

CAC Agenda 4/10/2019

Guests: Michele Gluck, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Ben Hoen, parent involved in school solar

Planning –

Transportation

Energy

Water / Land

https://www.dec.ny.gov/enb/20190403_reg3.html#313480020400001

Ruth Oja scholarship –

natural resources, source water

Climate

Climate Smart Task Force for Climate Smart Resiliency Planning Tool and Certification Assessment

Drawdown – Drawdown.EcoChallenge.org April 3-24, teams=Bardians & Our Community, Red Hook Schools

Materials

Repair Café, next date

Greener Choices/Drawdown/ Taste Budds?

Dear friends,

The Red Hook School District, after many years of researching, now plans to install solar energy systems on all three of its school buildings. Most of the costs will be covered by the state. And, the school will be producing energy it can sell. After totaling costs and revenue from energy sales, the school will net \$25,000 per year, even in its first year. After 15 years, once all debts are paid, the school will net \$80,000 per year! The solar system will last 25 years or more.

Also, the New York Power Authority, which is organizing this subcontract for the school, will work with Red Hook teachers to bring STEM-related curriculum to the school to teach students about solar. It is really exciting!

If this is not done now the state aid might be gone.

But, to make this happen, voters need to vote “Yes” on May 21st, for the solar provision, authorizing the school to borrow funds for the system. The provision will be included on the back of the school budget ballot.

And, we need your help to get the word out.

1. You can tell your friends about the vote on May 21st (feel free to forward this email)
2. You can volunteer to help organize other voters (see meeting info below).
3. You can donate money to cover the cost of marketing materials (a few mailers, and yard signs, etc.)
4. And, of course, we need you to show up on the 21st to vote “Yes” (mark your calendar)

We plan to have a volunteer kickoff meeting **this Sunday, April 14 from 4-6 PM at the Community Music Space** (54 Elizabeth St in Red Hook at the Chocolate Factory) where we will provide an overview about the project, provide talking points, review the schedule of campaign activities and organize our efforts. Please plan to attend. We need your help to make this happen.

Email or call me with any questions. **Ben Hoen** <bdhoen@gmail.com>

ENB Region 3 Completed Applications 04/03/2019

Dutchess County

Applicant:

NYS Dept of Transportation
50 Wolf Rd - Pod 4-1
Albany, NY 12232

Facility:

NYS DOT - Red Hook Maintenance
418 Rokeby Rd
Red Hook, NY 12571

Application ID:

3-1348-00204/00001

Permit(s) Applied for:

Article 17 Titles 7 & 8 Industrial SPDES - Surface Discharge

Project is Located:

Red Hook, Dutchess County

Project Description:

The Department has made a tentative determination to approve this application for an Industrial SPDES permit by the New York State Department of Transportation Red Hook Maintenance Sub-headquarters for a new proposed surface discharge (Outfall 001) of wash water from vehicle maintenance areas. The discharge wastewater treatment system includes an oil water separator which discharges in the following manner: first, the discharge is directed to a manmade storm water detention pond; the pond then discharges offsite to a low-lying area which conveys the discharge to a nearby wetland area which eventually discharges to a dry ditch. The project is located at 418 Rokeby Road, in the Town of Red Hook, Dutchess County. A [draft permit](#) is available for inspection and comment at the regional office; these documents can also be viewed and printed from the Department website at: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6054.html>.

Availability of Application Documents:

Filed application documents, and Department draft permits where applicable, are available for inspection during normal business hours at the address of the contact person. To ensure timely service at the time of inspection, it is recommended that an appointment be made with the contact person.

State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) Determination:

Project is not subject to SEQR because it is a Type II action.

SEQR Lead Agency: None Designated

State Historic Preservation Act (SHPA) Determination:

The proposed activity is not subject to review in accordance with SHPA. The application type is exempt and/or the project involves the continuation of an existing operational activity.

Coastal Management: This project is not located in a Coastal Management area and is not subject to the Waterfront Revitalization and Coastal Resources Act.

DEC Commissioner Policy 29, Environmental Justice and Permitting (CP-29) It has been determined that the proposed action is not subject to CP-29.

Opportunity for Public Comment: Comments on this project must be submitted in writing to the Contact Person no later than *May 03, 2019*.

Contact:

Victoria A Lawrence, NYSDEC Region 3 Headquarters, 21 S Putt Corners Rd, New Paltz, NY 12561
(845)256-3054, DEP.R3@dec.ny.gov

Hi Laurie,

Thanks for the note. We discussed this at our last SKWC leadership meeting and it will come up again after we have more information.

I'm concerned about the actions described in the permit as follows:

"The discharge wastewater treatment system includes an oil water separator which discharges in the following manner: first, the discharge is directed to a manmade storm water detention pond; the pond then discharges offsite to a low-lying area which conveys the discharge to a nearby wetland area which eventually discharges to a dry ditch. The project is located at 418 Rokeby Road, in the Town of Red Hook, Dutchess County."

I'm familiar with that location. The area supports several vernal pools. Jefferson salamanders (NYS Special Concern species) breeds in some of them, and has been found crossing Rokeby road very near the location of this new project. I'm not satisfied that the above description of where the water goes adequately protects this species habitat (and with it the habitat of other vernal pool breeders). I would request more information from NYS about this issue, and also a more detailed description of the conveyance of the discharge. Manmade detention ponds, as pollutant collectors, can be traps for pool breeders, harming eggs and larvae when salamanders breed in them. In addition this discharge should at no time be shunted into a natural wetland. Flooding can compromise the system as well, sending contaminated water into vernal pools and other natural wetlands.

Although this site is just at the edge of the official Saw Kill Watershed boundary, we will probably comment on it anyway (pool breeders move freely across the boundary, I'm sure!)

I may have to go to DEC for the additional details I need; will let you know if we find out anything else. In the absence of additional information, I think it's appropriate to comment on this project based on the link you received, just in terms of wanting it to be designed to specifically protect the habitat of vernal pool breeders, spec. the Jefferson salamander.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Karen

Dear Friends,

I just wanted to bring you up to speed on this. Especially since the CAC had approached us a few times about straws last year. Obviously the terrible news about the whales and other ocean life being killed by plastic in our oceans put these environmental issues in the spotlight last year. When that news broke it put many industries in "hyper drive" to come up with better solutions. The reality was there were not a lot of alternative options yet available.

I think you know that here at Taste Budd's Cafe these have always been a concern. Ever since we have existed we have strived to do our part, and help our customers. We have had a composting partnership with local farms for many years. We have been sorting out recyclables with bin options in our dining room. We use as much reusable service ware as we can (water cups, in house mugs and baskets). All of this comes with added labor and management expense.

We have never ever used styrofoam (which could have saved us tons of cash) and in fact we have used compostable take out boxes long before they were even available as stock items. We had to special order in bulk just to get a truck to bring them.

The straw issue has really been one of the hardest ones to deal with. I'm sure you have seen some of the crazy social media videos of customers abusing restaurant cashiers when they didn't get their straw. Its a pretty intimate way to consume a drink that everyone has grown up with. To put it bluntly, people get really pissed off when you tell them they can't have something they have always had. We quickly got reusable straws in stock to help with this. I'm happy to say those sell pretty steadily. I just hope people are indeed reusing them.

One point of my message today is that beginning today we no longer serve straws for small or medium drinks, yippee! (already had one mad customer). The first batch of sipper lids for cold drinks, which we have been waiting months for, just came in. Unfortunately they will not make sipper lids for large drink cups any time soon (they say the machining cost too much). So we still have to keep large straws on hand for those, but we do not have them out for customers to grab and we will push the reusable option. We will keep pressure on our suppliers for sip lids for these cups. Its not feasible for us to stop selling large cold drinks, as its an important menu option to our success.

This brings me to the next point. Plastic bags. These will be out of our operation within a few weeks. Poly take out bags will go first, then catering sacks, but catering will take longer. (we reuse our catering sacks as much as possible).

Which brings me to my last point. After researching the paper take out bags options that suit our customer needs, we can't find anything affordable. We are looking at 97% increases in cost. My managers and I put our heads together and decided at this point we cannot any longer pay all the burden. Soon we will have a small environmental fee on all take out orders with food and beverage. Probably something around .20 per order. Its important to understand that this does not even cover the cost, and we are still paying more of the burden. No matter how much we think EVERYONE cares about the environment we will be expecting backlash from a % of customers. Lets face it people just do not want to pay more for anything. We will be doing our best to introduce this in a positive way and we appreciate any help you may be able to give us on this and the no straw option. We know that other restaurants already have take out fees, and for example California already charges customers for bags. So it will be more accepted as time goes on.

Thanks for reading my long email!

Have a great day!

Sincerely,
Dan