

## **Minutes of the EMC General Meeting March 12, 2008**

**Present:** Cliff Babson, Herb Engman, Neha Khanna, Kariann Mackie-Cunningham, Stan Marcus, Michael Miles, Steve Nicholson, Larry Sallinger, Jacie Spoon, Lucia Tyler, Marissa Weiss, X  
**Excused:** Carol Chock, Kenny Christianson, John Dennis, Martha Ferger, Dan Lamb, Ashley Miller, Amy Risen, Roger Segelken, Larry Sharpsteen, Roger Yonkin  
**Absent:** Glynn Bebee, Lara Kimber, Hank Spencer, Gary Stewart  
**Associates:** Dooley Kiefer  
**Guests:** Dominic Frongillo, Sylvester Johnson, Jeanne Leccese, Milton Taam  
**Staff:** Kathy Wilsea

**Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order by Chair Steve Nicholson at 7:08 p.m.

**Privilege of the Floor** – Milton Taam said he was visiting because he is interested in getting involved in energy issues. Sylvester Johnston read a statement from Climate Change Action Group of Central New York on points that distinguish a carbon tax from tradable carbon permits. CCAG supports creation of a carbon tax and hopes EMC will recommend that the Tompkins County Legislature pass a resolution in support of a carbon tax.

**Changes to the Agenda** – Dooley Kiefer asked to add a proposal for Earth Hour 2008, which she will discuss during member items. Steve Nicholson announced EMC has received a copy of Roger Yonkin’s book on dredging.

**On the Road to Bali – the United Nations Climate Change Conference** – Dominic Frongillo, a town board member for the Town of Caroline, spoke of his experience on the youth delegation to the conference. He said the biggest lesson he learned is that young people have the power to get leaders to change. The conference in Bali was designed as a roadmap towards negotiating an international treaty. SustainUS put in 4,000 volunteer hours in preparation for the conference. The youth delegation drew press coverage almost daily with their dance and their Fossil of the Day awards, which identified conference participants for blocking negotiations. The United States and Canada tied for the most Fossils. The conference was big news in Canada, where the youth galvanized a lot of opposition to the regular delegation. The US adult delegation made it clear they did not support the US youth delegation. The International Youth Delegation got to address the conference on the last day. The US delegation was booed by other delegates at the end of negotiations, and US finally agreed to reference “deep cuts” by 2020, which fell short of the “Bali Breakthrough” sought. Upcoming summits are planned in Poland in 2008 and Denmark in 2009.

Dominic provided photos and video clips. In his reflections, he said he still gets emotional over the youth delegation speech on closing day; he sees the potential of youth to come together and create global consciousness; he has come to believe we cannot rely on the international negotiating process; he is convinced citizens must take action; and there is a need for renewed civic engagement.

In a discussion period, Dominic said Caroline is working with a community conversation format to inform the public. Curbing climate change is a huge process, and most governments that set goals at Kyoto did not meet those goals. Developed countries have caused most of this crisis and have the funds to deal with it. Developed

countries have a greater responsibility to act. The US delegation was hiding behind China, saying China had a greater obligation. But even when China got on board in Bali, the US balked.

**Municipal Reports – Town of Dryden:** Stan Marcus said the town passed stormwater regulations in December 2007, and an illicit discharge law in January 2008. They are working with Tompkins County to implement purchase of development rights grants for JerryDell Farm, which is the largest organic farm in the northeast United States, and LewLin Farm. The town is working on implementing components of their 2005 comprehensive plan. The town website has the plan posted, plus lots of photos depicting good and bad practices for residential and commercial zones. The website is being updated with the help of one of the new town officials, and a draft official map and trails map are posted. **Town of Ithaca:** Larry Sallinger reported that the Conservation Board is looking for applicants for voting seats and associate positions. Cayuga Heights residents are also eligible. The town has been reviewing a substantial development proposal along Route 96, initially called Cayuga Cliffs, which would include housing and a conservation zone. The Ithaca College Athletic and Events Center is also under review. The Conservation Board objected to the impact of the roof on a scenic view. Copies of the ERC comments on the IC project were available in the mail folder. **Town of Ulysses:** Lucia Tyler reported that the town formed a Water Study Committee, which will include an engineer, public official, USGS staff, and a planner consultant. They will work on a needs survey and identify possible supplies.

**Approval of Minutes** – Due to lack of a quorum, the minutes were not addressed. Revisions suggested at the meeting will be incorporated into the draft distributed with the next agenda.

**Chair's Report** – Steve Nicholson reported that members can borrow Roger Yonkin's book on dredging, and the Planning Department will place it in their library. He has a contact for the Earth Day celebration, and will send that info to Ashley Miller. County Legislator Martha Robertson has asked if anyone at EMC is interested in being appointed to the Tompkins County seat on USDA's regional Resource Conservation & Development board. Anyone interested should let Steve know. He also is still looking for liaisons to the Agriculture & Farmland Protection Board and the Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization. Cliff Babson will serve on the City's Project Advisory Committee for Dredging committee and Karen Edelstein will serve as liaison to Lake Source Cooling.

**Addition to Agenda – EarthHour 2008** – Dooley Kiefer brought a short resolution seeking a County Legislature proclamation for EarthHour 2008. This is an hour set aside to turn out the lights, and regionally it will be 3/29 from 8:00 to 9:00 PM. Lacking a quorum, it was the sense of the body that the resolution was supported.

**Member Items** – Stan Marcus announced that he, Jacie Spoon and Mark Whitmore will attend a conference on the Emerald Ash Borer in Canandaigua. Neha Khanna asked about the two topics Roger Yonkin wished to address, and if Roger could provide a resume. Those topics will be on a future agenda.

**Adjournment** – Steve Nicholson adjourned the meeting at 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Wilsea, Secretary  
Tompkins County Planning Department

Approved by Council on \_\_, 2008