

AGENDA
EMC MEETING

May 10, 2012 ■ LOCATION: 395 Pine Tree Road ■ 4:00 p.m.

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| I. | Privilege of the Floor | 4:00 |
| II. | Changes to the Agenda & Approval of Minutes | 4:05 |
| III. | Committee Reports with Updates and Question Period
<i>Energy, Environmental Review, Executive, UNA Update</i> | 4:10 |
| IV. | Staff Report – <i>Scott Doyle & Kathy Wilsea</i> | 4:25 |
| V. | Member Items
<i>Brian Eden: programs attended, issues deserving of EMC attention, subjects for future presentations</i> | 4:30 |
| VI. | Planning for the State of the Environment Report – <i>Steve Nicholson</i> | 4:45 |
| VII. | Recycle and Repurpose on Cornell Campus – <i>Spring Buck</i>
Recyclemania, Campus Conservation Nationals,
Reduction, Proposal to work with IHS on similar efforts | 5:00 |
| VIII. | Adjournment | 5:30 |

Upcoming Meeting Dates: June 14, July 12

Reminder to Members:
If you are unable to attend, please contact:
Steve Nicholson, Chair (scnfish@gmail.com) or
Kathy Wilsea, Secretary (274-5560 or kwilsea@tompkins-co.org).

8 **DRAFT – Minutes of the EMC General Meeting**
9 **March 8, 2012**
10

11 **Voting Members Present (13):** Poney Carpenter, Kenny Christianson, Brian Eden, Kate Engler, Martha Ferger,
12 Bill Halton, Emily Hamilton, Jim McGarry, Steve Nicholson, Kristine Shaw, Gary Stewart, Lucia Tyler, Ed Wilson

13 **Voting Member Excused (4):** Spring Buck, Katie Kelly, Dan Lamb, Roger Yonkin

14 **Non-Voting Members Present (2):** Peter Harriott, Dooley Kiefer

15 **Guests Present:** Will Burbank, Pegi Ficken, Eric Nicholson, Carolyn Peterson

16 **Staff Present:** Scott Doyle, Kathy Wilsea
17

18 **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order by Chair Steve Nicholson at 4:05 p.m.
19

20 **Privilege of the Floor** – There were no visitors who wished to speak under Privilege of the Floor.
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22 **Changes to the Agenda and Approval of Minutes** – There were no changes to the agenda. The draft minutes were
23 accepted without change. Dooley Kiefer objected to the brevity of the minutes, as she missed the meeting and the
24 minutes did not describe what occurred. It was explained that the staff person could not cover all of the breakout
25 groups at one time. Final minutes are available on the EMC webpage: www.tompkins-co.org/emc.
26

27 **Committee Reports** – Environmental Review: Jim McGarry said the group has addressed the Big Red Marching Band
28 facility in addition to the information that was provided with the agenda. Brian Eden has met with Ed Marx about
29 coordinated watershed planning, and Brian made sure Ed was aware of our dredging comments. Jim said ERC will try to do
30 some follow-up this year and see how municipalities use our comments. He will make calls about ERC comments on the
31 Cornell Sailing Center project. Gary Stewart had questions about that, and committee members said the CU compliance
32 officer was unaware of the dredging component, and there is no mention in the DEC permit application about dredging or
33 what actions would be taken if Hydrilla is detected. Steve mentioned EMC efforts to sponsor an April public event on
34 Hydrilla, and Brian said there are difficulties in finding a meeting place. Energy: Brian Eden reported their meetings will
35 be the third Tuesday of the month at the Planning Dept. Plants are growing in the spaces at the edges of the solar panels on
36 the public library, and will affect the equipment's efficiency. The Liberty Solar installations on other County facilities will
37 require regular maintenance, and Brian has suggested to Ed Marx that the library be added to that schedule. The committee
38 is encouraging Tompkins County to invest in renewable energy sources. Brian submitted an article for the TC Climate
39 Protection Initiative annual report.
40

41 **Announcements** – Brian reported EPA released a report on dioxin this week. Steve Nicholson said Black Oak Wind farm is
42 seeking investors, and there was discussion on whether this is an IPO or an interim step that differs from an IPO. Steve
43 referred interested members to the Black Oak website.
44

45 **Strategic Retreat: Next Steps** – Brian felt last month's work was a nice exercise. He reviewed the chart of member
46 support for topics, which was prepared by Steve based on each member's three votes. Now the Executive Committee seeks
47 ways to put energy into the priority items by examining EMC's role, gathering input from the community, advocating for
48 action, and building relationships across municipal boundaries. The two topics that ranked highest were: reduce disposable
49 bag use and improve composting opportunities. Some areas charge for bags, some ban bags. Brian mentioned some ideas
50 for sliding scales. If a regulatory law is enacted, penalties would need to be enforced, so that would be a drawback.
51 Communities with per-bag fees have seen large reductions in use. Brian has been talking with Barbara Eckstrom at Solid
52 Waste about some of these ideas. Concerning composting, curbside collection might be possible. A meeting will be held
53 with Solid Waste during the week of 4/23 to interact with others who might be interested. This date would follow Barbara
54 Eckstrom's visit to BioCycle. On March 18, Solid Waste will begin accepting compostables on site at Commercial Avenue.

55 Odors, emissions, attraction of wildlife are concerns. Peggy Ficken, who was visiting from Groton, suggested encouraging
56 people to raise chickens and use of worms in composting are valid ideas. Carolyn Peterson, visiting from the City of Ithaca,
57 reported the City will be charging residents when they find yard waste in their trash. Common Council member Jennifer
58 Dotson is looking into having neighborhood composting sites. Cayuga Compost generally accepts compost materials from
59 schools and restaurants.

60
61 Brian also mentioned Earth Day and the Ithaca Festival as events that EMC should be working on. Dooley suggested update
62 of the Invasive Species list, which came from Cornell Plantations. Kristine Shaw said Spring Buck began working on that
63 when she chaired the Communications Committee, and it had been agreed to use the list from Plantations, which is updated
64 regularly.

65
66 **Working Towards Paperless Goals** – Steve reported three members of the Executive Committee met with Ed Marx about
67 eliminating paper usage. We hope to use the projector in the future and put the meeting documents on the room screen so
68 members don't need to print meeting materials. Lucia Tyler pointed out it is difficult to connect to the Internet in this room.

69
70 **City of Ithaca Priorities Concerning the Environment** – Mayor Svante Myrick joined us for discussion. His four main
71 goals are to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions of City operations, which is a continuation of former mayor Carolyn
72 Peterson's goals; purchase renewable power; increase use of solar panels; and green the City's fleet. Most of the City's land
73 conservation efforts involve its parks. In terms of land use, he feels if the City provides dense housing it will help prevent
74 sprawl in other municipalities. Citizens can benefit from locating housing near transit. Better building codes will help attain
75 GHG goals. He also wants to promote technologies like combined heat and power, and innovations for transit.

76
77 During discussion with members and visitors, Mr. Myrick agreed the greenhouse gasses produced by the manufacturing
78 process for electric cars can't be separated from the calculations of benefit from vehicle use, which means decision-making
79 on this topic is difficult. He understands public transit doesn't always work, as routes and scheduling are not always useful.
80 Even agriculture and local foods are concerns for the City. But if the City works best as a city, other municipalities can pick
81 up the agriculture. The City may change codes for chickens, and increase the number of community gardens. Some CSA
82 operations are now delivering, so that helps people who use transit but can't get to the right spot or carry the produce on the
83 bus. A visitor commented that the City can control its operation emissions, but needs to have a big effort to encourage the
84 community to follow suit. The Mayor acknowledged some citizens are having trouble with wood stove emissions from their
85 neighbors. This is difficult when the wood stoves meet standards but still are bothering the neighbors. The density of
86 housing in the City required certain regulations. Concerning solar panels and renewable energy, he was interested by Poney
87 Carpenter's suggestions to use the City's buying power to help citizens get bulk prices, perhaps through cooperatives.

88
89 Carolyn Peterson suggested adding cleanup of contaminated sites to the Mayor's priority list. This is another facet of a
90 clean environment, and there are several huge, difficult spots in the City. He said it is very easy to consider staffing as the
91 main business cost, but it is also necessary to keep the environment clean, which is sometimes expensive for businesses.
92 Concerning interaction of staff from various municipalities, he acknowledged it is difficult to get them to interact, and sees
93 this as a trust issue. Currently there is some interaction between the City and Town of Ithaca planning staff, as they are both
94 updating their comprehensive plans. And the County is working on meetings for municipal planning boards and elected
95 officials on the topic of nodal development. Peter Harriott said he had voiced objection at the January EMC meeting to the
96 City's purchase of green energy certificates without specifics on how that price would be used by the agent. The Mayor was
97 interested in this and will follow up with Peter. Concerning the Cayuga Lake Waterfront Trail, there are no new strategies,
98 but some new energy. On historic preservation, some areas are formally protected, and concerning construction on E. State
99 Street, the former mayor and common council members didn't realize zoning would allow the type of housing project that is
100 being built. There were no rules for parcel consolidation that would have blocked the project. Emily Hamilton, a member
101 of the City's CAC, asked how CAC can tell how "green" a project is, and asked if the City has standards. Mr. Myrick
102 acknowledged the process is unwieldy. They have completed a local action plan, a green fleet plan, and a green purchasing
103 plan. A green building code is being researched, and he suggested CAC could work with the building commissioner on that.

104
105 **Adjournment** – Kathy Wilsea announced there were paper copies of the EMC annual report, the bi-annual T C Local
106 publication, and membership applications available by the exit. The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

107
108 Respectfully submitted,
109 Kathy Wilsea, Secretary, Tompkins County Planning Department
110 Approved by Council on __, 2012

8 **DRAFT – Minutes of the Community Meeting on Hydrilla**
9 **Co-sponsored by EMC, The Hydrilla Task Force, Cornell Plantations and**
10 **Cornell Cooperative Extension/Tompkins**
11 **April 12, 2012**
12 **Location: Cornell Plantations Welcome Center**

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14 **EMC Voting Members Present (13):** Spring Buck, Kenny Christianson, Brian Eden, Kate Engler, Martha Ferger,
15 Bill Halton, Emily Hamilton, Katie Kelly, Jim McGarry, Steve Nicholson, Kristine Shaw, Gary Stewart, Lucia
16 Tyler,

17 **EMC Voting Members Excused (4):** Poney Carpenter, Ed Wilson, Roger Yonkin

18 **EMC Voting Member Absent (1):** Dan Lamb

19 **EMC Non-Voting Members Present (1):** Dooley Kiefer

20 **Staff Present:** Kathy Wilsea
21

22 **Call to Order** – The meeting was convened by moderator Sharon Anderson at 4:30 p.m. She introduced Roxy Johnston,
23 who gave a PowerPoint slide show reviewing the history from Hydrilla’s identification in Cayuga Inlet in 2011 to planned
24 work for 2012. The slide show is available on the chart of agendas and minutes on the EMC webpage: [www.tompkins-](http://www.tompkins-co.org/emc)
25 [co.org/emc](http://www.tompkins-co.org/emc).
26

27 **Questions & Answers** – Members of the Task Force were available to answer questions from attendees. This panel
28 included Julie Holcomb (City of Ithaca Clerk), Angel Dybas (Soil & Water Conservation District), Liz Cameron (Tompkins
29 County Environmental Health), Roxy Johnston (City of Ithaca Watershed Coordinator), and Lynn Bogan and Josh Teeter
30 (State Parks).

- 31 • Is the plant viable if dried and rehydrated? Yes, the tubers and turions are viable for years.
- 32 • Does incineration destroy viability? Yes, but can only be implemented on small scales. Gaps still exist in research,
33 and it may be possible to destroy the pulled tubers through treatment at the Ithaca Area Wastewater Treatment
34 Facility’s anaerobic process.
- 35 • How deep can the plant grow, and is that based on sunlight availability? 31 feet, and the plan needs very little light
36 in clear water. Roxy Johnston noted the north and south ends of Cayuga Lake are very shallow, which leaves them
37 vulnerable to dense infestation.
- 38 • Concerning funding, is the grant we have heard about recently “new” money? Craig Schutt (SWCD) said this is
39 new grant money in the amount of \$800,000.
- 40 • Concern was voiced about impacts of herbicide treatment on the Inlet. Will non-targeted species be affected? What
41 species are of most concern in the Inlet? Roxy referred people with interest about the impacts of chemicals to the
42 CCE webpage. For plants, plans are to catalog all those found and assess impacts and changes. No other biota
43 studies are planned at this point.
- 44 • Is the Inlet scheduled for dredging? Julie Holcomb said the City should know in the next 1 or 2 months, as the
45 project partners are interacting more.
- 46 • Are results known of pesticide aftereffects from last year? Roxy said results were as expected, with 95% knock
47 down of Hydrilla biomass. They were unable to do detailed monitoring in 2011, but hope to have enough funding
48 to do it in 2012. Liz Cameron said drinking water supply tests were conducted. Near Bolton Point intake pipes, the
49 highest readings (on two occasions) were 9 parts per billion, which is considered safe.
- 50 • Does the schedule for Endothall application take fish migration into account? Roxy said application is expected
51 between mid-May and mid-June. Odd weather impacts the plan. Bob Johnson has been monitoring the Inlet all
52 winter to help plan the best application time. There is no plan in place to monitor animal biota.

- 53 • Will dredging be supplementally effective? Would it mobilize plant fragments? Don't we need to be very
54 thoughtful about dredging? Julie Holcomb said dredging *has* to happen due to flooding risk. The good news is that
55 by combining projects, scientific studies can also be conducted.
- 56 • Is there any consideration of putting a screen in place downstream? Julie said this is being considered.
- 57 • Can the Canal Corporation lower the water level in the lake to help? Julie said this action can place drinking water
58 wells at risk. The current low level is weather-related. All the partners are working together for best mitigation.
59 Sharon Anderson said Canal Corp is part of the Task Force. They are cooperative, but their actions are tightly
60 regulated by NYS.
- 61 • Has the Task Force checked the shelf of Cayuga Lake by Stewart Park? Roxy said yes, they keep checking that
62 spot. The lake circulation pattern drives vegetation up on shore at Stewart Park, where it freezes.
- 63 • Eradication and control programs are very expensive in other states. Are they successful? Roxy suggested
64 checking with Bob Johnson on this. Washington and California have successful eradication programs, and some
65 other states have long-term control programs. Maine and Indiana are just starting to battle Hydrilla.
- 66 • Is there a water stewards program at State Parks? Lynn Bogan responded there is a water stewards program through
67 the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, with funds made available for this as a grant to the Finger Lakes Institute.
68 Staff will work in area state parks to collect data on vegetation and invertebrates. One person will work full time at
69 Allan Treman Marina, and others will work in a circuit.
- 70 • Boaters need education. Can Hydrilla education be combined with DEC's education campaign about not moving
71 fire wood? Roxy said last year information went out on radio and other media. An outreach group is working with
72 some Cornell students to develop a campaign. Josh Teeter is trying to find a writer for national media article.
- 73 • Can you use mass emails? Josh Teeter said State Parks has a distribution list for Treman Marina specifically, plus
74 some other distribution lists. There will be signs at the Inlet and along the lake. Sharon Anderson stressed that
75 word of mouth works.
- 76 • Will there be other meetings? What is needed? CCE and Cayuga Lake Watershed Network websites will have
77 information on meetings planned for May 3 and May 6 at Merrill Sailing Center, where participants can learn to
78 identify Hydrilla. Volunteers can help with the outreach booth at the Farmers Market.
- 79 • Hydrilla risks need to be mentioned to fishermen, too. Roxy agreed, saying fishermen need to take fragments to a
80 safe disposal site.
- 81 • Are water monitoring groups helping? Yes, and their training will include Hydrilla identification.
- 82 • Can you provide a sample letter for citizens to send to elected officials? Roxy said they might work on that at the
83 next Task Force meeting. Sharon Anderson pointed out CCE can't lobby, so needs to watch the balance of
84 information they publish.
- 85 • Is there direct outreach to lakeshore property owners? Roxy said there is, and the Floating Classroom did a
86 presentation to Ithaca Sail & Power Squadron, which included some members of the Yacht Club. The college
87 crews went to the Yacht Club last year while the Inlet was closed, so Yacht Club was aware last year, too.
- 88 • Is this effort on FaceBook? Not yet, but Sharon Anderson said Cornell students working on outreach may address
89 this. Someone else warned there is an I Love Hydrilla website, which is something to counteract. Roxy Johnston
90 warned some people think Hydrilla is a health food, but it is too hard to control here. There is too little plant matter
91 and too much water for use as biofuel. Also, some fishermen consider it beneficial in its early stages, but in the
92 long run it is detrimental for fish.
- 93 • Are there any laws on Hydrilla? Roxy said the Assistant County Attorney is examining possibilities. In some states
94 it is illegal to transport invasives, but there are no laws here. It would help if it were a ticketable violation. Some
95 other waterbodies require inspections and provide stickers when boats/trailers are inspected. In NYS there are laws
96 about aquatic invasive animals, terrestrial invasive plants and terrestrial invasive animals. But with no laws for
97 aquatic invasive plants, rapid response, accelerated permitting for treatment, and shut down of navigation are not
98 quick.

100 **Adjournment** – Sharon Anderson noted that the CCE website is kept up to date and will have a list of upcoming events.
101 She thanked Cornell Plantations for co-hosting the event and providing meeting space. The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

102
103 Respectfully submitted,
104 Kathy Wilsea, Secretary
105 Tompkins County Planning Department

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107 Approved by Council on __, 2012