

**Minutes of the EMC General Meeting  
June 10, 2009**

**Voting Members Present (15):** Spring Buck, Kenny Christianson, Roberta Dixon, Dan Lamb, Stan Marcus, Jim McGarry, Michael Miles, Tony Nekut, Amy Risen, Roger Segelken, Jacie Spoon, Gary Stewart, Andrea Turner, Lucia Tyler, Marissa Weiss, Mark Whitmore, Roger Yonkin

**Voting Members Excused (0):** Martha Ferger, Kariann Mackie-Cunningham, Steve Nicholson, Kristine Shaw,

**Voting Members Absent (0):** Larry Sharpsteen, Joanne Trutko,

**Non-Voting Members Present (1):** Carol Chock, Joyce Gerbasi, Peter Harriott, Dooley Kiefer

**Guests Present:** Steve Whicher

**Staff Present:** Kathy Wilsea

**Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order by Chair Amy Risen at 7:08 p.m.

**Committee Meetings** – Members participated in committee meetings until 8:15, when brief updates were given on upcoming meetings and new members.

**Liaison Report** -- Cornell Community Waste Management Advisory Council – Kenny Christianson said the digester is in the testing phase. Walter Hang's editorial in the Ithaca Journal was drawn on an extreme case scenario, and has raised some public concern. Paul Jennett of Cornell is doing a lot of outreach. A resolution is being prepared for the Ithaca Area Wastewater Treatment Facility partners to approve the process. Dooley Kiefer attended the most recent CCWMAC meeting and reported that IAWWTF is conducting a headworks analysis; treatment at Watertown is much cheaper, and waste will continue to be trucked there for the time being; startup tests are beginning; and validation testing will be done by a state agency in September.

**Municipal Report** -- Town of Danby – Roberta Dixon reported that she attended the 6/1 town board meeting. Current topics are revision to subdivision regulations and consideration of a right-to-farm law. A public meeting will be held on guideline development for protection of infrastructure, especially roads, directed at equipment of gas drilling companies. Another meeting is coming up for the Biomass project. Roberta shared an email she received from a citizen who would like EMC to take a lead on examining status and making recommendations on whether or not the Reynolds Game Farm (a DEC facility on Game Farm Road for breeding pheasants) is a viable resource or waste of taxpayer money. EMC members will consider whether it is appropriate for EMC to comment. Town of Caroline: Steve Nicholson was excused, but had provided information to Amy Risen and Kathy Wilsea by email. They shared his comments that the expansion of the Town Hall will have electrical power provided by photovoltaic collectors, and geothermal heat.

**Approval of Minutes** -- The minutes of May 13, 2009 were accepted with several changes. Marissa Weiss was added to the members present. Changes under Chair's Report: "The carbon cap and trade permit system has ~~many~~ opponents; *the house leadership plans to get cap & trade*, ~~who have a goal of getting carbon tax~~ legislation to the floor of the House by the end of July." Added at end of Member Items: "Dooley said they do so, but with a minimum number of items." Final minutes are available on the EMC webpage: [www.tompkins-co.org/emc](http://www.tompkins-co.org/emc).

**Schedule November Meeting (regular date falls on a holiday)** – It was agreed to hold the November meeting on 11/18 if the room is available. Kathy Wilsea will check on the facility.

**Chair's Report** – Amy Risen reported that the Executive Committee will meet after the council adjourns. They will discuss agenda items for future meetings.

**Staff Report** – Kathy Wilsea announced that the Great Lakes Program Director for DEC will be the guest speaker at the July 20 meeting of Water Resources Council.

**Legislature Liaison's Report** – Carol Chock reported on the resolution passed by the Legislature encouraging further action by DEC on points not included in the scoping document for the dSGEIS for gas drilling. County jurisdiction appears to be mostly protection of infrastructure as it pertains to the use of roads. The Legislature also established budget guidelines. At PDEQ today, they discussed keeping aquifer studies as a capital program, and passed a resolution for streambank stabilization contracts. At Tuesday's (6/16) Legislature meeting, they will address a resolution applying for FTA funds for several new buses that are not hybrid. Apparently TCAT has been unhappy with the hybrid buses procured in prior years. Carol expects debate at the Legislature meeting, and wondered if EMC could weigh in. Dan Lamb said the most advanced bus model, which is diesel/electric, is a NYS product that is setting new standards. Dooley Kiefer said the hybrids previously purchased for TCAT were much more expensive than other models, mileage was less than anticipated, and emissions were higher than anticipated (but lower than diesel). The recommendations in the resolution coming to the Legislature is based on work by TCAT. Spring Buck pointed out that any transit is better than use of private vehicles, and TCAT is a good transit system. In discussion, it was decided this is too complex an issue to develop an official EMC comment on by Tuesday, and no official spokesperson was assigned. Members may speak to the Legislature as private citizens under privilege of the floor.

**Member Items** – Roger Segelken reminded members there will be a highway cleanup on Saturday, 6/13 from 9:30 to 11:30.

**Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Wilsea, Secretary  
Tompkins County Planning Department

Approved by Council on July 8, 2009