

TCRP Minutes 1 April 2006

(Please note that since the meeting a few AIs have already been completed and have been designated as DONE.)

Roll Call

Jon Bosak, Kate Quinn-Jacobs, Jen Maffet, Ed Mikula, Terry Moore, Angelika Rumberger, Bethany Schroeder, Simon St. Laurent

Formalization of secretary role

Jon pointed out that the role is required under Robert's Rules of Order. Bethany will serve in this function until the group wants a rotation or Bethany is unable to fulfill the secretarial duties. TCRP will use Bethany's email and other contact information as back up when Jon is unavailable.

Presentations

1. 27 March 2006: Radio interview with Jason Bradford, KZYY, WELL, went nicely with many good caller questions.
2. 29 March 2006: GreenStar (7-9 p.m.) presentation pulled in an audience of peak-oil aware community members. Many good questions arose, and the material was well received.

Jon has a presentation scheduled for Sustainable Tompkins within the next couple of months; he'll let the group know the date as soon as possible.

AI: Marty may have a contact at IC; she'll inform the group know later.

Report: Publicity

Bethany published a 1200-word article in the Spring issue of the Underground Collective. The editors have requested an energy article each quarter for the foreseeable future.

EJ George conducted an interview for Ithaca Community News, which was published in the on-line newsletter in March. EJ interviewed Jon, Bethany, and Dave in the process of completing her research.

Press inquiries (holdovers)

1. Jake McNamara, *Ithaca Times*: *IT* is interested in knowing about TCRP, but has put us on hold for now. Jon wondered whether the newspaper might accept an article from us. **AI:** Jon will check with McNamara.

2. Matthew Peterson, *The Forum*: This is a new publication. The editor would like to feature the TCRP but has put the work on hold until we hear from *Ithaca Times*, understanding the *IT* coverage could be significant to the TCRP effort. **AI**: Jon will update us as soon as Peterson can be reached.

Publishing Strategy

Further thoughts about how to reach an audience have led to a reassessment of the audience itself, which may more properly be thought of as the public in general rather than County officials. In discussions with Jon, Bethany suggested creating white papers on each of the topics that could then be distributed in both web and hard copy formats. These white papers would include all of the research areas and should ideally be written at a reading level most representative of the general public. We could, for example, begin by putting the content of the slide set into a narrative form. Doing so would help to focus our own interest(s), while providing examples to others in and outside the community about what we hope to accomplish over the long term. Terry noted that the concept of a white paper traditionally has been to air ideas without being the final word regarding them.

TCRP members agreed to the idea. Jon suggested that an ad hoc group convene to determine work items and white paper formats. Jen said that she'd be willing to work with the group if we could hold discussions in email; others accepted her suggestion. One of the interested members will kick off the discussion prior to the next meeting. We'll strive to have a basic plan by mid-May.

In order to finance publishing, we talked about the possibility of applying for grants. Terry pointed out that doing so might put us in the position of having to please people who don't necessarily hold to our perspective. Jon and Bethany said that they could finance the publication of materials, much as they do other TCRP-related needs. Terry said that he'd be willing to let the organization use his company copiers to produce the white papers. For the moment, we agreed to finance endeavors internally rather than look for outside funding.

Relocalization Gap analysis

Simon conducted an analysis of several extant plans for living with less energy. He found the Kinsale plan to be well organized, with several areas of concern different from ours. The plan includes realistic time lines, with a focus on youth separate from education and social organization. It includes local currency, waste reduction and reuse, building codes, and the development of a sustainability center. He also assessed Willits (WELL), which he found to include an inventory of resources as part of the research process. He noted that the notion of a barn raising following a disaster was presented in the plan and wondered whether this could be construed as a cultural shift.

Simon concluded that we're in a somewhat different position in that our public is aware of peak oil even though our officials have failed to admit to the problem, whereas Willits and Kinsale have achieved buy-in from elected and commercial officials, along with a big segment of their respective local populations. Members agreed after hearing Simon's report that we need connections in the local economy, Cornell, IC, and the local manufacturing base. **AI:** Simon will list any items to be added to the research areas.

Research assignments

AI: DONE—Jon will circulate research areas.

TCRP members to make suggestions for additions.

Takers:

Kate: preparedness and social adjustment

Angelika: tree crops

Simon: transportation

Bethany: health care

Marty asked whether our software would allow us to reorganize and create subheads after we take assignments. **AI:** Jon will add this question to the list of topics to be shared with Dave.

Coordination/repository site

- Report: Dinner with Julian Darley (chief executive of the Post Carbon Institute, aka PCI)—Jon described his recent conversation with Darley, held while Jon was at a separate conference in Van Couver. PCI would like us to adopt their plan as it's developed and wants all post-carbon work to be shared through the PCI interface. Although TCRP members agree that we need a local solution to the coming energy challenge, we also think it'd be a good idea to share repository resources. **AI:** Jon will discuss the mechanics of this with Dave. In addition, Jon and Dave will work on developing a button on the home page that links to the repository, which we'll now refer to as the library.
- Going live with tclocal.org: Jon will talk with Dave about how and when to make the change.
- TCRP has been offered help with a wiki from Dave Panofsky. We discussed the pros and cons, agreeing that wikis work well when a community cares about the same things but that wikis can also be havens for on-line graffiti and sabotage. One con is that we'd have to learn a new technology to use it. At this time, it could be a distraction to accept the offer and get involved in making the wiki occur. **AI:** Jon to communicate regrets to Dave Panofsky.
- Project name (TCRP) vs. web domain (tclocal.org): The group concluded that we'll change our domain to tclocal.org and refer to

ourselves as tlocal (TCLocal?). After a long debate about the strengths and weaknesses in the term “relocalization,” we will continue to consider our options about what to do with the TCRP acronym.

Earth Day planning:

- Collateral: Planning group wants to use the poster of ASPO data; still discussing cookies.
- Brochure: any additional ideas or suggestions for changes should be emailed to Angelika by 4/7. Should we add a section for additional reading to the brochure? Use of the cartoon requires permission. **AI—DONE:** Jon will get reprint permission for the cartoon.
- Table scheduling: covered. Additional coverage will be arranged through email.

Regional conference planning

Bethany had a phone conference with Eugene Marnier of Franklin about holding a peak oil education and planning conference in the Fall. As part of an inter-county collaborative effort, we want to pull from Central and Western New York for participation, offer only local stars in the line up, and try to keep it low-key but professional. Jon and Bethany will meet with Eugene in early to mid-May, and would be pleased to have planners attend this meeting. **Please note:** After the initial meeting with Eugene, Jon will no longer participate in the organization of the conference, which will require at least 3-4 dedicated planners. Bethany will continue in the effort. Others? Submit or confirm your intention to participate in the planning by 4/13.

Peak oil melancholia

Following the GreenStar presentation, Bethany wondered whether it's time to start a peak oil aware group as part of her responsibility to the PCI Ithaca Outpost effort. Members think so. Bethany will look for venues for a monthly meeting and will apprise the group of circumstances related to the planning as they occur.

Action item review

Action items were reviewed and dispensed with or carried over, where necessary.

Notice

Jon reminded members that according to the initial agreement of the group, a chair rotation and adoption of a standing rule related to the chair position is planned for the May meeting.

Dinner

The group withdrew for a photo session and ritual dining shortly after 7 p.m.

Next meeting: Saturday, May 13, STSP

Respectfully submitted,

Bethany Schroeder