

# TOMPKINS COUNTY WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL

**July 21, 2008  
Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present (12):** John Andersson (Associate), Carol Chock, Barry Goodrich, Dan Karig, Darby Kiley, Todd Miller (Ex-Officio), Frank Proto, Elaine Quaroni (Associate), Nick Schipanski, Cindy Schulte, Craig Schutt, Mary Shelley, Linda Wagenet

**Members Excused (4):** Liz Cameron, Roxy Johnston, Joan Jurkowich, Paul Tunison

**Members Absent (5):** Ed Bugliosi, Dan Konowalow, Rick Manning, Bud Shattuck, Roger Yonkin

**Staff Present (1):** Kathy Wilsea (T C Planning Dept.)

**Guests Present (6):** Sean Cahill (Gilbane Building Company), Thomas Colwell (Delta Engineers), Rick Couture (Ithaca College), Travis Fisher (Delta), David Herrick (T.G. Miller), Rick Sanguinito (Delta)

Chair Frank Proto called the meeting to order at 4:18 PM.

**Agenda Review and Approval of Minutes** – Because she could not stay for the whole meeting, Linda Wagenet asked to give the WRC/CU Monitoring Plan Committee report first. The draft minutes of June 16th were moved by Darby Kiley, seconded by Linda Wagenet, amended, and approved by voice vote.

**Committee Report – WRC/CU Monitoring Plan** – Linda Wagenet says she sees a trend of people feeling the Plan is a good idea but that Cornell should keep all Lake Source Cooling monitoring sites. She noted that EMC relied on analysis provided by Dooley Kiefer at their July 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Legislature’s Planning, Development and Environmental Quality Committee met July 10<sup>th</sup> with Pam Mackesey, Frank Proto and Martha Robertson present. They did not vote on a resolution. Pam and Martha agreed with the EMC resolution, which wanted no change in LSC monitoring. Current schedule is return to PDEQ on 8/14, full presentation on the Plan to the County Legislature on 8/19, and County Legislature vote on 9/2. Frank said there was some discussion at the Legislature meeting. He is disappointed so few have read the Plan. The Plan states additional monitoring is required and, if appropriate, DEC will be approached in the future. At the Legislature meeting, Dooley told her colleagues they need to be cognizant the joint statement wording differs from the Plan. Joan Jurkowich and Roxy Johnston are editing the resolution for PDEQ. Linda said she finds it frustrating that WRC can’t get through the community voices on LSC, and she is disappointed that WRC is being ignored. Linda and Roxy will meet with Pam Mackesey and Martha Robertson 7/23. Carol Chock said she feels like she is between a rock and a hard place. She is hoping for a compromise. Separating LSC means support for the rest of the plan, so that is a kind of compromise. Linda said response lacks acknowledgement of the time and interest of the world-class scientists at Cornell.

Linda announced she is part of a research project that is seeking participants. Participants need to be over age 60, and available on Wednesdays from 10 AM to 1 PM (includes lunch) beginning September 24 for ten weeks. The project is discussions on environmental issues, and maybe some field trips.

**Water Conservation and Stormwater Measures at Ithaca College** – Rick Couture, Associate Vice President of Facilities for IC, introduced the topic and speakers from the design and construction teams for the Gateway Building and the School of Business. IC is seeking platinum Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification for both buildings. David Herrick said the School of Business was designed under DEC regulations prior to Town of Ithaca stormwater regulations being enacted. More than half of the site was already impervious surface (was a parking lot), so different strategies were needed for the LEED design. Some of the impervious surfaces were converted to meadow, which helps minimize runoff. Rainwater harvest from roofs goes to basement storage and is used for toilet flushes. The combination reduced runoff by 25% for the School of Business. The Gateway Building used porous paving, with the lawn converted to a meadow mix. Some bio-retention was employed. Combination of these points led to compliance of DEC regulations and LEED certification.

Shawn Cahill spoke of the School of Business systems. He said they need 52 points for LEED platinum certification, and 51 points are secure, others are under review. Inside there is a 5,000-gallon tank used to collect rainwater in an effort to reduce inside water use by 60%. This included low flow faucets, waterless urinals, and selection of plants that do not need irrigation. It was difficult to find local species that are hardy enough for the green roof, so crabgrass was used for part of it.

Rick Sanguinito and Travis Fisher of Delta Engineers spoke about the Gateway Building. Rick Sanguitino said IC got five points for water reduction toward their LEED certification. Since the total reduction of water use is a remarkable 85%, they are asking for extra points. Only the main roof of Gateway was utilized for rainwater collection. Large debris is removed before the water is stored. It serves non-potable needs – toilets, exterior hoses. There is backup power for water pumping in case of power outage. Many governments and corporations now required LEED-certified designs, and Rick Couture said it may have added 3 ½% to the costs. This was low because requirements were incorporated in the initial design phase. Rick Couture offered to give building tours.

**Committee Reports** – Aquifer: Todd Miller said DEC is seeking information on brownfield projects. Cayuga Lake Recreation: Dan Karig reported speed limit signs are not posted yet on the inlet. DEC sent someone to look at the proposed launch site at Stewart Park. Fill will not be allowed, so a different design will have to be used. Dredging: Dan has had no response from Liz Moran of EcoLogic. He contacted Lisa Nicholas at City Planning, and Lisa said things are proceeding very slowly. They are collecting data through imagery, water samples, and core samples. A website or email distribution list will be used to share information. Nominating/Membership: Craig Schutt reported that he attended PDEQ for discussion on advisory board appointments. PDEQ members want our attendance policy enforced, but don't seem inclined to add term limits. WRC needs to develop a protocol for contacting members who have multiple absences.

**Chair & Staff Reports** – Frank did not have a report. Kathy Wilsea said recruiting letters and posters are ready for mailing. She welcomes ideas for new contacts.

**Other Business** – There was discussion on the 8/19 presentation of the Monitoring Plan to the County Legislature.

**Adjournment** -- The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathy Wilsea, Planning Department Secretary  
Adopted by the Council on September 15, 2008.