Members Attending: Mr. Peck, Mr. Lightfoot, Mr. Acres, Mr. Akins, Mr. Arquiett, Ms. Brothers, Mr. Burns, Mr. MacKinnon, Mr. Morrill, Mr. Paquin, Mr. Parker, Mr. Putman, Mr. Putney, and Mr. Sutherland

Others Attending: Karen St. Hilaire, Ruth Doyle, Chandra Coffey, Keith Zimmerman, Mike Cunningham, Mike Crowe, Ruth Ayen, Mary Lou Rupp, Chris Rediehs, Chris Boulio, Sue Hathaway, Joanne Sevick, Tom Nichols, Jennie Bacon, Jon Montan, John Tenbush, Kevin Wells, Jason Pfotenhauer, Jon Rosales, and Media Representative Martha Ellen – Watertown Daily Times

1. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Chair Peck called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. Chair Peck said it is necessary to amend the agenda to add a resolution entitled “Supporting The Adirondack Club And Resort” to be considered before Executive Session. Ms. Brothers moved to approve the agenda with the suggested change, seconded by Mr. MacKinnon, and carried.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Mr. Putman moved to approve the minutes from the February meeting, seconded by Mr. Morrill, and carried.

Chair Peck reminded Legislators to continue to keep their logs for the New York State Retirement reporting requirement.

Ms. Brothers announced that Gavin Regan was appointed County Clerk by Governor Cuomo effective immediately. She welcomed Mr. Gavin as the new Clerk (he was not in attendance) and thanked Ms. Mary Lou Rupp for filling in during the interim.

3. ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COUNCIL – JON ROSALES - CLIMATE CHANGE AND PEAK OIL PLAN FOR ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY (Presentation and Info) – Mr. Jon Rosales provided a power point presentation (on file).

After the presentation Mr. Lightfoot said he understands that many believe that water vapor is keeping the rays in resulting in temperature change. Mr. Rosales agreed that water vapor is a very strong gas. Mr. Lightfoot said you are talking about carbon being the problem, but there is ten times the water vapor than carbon. He asked if we should be addressing the water vapor issue. Mr. Rosales said the increased temperature is resulting in water vapor, adding if we can get the long term climate change going you can then start monitoring the water vapor. He pointed out that there are a lot of areas around the globe that are in drought.

Mr. Acres asked if China was one of the countries that agreed to the Cancun target. Mr. Rosales said they all agreed, but how we get to that target has yet to be determined. Mr. Acres said we will need additional food over time to keep up with the increase in population; the question is how we do that. Mr. Rosales replied that you can’t grow food if it is 120 degrees in Nebraska, adding that drought is significant in Africa. He said there is no easy answer; there is, and will continue to be a need for food and energy. He stated we need to get the accounting and measurement right, adding that we need to make sure we have safeguards for food, energy, and a stable economy.
Mr. MacKinnon said regarding the “forcing” aspect, those temperature readings go back 800,000 years and were taken from ice samples. Mr. Rosales agreed. Mr. MacKinnon said it looks like there have been four obvious spikes, and gone up quickly then down again; it looks like we are in the same pattern as before, making it look like things will go the other way naturally. He said what is being implied here is that due to man the trend will not continue. Mr. Rosales agreed, adding that is the pattern, going up and down in a natural rhythm. He said you may have read that some scientists were worried about global cooling, and if you deleted humans from the equation that would be accurate. He said those cycles are from the sun and the tilt of the earth, adding that the “forcing” has overcome this trend, and because of this we will not go into a glacial period.

Mr. Morrill agreed by saying we need to take action, but what bothers him are statements like we can’t grow food in Nebraska at 120 degrees, when you are discussing a temperature increase of four degrees. He asked for an explanation of the statement you can’t grow food in 120 degrees in Nebraska. Mr. Rosales said this is what is scary, noting that by mid century we could have a four degree increase in temperature causing heat waves for a month at a time at 120 degrees, and will mainly be located in the center of continents.

Ms. Brothers said all numbers are predicated on current technology, adding technology could change and impact the outcome. She said regarding the Kyoto and Cancun goals, many countries agreed to participate, but there are no regulations enforcing them to do it. She is skeptical about China conforming to the goals. Mr. Rosales said this is business as usual, that is to say if we do nothing this (his presentation) is what can look forward to. He stated that his hopes are we can get working on this and include new technology. Ms. Brothers said if there is a way to make this profitable it would encourage people to buy in.

Mr. Acres asked what the current rates are at the Chicago Climate Exchange. Mr. Rosales said 19 cents per ton here, but is currently $20 in Europe, adding that as we move forward it will become much more profitable in the U.S. Mr. Acres said there are many scientific theories regarding Climate Change. He provided examples of reforestation in the Pacific and pointed out that the automobiles are much more efficient, as well as the number of cattle for dairy have decreased even with the increase of milk production. He asked why the sudden escalation in greenhouse gas when business in general is much more efficient. Mr. Rosales said it is the over all size of the economies that have grown significantly, adding we are driving further everyday and using more resources. He said regarding the science vs. science that was mentioned, he looked at that. He personally has looked at the science itself, not just the discussion of the United Nation, as they are not scientists.

Mr. Putney thanked Mr. Rosales for the presentation. His said his concern is that we are one county in one state, but this is a global problem. He said China and other countries have agreed to participate in the goals, but how can this be enforced. He said has been to Beijing in China and can attest that the air is hard to breath because of pollution. He believes that government does not care they just want to be able to compete. He said this level (county) may not be where the solution lies. He asked how can we, as a county, make a difference. Mr. Rosales said compliance is a huge issue, but there is no other place to go. He said this is the best we have. He said the Kyoto protocol has reached its goal of 10 percent from 1990, adding we need everyone to step-up and that is where the County comes in. He suggested that this could be viewed as a no regrets strategy.

4. PLANNING – KEITH ZIMMERMAN
A. Approving the St. Lawrence County Climate Action Plan (Res) – Mr. Morrill moved to forward this resolution to the full Board, seconded by Mr. Parker.

Mr. Morrill referred to the Plan and said using $20 per ton and having a 20% reduction equates to $15,000 in revenue which does not seem like much. He said that is what we are talking about right. Mr. Montan said if you just look at the potential revenue, depending upon your assumption, you will get a result, but the bigger point is that this Plan recognizes the link between energy use and climate change. He said this looks at saving money by energy reduction, fuel use, and electricity consumption, which is the main thrust of this. He said no one is under the elusion that St. Lawrence County is going to have a huge stamp on the greenhouse gas equation, but more so we want to accomplish government in the most economical way possible. He said that is in the no regrets strategy that Mr. Rosales spoke about. He said this stretches over a time, way out into the future and will require a continuing effort by the County. He said he believes this is more than just how much you can sell the credits for.

Mr. Morrill said he could support this, but it bothers him every time someone comes with grandiose ideas, but we never seem to address the current environmental issue of the day. He said he agrees that the future is important, but J and L just sits and there seems to be no sense of urgency about cleaning up that site or the gas stations in different areas around the County. He said we, the Board of Legislators, do see the urgency but he does not see it from the EMC which is disappointing. He said this may be a no regrets strategy, but please consider the past which goes along with our future.

Mr. Akins pointed out page 44, the five-year summary, asking for explanation of why the cost is down about 55% the first year from 2005 to 2009. Mr. Montan said he could not answer that at this moment, but thinks it has to do with the natural gas price going down. He said the data they had to work with was not complete and they tried to work around that by reaching reasonable conclusions. He said they will look at the data each year, adding that the intern that worked on this put the trend lines in the document, but they are very misleading and should be ignored. Mr. Akins said it would be nice to look at what can be done in the next three years, as reachable goals. He suggested looking at the mileage per year and possibly switching to solar energy; if we can take small steps and have foreseeable results would be helpful. Mr. Montan said if we are successful with the collaboration with St. Lawrence University that study would be useful to make further decisions. He said they want to look at employees commuting to the County. He said most of the suggestions in the Plan require further analysis.

Mr. Putman added that he believes the question regarding the decreased costs is from the fuel prices dropping and picking back up over time.

Mr. Burns referred to pages 22 and 23, the changes to the SEQR, asking for explanation of the addition of the questions and the statement and why it is important. Mr. Montan said the SEQR forms published by the State ask standard questions, a lot of it deal with site impacts, but they only ask certain questions, they would like to see more information included on those forms.

Mr. Acres said he does not agree with the big oil concept. He said by using the technology we have there is more oil to be retrieved from the Western part of the Country. He said what is not being considered is the impact on the population by pushing certain things it will impact people. He thinks applying for grants like we are doing with St. Lawrence University is the right thing to do. He does not buy into the doom and gloom theory. He has read about these theories, and pointed out that there are those that say many people will die due to global warming. He wondered how many people will be saved, for instance from respiratory illnesses. He considers
himself an environmentalist as a Dairy Farmer. He uses strategies to conserve, for instance turning off the tractor motor if it is to sit more than three minutes. He agreed with Ms. Brothers that there is nothing in here that compensates for impacts from new technology and innovations. He said there is nothing about nuclear energy. Mr. Montan said this Plan is the result of a request from the County Chamber of Commerce and the Board of Legislators. He said the EMC was asked look at it and to provide solutions. He said it was decided to only look at County operations and the things that the County can do to deliver services more efficiently. He said the reason we did not speak about nuclear energy and speculate on advances was those things will happen regardless of what St. Lawrence County does with its own operations, adding that nothing that is decided here will alter that.

Mr. Bunstone asked if there will be a review of this over time. Mr. Montan said we have to regard this as not a fixed document and will require a periodic review. He said we can write in a time frame or it can be just understood that it will be done.

Mr. Lightfoot said he has read the whole document and agrees the focus is to try to save the County money. He has no problem with cutting back on emissions or the carbon footprint. He does not want this to cost a lot of money. He said there are fourteen steps; ten will require some expenditure to accomplish. He said we have no good idea of how much those costs will be. He said for what you have done here to get us on the right track to look at where we can be savings money, he applauds the group.

Mr. Parker agreed with Mr. Lightfoot and thanked the EMC for the tremendous work. He also pointed out that he is particularly grateful for the use of the words “energy conservation”. He said a lot can be sold on conservation and savings. He said he found it interesting that we are still using over half of the energy that was previously used in the old Jail, and encouraged the County Administrator and departments to look at energy costs and usage. Mr. Cunningham said he agrees there are a lot of opportunities with that. He pointed out that the heating system is shared by the Courts and the old Jail, adding that the use has gone down but there are more opportunities for increased savings. He said the old Jail has little ventilation, and no air-conditioning, adding that the heating season is the most costly. Ms. St. Hilaire stated that we need discussion about the old Jail at some point.

Mr. Peck said he and Mr. Morrill are members of the Space Committee and suggested that Mr. Parker has just been appointed as the third member.

Mr. Parker said if we use per square foot cost for energy usage it will provide us with information that could be useful for energy savings.

Mr. Morrill said regarding employee commuting, if we are going to hire an employee from Brasher or other areas outside of the Village of Canton, he wants it clear that we should not look at where the candidate is driving from as a consideration for employment to lesson our carbon footprint.

Motion carried with one (1) no vote (Acres).

Mr. Burns asked Mr. Rosales if there is reason for concern about the U.S. fleet had moved away from the Coast of Japan due to possible radiation. Mr. Rosales said this is not his field of expertise but can say you will not get the same level of exposure if you are right there, but the bi-products can get airborne effecting the upper West Coast mostly. He said there is a system of monitoring that.

B. Authorizing St. Lawrence County to Apply for Community Development Block Grant
Funds (Res) – Ms. Brothers moved to forward this resolution to the full Board, seconded by Mr. Parker and Mr. Morrill.

Mr. Burns asked if we had a similar resolution last year. Mr. Pfotenhauer replied yes, and the program went well; they received $750,000 last year and spent a good portion of that. He said they are on a yearly cycle and will spend down the current allocations before getting into the new grant money. He said there is a lengthy waiting list and they constantly advertise this program in newspapers and by word of mouth. He stated that the waiting list gets longer, never shorter.

Mr. Parker said keep up the good work regarding the grants. He asked if not spending the money reduces our eligibility. Mr. Pfotenhauer said the money will be spent by the time the decisions are made. He does not believe it effects the grant decision.

Mr. Acres asked how we are using with the money. Mr. Pfotenhauer said there is an allotment to the first time home buyers to assist with lower the mortgage and closing costs. Mr. Acres asked if this is income based. Mr. Pfotenhauer replied yes, and is based on household size for instance a family of four would fall within a range of $40,000 to $45,000. Motion carried.

C. Proclaiming April 2011 as Fair Housing Month in St. Lawrence County (Res) – Mr. Burns moved to forward this resolution to the full Board, seconded by Mr. Akins and Mr. Bunstone. Mr. Parker said this resolution states the Fair Housing Task Force was formed in 1991, is there anyone here that sits on that. Mr. Pfotenhauer replied yes, Keith Zimmerman. Mr. Zimmerman said the Task Force has been on hiatus for some time, but we are currently rejuvenating it. He said they are looking for new members. Mr. Pfotenhauer said there are ongoing issues for decent housing choices in St. Lawrence County and there is discrimination. He said we do what we can to educate on the Fair Housing act.

Mr. Akins asked if there are phone calls from people complaining about being discriminated against. Mr. Pfotenhauer replied yes, and they assist those people by referring the matter to various agencies. Motion carried.

D. Proclaiming April 22, 2011 as Earth Day in St. Lawrence County (Res) – Mr. Bunstone moved to forward the resolution to the full Board, seconded by Mr. Parker and Mr. Morrill. Mr. Parker said as a friendly amendment please insert the word “conservation” after preservation. There were no objections. Motion carried.

5. SHERIFF – KEVIN WELLS

A. Modifying the 2011 Sheriff’s Office Budget to Pay for Office Furniture and Equipment (Res) – Mr. Morrill moved to forward the resolution to the full Board, seconded by Mr. Bunstone and Mr. Burns, and carried.

6. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Morrill moved to forward a resolution entitled “Supporting the Adirondack Club and Resort”, seconded by Mr. Morrill, Mr. Burns, Mr. Parker and Mr. Sutherland. Mr. Morrill, Mr. Parker, Mr. Sutherland, and Mr. Burns requested to be added as Co-Sponsors.

Mr. MacKinnon asked specifically where this will be located. Mr. Morrill said it will be located near Big Tupper. Ms. St. Hilaire said the APA decides this week regarding the permitting process. Mr. Morrill said there is significant opposition, but this is very important for our
Mr. Burns said it would be beneficial to hear from the developer. Ms. St. Hilaire will set up a presentation for the Board of Legislators. **Motion carried.**

Mr. Burns said we have discussed water levels in the past, but recently there was a news report that the water level of Lake Ontario had dropped from last year. He read from an email from Dalton Foster. He said Lake Ontario is five inches lower on average from March of 2009. He said this year from January to February the supplies to Lake Ontario are well below average. He said the rain has helped, but the outflow to Montréal has been low for 2011. He said as we move into spring we must keep an eye on the water levels because of the effects on tourism in St. Lawrence County. He said we should hope that we receive enough rain so the farmers can successfully grow crops and the water levels are good for the river fishing. Mr. MacKinnon mentioned that he recently traveled through Childwold and the snow cover was significant and wondered if that may affect the water level.

Mr. Morrill said he received a call from Bob Andrews asking him to remind everyone about the Ag and Farmland Protection Board meeting in Gouverneur tomorrow. The meeting will be about the Agriculture Development Authority in Jefferson County. He provided driving directions.

7. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** – Mr. Bunstone moved to go into Executive Session at 7:12 p.m. for negotiations, appointments, and a personnel issue, seconded by Mr. Morrill, and carried. Ms. Brothers moved to return to Open Session at 7:40 p.m., seconded by Mr. Parker, and carried.

**Mr. Burns moved to appoint Matt Curatolo as the Alternate representative for Mr. Putney to the Fish and Wildlife Management Board, Region 6, seconded by Mr. Bunstone, and carried.** Chair Peck said a letter will go out tomorrow to the DEC and Mr. Curatolo notifying them of this appointment so that Mr. Curatolo can attend the group’s first meeting of the year later this week. He also mentioned that the official Board appointment will be made April 4, 2011.

Ms. St. Hilaire mentioned that the Board Office keeps a donation fund for flowers and greeting cards if anyone wishes to contribute.

Mr. MacKinnon informed the Committee that the Trails Coordinator discussion has been moved to the April 18th meeting, not this month as was previously planned.

8. **ADJOURNMENT** – Chair Peck adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m., as there was no further business.