

EMC Final Minutes
Oct. 12, 4:00 p.m.
Via Zoom

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Attendance

| Member | | Seat | Member | | Seat |
|-------------------|---|------------------------|---------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| George Adams | P | Town of Danby | Regi Teasley | P | At-Large |
| Steve Bissen | E | Town of Dryden | Jeff Walker | P | Village of Cayuga Heights |
| Christine Collins | P | Town of Ulysses | Brad Will | P | At-Large |
| Tom Corey | P | Village of Dryden | David Wolfe | P | Town of Lansing |
| Cait Darfler | P | Village of Trumansburg | Ingrid Zabel | P | Town of Ithaca |
| Marc Devokaitis | A | At-Large | <i>Anne Koreman</i> | P | <i>Legislative Liaison</i> |
| Pegi Ficken | P | Town of Groton | <i>Lindsay Dombroskie</i> | A | <i>Associate Member</i> |
| Brandon Hoak | A | At-Large | <i>Karen Edelstein</i> | A | <i>Associate Member</i> |
| Rick Neville | E | Village of Groton | <i>Jason Fenn</i> | A | <i>Associate Member</i> |
| Steve Nicholson | A | Town of Caroline | <i>Thomas Hirasuna</i> | P | <i>Associate Member</i> |
| Peter Penniman | P | Town of Enfield | <i>David Weinstein</i> | A | <i>Associate Member</i> |
| Susan Riley | P | At-Large | <i>Robert Wesley</i> | A | <i>Associate Member</i> |
| Larry Sallinger | P | At-Large | Darby Kiley | P | Tompkins Co. staff |
| Lisa Strayer | P | At-Large | Kristin McCarthy | P | Tompkins Co. staff |
| Ron Szymanski | P | Village of Freeville | | | |

5 **Guests:** Monika Roth, Jacob von Mechow, Scott Whitham, Yifei Yan

6 **Call to Order** – Chair Cait Darfler called the meeting to order at 4:03pm.

7 **Agenda Review/Public Comment** – Cait shifted the Cargill Salt Mine resolution to start of meeting.

8 Everyone was fine with Kristin’s request to record the meeting to assist with minutes taking. Members
 9 discussed changing the regular monthly meeting time in the new year. Topic can be addressed at annual
 10 January organizational meeting.

11 **Discussion/Action: Endorse EMC Letter in Support of TC Water Resources Council Letter to Gov.**

12 **Hochul regarding Cayuga Salt Mine**

13 The Environmental Management Council (EMC) considered crafting a letter endorsing the Water
 14 Resources Council's (WRC) letter to Governor Hochul regarding the potential environmental impact of
 15 the Cargill salt mine on Cayuga Lake. This letter would also express the EMC's own concerns about the
 16 mine's potential impact. Cait explained that other possible actions had been considered, including
 17 writing their own resolution, but it was decided to support the WRC letter instead. Members expressed
 18 concerns about the lack of public information about the mine's operations and the potential
 19 environmental risks associated with the mine's collapse, including contamination of Cayuga Lake,
 20 subsidence, and the release of legacy phosphorus into the water column. They discussed the need for a
 21 comprehensive environmental impact study of the mine to be conducted by the state and urged the
 22 state to increase the bond required of Cargill to ensure that the company is financially responsible for
 23 any environmental damage caused by the mine. The EMC also noted that Cargill is reportedly selling its

24 mining assets and that there are offers on the table. This raised concerns that the mine could be sold to
25 a company with less experience or a worse environmental record.

26 **Action:** Peter Penniman made a motion, seconded by Lisa Strayer, to endorse the Tompkins County
27 EMC's letter in support of the inquiries raised by the Tompkins County Water Resources Council in its
28 Oct. 16th letter to Governor Hochul. The motion factors in pending edits as discussed, which will be
29 incorporated after the meeting before submittal to the governor. Motion carried with Ron Szymanski
30 abstaining.

31 Peter requested that the letter reflect that it was endorsed by the EMC with one abstention. Next steps
32 include finalizing the draft and sending it to Governor Hochul with the WRC letter and CWIO resolution.
33 It will also be submitted to the Planning, Energy, and Environmental Quality legislative committee. The
34 EMC executive committee will sign off on any substantive changes.

35 **Approval of Minutes** – The July draft minutes were not approved due to an accidental oversight.
36 [Editor's post-meeting note: They will be approved at the Nov. 9, 2023, meeting.]

37 **Executive Committee Report** – The recent NYSACC conference was a success, thanks to the hard work
38 of everyone involved. Organizers received great feedback from attendees, including NYS Assemblyman
39 Steve Ortiz, who said it was the best NYSACC meeting he had ever attended. The 10-minute format for
40 speakers was a hit, and the field trips were well-organized and informative. The conference also made a
41 profit, which EMC chairs will be discussing with NYSACC on how to best use.

42 **Committee Updates** – Education & Outreach Committee could use help with Green Scene e-newsletter.
43 Regi has given community presentations on behalf of Climate Adaptation Committee. Unique Natural
44 Areas Committee sent postcards to property owners. Due to time constraints, Cait directed other
45 committee chairs to put reports in the chat as needed.

46 **Municipal Update: Village of Dryden** – Tom Corey
47 Tom presented an overview of Dryden, covering its history, geography, and community. He noted its
48 agricultural tradition, mentioning the popularity of the Dryden Agricultural Fair from 1857 to 1917, and
49 its revival as Dryden Dairy Day in 1998. He explained that Dryden is located on an ancient lakebed,
50 resulting in soil prone to flooding. He talked about adaptation measures taken over the years, such as
51 the construction of the Donald Crispell Dam. Much of the village was once wetlands, and it now contains
52 one Unique Natural Area, which is a wet sedge meadow and rich fen. Dryden is crisscrossed by Virgil
53 Creek and several smaller creeks, and its public water system is supplied by four ground source wells.
54 Dryden also has a wastewater treatment plant with a capacity of 600,000 gallons per day, though it
55 currently treats 425,000 gallons per day. Tom also highlighted businesses in the community, such as
56 Empire Livestock, the school district, and recreation opportunities, including the Jim Schug Trail,
57 Montgomery Park, and the Kenny Van Sickle Memorial Baseball Field. He acknowledged Dryden's
58 designation as a Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation and its recognition as a NYSERDA Clean
59 Energy Community. Notable locations in the village include the Southwest Library, Village Hall, the
60 Southworth Homestead, and the Bicentennial Fountain. The Q&A discussion focused on the Dryden Rail
61 Trail project and the NY Forward grant program. While the Dryden Lake-Freeville portion of the Rail Trail
62 is complete, the section from Freeville to Route 13 is delayed due to land rights negotiations. The Village
63 of Dryden has applied for a second round of NY Forward grant funding for revitalization and

64 improvement projects. A decision on the grant is expected in late January or February 2024. Tom
65 encouraged everyone to visit the village, emphasizing its welcome community.

66 **Additional Municipal Reports** *(as needed)* – None

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68 **Staff Report** *(as needed)* – None

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70 **Member Announcements** – None

71 **Presentation: Ithaca Farmers Market Site Improvement & Redesign** – *Monika Roth, chair of Ithaca*

72 *Farmers Market Board, and Scott Whitham, and Yifei Yan, Whitham Planning & Development*

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74 The Ithaca Farmers Market Board President, Monika Roth, along with Scott Whitham and Yifei Yan from
75 Whitham Planning & Design, gave a presentation on the proposed improvements to the Ithaca Farmers
76 Market site. Monika began by highlighting the market's significance as a community hub and its role in
77 promoting local agriculture. She then identified the parking lot as a major challenge facing the market.
78 The presenters then presented the proposed improvements, which include reconfiguring the parking lot
79 layout, adding striping and signage, implementing permeable pavement, and incorporating landscaping
80 enhancements. Yifei presented a phasing diagram outlining the project's scope, which includes
81 improving the parking lot in the first phase and addressing the waterfront and precast concrete in later
82 phases. She then detailed the proposed plan for the parking lot, emphasizing the preservation of
83 existing trees and the use of sustainable materials. The presenters addressed concerns about the use of
84 permeable pavement, water management, tree removal, and the heat island effect. Additional
85 questions covered improving pedestrian experience, public transportation, bike racks, electric vehicle
86 chargers, and planting schedules. The EMC members expressed support for the proposed improvements
87 and encouraged continued communication and collaboration between Ithaca Farmers Market and the
88 community.

89 **Adjournment** – Chair Cait Darfler adjourned the meeting at 5:49pm.