

AGENDA
EMC MEETING

February 9, 2012 ■ LOCATION: 395 Pine Tree Road ■ 4:00 p.m.

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| I. | Privilege of the Floor | 4:00 |
| II. | Changes to the Agenda & Approval of Minutes | 4:05 |
| III. | EMC Strategic Planning Retreat | 4:10 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction and Purpose (Brian, 10 min)• Brain-dump and priority setting exercise (Steve, 20 min)• Favorite flavor choices (Kenny, 5min)• Break (10 min)• Planning and tool-builder exercise (Spring, 30 min)• Group Report Out (Steve, 20 min) | |
| IV. | Member Items | 5:45 |
| V. | Adjournment | 5:55 |

Upcoming Meeting Dates: March 8, April 12

Reminder to Members:

If you are unable to attend, please contact:
Steve Nicholson, Chair (scnfish@gmail.com) or
Kathy Wilsea, Secretary (274-5560 or kwilsea@tompkins-co.org).

6 **DRAFT – Minutes of the EMC General Meeting**
7 **January 12, 2012**
8

9 **Voting Members Present (11):** Spring Buck, Brian Eden, Kate Engler, Martha Ferger, Katie Kelly, Jim McGarry,
10 Steve Nicholson, Kristine Shaw, Gary Stewart, Lucia Tyler, Ed Wilson

11 **Voting Members Excused (3):** Kenny Christianson, Dan Lamb, Roger Yonkin

12 **Voting Member Absent (1):** Sarah Adams,

13 **Non-Voting Member Present:** Peter Harriott

14 **Guests Present:** Poney Carpenter, Michael Culotta, Bill Halton, Emily Hamilton

15 **Staff Present:** Scott Doyle, Kathy Wilsea
16

17 **Oath of Office --** Aurora Valenti, Tompkins County Clerk, administered the oath of office to new/reappointed
18 members Kate Engler, Spring Buck, Steve Nicholson, Martha Ferger and Lucia Tyler.
19

20 **Call to Order –** The meeting was called to order by Chair Steve Nicholson at 4:03 p.m.
21

22 **Privilege of the Floor –** Peter Harriott, EMC Associate Member, spoke of his disappointment in the City of Ithaca
23 renewable energy contract, as reported in the Ithaca Times. He feels the scope and savings of the contract were misquoted,
24 as the savings would be per month of per kilowatt hour. The anticipated reduction of greenhouse gas is unclear. Any such
25 contract should have more transparency in the contract and the goals. He expressed hopes that Tompkins County and the
26 Town of Ithaca will not follow this poor example, as it is misleading to purchase credits from an unknown agent under
27 unclear conditions. Gary Stewart pointed out Cornell has made an effort to quit using coal. New EMC member Ed Wilson
28 is the manager of the new combined heat and power plant at Cornell, and Gary suggested having a future EMC meeting at
29 the plant, with a tour included. Steve Nicholson reported the County is involved in renting solar panels from SolarLiberty.
30

31 **Changes to the Agenda and Approval of Minutes –** Our guest today will arrive late, so agenda items will be taken
32 out of order. Draft minutes of December 14, 2011 were amended at the request of Dooley Kiefer and Brian Eden.
33 Amendments were agreed upon and the minutes were accepted with those changes. Final minutes are available on the
34 EMC webpage: www.tompkins-co.org/emc.
35

36 **Year End Committee Reports – Communications:** Spring Buck reported their main accomplishments were organizing the
37 recycle fair with Solid Waste during the Ithaca Festival, and selecting a recipient for the Transportation Initiative of the Year
38 Award. She provided some history on the TIY award for visitors and new members, saying it went to Way2Go this year,
39 Cayuga Lake Waterfront Trail phase 3 last year, and Ithaca CarShare during the first year. **Energy:** Brian Eden reported he
40 routinely sends committee reports with agendas. The committee was inspired by Community Wind in My Back Yard and
41 encouraged support for Enfield Energy. Committee members met with PDEQ a couple times trying to get County support
42 for the Enfield Energy project, and former EMC member Eric Banford wrote an article that appears in the Ithaca Times.
43 Members also worked with the County on their MEGA renewal for obtaining power for County operations. In response to a
44 question from Michael Culotta, Brian said the electricity generated by Enfield Energy will go into the grid, and there is
45 interest in pumping water to a higher holding tank and then using gravity feed to AES Cayuga for power generation as a
46 change from the coal source used there now. **Environmental Review:** Jim McGarry will provide the annual summary by
47 email.
48

49 Since the Mayor was running late, Brian Eden asked Michael Culotta, Chair of the City's Conservation Advisory Council,
50 for a status report on CAC. Michael reported they are interested in being transparent and working with EMC when possible.
51 He sees a limit to their resources and time. CAC reviews site plans, too. He appreciates receiving the EMC annual report
52 and meeting materials. In looking for shared interests, CAC is especially interested in watershed management, intend to
53 organize community meetings on different topics, and want to share any site visits for Cayuga Inlet and Sixmile Creek.
54 Brian asked about the silt pond by the Inlet, and Michael said CAC is mostly interested in runoff and wetland degradation,
55 and feel it is time to pay attention to the natural elements of the Inlet. A study by the Water Resources Council was included

56 in the scope of the Inlet dredging project. Next steps are up to the Army Corps of Engineers. He doesn't think there is any
57 consideration of establishing a Critical Environmental Area for the Inlet.

58
59 Executive Committee: Steve Nicholson reported Gary Stewart, Katie Kelly and Dan Lamb served as vice chairs in 2011.
60 They work on restructuring membership, which was not supported by the County Legislature. But Steve is pleased to see
61 new energy and new members on EMC. Gary Stewart said he was disappointed that TCLeg did not support the
62 restructuring, as a lot of time and thought went into it, and we did not have a liaison from the Legislature in 2011. Kathy
63 Wilsea provided some data she tracked on Legislature liaisons: Kathy has taken minutes at 90 EMC meetings, and only 45
64 of them had a liaison from the Legislature present. Poor liaison attendance was suggested for mention in correspondence
65 with Legislators. Unique Natural Areas Update: Scott Doyle reported for Dan Lamb. Contracts are in place with
66 consultants and work is planned for 2012.

67
68 2011 Year End Liaison Reports – Water Resources Council: Jim McGarry reported WRC also sent comments to DEC on
69 the gas drilling dsGEIS and proposed regulations (in mail folder). Lake Source Cooling Data Sharing hasn't functioned in
70 several years, and the WRC/Cornell County lake Monitoring Partnership is a much broader group that meets regularly.

71 Cornell Community Waste Management: Brian said Kenny Christianson was the official member from EMC. The project
72 is complete, but some members continued to meet with the dean and facility manager. This committee is closing out, and
73 we don't need a liaison in 2012. Spring Buck said the facility is up and running very successfully. Adopt-A-Highway: Due
74 to snow, rain, and unmowed road shoulders, there was no cleanup in 2011. This will be a topic for future discussion.

75 Tompkins County Climate Protection Initiative: Brian said they had an interesting and busy year. There is an active group
76 working at different levels than EMC. An energy efficiency project is support Cooperative Extension's Get Your
77 GreenBack. They also work on climate adaptation issues. Dredging Project Advisory Committee: Group did not meet.

78
79 **Reschedule Visitor** – Gary Stewart received a text message that Ithaca Mayor Svante Myrick will reschedule to February 9.

80
81 **Election of Vice Chairs for 2012** – Katie Kelly reported for the Nominating Committee that Brian Eden, Spring Buck and
82 Kenny Christianson are willing to serve. Brian's agreement to serve is based on having a retreat to establish clear goals and
83 objectives for the year. Katie moved the slate for appointment, which was seconded by Kristine Shaw and approved by
84 unanimous show of hands.

85
86 **Formation of 2012 Committees** – Scott Doyle encouraged members to keep the number of committees trimmed, and it was
87 agreed members interested in gas drilling would sign up for ERC and be activated on gas drilling if needed this year.
88 Communications committee functions were rolled into Executive. ERC is necessary, as their function is part of the charge
89 of EMC. And UNA has commitments for completing the update in 2012. Jim explained the work of ERC for visitors /new
90 members, which is SEQR review and review of development projects in Unique Natural Areas. Since electronic message
91 voting is not mentioned in the Bylaws, Scott encouraged review of the Bylaws by Executive Committee. Pending other
92 ideas from a retreat, Energy, UNA and ERC signups were conducted and groups met to establish their first meeting dates.

93
94 **Communication Guidelines Reminder** – Steve Nicholson reviewed the guidelines and reminded members they are not
95 authorized to speak for EMC unless they are designated by him to do so. If asked for a statement from EMC, refer others to
96 Steve. Jim McGarry pointed out members shouldn't say they are EMC members and just leave it hanging -- make it clear
97 you are speaking as an individual.

98
99 **Other Reports** – Chair: Steve said he was glad to see new faces among the old faces. NYSDEC reportedly has received
100 over 20,000 gas drilling comments. He encouraged members who meet others interested in gas drilling issues to remind
101 them they can join EMC! Staff: Kathy Wilsea reported Planning Department management wants all agenda materials
102 posted with the basic agenda in order to comply with a new law. EMC had established a policy 5 ½ years ago to only
103 provide draft minutes to members. Kristine Shaw suggested asking the County Attorney if draft minutes need to be made
104 public.

105
106 **Member Items** – Spring Buck reminded all that we need to return tables to their original configuration. Brian Eden
107 reported that Ward Stone, retired DEC Wildlife Pathologist recently had a stroke and is hospitalized. Ward frequently
108 stepped in for situations when no one else was willing to help, and Brian said he always appreciated his dedication.

109
110 **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 5:41 p.m.
111 Respectfully submitted, Kathy Wilsea, Secretary, Tompkins County Planning Department
112 Approved by Council on __, 2012