

EMC Draft Minutes
March 9, 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	P	Town of Dryden	Jeff Walker	P	Village of Cayuga Heights
Marley Bonacquist-Currin	P	At-Large	Brad Will	A	At-Large
Tom Corey	P	Village of Dryden	David Wolfe	P	Town of Lansing
Cait Darfler	P	Village of Trumansburg	Anne Koreman	E	Legislative Liaison
Marc Devokaitis	A	Town of Ulysses	Lindsay Dombroskie	P	Associate Member
Pegi Ficken	E	Town of Groton	Karen Edelstein	A	Associate Member
Melanie Greaver Cordova	P	At-Large	Jason Fenn	A	Associate Member
Brandon Hoak	P	At-Large	Joey Gates	E	Associate
Rick Neville	P	Village of Groton	Thomas Hirasuna	P	Associate Member
Steve Nicholson	P	Town of Caroline	David Weinstein	A	Associate Member
Stephanie Redmond	P	Town of Enfield	Robert Wesley	A	Associate Member
Susan Riley	E	At-Large	Darby Kiley	E	Tompkins Co. staff
Larry Sallinger	P	At-Large	Kristin McCarthy	P	Tompkins Co. staff
Ron Szymanski	P	Village of Freeville			

5 **Guests:** Gina Cassidy, Scott Doyle

6 **Call to Order** – Chair Cait Darfler called meeting to order at 4:02pm.

7 **Agenda Review/Public Comment** – No changes to agenda. Scott Doyle, director of sustainability and
8 energy management at Ithaca College and former County environmental planner, introduced himself
9 and shared plans for Sustainability Week (April 18-22) on campus.

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11 **Approval of Minutes** – The draft February 2023 minutes were approved (motion by Regi Teasley, second
12 by Tom Corey) as submitted.

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14 **Presentation/Discussion: TC Choice Aggregation (CCA) 3.0** – Paul Fenn, Local Power

15 Paul Fenn, a pioneer of community choice aggregation (CCA) since its early days in Massachusetts and
16 California, gave a presentation to group that covered history (e.g. progression from CCA 1.0, CCA 2.0,
17 and CCA 3.0), key terms, procurement, economic advantages for individual consumers, environmental
18 benefits, intermunicipal agreements, governance models, community outreach, and more. He explained
19 that CCAs are designed to be tailored to individual communities and to be easy to implement, and that
20 customers can opt out. Paul’s talk and subsequent Q&A covered microgrids versus nanogrids, on-site
21 generation, decarbonization, renewables, average utility rates, purchasing power, potential timeline for
22 implementation of Town and City of Ithaca CCA, affordability, and other topics.

23 **Executive Committee Report** – *Cait Darfler*

24 Cait updated group on NYSACC conference planning, May meeting at Stewart Park with municipal
25 conservation advisory commission members, and more.

26 **Committee Updates (as needed)**

27 Climate Adaptation Committee is preparing a public outreach event for June focused on flooding and
28 disaster preparedness. Education & Outreach Committee discussed how to support this event, along
29 with other initiatives, at their last meeting. UNA Committee consultants continue their work.

30 **Municipal Report: Town of Caroline** – *Steve Nicholson*

31 Steve provided an overview of the Town of Caroline, highlighting key aspects of its history, topography,
32 demographics, and current issues of concern to residents. His report covered trail systems, reforestation
33 of abandoned farmland, work of groups like Brighten Up Caroline, sustainability awards, energy efficient
34 building codes, and the contentious debate in the community over zoning.

35 **Additional Municipal Reports (as needed)**

36 David Wolfe gave a quick update on Town of Lansing Open Space Index. His report segued into brief
37 brainstorm about fieldtrips for NYSACC conference, with Bell Station suggested, as well as ideas for
38 speakers. David also shared that members of Lansing’s conservation advisory commission have said they
39 plan to attend the May EMC meeting at Stewart Park.

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41 **Staff Report (as needed)** – No report.

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43 **Member Announcements** – Members are excited for spring return of migrating birds. Peter Bardaglio of
44 Tompkins County Climate Initiative is guest presenter for April.

45 **Adjournment** – Chair Cait Darfler adjourned the meeting at 5:25pm.