

Tompkins County Environmental Management Council

Thursday, June 11, 2026, 4:00-5:30PM

<https://tompkinscountyny-gov.zoom.us/j/99213487047?pwd=ckNBZldNejRHS0poWk9KcHIHQ21UUT09>

Meeting ID: 992 1348 7047; **Passcode:** 169604

One tap mobile: +16465588656, 99213487047# US (New York)

Agenda

Land Acknowledgement

We are holding this meeting on the traditional homeland of the Gayogoho:no (the Cayuga Nation) members of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, an alliance of sovereign nations with a historic and contemporary presence on this land. We acknowledge the violent and painful history of the Gayogoho:no's dispossession and honor their ongoing connection to these lands and waters.

1.	Call to Order/Agenda Review/Approval of Minutes	4:00
2.	Ice Breaker – Breakout Rooms	
3.	Presentation/Discussion: Supporting a Regional Movement for Sustainability and Justice – <i>Gay Nicholson, Sustainable Finger Lakes</i>	4:10
4.	Committee Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Executive• Outreach• Unique Natural Areas• Legislative	4:40
5.	Municipal Representative Updates	5:05
6.	Legislative Liaison Update	5:15
7.	Staff Report	5:20
8.	Member Announcements	5:25
9.	Adjournment* <i>*If wanted, Cait is happy to stay after for brief (5-15 mins) informal member check-ins as needed. Please ask for this before the meeting ends.</i>	5:30

EMC Draft Minutes
April 9, 4:00 p.m.
Via Zoom

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Attendance

Member		Seat	Member		Seat
Dan Antonioli	A	At-Large	Susan Riley	P	At-Large
Steve Bissen	P	Town of Dryden	Barry Siebe	P	Town of Groton
Christine Collins	E	Town of Ulysses	Brian Wendel	P	At-Large
Cait Darfler	P	At-Large	Kathleen Yen	P	At-Large
Edward Dubovi	P	Town of Lansing	Elaine Tietjen	P	At-Large
Ace Dufresne	P	Student 1	<i>Adam Vinson</i>	P	<i>Legislative Liaison</i>
Thomas Hirasuna	P	At-Large	<i>Karen Edelstein</i>	A	<i>Associate</i>
Siobhan Hull	P	City of Ithaca	<i>David Weinstein</i>	A	<i>Associate</i>
Pete Loucks	P	Town of Ithaca	<i>Robert Wesley</i>	A	<i>Associate</i>
Peter McDonald	E	Town of Danby	<i>Jack Zinda</i>	A	<i>Associate</i>
Melissa Millspaugh	P	Town of Enfield	Darby Kiley	E	Tompkins Co. staff
Steve Nicholson	P	Town of Caroline	Kristin McCarthy	P	Tompkins Co. staff

5 **Guests:** Terry Carroll, Max Heitner, Lauren Ray, Jake Salman

6 **Call to Order** – Chair Cait Darfler called the meeting to order at 4:02pm. An outreach committee update
7 was added to the agenda, and the group conducted a brief round of introductions.

8 **Approval of Minutes** – The March 2026 draft meeting minutes were approved (motion by Susan Riley,
9 second by Kathleen Yen) as submitted.

10 **Report/Discussion: What’s Next for the UNAs? A Land Trust Perspective on Local Land Conservation**

11 – *Max Heitner, Finger Lakes Land Trust*

12 Max from the Finger Lakes Land Trust (FLLT) reported on FLLT's land conservation strategies, including
13 an overview of the organization's four-part mission — scenic vistas, local foods, clean water, and wild
14 places — and its work across 12 counties and 200 towns. The presentation built on a prior meeting with
15 the UNA committee and offered a helpful lens for thinking about how FLLT's conservation priorities
16 intersect with the county's Unique Natural Areas program, including which UNAs fall within FLLT focus
17 areas and are close to existing conserved lands. The report described three main project types: nature
18 preserves, cooperative transfer projects, and conservation easements, with an emphasis on the
19 importance of building connected rather than isolated conserved lands. Discussion touched on the new
20 NY Open Space Conservation Grant Program, easement monitoring and enforcement, and FLLT's
21 engagement with municipal planning departments.

22 **Report/Discussion: 2024 Greenhouse Gas Inventory** – *Terry Carroll, TC Dept. of Planning & Sustainability*

23 Terry presented on the 2024 Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory, noting that Tompkins County has
24 conducted inventories since 1998 — the first led by the EMC — with the 2024 reports currently in
25 second-draft review and expected to be released by end of month. Key methodological changes include
26 a shift toward tracking consumptive units, adoption of the NYS Department of Environmental
27 Conservation methodology for upstream and downstream fossil fuel emissions, and the first-ever
28 inclusion of employee commute data. The inventory showed overall decreases in electricity and natural

29 gas use, growth in solar generation driven primarily by utility-scale solar farms, and identified
30 transportation, agricultural livestock, and industrial activity as the largest community-wide emissions
31 sources. Terry highlighted that while electricity accounts for a significant share of community energy
32 use, it is responsible for a much smaller share of emissions compared to natural gas, underscoring the
33 case for electrification. Discussion touched on barriers to residential solar storage adoption, a
34 suggestion to track per-capita energy usage in future inventories, and next steps, which include a
35 community engagement process to inform a Climate Action Plan.

36 **Committee Updates**

37 Cait reminded everyone that the executive committee report had been shared via email before the
38 meeting. Steve N. reported on behalf of the UNA committee that a second letter to the developers of
39 the Trillium Farm/Trillium Woods project in the Town of Dryden is in progress, and that the committee
40 will review a revised development plan before finalizing the letter ahead of an anticipated town
41 planning board meeting. Elaine updated everyone on behalf of the outreach committee about the UNA
42 fieldtrip on May 9. Members were also encouraged to submit photos of UNAs for use in the Green Scene
43 newsletter. The legislative committee has a survey list of issues ready for Earth Day.

44 **Municipal Representative Updates)**

45 None

46 **Legislative Liaison Update**

47 None

48 **Staff Report**

49 None

50 **Member Announcements**

51 None

52 **Adjournment** – Chair Cait Darfler adjourned the meeting at 5:30pm.