

AGENDA
EMC MEETING

June 14, 2012 ■ LOCATION: 395 Pine Tree Road ■ 4:00 p.m.

- | | | |
|-------|--|------|
| I. | Privilege of the Floor | 4:00 |
| II. | Changes to the Agenda & Approval of Minutes | 4:05 |
| III. | Committee Reports & Member Questions --
<i>Energy, Environmental Review, UNA, Gas Drilling Task Force</i> | 4:10 |
| IV. | Staff Report – <i>Scott Doyle & Kathy Wilsea</i> | 4:25 |
| V. | Member Items | 4:30 |
| VI. | NYS EMC Meeting Report – <i>Carolyn Peterson</i> | 4:40 |
| VII. | State of the Environment Report Discussion
– <i>Kate Engler & John Dennis</i> | 4:50 |
| VIII. | All Hazard Mitigation Planning – <i>Scott Doyle</i> | 5:00 |
| IX. | Adjournment | 5:15 |

Upcoming Meeting Dates: July 12, September 13

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).

7 **DRAFT -- Minutes of the EMC General Meeting**
8 **May 10, 2012**
9

10 **Voting Members Present (13):** Spring Buck, Poney Carpenter, Kenny Christianson, Brian Eden, Kate Engler, Martha
11 Ferger, Bill Halton, Katie Kelly, Steve Nicholson, Carolyn Peterson, Gary Stewart, Lucia Tyler, Ed Wilson

12 **Voting Members Excused (4):** Emily Hamilton, Dan Lamb, Jim McGarry, Roger Yonkin

13 **Voting Member Absent (1):** Kristine Shaw

14 **Non-Voting Members Present (2):** Peter Harriott, Dooley Kiefer

15 **Guest Present:** John Dennis (Village of Lansing applicant)

16 **Staff Present:** Scott Doyle, Kathy Wilsea
17

18 **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order by Chair Steve Nicholson at 4:07 p.m.
19

20 **Privilege of the Floor** – There were no visitors who wished to speak under Privilege of the Floor.
21

22 **Changes to the Agenda and Approval of Minutes** – There were no changes to the agenda. The March and April draft
23 minutes were accepted without change. Final minutes are available on the EMC webpage: www.tompkins-co.org/emc.
24 John Dennis, who formerly represented the Village of Lansing and has applied for EMC membership again, was welcomed
25 and introductions were made around the room.
26

27 **Committee Reports** –

28 ■ Energy: Brian Eden reported the County Legislature is considering a resolution concerning opting out of a real property
29 tax law. Steve Nicholson offered an example of this law as it applies to counties unless they opt out: the construction of a
30 \$20,000 alternative energy system does not automatically add \$20,000 to the value of the property. Brian said the
31 committee understands the County action to proactively opt out of the law before the Black Oak Wind Farm begins wind
32 turbine construction, but are discussing other ways the County and community can support BOWR. Dooley Kiefer pointed
33 out the County can opt out, opt in, opt out, but a project operates on the law as it stands at the time they begin construction.
34 Kenny Christianson will attend the public hearing at T C Leg.

- 35 ✓ Brian acknowledged there was crappy weather for the Earth Day Celebration, but the Nissan Leaf on display
36 brought a lot of attention. He thanked Bill Halton and Peter Harriott for helping at the event. The Union of
37 Concerned Scientists just released a report comparing electric/ partial/ gas vehicles. Electric cars have a range of
38 about 100 miles, so we need more fast charging stations before buyers consider them practical.
- 39 ✓ AES Cayuga filed for bankruptcy and hopes to transfer the operating license to bond holders. They have to auction
40 their power daily, and haven't been able to sell their power. DEC has asked to intervene because the Somerset
41 facility is not in compliance. Somerset and Cayuga are linked financially. Some political officials seek to extend
42 the operating license.
- 43 ✓ The City of Ithaca is updating their 2006 Local Action Plan and it is subject to public review.
- 44 ✓ Brian said he hoped members participated in the survey on the Cleaner Greener Regional Sustainability Plan. Link
45 had been distributed to members by email.
- 46 ✓ A large scale wind farm is planned for Schuyler and Chemung counties, with 50 to 75 industrial turbines. Steve
47 thanked Brian for doing the Earth Day Celebration.

48 ■ Environmental Review: Chair Jim McGarry was excused from today's meeting. Brian reported some ERC members
49 are planning a walk with Tom Whitlow on 5/18 of City property at the south end of Cayuga Inlet.

50 ■ Executive Committee: Steve said they will make an effort to meet regularly, and have decided to try an agenda format
51 of having guest speakers at the end of the meetings. Upcoming guests will be on green building, solid waste, and land
52 conservation topics. Members are invited to do presentations, too, and/or let members of Exec know of special interests.

53 ■ Unique Natural Areas Update: Steve said he has become the default chair while Dan Lamb runs for Congress. Next
54 meeting will be Monday at 5 PM. They will bring info to the full Council if they get to the addition phase for new UNAs.

55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
68
69
70
71
72
73
74
75
76
77
78
79
80
81
82
83
84
85
86
87
88
89
90
91
92
93
94
95
96
97
98
99
100
101
102
103
104
105
106
107
108
109

Staff Reports – Scott Doyle reported funding has come through for completion of the Black Diamond Trail, and the Commissioner of State Parks will report at the ITCTC meeting next week. He passed around meeting information. Scott is involved in working with County Finance on properties that are subject to foreclosure for failure to pay taxes. This year they are examining 24 properties, and three of them are all or partially in UNAs. He will refer them to UNA Committee, too. Kathy Wilsea reported she continues to clean out the basement of the Old Courthouse, and has located some 1971 and 1981 sounding data for Cayuga Inlet. She suggested scheduling a meeting with Executive Committee at her office to do website updates.

Member Items – Kenny said he attended a drop-in session on the coal tar remediation project by West Court Street on Ithaca City School District property. The court decision was that the school district has the right to demolish the building on that site.

- Katie Kelly attended a Hydrilla education workshop. She found the handouts of laminated plant samples of Hydrilla and local plants that have similar appearance to be very useful. Katie also pointed out next Friday, 6/18, is Bike to Work Day, and there are many stations that are providing free breakfast for bike commuters. Info will be shared by email.
- Lucia Tyler reported the Town of Ulysses is considering seeking letters of support for the court decision on gas drilling. The court upheld the Town zoning law concerning ban of heavy industry, which would in effect ban gas drilling. The Town also recently passed a law classifying hydrofracturing flowback water as hazardous waste. Brian said other communities are very interested in that. The NYS Assembly passed a similar bill, but the Senate has not addressed it.
- Carolyn Peterson said she is still a member of the EPA Local Government Advisory Committee, which met in Denver recently. EMC can comment on proposed EPA rules. EPA is reviewing model building codes that lead to energy efficiency. She heard this morning they are offering speakers on codes. Members were interested in sponsoring an event.
- Brian reported the Town of Ithaca is still considering their stream setback law, and is down to resolving small issues. When passed, they hope to share it with other communities.
- Dooley Kiefer said the Water Resources Council drafted a model wetlands law for municipalities. Kathy Wilsea said it has not been distributed to municipalities yet.
- Martha Feger said she did some research on the Community Air Screening funds from EPA to DEC. She wondered if it could be used to document hydrofracturing emissions, but it appears not. It is a program where DEC supplies equipment and information for recording air quality. Martha spoke with Liz Cameron of T C Environmental Health, and Liz didn't know a lot about the program.
- Steve recommended the Red Tail Hawk webcam on the CU Lab of Ornithology website.

Planning for the State of the Environment Report – Steve pointed out EMC has only issued annual reports since the 1991 State of the Environment was published. Executive Committee members hope EMC will do a SOE this year with an *ad hoc* committee. Scott Doyle recommended this as a good way to document EMC concerns and advance EMC advocacy. Brian thought it would be a good piece of literature to have available at the Sustainability Center when that opens. Gary Stewart asked if it needs to be approved by the Legislature, but others felt it's an EMC report to the Legislature of what needs to be done and what we are willing to do.

Recycle and Repurpose on Cornell Campus – Spring Buck provided a slide show on campus initiatives on the 5Rs: Respect, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Reform. Waste diversion rate on campus for 2011 was 64% and a student group is advocating for an 80% goal. Student government established a rule that if an event has food there must be compost containers available. All students receive information at orientation. At last week's Slope Day there were 17,000 attendees, and the event produced 24 cubic yards of recyclables, 7 cubic yards of compost, and 12 bags of trash. The Waste Focus Team is pleased by the support and innovation of staff, faculty and students. Details are available in Spring's slide show, posted on the EMC website at http://www.tompkins-co.org/emc/agendas_minutes_news.htm . Cornell's program website is <http://R5.FS.Cornell.edu> .

Adjournment –The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Wilsea, Secretary
Tompkins County Planning Department

Approved by Council on _____, 2012