EMC Minutes
Oct. 8, 4:00 p.m.
Via Zoom

Attendance

Member		Seat	Member		Seat
Steve Bissen	P	Town of Dryden	Barry Siebe	P	Town of Groton
Christine Collins	P	Town of Ulysses	Brian Wendel	P	At-Large
Cait Darfler	P	At-Large	Kathleen Yen	P	At-Large
Edward Dubovi	A	Town of Lansing	Elaine Tietjen	P	At-Large
Kitty Gifford	E	Town of Newfield	*Adam Vinson*	A	*Legislative Liaison*
Thomas Hirasuna	P	At-Large	*Karen Edelstein*	A	*Associate*
Siobhan Hull	E	City of Ithaca	*David Weinstein*	A	*Associate*
Pete Loucks	A	Town of Ithaca	*Robert Wesley*	A	*Associate*
Peter McDonald	E	Town of Danby	*Jack Zinda*	A	*Associate*
Melissa Millspaugh	P	Town of Enfield	Darby Kiley	E	Tompkins Co. staff
Steve Nicholson	P	Town of Caroline	Kristin McCarthy	P	Tompkins Co. staff
Susan Riley	E	At-Large			

Guests – Jessika Bond, Luke Bradley, Hailley Delisle, Terry Carroll, Sarah Eckel, Lauren Ray

Call to Order/Agenda Review/Privilege of the Floor – Chair Cait Darfler called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. No changes were made to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes – The September 2026 draft meeting minutes could not be approved due to lack of quorum.

Icebreaker Breakout Rooms – Members shared favorite fall traditions.

Legislative Liaison Update – None

Presentation/Discussion: County Climate Action Plan – *Terry Carroll and Hailley Delisle, DPS*

Hailley Delisle, sustainability coordinator, and Terry Carroll, chief sustainability officer, presented on the County's update to its Climate Action Plan, a community-informed roadmap of priority actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that succeeds the County's Energy Roadmap. They covered the County's greenhouse gas inventories, conducted since 1998 and most recently in 2024, its goal of reaching net zero as soon as possible while remaining financially solvent, and how emissions data are estimated. Members then gave feedback through an interactive poll. Discussion covered local climate impacts such as flooding, extreme weather, and wildfire smoke; groups and areas most vulnerable to those impacts; possible County actions, given that the County lacks land use authority; sector priorities; and climate solutions members have seen elsewhere. Terry explained that the next phase will be outreach to the broader community, after which he and Hailley will return to the EMC with proposed strategies and actions. The poll will remain open for additional input.

Committee Updates

Executive – Cait reported that the rescheduled meeting with NYS Assemblymember Anna Kelles will be held Wednesday, October 21, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at Cinemapolis. Members were asked to RSVP again for the new date. The meeting will include an overview of state-level issues followed by questions and discussion, and a virtual option will be available, though in-person attendance is encouraged.

Legislative – None due to time constraints.

Outreach – Elaine and Melissa presented the draft survey of county educators, which aims to learn how teachers use natural areas and outdoor spaces, build a countywide network of environmental educators, and raise the EMC's profile. They reviewed the survey's main sections, covering schools' use of outdoor spaces, barriers to that use, helpful resources, and interest in community partners and guest speakers. Discussion covered how to categorize subject areas, adding a question about teachers serving as resources for colleagues, and distribution through district administrators, ICSD science liaisons, PTAs, and a point person in each school community. Members also discussed setting a response deadline with a reminder, using Melissa's town email as the contact, and adding the EMC logo. Because a quorum was not present, members were asked to comment on the shared survey document over the next week, after which the executive committee will approve the final version for distribution.

Unique Natural Areas – None due to time constraints.

Action: Member Appointments – Applications could not be voted on due to lack of quorum.

Staff Report – None

Municipal Updates – TK

Member Announcements – TK

Adjournment – Meeting was adjourned at 5:34 p.m.