planning boards) with accurate, up-to-date information on uncommon plants, animals and rare or exemplary ecological communities that occur in the Lake Ontario coastal wetlands. The information will be a valuable supplement to existing information used for land use management planning.

4. Oswego County Aquatic Vegetation Control Program (Strategy X.5.b.)

In 2008 the EMC continued distribution of its series of pamphlets on nuisance aquatic vegetation found in Oswego County. The information was made available at the annual open house at the Salmon River Hatchery in Altmar, and revisions and reprints of the pamphlets were made when needed.

John DeHollander of the Oswego County Soil and Water Conservation District updated the EMC on the results of its water chestnut control program. In response to questions from the EMC, he also noted that the biocontrol research program is essentially on hold at this time due to a current lack of funding.

5. Local Involvement (Strategy IX.5.b. and X.4.b.)

EMC members have served as members and liaisons on several local environmental groups and initiatives, including the Dune Coalition, Lake Neatahwanta Reclamation Committee, Save Oswego County Land Trust, Salmon River Watershed Conservation Plan, Water Quality Coordinating Committee, St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (SLELO PRISM), Oswego County Solid Waste Management Board, Friends of Great Bear and Friends of the Oswego River Canal, and Oswego County Green Team. Periodic reports to the EMC regarding the activities of these groups add to the breadth and depth of EMC knowledge regarding environmental issues in the County.

EMC Chair Dave Hertzler and member Dick Drosse attended the October New York State Association of Environmental Management Councils conference. The focus of this year's conference was energy conservation. A written report of the conference was distributed to EMC members.

EMC also sponsored a proclamation in the County Legislature in 2008 for Earth Week, encouraging local residents to participate in Earth Week Clean-ups and Celebrations and to proudly accept responsibility for their part in securing a safe health environment for the generations to come. The proclamation was publicized by Oswego County Promotion and Tourism. At least 30 groups committed to participate. Emphasis was placed to make Earth Week clean-ups a year-round effort. Photos of local Earth Week were made available by EMC at <http://web.mac.com/oswegocountygreen/iWeb/Site/Welcome.html>

6. Household Hazardous Waste Collection Funding (Strategy IX.5.b.)

During 2008 the Oswego County Department of Solid Waste finalized plans for a permanent Household Hazardous Waste drop-off station at the Bristol Hill landfill. The facility opened in May of 2009.

7. Solid Waste Management (Strategy IX.5.b.)

EMC Chair Dave Hertzler acted as EMC observer to the County Solid Waste Management Board, and provided regular updates to members on solid waste issues in the County. New member Carlton Salvagin is also a member of the Board, and member Mike Kerker joined the Solid Waste Management Board in March of 2009 as an Industrial representative.

8. Alternate Fuels (Strategies IX.5.b and II.4.e)

During 2008, the EMC hosted guest speakers both for and against the proposed Transgas Coal Gasification plan in the Town of Scriba. The EMC identified a number of questions and concerns regarding the project, and wrote the Town of Scriba Planning Board recommending that they not approve the project until the questions and concerns were addressed adequately by the developer. The proposed Scriba coal gasification plant is currently "on hold" while the developers prove out the technology at a West Virginia facility.

In September members of the EMC toured the Northeast Biofuels facility at the former Miller Brewery site in Fulton.

9. Tug Hill Bottled Water Plant (Strategies V.2.a and IX.5.b)

The proposed Nestle bottled water facility to be situated on Tug Hill is currently also "on hold". The EMC continues to monitor this project.

10. County Water Management (Strategies V.2.a and IX.5.b)

In its report on the Nestle Waters North America proposed bottled water facility, the EMC recommended a body be established to oversee water resources on a county-wide basis. Since the Oswego County Water Quality Coordinating Committee (an *ad hoc* body with no official county mandate) was inactive due to budget and staff cuts among the WQCC member agencies, the EMC began to consider possible alternatives. Members began to research local water issues and possible goals of the county-wide body. This will be a major EMC focus during 2009.

11. Other EMC Activities

- EMC received clarification on the report that EPA declared Oswego County above the standard for ozone in 2004. The information was in a news release from EPA. EPA lowered its standards for ozone to 75 ppb. Oswego County's 2004 reading was 76 ppb. County Environmental Officer Evan Walsh reported

to the EMC that the readings have come down each year since then, and no action will be required of the County. The County received no direct communication from EPA on the matter.

- Members traveled to the Jeff Richards farm in Granby, where Jim Best and Jeff Richards provided members with a tour of the best management practices recently put in place through cooperation among the Lake Neatahwanta Reclamation Committee and various agricultural agencies. Members saw grading and drainage that resulted in rerouting of runoff, which resulted in a reduction in the amount of nutrients and sediment delivered to a lake tributary on the property.

CONCLUSION

Oswego County continues to possess high quality water supplies and an impressive diversity of species and habitats. The major environmental threat is from development near the most sensitive of these valuable resources. This threat has increased with the recent economic downturn in the County, which has generated pressure to increase local tax revenues whenever and wherever possible. The primary role of local decision-makers should be to evaluate development and projects in light of potential environmental impacts, and to attempt to promote development compatible with the area's resources. In light of its lead agency status for several Oswego County Comprehensive Plan strategies, the EMC's ability to collaborate, coordinate, facilitate and educate remains an important resource for local planners and developers.

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM THE EMC

“Biodiesel and Biofuel Information Report”, Oswego County Environmental Management Council Report: 2005.

“Eurasian Watermilfoil Alert”, Oswego County Environmental Management Council: 2002.

“Household Hazardous Waste Clean-up Day Funding Report”, Oswego County Environmental Management Council Report: 2005.

“Oswego County Water Resource Management and Nestlé’s Water Bottling Plant Impact Report”
Oswego County Environmental Management Report: October 2007.

“Purple Loosestrife Alert”, Oswego County Environmental Management Council: 2002.

“Transgas Development Systems Coal Gasification Proposal Report to County Legislature”
Oswego County Environmental Management Report: February 2008.

“Water Chestnut Alert”, Oswego County Environmental Management Council: 2002.

“Welcome to the Oswego River and Canal, Boating Wakes and Shoreline Erosion.”
Oswego County Environmental Management Council: 2001.

“Wind Power Resource Materials: Oswego County Wind Power Project.”
Oswego County Environmental Management Council Resource
Resource Paper: August 2003.

“Backyard Burning, A growing pollution problem.”, NYS Legislative
Commission on Solid Waste Management.

Current EMC Membership

Tim Carroll, Chairman

Town of Granby

Dick Drosse, 1st Vice Chair

Town of Minetto

Dr. David R. Hertzler, 2 nd Vice Chair	Town of New Haven
Sandra Bonanno, Secretary-Treasurer	Town of Volney
Legislator Barbara Brown	Towns of Palermo/Hastings/Schroeppel
James Best	Town of Granby
Mike Kerker	Town of Volney
Dr. Peter Rosenbaum	Town of Minetto
Don Ross	City of Fulton
Hal Smith	City of Oswego
Carey Pelc	(Pending Legislature approval)
John Puppato	City of Fulton
Carlton Salvagin	Town of Hannibal
Fran Verdoliva	Town of Mexico
Karen Noyes, Ex-Officio	Oswego County Department of Planning and Community Development
John DeHollander, Ex-Officio	Oswego County Soil and Water Conservation District