Habitat Meeting

- **Advocacy**
  - Process is changing – new documents are tools to aid the process
  - Form will be circulated so everyone can see
  - Advocacy group hasn’t been meeting (Micaela, Bob, Erin Heaney)
  - Primary Project – advocating for a ban on fracking
  - Banning Fracking
    - Larry – Sierra club talking about campaign for renewables, sent reps to Dunkirk to argue setting up more windmills rather than repowering a plant with gas from fracking. Inadvertently advocating for windmills then?
    - Could advocate for biofuels, land available in Chautauqua County.
    - If the WNYEA agrees, the working group is allowed to advocate by sending letters to politicians such as Gov. Cuomo.
    - Moratorium is harming the effort to ban Fracking.
    - The group believes that Jill Jedlicka stated that Riverkeeper was against fracking period. However, the paperwork they sent out implied they were supporting a moratorium.
    - Don had the most controversial presentation. He wants to broaden the discussion based on cause and effects. Gas has surpassed coal nationally and nuclear statewide. Gas mostly comes from the gulf area. Had somewhat radical talking points. Proposed a film called frack you and wants the WNYEA to promote it. ****Need the link**** Don is an excellent propagandist – scary.
    - Need a fracking ban in the state.
    - Kevin Baggs is pro fracking in Pittsburgh with EPA voice. Wave of anti environment press is coming that argues for fracking.
    - Headline: WNYEA supports banning fracking in NY State
    - Gasland 2 is too long – need a shorter more effective communication.
    - Need to explain why it is urgent fracking is banned NOW
    - Maziarz and Schillos would not bring this to a vote
    - Who is protecting human health?
    - Renewable opportunities we should be investing in
    - People who need jobs from Dunkirk plant should not be held hostage to any industry for a job and power
    - Conservation – using less, sacrifice. Efficiency – don’t have to sacrifice
  - Used to have major state/federal programs for efficient homes

- **Members**
  - Sierra club on verge of civil disobedience if there is no ban
  - Need to look at climate change from several different adaptation angles: work force, infrastructure, etc.
  - Riverkeeper looked into how the environment surrounding the river has protected and impacted the river.
  - Mapped out county forests and the waterways surrounding them.
• Clear cutting in various lots – shut it down with hearings in county legislature
• Reading through the plan and have field ecologists looking at county forests that were picked out as important for biodiversity or critical species or on eroding land upstream of areas with water quality info. Updating on what happened in forests since 2003; how functional are they as watersheds.
• Current county forest plan came out in 2007
• State forests always managed privately
• Recommendation will be to look at these forests in terms of their sustainability and relation to the water systems. Some sustainable forestry is possible in county forests.
• County is cooperating and the relationship is sensitive so MW doesn’t want to push buttons by involving the habitat group or WNYEA
• Main danger is Poloncarz wants to get money out of the forest; possibly hire private cutters rather than do it in a sustainable fashion
• MW thinks we should complete the process of examining the forests and reporting to the county with recommendations.
• WNYEA could take a role of advocacy and support to Riverkeeper
• Need better funding to manage county forests
• Possibly urge the county to acquire more land to turn into county forest land