

MINUTES

Approved 7/10/08

PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT, AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE

JUNE 10, 2008 3:00 P.M. SCOTT HEYMAN CONFERENCE ROOM

Present: M. Robertson, Chair; C. Chock; M. Sigler

Excused: F. Proto and P. Mackesey

Staff: E. Marx, Commissioner of Planning and Public Works; C. Covert, Clerk of the Legislature; J. Kippola, Contracts Coordinator; L. Schill, Planning Department; F. Bonn, Convention and Visitor's Bureau; J. Leccese, Planning Department; J. Mattick, Workforce Development; D. Bradac, Workforce Development

Guests: S. Johnson, Climate Change Committee; K. Christianson, Environmental Management Council

Call to Order and Changes to Agenda

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

The following resolution was added to the agenda:

- Designation of Tourism Promotion Agency for State Fiscal Year 2008-2009

The following Water Resources Council items were withdrawn from the agenda and will be discussed at the next meeting:

- Draft Monitoring Plan for the Southern Basin of Cayuga Lake
- Resolution: Adopting the Water Resources Council-Cornell University Lake Monitoring Partnership's Joint Statement and Supporting the Referenced Monitoring Plan

Approval of Minutes

It was MOVED by Ms. Chock, seconded by Mr. Sigler, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve the minutes of the May 8, 2008, as submitted.

Workforce Development

Update on Budget

Ms. Mattick provided an update on the department's budget and the most recent impending budget cuts. She reminded the Committee that she reported on this issue in March but that complete information was not available at that time. The rescissions (July 1, 2007 – June 20, 2008) were not as much as anticipated and the department is able to absorb the \$19,000 in their budget. The allocation cuts for July 1, 2008 – June 20, 2009 is 16.1 percent (\$86,000) in formula funding. Ms. Mattick and Ms. Bradac are looking at other funding sources through special projects. In addition, last Friday, she was made aware of another Statewide source of funding that the department will not be receiving in the amount of \$125,000 (\$75,000 in staff and \$50,000 in training) for the calendar year July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2009. Both the \$86,000 and \$125,000 cuts cannot be absorbed in the budget without impacting and cutting services. Discussions and reviewing various scenarios and options will continue and she will keep the Committee informed.

Resolutions

Ms. Bradac said the purpose of this resolution is to provide training and work with staff from Lakeside as impacted by the Berger Commission Report of the State to enhance the skills of current employees. It was MOVED by Ms. Chock, seconded by Mr. Sigler, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve and submit the following resolution to the full Legislature for approval:

RESOLUTION NO. – AUTHORIZATION OF CONTRACT BETWEEN THE TOMPKINS COUNTY OFFICE OF EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING AND THE CENTRAL NEW YORK AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER AND BUDGET ADJUSTMENT

WHEREAS, the Commission on Health Care Facilities in the 21st Century was created by former Governor Pataki and the New York State Legislature to undertake a rational, independent review of health care capacity and resources in New York State, and

WHEREAS, the Commission report commonly known as the Berger Commission Report was released and recommended changes to the regional and local supply of hospital and nursing home facilities, and

WHEREAS, employees impacted by the Berger Commission Report will need to be retrained and career counseling services provided, and

WHEREAS, the Central New York Area Health Education Center has a grant from the New York State Department of Health and desires to contract with the Tompkins County Office of Employment and Training to provide such services, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Planning, Development, and Environmental Quality Committee, That the contract with the Central New York Area Health Education Center is hereby approved,

RESOLVED, further, That the County Administrator or his designee is hereby authorized to execute the necessary contracts,

RESOLVED, further, That the Director of Finance is authorized and directed to make the following budget adjustment:

REVENUE:	6292.43790	State Aid Job Training	\$39,486
APPROPRIATION:	6292.44790	Federal Aid Job Training	(\$ 159)
	6292.44792	Federal Aid, WIA Adult	(\$ 3,514)
	6292.44793	Federal Aid, WIA Youth	(\$23,968)
	6292.44794	Federal Aid, WIA DW	(\$11,845)

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

Explanation: Our projected Workforce Investment Act revenues for 2008 are less than anticipated due to budget cuts released by the Federal Government. This funding will assist us in offsetting those revenues with an additional funding source.

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Following a brief discussion concerning the purpose of the resolution, it was MOVED by Mr. Sigler, seconded by Ms. Chock, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve and submit the following resolution to the full Legislature for approval:

RESOLUTION NO. – AUTHORIZATION OF CONTRACT BETWEEN THE TOMPKINS COUNTY WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD AND THE TOMPKINS COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND BUDGET ADJUSTMENT

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce has received grant funding from the New York State Department of Labor to operate an Internship Program to for-profit businesses for high school and college students, and

WHEREAS, the Program will connect for-profit employers and potential interns and will increase the number of youth internship opportunities for young people in Tompkins County, and

WHEREAS, interns wages will be paid by the employers, and

WHEREAS, the Chamber of Commerce wishes to contract with the Tompkins County Workforce Investment Board for technical assistance in the start-up, management, and compliance with State reporting requirements for the Program, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Planning, Development, and Environmental Quality Committee, That the contract with the Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce is hereby approved,

RESOLVED, further, That the County Administrator or his designee is hereby authorized to execute the necessary contracts,

RESOLVED, further, That the Director of Finance is authorized and directed to make the following budget adjustment:

REVENUE:	6290.42225	Local Revenue – Federal	\$10,620
APPROPRIATION:	6290.44959	Federal Aid Job Training	(\$10,620)

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

Explanation: Our projected Workforce Investment Act revenues for 2008 are less than anticipated due to budget cuts released by the Federal Government. This funding will assist us in offsetting those revenues with an additional funding source.

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Budget Adjustments

It was MOVED by Ms. Chock, seconded by Mr. Sigler, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve and submit the following budget adjustments to the full Legislature for approval:

Office of Employment and Training

Revenue Acct	Title	Amt	Approp Acct	Title(s)
6292.44795	Federal Aid, TANF Summer Youth	\$15,000	6292.51000051	Participant Wages

Explanation: Increase in 2008 TANF Summer Youth Program fund will allow for a greater number of youth to be served this summer.

Workforce Investment Board

Revenue Acct	Title	Amt	Approp Acct	Title(s)
6290.43795	Federal Aid, TANF Summer Youth	\$30,000	6290.54491	Subcontracts

Explanation: Increase in 2008 TANF Summer Youth Program fund will allow for a greater number of youth to be served this summer and these additional funds will be subcontracted.

Strategic Tourism Planning Board

Resolutions

It was MOVED by Mr. Sigler, seconded by Ms. Chock, to approve and submit the following resolution to the Budget and Capital Committee for approval. Ms. Kippola said the guidelines are

currently being revised to open it up to more entities and they will be presented to the Committee in the near future. This program still falls within the guidelines for this particular grant. Ms. Kippola spoke briefly to the conflict of interest between the State Theatre and Community Arts Partnership that resulted in a special committee being appointed to make recommendations for the grant. Ms. Robertson asked if the date of service by the bookkeeper could be added to the back-up material prior to being presented to the Legislature. Ms. Kippola said the request for bookkeeping services in the amount of \$5,000 is for one year of service and she agreed to add that information as requested.

A voice vote resulted as follows: Ayes – 3; Noes – 0; Excused – 2 (Mackesey and Proto).
RESOLUTION CARRIED.

RESOLUTION NO. – APPROVAL OF CONTRACT FOR ARTS AND CULTURE STABILIZATION – HISTORIC ITHACA

WHEREAS, Community Arts Partnership (CAP) recognizes that the local arts and cultural community is a valuable and unique asset, and that a need exists to harness the power of the arts to develop tourism growth, and if strategically managed, that would stabilize and develop these assets to better serve tourists through well-planned marketing efforts, and

WHEREAS, CAP was appointed to create a comprehensive arts marketing plan and develop and implement a plan for financial and operational stabilization of arts and cultural entities, and

WHEREAS, the arts and cultural community could better position itself in the marketplace to attract more visitors to and enhance visitors' stay in Tompkins County, thus generating more dollars into the local economy, and

WHEREAS, funding exists within the Tompkins County Tourism Program for the Arts and Cultural Stabilization Plan program, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Planning, Development, and Environmental Quality, with the advice of the Strategic Tourism Planning Board, that the following Arts and Cultural Organization Stabilization Grant be awarded in 2008:

	<u>2004 Amount</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Historic Ithaca (State Theatre)	\$ 30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$37,000

RESOLVED, further, That the Comptroller make the following budget adjustment:

6475	Room Tax Reserve	\$37,000
6475.54619	Arts and Cultural Organization Stabilization	\$37,000

RESOLVED, further, That the County Administrator or his designee is authorized to sign any agreements with the recipient pertaining to this program.

SEQR TYPE: TYPE II-20

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It was MOVED by Ms. Chock, seconded by Mr. Sigler, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to approve and submit the following resolution to the full Legislature for approval. In response to a question by Ms. Chock, Ms. Kippola said there were no other responses received.

RESOLUTION NO. – DESIGNATION OF TOURISM PROMOTION AGENCY FOR STATE FISCAL YEAR 2008-2009

WHEREAS, the Strategic Tourism Planning Board has traditionally recommended the appropriate agency for designation of the New York State Tourism Promotion Agency (TPA) designation as part of its review function for tourism matters, and

WHEREAS, the Strategic Tourism Planning Board has reviewed the matter with appropriate agency representatives, and

WHEREAS, the Strategic Tourism Planning Board feels qualified to make a recommendation of the best agency to have the TPA designation, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Planning, Development, and Environmental Quality Committee, That the designation of the TPA for State Fiscal Year 2008-2009 be awarded to the Ithaca/Tompkins County Convention and Visitor's Bureau (I/TCCVB),

RESOLVED, further, That the Director of the I/TCCVB report to the Planning, Development and Environmental Quality Committee if change occurs.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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Ms. Robertson said there have been a number of conversations recently concerning tourism and she will be asking the Committee to have a discussion in July. It is also anticipated the budget information will be available in July or August.

Environmental Management Council

Resolution – Support for Federal Carbon Tax

Mr. Christianson said the Environmental Management Council (EMC) has been discussing this since January and he provided an update on the discussions held and actions taken. He briefly reviewed the resolution adopted by the EMC in May. EMC began with discussing the carbon tax versus the cap-and-trade system. Following lengthy discussions by EMC, they approved a resolution recommending the County Legislature adopt a resolution to support a Federal Carbon Tax.

It was MOVED by Ms. Chock, seconded by Ms. Robertson, to approve and submit the following resolution to the full Legislature for approval. Ms. Chock spoke briefly about the EMC resolution and said it is a compromise resolution.

Mr. Sigler spoke of his opinion that the carbon tax is better than the cap-and-trade systems. However, he believes it should be a downstream tax and not an upstream tax and that people should know what they are being taxed on. He also believes there should be a tax offset. He spoke of other concerns he had with the language in the resolution and said he was not prepared to support it at this time.

Ms. Robertson granted Mr. Johnson permission to speak briefly about this issue. Mr. Johnson urged the committee to amend and remove the cap-and-trade systems section as he does not believe it is necessary to endorse it as an alternative.

Mr. Marx commented that he believes on a macro economic level, carbon tax makes sense, but in some cases cap-and-trade allows adjustments in industries and more flexibility.

Mr. Christianson said the City of Ithaca has passed a resolution opposing cap-and-trade systems and the Town of Ithaca passed a similar resolution.

Following further discussion, a voice vote resulted as follows: Ayes – 2 (Chock and Robertson); Noes – 1 (Sigler); Excused – 2 (Mackesey and Proto). RESOLUTION LOST. Ms. Chock stated she will file this resolution as a member-filed resolution for the next Legislature meeting.

RESOLUTION NO. – EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR A FEDERAL CARBON TAX

WHEREAS, global warming, characterized by extremes of climate change, has been identified by an overwhelming consensus of scientists as caused primarily by carbon dioxide emissions from manmade sources and by widespread deforestation, and

WHEREAS, global warming threatens economies and ecosystems throughout the world, and

WHEREAS, legislation at the Federal level is being considered for reductions in heat-trapping emissions of greenhouse gas emissions including carbon dioxide, through either a Federal carbon tax or emissions trading, and

WHEREAS, the outcome of this legislative debate will substantially affect residents of Tompkins County for decades, and

WHEREAS, both tradable pollution permits and taxing environmental pollution are economic methods to reach environmental goals, with the main difference between them being that (1) with permits, government sets the amount emissions that are allowed and lets the market set the price of the permits as they are auctioned off or traded; in contrast, (2) with an environmental tax the price of the environmentally destructive pollution is set by the government as the tax rate, and the market determines the amount of pollution that will occur at that price, and

WHEREAS, either auctioning pollution allowances or implementing a tax will raise Federal revenues that can be used to relieve the cost burden on low-income persons and to underwrite the development of alternative sustainable energy systems, and

WHEREAS, both carbon taxes and cap-and-trade systems can be effective means of reducing emissions of CO₂, so from the perspective of economic theory they are equivalent, but from the regulatory and administrative perspective a tax is more cost effective, and

WHEREAS, offsets and trading across national borders make the system particularly hard to monitor and enforce, inviting noncompliance, and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Environmental Management Council has examined these issues and passed Resolution No. 01-2008 "Resolution Recommending County Support for a Federal Carbon Tax", now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That for these environmental, economic, and administrative reasons, the Tompkins County Legislature declares its support for enactment of a Federal carbon tax on importers and domestic extractors and refiners of fossil fuels, to be levied upstream in order to minimize the number of entities being directly taxed and the expense of monitoring compliance, with revenues directed to tax relief for low- and moderate-income households and financial support for conservation and sustainable energy programs, with public monitoring to assure compliance,

RESOLVED, further, That if a carbon tax becomes politically or economically infeasible, the Tompkins County Legislature declares its support for a cap-and-auction system as a next- best alternative,

RESOLVED, further, That polluters should pay for the right to pollute, using auctions not allotments, and should not be given permits at zero cost,

RESOLVED, further, That the cap-and-auction should be implemented as far upstream as possible, with auction via a single open market that is national not global, and with public monitoring to ascertain the validity of the system,

RESOLVED, further, That the system should be strictly national; offsets would not be allowed; a significant penalty should be imposed for fossil-fuel use without allowances,

RESOLVED, further, That a "hard cap" should be set for all large users of fossils fuels together, reduced every year, and reach eighty percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (as CO₂ equivalents) by 2050.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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Planning Department

Update on Housing Trust and Affordability Funds

Ms. Leccese distributed updated information concerning the Ithaca - Tompkins County - Cornell Housing Collaboration. Committee members were encouraged to review it prior to a full discussion at the July meeting. She asked to be contacted with any questions or concerns.

Minutes
Planning, Development and Environmental Quality Committee
June 10, 2008

Ms. Leccese provided a brief overview of the memorandum distributed with the Committee agenda concerning the Tompkins County Housing Affordability Fund and Tompkins County Housing Trust Fund. On May 30th, the Housing Development Action Group, an ad-hoc community housing group, discussed the process of obtaining approval from the funders of the Housing Affordability and Housing Trust Funds and decided that the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) should be released to the three entities (City of Ithaca, Tompkins County, and Cornell University) for approval.

A draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among the three entities will be presented at the July Committee meeting for consideration. A resolution to authorize the disbursement of HUD Program Income funds will be provided at the August meeting and upon approval, forwarded to the Legislature for consideration. The structure and process will be outlined in the MOU and the NOFA. Areas that will need to be defined include identifying a housing coordination entity within the community to administer the NOFA and the creation of oversight and technical committees to review applications.

Discussion followed concerning the structure of committee(s) and different models that currently exist in other organizations such as TCAT, Human Services Coalition review board, and the Strategic Tourism Planning Board. Mr. Marx said the Committee will receive the draft MOU and NOFA which will provide a good idea of how the program will be structured.

Mr. Marx said he hopes that eventually the program will become self-sustaining, self-funding, and independent.

Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Element of the Tompkins County Comprehensive Plan

Ms. Schill updated the Committee on the Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions (EGGE) Comprehensive Plan Element and said the initial research and public outreach are completed. The goal is to present an element to the Legislature for approval by the end of the year. Public outreach consisted of six focus groups and one public meeting held June 5th. Once the draft of the element is written, it will be presented to the public for input; Ms. Schill expects that will happen in the fall. The input has been very useful and she believes the community is very interested.

Commissioner's Report

Mr. Marx reported that the Generic Environmental Impact Statement was received from Cornell that outlines all there projects. He also reported that he was contacted by Chautauqua County concerning the County's Comprehensive Plan and said they are interested in modeling their County's plan on ours; they will be visiting here on Friday.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m.