



EMC News

February 4, 2004

Volume 11, No. 2

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted by Steve Nicholson

The Education Committee is soliciting ideas for our annual Earth Day table, which will be in DeWitt Park on Saturday, April 24. We will be helping to obtain a Community Celebrations grant for this event.

We expect to finalize the protocols for additions and changes to the UNA Inventory by April.

At our last meeting, we were shown a Powerpoint presentation on Banning Burn Barrels that Steve Nicholson is working on. We are researching the many issues involved in enacting a ban on open burning, and hope to present the EMC with a resolution soon.

Work has begun on the revision of our Environmental Directory. There is a possibility of a grant to help fund this project. A web-based form will be used to obtain information. The last edition of the ED was published in 1996, and does not contain one email or website!

ENERGY COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted by Kenny Christianson

The energy committee had its first meeting of the year on January 26. Kenny Christianson was selected as chair of the committee for yet another year.

Arel LeMaro, of Public Works, reported that the county is continuing to install the first phase of energy improvements based on the Flex Tech report by Taitem Engineering. The County Legislature allocated \$50,000 for energy improvements last year. Also, Arel said that the county planning department is continuing to negotiate with the city concerning the library solar panel shading mitigation. The latest proposal is for the city to provide about \$20,000 of energy efficiency improvements to the library to make up for the loss of electricity when the solar panels are shaded*. The committee felt that these improvements should have already been installed when the library was first renovated, and the city is offering to only cover the lost electricity savings, but not the lost environmental benefits that those shaded panels would have provided.

The committee is currently organizing an energy conference for the spring, to bring together interested stakeholders to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Tompkins County as part of the Cities for Climate Protection process. Also, we will assist the Center for Environmental Sustainability in organizing Earth Day activities, and we are beginning to explore issues related to the siting of wind turbines in Tompkins County. Finally, the energy committee will be preparing a resolution concerning the Citizen's Campaign for the Environment's proposal for a renewable energy portfolio for the county that will be brought before the EMC soon.

The next meeting of the energy committee will be on Monday, February 9 at 4:30 in the Old Jail small conference room.

** EMC Coordinator's note: The terms of an informal proposal between the County and City include energy improvements at the Library (primarily changes to lighting that were identified during the building energy audits last year) totaling \$21,000 and improvements to the library entrance to reduce air infiltration in winter totaling approximately \$20,000. The benefit to the environment will be the annual reduction in regular energy use as a result of these improvements. The Energy Committee provided input, guidance, and also proposed a number of possible mitigation measures that were discussed during negotiations between the County and the City.*

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted by Steve Uzmann

Despite inclement weather the ERC had its first meeting this year on Tuesday, Jan. 27th and we had a good turnout. We welcomed our two newest members, Meira Hertzburg and Mikel Shakarjian. Then we reviewed last year's activities and discussed our expectations for 2004. Members brought several topics for further investigation. We will also be reviewing the Intermunicipal Waste Water FEIS and the Cornell Veterinary Waste Disposal SEIS.

Steve was re-elected as Chair for a third term since nobody else wanted the job.

more News!

UPDATE: HUDSON RIVER PCB CLEANUP

Submitted by Carolyn Shapiro

The Hudson River PCB Cleanup has entered the remedial design phase. EPA and General Electric signed an Agreement of Consent (AOC) that became effective August 2003. This agreement delineates EPA's and GE's responsibilities in the cleanup and mandates a general schedule for implementation and reporting. The selection of a final disposal site for the dredged, solidified PCB sediments is an activity within the remedial design and will be conducted by GE. The site selection will be executed and reported in three stages: preliminary design, intermediate design, and final design.

The remedial design will include a detailed evaluation of candidate disposal sites, including the Model City, NY facility (in the Niagara area) that is managed by Chemical Waste Management (CWM). Our interest in the conduct of the cleanup relates to the possibility that some or all of the PCB sediments will be disposed at the CWM facility. There is a good deal of public opposition to using this facility for a new, large

volume of PCB waste, and the compliance history of the site includes multiple violations related to PCB waste management. The short list of candidates and the evaluation that formed the basis of selection will be included in the intermediate design report, and selection of a final disposal site or sites will be included in the final design report. We hope to obtain information on the progress and basis of the disposal site selection process in each of these reports, and use this information to assist in our decision to place our voice in the public record on this cleanup.

The next EMC meeting will be February 11th!

***Featured Speaker:
Professor Andrew Haaland
"Robert's Rules of Order-
The Basics of Meeting Procedure"***

MOTIONS AND WHAT THEY MEAN

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| I have new business | Main Motion |
| I want to change it | Motion to amend |
| Let's wait on this | To Table |
| Let's send it to committee | To refer to committee |
| That's not right | Point of Order |
| I challenge the ruling | To Appeal |
| Take a break | Motion to Recess |
| I don't get it | Point of Information |
| I just want to talk | Privilege of the Floor |
| That's enough discussion | To call the previous question |
| I've changed my mind | To Reconsider |
| Let's go home | To Adjourn |

... Compliments of David Whitmore (City of Ithaca, Common Council)