

**AGENDA**  
**EMC MEETING**

September 13, 2012 ■ LOCATION: 395 Pine Tree Road ■ 4:00 p.m.

- |       |  |      |
|-------|--|------|
| I.    | Call to Order and Changes to the Agenda  |      |
| II.   | Privilege of the Floor   | 4:00 |
| III.  | Slide Show: Proposed Changes to the Unique Natural Areas Inventory<br>– Karen Edelstein & Robert Wesley                      | 4:05 |
| IV.   | Resolutions – <i>UNA Update Committee</i> :  | 4:50 |
|       | 01: Amendment to the UNA Inventory Document consisting of<br>boundary revisions to 43 UNAs                                   |      |
|       | 02: Amendment to the UNA Inventory Document for addition of a new<br>UNA to be called Hawthorn Orchard UNA-193               |      |
|       | 03: Amendment to the UNA Inventory Document for addition of a new<br>UNA to be called Salt Road Fen UNA-194                  |      |
| V.    | Approval of Minutes from 7/12/2012   | 5:00 |
| VI.   | Committee Reports and Member Questions<br>Energy, Environmental Review, Executive, Gas Drilling,<br>State of the Environment | 5:05 |
| VII.  | Member Items   | 5:15 |
| VIII. | Staff Reports – Scott Doyle & Kathy Wilsea   | 5:20 |
| IX.   | Invasive Species List – Spring Buck  | 5:25 |
| X.    | Adjournment  | 5:30 |

*Upcoming Meeting Dates: October 16\*, November 8*

*\*Special Meeting on Tuesday, October 16th, 7 PM, Tompkins County Public Library  
101 E. Green Street, Ithaca*

**Reminder to Members:**

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

*DRAFT Resolution 01 of 2012: Amendment to the Unique Natural Areas Inventory Document consisting of Boundary Revisions to 43 UNAs*

1. Whereas, The Unique Natural Areas Inventory of Tompkins County, New York includes an extensive database, GIS coverage, and report on 192 sites determined to contain significant ecological, biological, geological, or aesthetic characteristics, and
2. Whereas, The UNA Committee proposes boundary revisions updates to 43 (listed below) UNAs, and
3. Whereas, These revisions are based on property lines, inclusion of National Wetlands Inventory, conforming to edge of vegetation, inclusion of newly protected lands (e.g., nature preserves) , and/or changes in landcover since last field visit or aerial photography, and
4. Whereas, These boundary changes increase the total acreage of all UNA's from 1,488 acres to 17,404 acres, an increase of 16.8%, now therefore let it be resolved,
5. That the EMC approves amending the UNA Inventory to include boundary revisions to these 43 UNAs.

UNA

- |     |   |
|-----|---|
| 24  | Lake Cliffs, North of Myers Point             |
| 25  | Hidden Glens                                  |
| 36  | North McLean Marl Meadows                     |
| 37  | McLean Fen                                    |
| 39  | McLean Woods                                  |
| 40  | McLean Preserve and Adjacent Wetlands         |
| 43  | Beaver Brook Fens                             |
| 44  | East Malloryville Tamarack Swamp and Fen      |
| 45  | North Malloryville                            |
| 46  | Malloryville Bog, Swamp, Fens and Esker       |
| 48  | Peruton Swamp and Fens                        |
| 51  | Wyckoff Swamp                                 |
| 56  | Taughannock Gorge                             |
| 73  | Freeville Fir Tree Swamp                      |
| 75  | Malloryville Fen                              |
| 78  | Mud Creek Swamp                               |
| 89  | Lake Cliffs, McKinney's Point to Bolton Point |
| 100 | Stewart Park Woods (Fuentes Bird Sanctuary)   |
| 103 | McKinneys Twin Glens and Lake Cliffs          |
| 106 | Sapsucker Woods Bird Sanctuary                |
| 117 | Slaterville Wildflower Preserve (old 600)     |
| 118 | Dryden-Slaterville Fir Tree Swamp             |
| 120 | Ringwood Ponds                                |
| 130 | Fall Creek Valley, Ithaca                     |
| 132 | Beebe Lake Woods and Gorge                    |

- 134 Fall Creek Gorge, Ithaca Falls
- 139 Coy Glen
- 140 Culver Creek Ravine and Woods
- 143 Stevenson Forest Preserve
- 144 Enfield Glen
- 149 Lick Brook and Inlet Valley Slopes
- 150 Buttermilk Creek Gorge and Inlet Valley Slopes
- 154 South Hill Swamp
- 155 Eldridge Preserve
- 156 Six Mile Creek Valley, Ithaca
- 163 Fischer Old-Growth Forest and Inlet Valley Slopes
- 165 Carter Creek Preserve
- 171 Michigan Hollow Swamp and Ponds
- 172 Danby Fir Tree Swamp
- 180 Caroline Pinnacles
- 183 Shindagin Hollow
- 186 Thatcher's Pinnacles
- 188 West Danby Morainal Valley

Date: September 13, 2012

Voting In Favor:

Voting Against:

Abstentions:

*DRAFT Resolution 02 of 2012: Amendment to the Unique Natural Areas Inventory Document for addition of a new UNA to be called Hawthorn Orchard UNA-193*

1. Whereas, The Unique Natural Areas Inventory of Tompkins County, New York includes an extensive database, GIS coverage, and report on 192 sites determined to contain significant ecological, biological, geological, or aesthetic characteristics, and
2. Whereas, The Hawthorn Orchard natural areas are south of Mitchell Street and west of Pine Tree Road, near the Cornell tennis and equestrian centers, and
3. Whereas, this site includes part of a Cornell Natural Area know as Hawthorn Thicket, and
4. Whereas, the review team of the UNA committee has determined that this site meets the following criteria for inclusion in the UNA Inventory: Birding site, Cultural site, Designated natural area/preserve, Diverse fauna, Important teaching site, Rare or scarce animal, Recreational value, and Urban green space, Scenic/Aesthetic value, and
5. Whereas, this site is a good examples of abandoned agricultural land, much of which was used relatively recently for pasture, with a thicket dominated by thorny shrubs(Hawthorns (*Crataegus*) and European buckthorn) and small trees, with an understory of grasses and forbs, and
6. Whereas, in early spring, when the hawthorns are in bloom, the area attracts an unusually rich assemblage of migratory songbirds, including 35+ species of warblers, and more than 100 species of birds have been observed at this site, including other important passerines, such as hermit and wood thrushes, scarlet tanagers, indigo buntings, orchard and Baltimore orioles, and rose-breasted grosbeaks, and
7. Whereas, the hay meadow north of Honness Lane has a wonderful open view down the Six Mile Creek valley, and has been used for bird studies for many years, especially studies of meadow-loving species such as bluebird and goldfinch, now therefore let it be resolved,

That the EMC approves amending the UNA Inventory to include the Hawthorne Orchard as UNA-193

Date: September 13, 2012

Voting In Favor:

Voting Against:

Abstentions:

**DRAFT Resolution 03 of 2012: Amendment to the Unique Natural Areas Inventory Document for addition of a new UNA to be called Salt Road Fen UNA-194**

1. Whereas, The Unique Natural Areas Inventory of Tompkins County, New York includes an extensive database, GIS coverage, and report on 192 sites determined to contain significant ecological, biological, geological, or aesthetic characteristics, and
2. Whereas, the review team of the UNA committee has determined that this site meets the following criteria for inclusion in the UNA Inventory: Quality example of plant community, Diverse flora, Rare or scarce community types, and Rare or scarce plant species, and
3. Whereas, this fen is remarkable for botanical reasons; the high number of species at the site (including many rare and scarce ones), the number of typical or characteristic rich fen species, and the number of plants of the globally rare globeflower (*Trollius laxus*), and
4. Whereas, the New York Natural Heritage Program has determined that this site may contain rare plants, rare animals, and/or significant ecological communities, and
5. Whereas, this site is part of the National Wetlands Inventory with 10.82 acres of Freshwater Emergent Wetland, and
6. Whereas, fens are peat-forming wetlands that receive nutrients from sources other than precipitation: usually from upslope sources through drainage from surrounding mineral soils and from groundwater movement, and
7. Whereas, fens differ from bogs because they are less acidic and have higher nutrient levels they are therefore able to support a much more diverse plant and animal communities, and
8. Whereas, fens, like bogs, provide important benefits in a watershed, including preventing or reducing the risk of floods, improving water quality, and providing habitat for unique plant and animal communities, and
9. Whereas, because of the large historical loss of this ecosystem type, remaining fens are that much more rare, and it is crucial to protect them, and
10. Whereas, it is important to recognize that while mining and draining these ecosystems provide resources for people, up to 10,000 years are required to form a fen naturally, now therefore let it be resolved,

That the EMC approves amending the UNA Inventory to include the Salt Road Fen as UNA-194.

Date: September 13, 2012

Voting In Favor:

Voting Against:

Abstentions:

1 Draft (7/13/2012)

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8 **DRAFT -- Minutes of the EMC General Meeting**  
9 **July 12, 2012**  
10

11 **Voting Members Present (17):** Spring Buck, Poney Carpenter, Kenny Christianson, John Dennis, Brian Eden,  
12 Darrick Evensen, Martha Ferger, Bill Halton, Emily Hamilton, Katie Kelly, Steve Nicholson, Carolyn Peterson,  
13 Kristine Shaw, Gary Stewart, Lucia Tyler, Ed Wilson, Roger Yonkin

14 **Voting Member Excused (3):** Kate Engler, Pegi Ficken, Jim McGarry

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

16 **Guests Present:** Scott Miller, Michael Cullotta, K.C. Alvery, Keren Bitan, Mariana Caballero

17 **Staff Present:** Scott Doyle

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

20  
21 **Privilege of the Floor** – There were no visitors who wished to speak under Privilege of the Floor.

22  
23 **Changes to the Agenda and Approval of Minutes** – There were no changes to the agenda. The draft minutes were  
24 accepted with two minor changes. Final minutes are available on the EMC webpage: [www.tompkins-co.org/emc](http://www.tompkins-co.org/emc).

25  
26 **Committee Reports** – UNA: Steve reported that the UNA committee did not meet at their regularly scheduled time this  
27 month though they did discuss a question regarding the UNA adoption process which will occur hopefully in September  
28 with subsequent outreach in October. He noted that it was their understanding that the planning department is responsible for  
29 outreach to individual landowners regarding changes in UNAs. Contracts for the update conclude at the end of August and  
30 according to Steve, the consultants are on schedule to complete work within the contracted time frame. Gas Drilling  
31 Working Group: Martha reported that they renamed and restructured their committee and would like to no longer be a sub-  
32 committee of the ERC. She introduced a letter to Gov. Cuomo which has been circulated via email in advance of the  
33 meeting and called for a vote to send the letter. Martha Ferger made a motion to send the letter on behalf of the EMC as a  
34 whole. The motion was seconded by Kenny Christenson and the motion was opened for discussion. Darrick Evensen noted  
35 that he did not think the argument regarding climate change and a switch to renewables (point 6) provides as strong an  
36 argument as the others and further recommended removal of this specific point. Dooley Kiefer spoke in favor of leaving this  
37 point in, explaining that she felt it was one of the most important things the Governor needed to hear. Brian Eden agreed that  
38 the Governor needed to be reminded of this specific point, while Roger supported the removal of point 6. A vote was called  
39 for the removal of point. 5 voting members voted in favor of removing point 6, 10 voted against. Point 6 stands. Carolyn  
40 Peterson asked about point 2 – which discusses the protection of water and property – and suggested adding water resources  
41 as well. The group considered this a friendly amendment. Evensen also spoke of point 3, which centers on air pollution and  
42 the environment. He asked if water pollution also be included here as well. Ultimately the group agreed adding a reference  
43 to water would take away from the air pollution point. A vote was then held to send the letter to Governor Cuomo on behalf  
44 of EMC, on EMC letterhead. 14 voted in favor, 1 against, and 1 individual abstained. Motion carried for letter to be sent.  
45 Martha also spoke of the Strategic Tourism Planning Board’s recent statements on the impacts of gas drilling on tourism.  
46 Dooley asked if there was any likelihood of need to comment on anything in short order which the committee would be  
47 unable to do independently as they are now independent from ERC. Scott Doyle explained that by making this a stand-alone  
48 committee, they would lose the ability to comment independently. All correspondence would have to come through EMC.  
49 There were no added, stated objections to this restructuring. State of the Environment: Brian reported on the discussions that  
50 he had with Kate regarding the report and indicated that they were looking to set up a committee meeting next month.  
51 Carolyn explained that she compiled a document of all the initial discussions on how the report should be structured and felt  
52 they have a positive starting place. Environmental Review: Brian noted they are working on a number of comments  
53 including the Cascadilla Landing project, an analysis of the current City dredging process, an advance review of the City of  
54 Ithaca Bike Boulevard proposal, review of the proposed Portland Point boat launch, and asked if guest Michael Cullotta

55 from the City of Ithaca's Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) had any comments on other projects and opportunities.  
56 Michael described a project they are currently involved with in regard to the subdivision of land at the end of Cherry Street,  
57 a portion of which is deemed developable. The Ithaca Urban Renewal Agency (IURA) is currently developing a RFP for this  
58 development that respects the unique environmental aspects of the site. The CAC has advocated that the RFP state a  
59 preference for proposals that are sensitive to the habitat benefits of this site. Michael also discussed a meeting to be held at  
60 Corks and More at 7PM next Monday July 16<sup>th</sup> to provide collaboration opportunities with the City Natural Areas  
61 Commission (NAC) and the CAC. He also invited EMC membership to attend. Energy: Brian discussed the transfer of  
62 AES to Upstate Power Producers/Cayuga Operating Group and the fact that they were back in business on some level. Steve  
63 noted that they were encouraged prior to the recent heat wave to go back online. Dooley noted that Jerry Goodrow formerly  
64 of AES now oversees the new operation. Brian also spoke of the County's electric contract which is soon to expire and  
65 wants to meet with the decision makers on this issue soon to encourage the new contract includes the use of renewables. He  
66 also noted the committee's recent focus on wind power and they have discussed an interest in adding a focus on solar. He  
67 expressed an interest in setting up a meeting this fall to help encourage more solar installation. Executive: Spring discussed  
68 meeting logistics for this fall. In September, the EMC will conduct a UNA worksession and then lead a public meeting  
69 regarding the changes to the UNA at the Public Library in October. In November, they'd like to invite Fernando De Aragon  
70 of the ITCTC to discuss our area's burgeoning transportation improvements. Also, Spring noted that the Transportation  
71 Initiative of the Year has received two nominations to date: one for Zimride, the other for Gadabout. She specifically  
72 discussed the number of environmental benefits that Zimride has provided. Brian added that Kathy Luz-Herrera was the  
73 previous EMC liaison from the Legislature and had to resign due to work conflicts, so the EMC is still looking for a  
74 Legislature liaison.

75  
76 **Staff Report** – Scott outlined the Planning Committee of the Legislature's discussion of their need to appoint a new liaison,  
77 Kathy Wilsea's recommendation as to a EMC summer picnic, and his recent trip to Montreal and use of the City's  
78 innovative Bixi bike share program. At the conclusion of the staff report, Dooley asked about the previous meeting's vote to  
79 discontinue the EMC's highway clean up commitment and felt it did not coincide with EMC Bylaws. She asked for that vote  
80 be examined further.

81  
82 **Green Umbrella** – Brian introduced KC Alvery and noted her work with the Tompkins County Climate Protection Initiative  
83 (TCCPI) and the Green Umbrella. KC spoke of the Green Umbrella, which is a youth based initiative to build relationships  
84 and advance environmental change. The purpose is to empower young people to make changes in climate issues and be a  
85 part of a sustainable future. The group discusses how can we do things with young people beyond our own campus. She  
86 expressed the interest in bridging the gap between campus and the community. A great deal of energy was generated from  
87 the PowerShift conference which engaged young people throughout the state and country. She spoke of climate justice  
88 organizing and putting communities at the forefront of this discussion. She described youth as being a front line community  
89 and they are asking themselves how they can align their frontline with others. One way they've done this is in taking direct  
90 action against fracking and participation in the recent tar sands action. She provided an overview of the proposed tar sands  
91 project and the PowerShift New York training and action which highlighted impacts of fracking on young people and  
92 provided an alternative recommendation through a march for a Green Economy. KC described the next action with support  
93 of 350.org to assist in stopping fracking in NY. This fall they are looking for other opportunities for involvement locally.  
94 She asked for more ideas on ways young people can help advance a Green Economy. Please provide comment to  
95 [KCA27@cornell.edu](mailto:KCA27@cornell.edu). Steve asked if the Green Umbrella brings high school students into these efforts. KC indicated that  
96 was something they were actively doing.

97  
98 **Tompkins County Energy Conservation Corps** – Brian introduced this effort that grew out of Cornell Cooperative  
99 Extension of Tompkins County (CCETC) and TCCPI to expand energy conservation efforts. Keren Bitan and Mariana  
100 Caballero attended from the Corps in order to discuss these efforts. They talked about the home energy upgrade program,  
101 specifically why you should have a home energy upgrade, who you can hire to do this work and how you can pay for it.  
102 Why get upgrades: old housing stock is very inefficient, improvements can have health benefits, they can increase comfort,  
103 fossil fuel reduction and can create jobs. Keren noted that for every 12 houses upgraded in Tompkins County, 1 job is  
104 created. They went on to discuss common misconceptions of why people do not undergo upgrades including: their house is  
105 already weatherized, they need new windows (payback very long on window replacement), or they are in the process of  
106 installing solar panels – upgrading helps reduce the size system you need. They also discussed the Path to Home Energy  
107 Savings and included a handout. The path includes: Energy Waster – Low/No Cost – Tune Up Energy Users – Whole-House  
108 Energy Assessment and Upgrade with a certified contractor – Use of Renewables. They outlined how people can apply for  
109 this work, how they recommend choosing a contractor and how to pay for the work. [upgradeupstate.org](http://upgradeupstate.org) provides more detail  
110 on this process including the various programs that you are eligible for based on income tier. Roger discussed his concern

111 over insuring there is adequate air exchange when conducting these improvements and Lucia discussed some of the  
112 unintended consequences of insulating 19<sup>th</sup> Century housing, John Dennis discussed the positive rate of return on geothermal  
113 improvement, Poney Carpenter asked about the use of Mini splits, and Martha Feger asked about how successful they have  
114 been. Mariana responded to Martha's question in saying their progress has been slow but steady. She said specifically  
115 getting to the upgrade level is difficult.

116  
117 **Member Items and Municipal Reports** – Katie Kelly outlined the Floating Classroom's work with Hydrilla and indicated  
118 it was a great hands-on way to be involved with this important matter. You can find the schedule of events on  
119 floatingclassroom.net. Brian spoke of Celebrate the Lake! event next Tuesday and the folks from the Finger Lakes Land  
120 Trust, State Parks and County Planning's own Ed Marx who will be paddling up the lake through the Seneca River to Lake  
121 Ontario next week as part of a kick off to the future blueway trail project. Lucia discussed the Black Diamond Trail  
122 excitement in the Town of Ulysses. Katie added Scott Doyle's recognition of his recent vehicle donation winning of prizes  
123 through Ithaca CarShare. Peter Harriott discussed the former Cornell President Frank Rhodes recently published book,  
124 "Earth".

125  
126 **Strategy for Upgrading EMC Web Site** – Brian will provide details shortly on the items he feels need work on the EMC  
127 website. He asked for assistance from anyone who has background in this work.

128  
129 **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

130  
131 Respectfully submitted,  
132 Scott Doyle, Tompkins County Planning Department  
133 Approved by Council on \_\_\_\_\_, 2012

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136  

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137  
138 Report from the Gas Drilling (formerly) Subcommittee, now Gas Drilling Working Group July 11, 2012

139  
140 This change in name was made at the suggestion of the Executive Committee for various reasons of structural clarity. We  
141 have the same membership as before but are not considered part of ERC. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 1  
142 pm (unless it's a holiday!).

143  
144 We have been working on a letter to Governor Cuomo to convey the same message that many groups and individuals have  
145 been addressing in recent weeks. At the EMC meeting tomorrow we will ask for a decision on whether the letter should be  
146 sent in the name of EMC or just in the name of the Gas Drilling Working Group of EMC. If the latter, should it go on an  
147 EMC letterhead or not? The text is as follows:

148  
149 *Governor Cuomo:*

150 *We write to add our voice to the chorus of protests you have already received about the idea of possibly allowing high*  
151 *volume horizontal fracking (HVHF) for natural gas in five Southern Tier counties, presumably after DEC regulations have*  
152 *been finalized. Our objections include the following and **many** more:*

153 *1. The deleterious effects of this process have been amply demonstrated in neighboring Pennsylvania and in many other*  
154 *states.*

155 *2. If the dangers are considered great enough to require protection of citizens, property and water in certain large*  
156 *areas of the state, the citizens in **all** areas deserve the same protections.*

157 *3. The state has not yet undertaken needed detailed studies of the health effects of HVHF, but the disastrous health*  
158 *effects of air pollution **near the well heads** have been amply demonstrated elsewhere.*

159 *4. The state is totally lacking in any adequate facilities for handling waste water from the HVHF operations.*

160 *5. The state has not acknowledged the devastating impacts of HVHF on established industries that are essential parts*  
161 *of our economy, including tourism, dairy, wine, fruit growing, field crops, hunting, fishing and other kinds of outdoor*  
162 *recreation, among many others.*

163 *6. In the light of the impending climate change disaster, we should be doing everything possible to curb investments in*  
164 *fossil fuels and invest in renewable energy instead. STAYS*

165 *Governor Cuomo, You could become a national hero by **saving** our beautiful, productive state from going down the*  
166 *disastrous path already taken by so many other states, rather than by obediently falling in line to repeat their mistakes.*  
167 *Sincerely yours,*  
168

169 In another matter, the Working Group responded to a request by the Tompkins County Strategic Tourism Planning Board for  
170 comments on the **Strategic Plan** that they were about to release publicly. Deadline for comments was July 10 at 4 pm. Our  
171 response targeted specifically a paragraph in the introductory section called "What We Value Most" which listed (among 5  
172 other things) "Improve and never harm the quality of life for local residents, businesses and institutions. Tourism programs  
173 should enrich the lives of all who live here." Our comment was as follows:  
174

175 We believe that there should be a section near the beginning of the Strategic Plan which states clearly that any high volume  
176 hydraulic fracturing (HVHF) activity in this area would have a very deleterious effect on many of the projects being  
177 proposed in the Plan and indeed on the level of tourism in general in Tompkins County. The cumulative effects of the  
178 inevitable noise, water, and air pollution, traffic congestion, damaged roads and shortage of housing for gas field workers  
179 would become quickly apparent after the start of HVHF. Landscape fragmentation begins in earnest as pipelines, compressor  
180 stations, and water storage sites network all the landscapes where wells are located and beyond. The industrialization of  
181 these landscapes will take an inevitable and more or less permanent toll on the County's viewsheds, its forests, lakes, and  
182 agricultural lands. Tourism will be seriously harmed in innumerable ways for the longer term, all for gas production capacity  
183 that in some instances begins to taper off dramatically within 3-4 years of the initial fracking.  
184

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185  
186 Hi Kate,

187  
188 I apologize for sending you my comments only a few hours in advance of the meeting, but I thought you would rather have  
189 them late than never!  
190

191 I like your initial list and feel that it captures many of the issues that we are dealing with in this county. I agree with Carolyn  
192 that two major categories that should also be included are the health of Cayuga Lake and Solid Waste (e.g., recycling  
193 efforts). While the issues related to Cayuga Lake may also fit into other categories (e.g., invasive species, erosion, nutrient  
194 loading), I feel that the Lake is such a huge part of our ecosystem and our self identity that it warrants separate treatment.  
195

196 In terms of your "hydrofracking" category, I would suggest changing the name to "natural gas development". Heuristically, I  
197 think most of us associate the process of hydrofracking with all the social, economic, and environmental effects that attend  
198 the gas development process, but in reality, there are several issues such as population increases, traffic, auxiliary industries,  
199 etc. that are not directly tied to the process and event of the hydraulic fracturing of the shale. I think "natural gas  
200 development" is more inclusive of the potential effects. Additionally, you list "water quality" and "land use" as categories  
201 under which hydrofacking may fit; I would also offer energy as a necessary category and air quality as a potential additional  
202 category.  
203

204 A final additional category that I would suggest for the State of the Environment Report is something related to the  
205 agricultural landscape. A healthy and sustainable agriculture industry is very important for a healthy environment in our  
206 county. There are several issues such as erosion, nutrient loading, riparian buffers, pesticides/herbicides/chemical  
207 application, etc. that are closely tied to agricultural land use. Agriculture helps to define our culture in this county and would  
208 be an important aspect to reflect on in the report.  
209

210 I hope these few reflections can be of some help.  
211

212 Best regards, Darrick  
213

214 Darrick T. N. Evensen  
215 Graduate Student, Dept. of Natural Resources  
216 Trustee, Cornell University  
217 [518-339-0685](tel:518-339-0685) (Mobile)  
218 -----

219 On Mon, Jun 18, 2012 at 4:28 PM, Katherine Neafsey Engler <[kjn23@cornell.edu](mailto:kjn23@cornell.edu)> wrote:

220 Hi everyone,

221  
222 As we discussed on Thursday, the State of the Environment Report committee is starting to think of topics to include in our  
223 report. Below is a list of topics that I have come up with based upon our recent EMC activities, and the categories I thought  
224 they might fit under, but I'd like to encourage each of you to send me a few topics that you'd like to see included or at least  
225 touched upon. If you have any questions, please let me know.

226  
227 Thanks, Kate

228  
229 List of possible report topics and their associated categories:

230  
231 Hydrofracking (water quality, land use)

232  
233 Invasive species (water quality, land use, plant and animal life)

234  
235 Wind farms (energy, land use)

236  
237 CO2 targets and policies (energy, land use, administrative affairs)

238  
239 Green buildings (land use, energy)

240  
241 Air quality, including need for air monitoring stations and impact of cars and buses on air quality (air quality,  
242 transportation)

243  
244 Unique natural areas, including the recent updating of various areas (plant and animal life, land use)

## State of the Environment report

July 20, 2012

The State of the Environment Work Group met on July 18 to organize the report and to identify the topic headings. Present were Carolyn Peterson, John Dennis, and Brian Eden with Kate Engler unavailable.

The purpose of the July 18 meeting was to identify the report topics and to agree upon the format of the report. The work group reviewed emails submitted by EMC members and read the 1991 EMC State of the Environment Report. The following topic areas were agreed upon:

- Water Resources
- Air Quality
- Energy
- Climate Change
- Natural Gas Development
- Solid Waste
- Public Health
- Invasive and Over Abundant Species
- Agricultural Landscape and Open Space Preservation
- Transportation

Brian Eden will focus on Energy and Climate Change. John Dennis will focus on Agricultural and Open Space and Invasive/Over Abundant Species. Carolyn Peterson will focus on Public Health and Water Resources. Kate Engler will head up Air Quality and Transportation. The concern of Environmental Justice will be covered under each topic area as pertinent.

It is understood that a great deal of information is already available through other organizations or governmental bodies, through content experts, and existing documents. It is not the intent of the work group to rewrite the material but to refer to other material as a resource and link to it throughout the report.

The general report format will include an introduction from the EMC and a description of the purpose of the report. Then, each topic area will follow this format:

- Historical trends, with graphics if available
- Strengths/assets
- Problem areas
- EMC suggested goals for the topic area