



TOMPKINS COUNTY  
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

121 East Court Street Ithaca, New York 14850  
Telephone (607) 274-5560



<http://www.tompkinscountyny.gov/emc>

**Final Minutes**  
**September 8, 2016, 4PM**  
**Tompkins County Old Jail Conference Room, 125 E. Court Street, Ithaca, NY**

**Attendance**

Members

Name		Representation
Steve Bissen	E	Town of Dryden
Kenny Christianson	P	At-Large
John Dennis	P	Village of Lansing
Brian Eden	P	Village of Cayuga Heights
Bill Evans	A	Town of Danby
Pegi Ficken	E	Town of Groton
John Hertzler	E	Town of Ulysses
Roy Luft	A	At-Large
Jim McGarry	A	At-Large
Vladimir Micic	P	Town of Ithaca
Steve Nicholson	P	Town of Caroline 8
Susan Riley	P	At-Large 9
Tom Shelley	P	Ithaca CAC 10

Name		Representation
Linda Spielman	P	Village of Dryden
Ron Szymanski	A	Village of Freeville
Roger Yonkin	A	At-Large
Dooley Kiefer	P	Associate Member
Jose Lozano	A	Associate Member
Scott Doyle	P	EMC Coordinator
Dan Klein	P	Associate Member
Anna Kelles	P	Legislature Liaison

11

A quorum was not present.

Others: Jaime Cone, Ithaca Times

Call to Order – Chair Nicholson called the meeting to order at approximately 4:05 PM.

Privilege of the Floor – No speakers.

Agenda Review/Changes – The agenda was accepted as distributed.

Approval of Minutes – The July 14<sup>th</sup> Minutes were discussed and minor changes to the Environmental Review Committee Report were suggested though due to a lack of quorum no formal vote was taken on the minutes.

Committee Reports The following committees gave reports.

- Energy Committee – Brian Eden: report included the status of local building projects noting most projects are built to traditional building practices using fossil fuels; Maplewood Redevelopment however proposes not using any natural gas. Town of Ithaca determined the DEIS was not yet adequate and the consultant was addressing added concerns. • Update on the status of the County and City microgrid projects. • Potential improvements to the Dominion Pipeline compressor system expansion. Anna Kelles clarified that a request has been made to hold a

30 formal public hearing to address potential air quality as well as water quality impacts. The current public  
31 comment period extends through September 12<sup>th</sup>. Dooley further noted that a study for pipeline leakage is further  
32 being examined. • Advocacy continues for the Geothermal Tax Credit Bill for New York State • Heatsmart  
33 Tompkins Program Update: About 100 contracts were signed last year, proposal advancing with the Park  
34 Foundation this year and are considering different outreach approaches. NYSERDA is further being engaged for  
35 ideas on marketing the program. • West Dryden Road pipeline continues to spark discussion regarding  
36 alternatives. Related discussion over concerns of the Dakota Access pipeline expansion. • Discussion of clean  
37 energy standard that requires 50% renewables by 2050 with substantial subsidies for nuclear energy and the  
38 release of the County Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventory which notes either a 21% reduction in GHG emissions  
39 or an 83% increase due to natural gas methane leakage. • Black Oak Wind Farm continues to slowly advance  
40 forward. The Town of Newfield adopted an updated wind ordinance this summer which requires much larger  
41 footprint. • Notation of the electric car show occurring next week Saturday afternoon in front of the State Theater.  
42 • Cornell received grant to study smart meters centered on a consumer oriented approach. • Discussion of local  
43 government reactions to General Municipal Review 239 recommended modification from the County.

- 44 • Environmental Review - John Dennis: report included a request for added membership on the committee. •  
45 Update of coal ash landfill and its leaching to the lake. Questions as to the conditions of the permit that allows for  
46 the operation of this landfill. Kenny Christianson asked what the best solution to dealing with the coal ash would  
47 be. John thought instead of capping it, sealing it in containers on site might make more sense. Other regions of  
48 New York State require treatment of leachate. Cayuga Power further continues to burn coal. One of the hotspots  
49 for sulfur dioxide emissions is located just north of this location. • Brian Eden then outlined several other projects  
50 including: issues related to microplastics in the lake and suggested presentation from Jose Lozano on this issue in  
51 the future; the Governor asking that private water resources be tested for water quality, the proposed Cargill mine  
52 shaft expansion, Chainworks District comment period, the City of Ithaca dredging of siltation basin, the solid  
53 waste management plan, EPA coal tar sealants, the Town of Lansing comprehensive planning process, and the  
54 Lansing Rod and Gun Club lead contamination hearing set for September 14<sup>th</sup>.
- 55 • Unique Natural Areas – Steve Nicholson reported: The committee hadn't heard from Cornell regarding the  
56 proposed updated boundary expansion to Sapsucker Woods until just recently. Cornell Real Estate expressed  
57 concerns over proposed boundary changes and asked for meeting with UNA committee prior to a formal vote on  
58 those changes. This UNA boundary is likely to be considered along with the remaining 2016 updates including  
59 Bell Station.
- 60 • Executive Committee: Speaker set for November 2016. Some discussion on EMC annual reports and how to  
61 distribute to the Legislature and the website.

#### 62 Municipal Reports –

- 63 • Steve Nicholson mentioned that Caroline is entering into an agreement with several other entities to invest in a  
64 solar farm and the Town is also looking into air source heat pumps as replacement for their aging natural gas  
65 furnace.
- 66 • Brian Eden discussed the Village of Cayuga Heights consideration of Cayuga Medical proposal at Community  
67 Corners. Local concern has been related to traffic concerns. Brian expressed his support for the infill project.
- 68 • Tom Shelley discussed City of Ithaca projects including the Maguire proposal, potential impacts to the waterfront  
69 and community gardens.

#### 70 Chair's Report – No specific Chair's report.

71  
72 Staff Report – Scott Doyle reported that: the agriculture and farmland bus tour is set for next Friday, the County  
73 budget currently includes support for UNA outreach in 2017, the WRC/EMC recruitment effort currently  
74 underway and noted the recent climate redlining article.  
75  
76

77  
78 Adjournment - Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:40 PM.  
79

80 Prepared by Scott Doyle, Senior Planner, Tompkins County Planning Department

81 Approved by Board October 13, 2016.

---