



EMC News

July 6, 1999

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Chair's Report

I would like to initiate a program that we have talked about for some time now: reports from municipalities (towns, villages and the city) at each meeting. We will discuss this at the July meeting. I have asked Mikel to prepare a list of the municipalities and a tentative schedule for municipal reports for the September, October, November and December meetings. Beginning in the year 2000, we may hear from at least three municipalities at each meeting to ensure that representatives are heard from at least three times a year.

As part of the PIRE/EMC communication recommendations and advice from Wendy Skinner (County's public information coordinator for the Ithaca Journal), the Executive Committee will review options to develop communication guidelines for designated spokespeople.



Also, Committees should get their reports and announcements to Mikel for this newsletter. We have full agendas for July's meeting and also September, allowing little time for committee reports.

Submitted by Ed Cope

Coordinator's Report

As most of you are aware, we are going to try new methods to foster communication, by implementing some of the PIRE/EMC recommendations. The creation of new EMC letterhead is one example (2nd draft at July meeting). Many of the draft recommendations may influence my duties (distribution of mail and quarterly executive summaries), in addition to how information is released from committees. Some of the changes that could be implemented immediately are:

- * Clearly explain in correspondence if a committee or the whole EMC wrote the letter
- * Copy the EMC Chair, PIRE Chair, Planning Commissioner, and if appropriate, BOR member from affected district on all official correspondence
- * Delay releasing information to the press until after members on the distribution list have received the information

After looking through past correspondence, I realize most letters already fit these guidelines. However, I thought it was worth a reminder. If you have any questions about the changes, please feel free to contact me.

Submitted by Mikel Shakarjian

Unique Natural Areas Committee Report

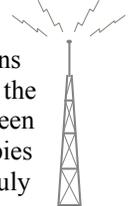
The UNA committee met Tuesday, June 22 to review what tasks remain to be accomplished and by whom, in order to complete the UNA report. The UNA data is maintained in an extensive database and the Tompkins County Planning Department has contracted with Information Technology Services (Tompkins County) to finalize the database and help with the report layout. The majority of UNA maps are complete and being reviewed by Nancy Ostman and Robert Wesley one more time for accuracy. Bruce and Lynn are working on a final draft of the introduction and there is still some fauna information to complete. However, the committee hopes that we can have the report printed and ready by September 15, 1999. The date was pushed back to accommodate the anticipated new work on the database.

Submitted by Lynn Leopold and Bruce Johnson



County Towers Committee Report

The County has selected a consultant to determine whether the County's new emergency communications system can be built with fewer and/or lower new towers than the system proposed by Motorola. The consultant is Dutch Hill Tower Antenna Systems, Inc., from Syracuse. A member of the County Towers Committee reviewed the proposals submitted in response to the County's RFP and participated in the interviews and recommendation process to select the consultant. Dutch Hill Tower Antenna Systems was selected because it was felt that company would do the best job on propagation studies and exploration of co-location possibilities. The County Towers Committee has also finished compiling its list of towers and other tall structures located throughout Tompkins County. This list was provided to Dutch Hill Tower Antenna Systems to aid that company in identifying co-location possibilities for the emergency communications system. The list will be provided to all of the municipalities in the County, and has been distributed to the Board of Representatives. Copies will be distributed to EMC members at the July meeting.



Submitted by Susan Brock

Executive Committee Report

The Executive Committee met on June 8 and discussed the PIRE restructuring proposal. It was proposed that a list of technical advisors be prepared in lieu of ex-officio members. Also, the committee proposed that the EMC publicize the release of the UNA document and invite Nancy Ostman to come speak to the EMC. The committee also met on July 2 to conduct an interview with Roxana Bahar Hewertson, a prospective, at-large member. Her application will be forwarded to the PIRE committee recommending her appointment to the EMC by the BOR.

Submitted by Mikel Shakarjian

Environmental Review Committee Report

The committee met on June 22 and proceeded to review wording of a letter to the DEC concerning the Portland Point project; this concluded work that was begun in April when Jim Hanson and Karl Heck spoke to the committee. The group talked about the Radiation Disposal Site Feasibility Study Report, and asked that Barbara Ebert and Mikel Shakarjian invite a Cornell representative to speak to the committee and/or the full EMC prior to the completion of our findings on this document. General discussion was held on proposed cell tower regulations coming out of the NYS Senate/Assembly [Senate bill S5956]; also information was exchanged on proposed changes to the Endangered Species list in New York State. The date of the next committee meeting will be announced at the July meeting of the full EMC.

Submitted by Barbara Ebert

Announcements

Welcome to Jean Foley, our new municipal member representing the Town of Ulysses! While we gain new members, we are also losing a few. A big thank you to Kara Hagedorn and Pat Meinhardt for all their time and dedication to the EMC. Best wishes on your new endeavors!

Town of Dryden's Project Impact



The Town of Dryden is working with NYSEMO's (State Emergency Management Office) Project Impact program to develop an emergency preparedness and hazard mitigation plan. The purpose of the plan is to create a disaster-resist community by identifying potential disasters, relief supplies and coordinating action. In addition, preventive mitigation measures will be examined to reduce future potential losses from a disaster. The Town of Dryden is only one of four project impact communities in the state.

Currently, the Town is looking for input from the community including private businesses, institutions, landowners, etc. If you would like to volunteer, or know someone who would like to become involved, please contact Henry Slater, the Town's Zoning and Building Code Officer at 844-9120.

Queen Catherine Marsh and the

Rock Haven Road Greenway

At a recent EMC meeting, concerns were raised about excavation activities that were taking place in Queen Catharine Marsh. After speaking with Irene Brown (Schuyler County EMC), I am pleased to tell you the ditches are part of the wildlife habitat management program. The level ditches help to maintain open water in the wetland.

Irene also mentioned local efforts to designate Rock Haven Road (adjacent to the marsh) as a greenway. She said the road is in poor condition and not well traveled by automobiles. However, many people use it as a recreational trail (biking, walking etc.). Currently, there are efforts underway to improve the road, which would increase the volume of traffic and roadside garbage dumping. Irene is looking for interested parties and a letter of support from the EMC on the greenway. She will send us some more information and I will forward it to you.

Submitted by Mikel Shakarjian



*Look on-line for the Cayuga Lake Watershed
Management Plan at:
www.gflrpc.org/Cayuga.htm*



See You in September!

Education Committee Report

No Report Submitted

Env. Directory Update Committee Report

No Report Submitted

NESTS Committee Report

No Report Submitted