

TOMPKINS COUNTY WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL

**September 20, 2010
Meeting Minutes**

Voting Members Present (13): Sharon Anderson, Liz Cameron, Barry Goodrich, Joan Jurkowich, Darby Kiley, Gregg McConnell, Jim McGarry, Frank Proto, Elaine Quaroni, Marjory Rinaldo-Lee, Cindy Schulte, Craig Schutt, Mary Shelley

Voting Members Excused (4): Ed Bugliosi, Carol Chock, Roxy Johnston, Dan Karig

Voting Members Absent (2): Lynn Leopold, Rick Manning

Non-Voting Members Present (5): John Andersson (Associate), Dooley Kiefer (Associate), John Mawdsley (Associate), Linda Wagenet (Associate), Lisa Wright-Mathews (Associate)

Guests: Martha Armstrong, Dave Herrick, Damon Rodnac

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

Chair Frank Proto called the meeting to order at 4:22 PM.

Agenda Review and Approval of Minutes – There were no changes to the agenda. The draft minutes of July 19, 2010 were moved by Liz Cameron, seconded by Barry Goodrich and passed by voice vote without change.

The Countywide Intermunicipal Water & Sewer Feasibility Study – Guests Martha Armstrong, of Tompkins County Area Development, and Dave Herrick, of T G Miller, were introduced by Frank Proto. Frank said the final report on the Water & Sewer Study was presented to area officials at a meeting at the Tompkins County Public Library, where it was well received. Martha reported that a TCAD economic collaborative established goals and sought to locate areas where housing and commercial centers could be located or enhanced. They wondered if infrastructure exists that is capable of supporting expansion. TCAD worked with the Tompkins County Council of Governments and Tompkins County Planning Department. They sought information countywide, and also wanted to put the study results into layman's terms for the public. The study was conducted by T G Miller, Stearns & Wheler, and John Andersson.

Dave Herrick proceeded with a report on the results of the study. Paper copies of the first half of the document were provided, and the entire report is available on the TCAD website (<http://www.tcad.org/pubs/pubsReport.php>). The study team met with water and wastewater system operators and municipal elected officials and staff. They learned about system capacities, condition, and existing partnerships. The resulting list of existing infrastructure is available on page 5 of the report. They defined capacity and ability to expand, and expressed those in terms of dwelling units that could be served. They found plenty of capacity, which was mapped as water service, wastewater service, and overlapping services. The City of Ithaca has existing capacity for 6,000 more housing units. Rural areas, which were the principal target of the study, have an additional existing capacity for 6,000 more housing units. Tables 2 and 3 on page 26 show capacities. Some of the study areas are maxed out or have limited capability for expansion. The study team identified those that have capacity now, will be ready in 5 years, and will be ready in 10 years. Page 38 shows the element of time. The team examined potential Development Focus Areas, as initially identified by T C Planning, throughout the County where other plans have identified areas for expansion based on infrastructure, transportation, and jobs. The chart on page 39 has analysis showing opportunities. The study team also looked at what has to be done to bring infrastructure to target areas, and those results are on pages 40-41-42. They did some estimates of costs for extending services in a manner that could serve approximately 2,800 more housing units.

Martha concluded by saying lots of capacity exists, and there are many situations with partnerships across municipal lines. The report is organized by municipality in order to be usable. There was a question about an area that is not a circle on the map. Joan Jurkowich explained the circles came from T C Planning, and were meant to show areas that have infrastructure, transportation, jobs, retail, and community organizations within an area of walking distance. Martha explained the circles on page 38 are color coded for which infrastructure is in place or expected in 5+ or 10+ years. Dave pointed out that the green circles in South Lansing, Village of Lansing, and at Rt 366 show they would be cost effective

for immediate development. Joan said the circles began as best guesses, and some will move slightly. Frank Proto pointed out that the circles don't prevent people from building outside these target area, knowing they will need to provide independent water & sewer. Joan concurred that they are not meant to be restrictive. Martha said this information is available to all municipalities, many of which are making land use decisions now. The study oversight committee included Martha Armstrong, Jean McPheeters (Chamber of Commerce), Jim Shurtleff (recently retired from Groton Public Works), Liz Cameron (T C Environmental Health), Don Barber (Town of Caroline Supervisor), Martha Robertson (T C Legislature), and Ed Marx (T C Planning).

Update to the Nomination Process/Membership Seats Document – Cindy Schulte reported the Legislature approved the change of the WRC Economic Development seat to At-Large. Marjory Rinaldo-Lee moved to change the language of the Member List. There was discussion about including in the changes an annual discussion at WRC about desired skillsets as part of the appointment process. Joan Jurkovich moved to amend the draft, using wording provided by Mary Shelley: Each year the Nominating Committee shall discuss with the entire Council desired skillsets. Seconded by Cindy Schulte and passed by voice vote. The amended draft was moved by Joan Jurkovich, seconded by Sharon Anderson and passed by voice vote.

Cindy then reported on the committee's recent actions. Preferred skillsets were discussed at WRC twice and at PDEQ twice. PDEQ members wanted to know where people live and their Cornell affiliation. These have been reviewed, so Cindy feels we have addressed that concern. Guidelines for the appointment process are in place. Cindy raised the possibility that a reapplying member will begin working for the County, and asked if WRC members felt that was a conflict of interest. T C Planning Commissioner Ed Marx has indicated that decision would be up to WRC in this case. Darby Kiley announced she will begin work at TCPD on 10/12. During discussion, no opposition was voiced to having her continue to serve in a voting seat. Cindy noted there are nine applications for seven voting seats. Copies of applications, committee tools, and recruiting materials were available for member review.

Committee Reports – Streams: Mary Shelly reported that they are examining regulations for the Susquehanna as they relate to water withdrawal for gas drilling. Dan Karig is doing further research. Joan Jurkovich said T C Planning has requested 2011 funding for the Flood Hazard Mitigation Program, and could provide a final or update report as part of this committee's goals. Monitoring Plan: Darby Kiley reported they met. Water sampling continues. Lake Source Cooling's permit has been extended "as is" until a new permit is issued. Aquifers: Liz Cameron reported they provided training on 8/18 to code enforcement officers, which was conducted by John Andersson and Todd Miller. She said it was excellent and well received. Education: Elaine Quaroni said they finished descriptions of all committees and they have been posted to the website, which should be checked by members. Let Kathy Wilsea know if you want changes or additions. Elaine recommended using the Gas Drilling page as an example, as it is the most complete. We still need to post the Cayuga Lake 2.0 series that has appeared in the Ithaca Journal. Executive: Frank Proto said their last action was to wrap up the gas drilling letter drafted by Dan Karig to EPA. This was mailed to EPA and presented by Carol Chock at the Binghamton hearings. Grants: Craig Schutt said there is no action to report. He did have a conversation recently with a representative of the agriculture non-point source program, who said Tompkins County gets the highest percentage of that program's funding.

Chair Report – Frank Proto reported the County budget meetings are ongoing for the Legislature. T C Planning already presented, with a proposal that will cut hours but preserve positions. Joan Jurkovich noted there will have to be some program cuts in order to meet the reduced hours. Frank said concern about contamination spread by fly ash from AES Cayuga has been in the press recently. A facility tour is being organized, and many WRC members expressed interest.

Staff Report – Kathy Wilsea reported she will be on vacation for part of October, so will send an email reminder about the meeting date, then issue the agenda on 10/13 for the 10/18 meeting. She shared a 1974 aerial photo of Ithaca.

Announcements/Other Business – Cindy Schulte provided flyers for the October 16 pharmaceuticals collection event. Darby announced a meeting tomorrow, sponsored by the Stormwater Coalition, with speakers from DEC. Frank mentioned legislators have a budget meeting at 5 PM on the next WRC date, and he will check with Roxy Johnson to see if she will be available to chair the end of the meeting. Barry Goodrich asked to be excused 10/18.

Adjournment -- The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Wilsea, Planning Department Secretary
Adopted by the Council on October 18, 2010.