

TCLocal Meeting Minutes  
June 5, 2010

Held at 118 East court Street, Ithaca, 5-7 p.m.

Present: Jon Bosak, Krysa Cail, Karl North, Bethany Schroeder, Tom Shelley

1. Meeting commenced at 5:15.

- Minutes accepted without changes.
- No changes to agenda.
- No introductions required.

2. Website ite items

- Review of Karl's article: discussion of Part 5, Visioning County Food, including examples of activities that might need to be discontinued so that we can have more peri-urban land available, and the reference to Wendell Berry and the Gunter paragraph, including whether he used a real or imagined example and whether Karl should keep them or ditch the illustration.

3. Back to Democracy: "Local Responses to Energy Descent"

- Plan for a half hour of community discussion: 0. Jon (world view); 1. Karl (agriculture); 2. Kate (preparedness); 3. Bethany (health) , and 4. Tom (energy).
  - Use visuals?
  - Handouts helpful
  - 1.5 hours for presentations and .5 for community discussion
  - September 17 at 7 at Trumansburg Firehouse

3. Oil outlook study session—references and scheduling

- John Michael Greere: Long Descent
- As requested, scan in Karl's May 24 email:

“I think we can gain and share widely as possible an understanding of the forces and feedbacks at work on liquid fuel prices in the short term. Beyond that, the idea of prediction or even discovering probabilities in near term liquid fuel strikes me as chasing an impossibility. It is axiomatic in systems science that prediction in complex systems is unattainable even in the long term; one can gain insights as to the probable *general shape of the curve of long term behaviors under different scenarios, nothing more*. As for the short term, one cannot even hope for that. If such is the case, any statement we might make about near term liquid fuel supply, demand, and resultant price is likely to be misleading, and therefore damaging to our street cred. So I think we should concentrate on pulling together a list of key forces and feedbacks and an understanding of present and potential dynamics. To get the juices running, here is a start on a list:

1. World capitalist economic melt down

a. Continued surrender to financialization

b.Chickens to roost deep crash and depression

- i. Complete
  - ii Stairway-style
- c. WWII-style state capitalist control and redirection of energy resources and economic planning
- d. Repeated, sudden supply chain failures – empty pumps, just-in-time inventory disruptions
- 2. Oil wars heat up. Potential hot spots:
  - a. Iraq/Iran/AfPak
  - b. Venezuela/Colombia
  - c. Nigeria
- 3. Energy nationalism
  - a. Oil data secrecy continues, increases
  - b. OPEC maneuvers
  - c. Iraq/Iran delivers (or not), China corners market chunk
- 4. Domestic natural gas and coal production and costs
- 5. EROI of nonconventional liquids

Jon concerned about doomed scenario; speak in relatively short horizons about prices; lately legislators also willing to talk about food as an issue, and oil, because of oil shocks; Jon agrees with Karl but notes his thesis doesn't give us any place to go. Discussed cost of food as a consequence of the cost of energy.

Here are some connected factors:

- Too many variables to give a prediction
- But we can present an idea of the problem by holding all of the variables stable and simply looking at depletion.
- Talk about interdependent system. Studies that hold the economic system steady. Money system collapses or economies decouple.
- Acknowledge feedback loops.

Study session: July 19 at 4 p.m. At CTB on Aurora

July: Karl: Agriculture #6

August: Jon and Tom re: ToI ag protection plan

September: Jon's BTD overview as an article

(Jon to deliver a first draft of the overview right after our meeting 7/10 and schedule a meeting to discuss right after 7/17.)

Next meeting: July 10 at Tom's, 5-7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bethany Schroeder