

# **TCRP Kickoff Meeting**

**Ithaca**

**30 November 2005**

# Agenda

- Attendance and introductions
- Objectives
- Assumptions
- Ownership and licensing
- Formal process
- List structure
- Timeline
- Finishing the project outline
- Recruiting
- Building the Plan
- Assignments and deadlines
- Meeting schedule

# Attendance and introductions

- Jon Bosak
- Josh Dolan
- Marty Hiller
- Jen Maffett
- Ed Mikula
- Matt Miller (also representing Meredith Graham)
- Terry Moore (also representing Judy Cone)
- Kathleen Quinn-Jacobs
- Bethany Schroeder
- Simon St.Laurent

*These are the initial voting members of the TCRP.*

# Objectives

- Create a relocalization plan for Tompkins County
  - Identify key resources, personalities, and organizations
  - Front-load the first couple of years of planning
  - Identify the major challenges for our area
- Create a template for use by other counties
- Build a database of local information (maps, statistics, climatological data, etc.)
- Raise consciousness by getting down into the *local details*
  - Makes it practical
  - Makes it real

# TCRP and other local efforts

- Sustainable Tompkins, Sustainable Ithaca, Finger Lakes Permaculture, Farmers' Market, Green Buildings, etc.
- The TCRP is a disaster management plan that acknowledges all of these efforts as good and necessary but assumes that they won't be enough to prevent major problems after the peak
- This is the contingency plan about what to do when the dam fails
- Example: chemical fertilizers
  - It's good to avoid their use, but that's not the object of our concern here; our concern is about what we're going to do when it becomes no longer economical to use chemical fertilizers
  - This is a really big difference between the TCRP and other sustainability initiatives
- We are not competing with existing efforts
- Open question: how can we get the other groups to contribute to the TCRP?

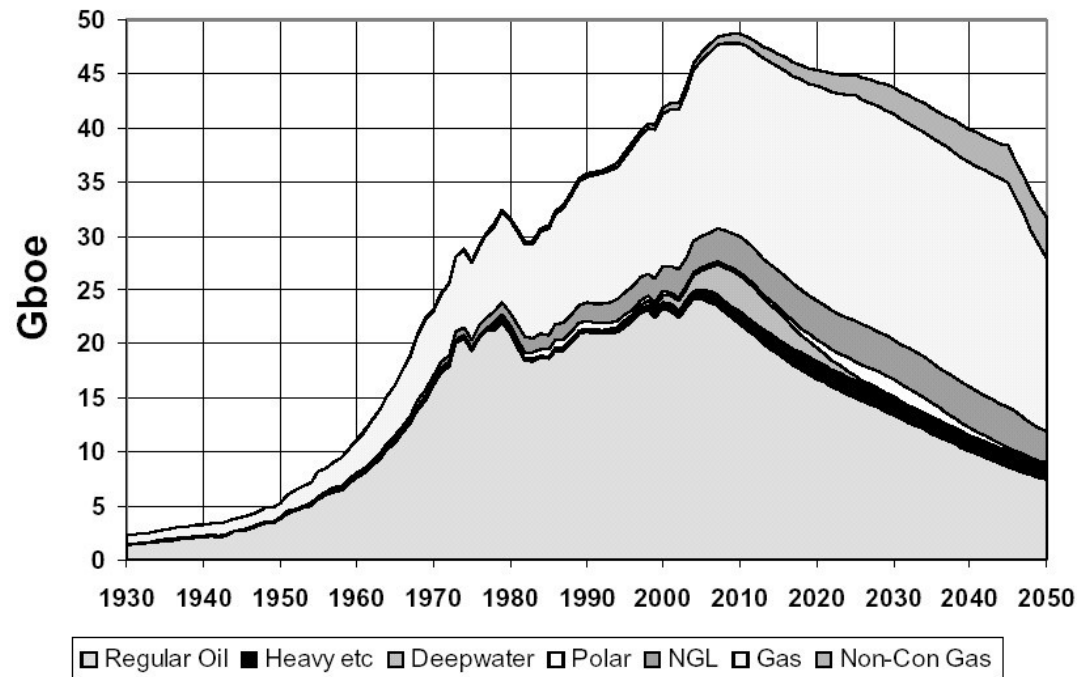
# Assumptions

- Global oil and gas production will begin an era of irreversible decline beginning around 2010
  - Prices will begin to trend inexorably upward for at least the following two decades
  - The U.S. economy will go into serious decline
  - We will all become rather poor
  - This will probably happen fairly slowly
- But an economic collapse in the near term (perhaps not directly related to peak oil) may keep prices low and push the production peak out into the future, so the problem may not be perceived as “peak oil” even though the consequences are largely the same
- Either way, our big problems are going to be transportation, employment, heating, and food; the big difference may be in the optimum level of decentralization

# Benchmark estimate

We have to pick one authority on the subject of peak oil timing. The best independent source of expert research appears to be ASPO.

OIL & GAS DEPLETION PROFILES  
2004 Base Case



I suggest that we take the Feb. 2005 SAIC report to the DOE as our other canonical authority on this problem.

# Ownership and licensing

- Technically, the TCRP is a publishing project; we are collaborating in the creation of a document with a group author (the TCRP)
- The result will be a piece of intellectual property owned by the TCRP and licensed to the world in general under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 2.5 License, under which prospective users:
  - Can freely copy and make derivative works (such as relocation plans for other counties), but only for noncommercial purposes
  - Must credit the TCRP and include the same license (this is often informally called a *viral license*)



# Formal process

- Because we're going to be building and then owning something of value together, we need to be operating (at least in theory) within a formal framework; think of the governing board of a condominium or a co-op
  - Indemnification
  - Editor, site maintainer, chair (Jon Bosak for the next 6 months)
  - RROR and the lifeboat analogy
  - Voting members of the TCRP (= the contributors)
  - Conducting business by email (common consent)
  - See the Terms of Reference for details
- Note that we are not operating by pure consensus but under “try for consensus, fall back to majority” rule

# Basic understandings

By participating in the project:

- You agree to the License
- You agree to the Terms of Reference
- You understand that you can't withdraw your contributions; they belong to the group

*End of the non-negotiable stuff!*

# Mail list structure

## **tcrp@lists.ibiblio.org**

- Contributors only
- Read/write (contributors can post to the list)
- Archive: <http://lists.ibiblio.org/mailman/private/tcrp/>
- Archive is password-protected
- Generally best to post to the list directly (don't put me in the critical path) unless the matter involves contacts or personalities

## **tcrp-news@lists.ibiblio.org**

- Observers of the project (currently about 30)
- Anyone can subscribe  
(<http://lists.ibiblio.org/mailman/listinfo/tcrp-news>)
- Read-only (subscribers cannot post to the list)
- Public archive: <http://lists.ibiblio.org/pipermail/tcrp-news/>

# Schedule

- Most (if not all) of us have pretty demanding day jobs, and some of us travel for weeks at a time
- Progress will be slow, but it needs to be steady
- A possible time line:
  - Dec 2005 – Feb 2006: Finish the project outline, present to target audiences and recruit selected participants, start gathering info
  - Mar 2006 – May 2006: Form teams, assign major research areas, begin research in teams, get key information resources and load them on the web site
  - Jun 2006 – Aug 2006: Research, research, research; start writing
  - Sep 2006 – Nov 2006: Circulate drafts within teams, assemble into sections
  - Dec 2006 – Feb 2007: Circulate drafts to the TCRP, revise
  - Mar 2007 – May 2007: Approve sections
  - Jun 2007 – Aug 2007: Assemble document
  - Sep 2007 – Nov 2007: Public review and revision
  - Dec 2007: Publish and deliver to TC Legislature

# Finishing the project outline

- Turns out that the project outline is an important deliverable in its own right
- We're creating a template for other county relocation efforts (they won't have the same solutions, but they will need to ask many of the same questions)
- It's not done yet
- Process:
  - Review the project outline
  - Identify new areas
  - Add additional questions
  - Send new material to the list and I'll edit it in

*Remember that we're planning for what to do **after** the sh\*t hits the fan, not how to prevent that from happening (that's the object of several other efforts)*

# Recruiting and outreach

## *Notes from the meeting:*

- People in county government
- People in town, city, and village governments
- People at Cornell: Agriculture, Veterinary, Economics, Architecture, CRP (city and regional planning)
- TC3: Environmental studies, healthcare
- People at Ithaca College: Biology, economics
- Farmers' market
- Greenstar
- Insulation and alternate energy installers and contractors
- TCAT
- TCAD (Tompkins County Area Development) – Martha... 50-year plan (2000)
- Cooperative Extension
- Local communications: Ithaca Times, Journal, WHCU, WSKG, Ithaca Community Radio, Pegasus (cable access), TC swarms
- Sustainable Tompkins
- Green builders
- Finger Lakes Land Trust
- BOCES, Challenge industries
- Red Cross and county disaster planners
- Eco village
- Living wage (shared issues)
- Primitive Pursuits
- Local tribes (contact: Jack Rossen, IC Anthro; people in Syracuse who know NOON)

# [meeting notes]

- Reviewers vs contributors (need knowledgeable reviewers)
- Maybe: presentations, then see who comes forward
  - Presenters: Jon, Simon, Bethany
  - Needs to be done in first three months, then stop recruiting (but keep on giving informative presentations)
- ACTION: All: over next week, send to list what you can do with arranging presentations for Jan-Feb. Three different kinds of input:
  - Here's a contact
  - Here's a contact for an organization interested in a TCRP presentation
  - ... and i'm happy to give the presentation
- ACTION: J. Bosak to build an initial TCRP presentation slide set.

*These Ais are copied on the end slide.*

# Building the Plan

## Key points:

- Collaborative creation of a coherent plan is an iterative process (an improvement cycle)
- The originators of content are a mix of individuals and teams
- Since we own the product together, we have to collectively approve all of the content

## So the way it works is:

- The originator creates a draft and circulates it to the group with a specific time to comment
- Everyone in the group reviews and makes comments
- The originator edits the draft based on the comments
- This repeats till the group approves the draft

In teams, the team is the “group” and the members “originators.” After the team's editor has assembled the section and the team has approved it, then the team becomes an “originator” to the TCRP as a whole.



# Assignments

- Simon St.Laurent: contact mailman experts
- Jon Bosak: build initial TCRP presentation slide set for review by the group
- All: identify presentation opportunities and contacts, send to the list

# Meeting schedule

- F2F meetings vs. phone conferences
- F2F meetings:
  - Where? Old Jail (check on phone access); or other location in Ithaca (possibilities: Autumn Leaves, TC3 rooms in the Rothschild Building (next to center Ithaca), TC3 bldg on Willow, Cooperative Extension, library Borg Warner room)
  - How often? A: about once a month
  - Let's try Saturday 5-7 somewhere TBD in Ithaca
  - Next meeting Saturday 1/7; email in the interim
  - Please use meaningful subject lines