

**PLANNING ADVISORY BOARD**  
**Wednesday, January 28, 2009**  
**COOPERATIVE EXTENSION**  
**615 WILLOW AVENUE**

**MINUTES**

**Members Present** – Dick Coogan, Fernando de Aragon, John Gutenberger, Dooley Kiefer (Associate), Martha Robertson, John Spence, Andy Zepp  
**Members Excused** -- Martha Armstrong, Gay Nicholson, Peter Penniman, Monika Roth, Scott Whitham, Fred Wilcox  
**Members Absent** -- Rick Couture, Dave Herrick  
**Others Present** – Scott Doyle (T C Planning Dept.), Joan Jurkowich (TCPD), Ed Marx (Commissioner of Planning & PW), Kathy Wilsea (TCPD)

**Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 9:20 AM by the Chair, Fernando de Aragon.

**Commissioner's Report** – Ed Marx reported Tompkins County Council of Governments will have discussion on Monday on the federal stimulus package. Maurice Hinchey and Dan Lamb are expected to be present. Ed is organizing the infrastructure projects that might qualify. Bridges would be good investments, since they last 50 years. Building efficiency and new buses for TCAT are likely. Broadband also has much interest. An intern at TCPD is working on Green Fleet policy, and the purchasing process will probably develop first. John Gutenberger said Cornell's transportation Generic Environmental Impact Statement is reaching completion, and he expected the Town of Ithaca to finalize adoption next week. This includes a transportation management strategy, which might be a topic for PAB mid-year. The CU Master Plan calls for no net increase of parking on campus. New parking would be under buildings. The below grade parking garage for Milstein Hall will be built on an existing lot. There was a net loss of parking spaces on that part of campus from construction of the new Life Sciences Building.

**Flood Hazard Mitigation Program Update** – Scott Doyle gave a presentation on FHMP, saying it is a cost-effective way to reduce flood risk. For several years, County funding was devoted to watershed needs assessments. In 2006, funding went into planning a program restructure. In 2007, the new program was funded. Objectives include using a watershed approach, sustainable strategies, support of other County goals (such as the Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazard Mitigation Plan), and leveraging other funds. A technical review committee works on project selection, which passes through PDEQ and the County Legislature. The projects selected in 2007 numbered 8 and were in four watersheds and five municipalities. Two new projects were begun in 2008. The annual County contribution has been \$25,000, and is targeted to restoration, revegetation, and maintenance.

Scott provided information and slides on three projects: Brooktondale Road at Middaugh Road, Virgil Creek Stream Restoration, and Abandoned Railroad Bridges in Freeville. The team has learned that some project costs increased due to heavy equipment, management and planning need to be done earlier in the year so construction plans are ready in months suitable for the type of work needed, and the partnerships are very important and productive. This program has leveraged DEC funding, led to the first stream buffer agreement, and organized information on suitable plantings. A report will be made to the County Legislature prior to requesting funding for additional years. Martha Robertson suggested discussing success with municipalities so they can consider projects for their streams. Andy Zepp suggested providing more information on conservation easements, and presenting it early in the process.

**2009 TCPD Work Program** – Ed Marx asked members for discussion of goals and objectives today. In response to comments, Ed said the job for tourism development proposed by the Strategic Tourism Planning Board it is too vague to be in the work program now. Concerning development of the Ag Plan, Ed said in-depth research has been completed on soils, land, and tenure. Staff just began focus groups yesterday. The dredging goal is taken directly from the Comprehensive Plan. Ed serves on the Technical Resource Committee. If the parameters of the project change, that will be taken into account during the five-year update of the Comp Plan. Stormwater control was left out of the work program because Soil & Water Conservation District has the grants to do that. Draft policies on illicit discharge of stormwater are part of stormwater management. Martha Robertson said she would like to see TCPD provide leadership for the wind farm location study and provide information for all municipalities, and Ed said a fair amount of that work is already completed.

**Approval of Minutes from** – Due to lack of a quorum, this was not addressed.

**Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 10:34 AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathy Wilsea, Secretary  
Tompkins County Planning Department

Minutes adopted by PAB on April 22, 2009.

**Membership:**

Martha Armstrong, Economic Dev.  
Dick Coogan, Local Planning (non-urban)  
Rick Couture, Education  
Fernando deAragon, Transportation  
John Gutenberger, Education  
Dave Herrick, Facilities/Infrastructure  
Dooley Kiefer, Associate Member  
Gay Nicholson, At-Large

Peter Penniman, Business  
Martha Robertson, Planning Committee  
Monika Roth, Agriculture  
John Spence, Housing  
Scott Whitham, Cultural & Historic Pres.  
Fred Wilcox, Local Planning (urban)  
Andy Zepp, Land Pres./Public Land Mgmt.