

## **Minutes of the EMC General Meeting January 13, 2010**

**Voting Members Present (12):** Spring Buck, Clement Chow, Martha Ferger, Katie Kelly, Dan Lamb, Stan Marcus, Jim McGarry, Steve Nicholson, Roger Segelken, Kristine Shaw, Gary Stewart, Lucia Tyler

**Voting Members Excused (2):** Mark Whitmore, Roger Yonkin

**Voting Members Absent (2):** Kenny Christianson, Larry Sharpsteen

**Non-Voting Members Present (3):** Carol Chock, Dooley Kiefer, Amy Risen

**Guests Present:** Sarah Adams, Eric Banford, Helen Slottje, Ben Stewart

**Staff Present:** Scott Doyle, Kathy Wilsea

**Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order by Chair Roger Segelken at 7:05 p.m.

**Member Introductions** – Roger read the “purpose” from the EMC Bylaws: The purpose of the Environmental Management Council shall be to identify problems, propose priorities and promote coordination of activities in the development and management of our natural resources and to provide a public forum for the discussion and resolution of these problems and completion of proposed projects. He asked members and visitors to introduce themselves and talk about their interest in EMC and its goals. Roger then explained that EMC is comprised of two types of voting members (at-large and municipal) and associate members. Vacancies exist in many of the municipal seats, and he would welcome contacts from potential members.

**Privilege of the Floor** – There were no visitors who wished to speak under Privilege of the Floor.

**Changes to the Agenda** – Don Hassig was unable to visit tonight, and will come another time.

**Approval of Minutes** – The draft minutes from the December, 2009 meeting were accepted without change. Final minutes are available on the EMC webpage: [www.tompkins-co.org/emc](http://www.tompkins-co.org/emc).

**Election of Vice Chairs** – Roger read the duties of the vice chairs from the Bylaws. Martha Ferger reported that the Nominating Committee contacted members, and Katie Kelly, Dan Lamb and Gary Stewart are willing to serve. Slate of those three members was moved by Martha, seconded by Kristine Shaw, and passed by vote of 9 yes, 0 no (nominees abstained).

**Organization of 2010 Committees** – Scott Doyle reiterated points from the discussion at the December meeting. He suggested four core committees, and other issues would be addressed as needed. Following discussion on how and when special needs might be addressed, signup sheets were passed around. Vacant liaison slots were also on the signup sheet.

**Presentation of the Golden Hard Hat Award** – Roger explained that EMC has accepted responsibility for cleanups on Route 13 near the airport. He pointed out participants get to wear neat orange vests and work near the County Jail, but usually are not mistaken for inmates in orange jumpsuits. Typically the Golden Hard Hat Award is bestowed upon the person who has been the most diligent helper. Unfortunately, that person usually becomes the project coordinator. Roger will keep the award this year and continue to serve as coordinator. Further adornment of the award will occur,

and it will be on display at a future meeting. As the originator of the award, Steve Nicholson pointed out the current awardee has sole discretion in bestowing the hat to a new awardee.

**Reports – Legislature Liaison:** Carol Chock reported the Legislature has some new members and a new chair. Committees are being formed for 2010. She extended thanks to EMC members who worked on comments to DEC on gas drilling, and said those comments were used in the formation of the Legislature’s resolution. The website of Tompkins County Council of Governments has links to various comments, including those of the EMC, Water Resources Council, and County Legislature:

<http://www.tompkins-co.org/legislature/TCCOG/Gas%20Drilling/dSGEIS%20Comments/index.html>.

A lobbying day in Albany is being planned for January 25<sup>th</sup>. Information will be shared by email so EMC members can participate. An Emissions Reduction Showcase is being planned at Cornell’s Duffield Hall, and info on that will also be distributed to members. Dan Lamb said Onondaga County has banned fracking on county property, and asked if the Tompkins County Legislature might consider that. Carol said she would like a copy of that resolution.

**Chair:** Roger Segelken reported that he attended the County Legislature meeting on December 15<sup>th</sup>, where he urged passage of their gas drilling resolution. One of his New Year’s resolution is to work on filling the vacant EMC municipal seats. He read attendance requirements from the EMC Bylaws: after three absences the member will be contacted by the chair, and after five absences the council may vote to ask the Tompkins County Legislature to declare the seat vacant. Carol Chock pointed out that the Legislature’s PDEQ committee reviews attendance records when asked to reappoint members. Scott Doyle urged members to attend regularly, saying we get more work done when we all participate.

**Staff:** Kathy Wilsea provided new member contact sheets, noting we will have additions next month. Scott Doyle said EMC will be involved in the review process for the five-year update of the County’s Comprehensive Plan. He encouraged committees to bring topics and speaker ideas to him or members of the Executive Committee so they can make arrangements for speakers at meetings. Roger reminded members that in 2010, presentations will be organized by committees to align with their work. We’re always in research mode. Speakers will be limited to 20 minutes, plus a question & answer period.

**Member Items –** Dooley Kiefer announced a pharmaceutical disposal event to take place on March 6. Kathy Wilsea said publicity is being finalized, and she will share announcements as soon as possible.

**Breakout to Establish Committee Meeting Dates and Times –** The rest of the meeting was spent organizing the committees, based on the signup sheets.

**Communications** (Spring Buck, Chair) will meet on EMC meeting dates at 6:00 PM, at The Haunt. The first meeting will be an exception, and will take place on February 2.

**Energy** (Steve Nicholson will convene) will meet on second Tuesday of the month, 5:00 – 6:30 PM in the Old Jail conference room (125 E. Court St., Ithaca). Permanent chair to be determined.

**Environmental Review** (Jim McGarry, Chair) will meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month, 5:00 PM in the small side of the Old Jail conference room.

**Unique Natural Areas** (Mark Whitmore, Chair) will meet on the second Monday of the month, 6:30 PM, in the Old Jail conference room.

**Adjournment –** The meeting ended at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathy Wilsea, Secretary, Tompkins County Planning Department

Approved by Council on March 10, 2010