

**Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency**  
**January 5, 2023 Meeting Minutes**  
**Meeting held at Cayuga County Soil & Water Conservation District Offices**

Members or Designees Present: Gary Clark, Doug Kierst, Seth Jensen, Patrick Mooney, Eileen O'Connor, Ann Robson, Ed Wagner, Dan Welch,

Others Present: Keith Batman, Frank Clarke, Lisa Cleckner, Glen Coin, Janice Degni, Adam Effler, Ani Fish, Jon Gilbert, Dr. Gioia, Brian Hall, Mark James, Liz Kreitinger, Ron Kuck, Aaron McKeon, Frank Moses, Erin Norris, Patty Orr, Evan Tuthill, Kirsten Workman, Michele Wunderlich

**Presentation: Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations, Keith Batman, President, Cayuga County Board of Health**

Keith Batman discussed the Cayuga County Board of Health's concerns over delays in the New York State Department of Health review process of the Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations. He requested that the Agency pass a motion to submit a letter to the Governor of New York to ask her to tell the NYSDOH to continue the process they started.

Ed Wagner made a motion for the Cayuga County WQMA to send a letter to the Governor of New York to request her support in moving forward in the Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations process. Ann Robson seconded the motion. A discussion ensued.

Seth Jensen made a motion to amend the motion to add that the Cayuga County WQMA supports the letter written by the Cayuga County Board of Health on December 22, 2022. Eileen O'Conner seconded the motion. A discussion ensued. Doug Kierst, Dan Welch and Pat Mooney voted no, the rest voted yes. The motion passed five to three.

The motion for the Cayuga County WQMA to send a letter to the Governor of New York to request her support in moving forward in the Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations process and that the Cayuga County WQMA supports the letter written by the Cayuga County Board of Health on December 22, 2022 came up for vote. Dan Welch abstained, Doug Kierst voted no and the rest voted yes. The motion passed with one abstaining, one no vote and the rest yes votes.

**Announcements**

Ed Wagner announced that Town of Owasco received \$2.5 million from Senator Schumer to upgrade their combined sewer systems.

**Minutes**

The minutes from the October 6, 2022 WQMA meeting were reviewed. Patrick Mooney made a motion to accept the October 6, 2022 minutes as written. Seth Jensen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

## **WQMA Priority Working Groups Reports**

### **Year End Report**

Michele Wunderlich reminded the working groups that the year end report is due at the February WQMA meeting, and she will be working with them to complete the report.

### **Communications and Outreach Working Group**

Eileen O'Connor reported that a newsletter went out in December and Frank Moses helped to put it together.

### **Invasive Species Working Group**

No report.

### **Nutrient and Sediment Working Group**

No report.

## **Agency Reports**

### **Cayuga County Health Department**

No report.

### **Cayuga County Parks Department**

Doug Dello Stritto reported that the Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District is almost done with dredging the back channel around Deauville Island at Emerson Park. He reported that they have begun preliminary planning to add markers in the Owasco Inlet for boaters. Finally, he stated that the construction has shut down for the winter at Sterling Nature Center.

### **Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)**

Doug Kierst reported that they are working with the County Department of Planning and Economic Development on the trade-a-tree program. He stated that they usually recycle around 400-500 Christmas trees and they give a coupon for a free seedling to participants. He stated that the agriculture grants will be coming out soon and they are still waiting on the WQIP grant announcement. He also reported that they did work in Aqueduct Park in Brutus. Doug Kierst stated that the stream reclassification bill was vetoed by the Governor and a discussion ensued.

### **Cayuga County Solid Waste**

Evan Tuthill reported that he is working on evaluating alternatives for the County Solid Waste Management Plan. He stated that the plan is to present it to the Cayuga County Legislature in March.

### **Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County (CCE)**

Dan Welch reported that the South Central New York Dairy and Field Crops Program is holding the 2023 Winter Crop meeting on January 26, 2023 at the Auburn Holiday Inn. He stated that they will be starting their winter shop meetings. He stated that a regional environmental educator has been hired; Ryan Staychock will be focusing on water quality and solid waste.

### City of Auburn

Seth Jensen reported that the City of Auburn is busy working on the regulations related to finding disinfection byproducts in their drinking water and they are sending out mailers about those disinfection to those that drink the water. He stated that they are working on removing debris built up on the piers at Hunters Diner, which has affected the gage station profile in the Owasco River.

### **Lake Reports**

#### Cayuga Lake Report

Liz Kreitinger reported that the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network's Community Conference was held in December 2022 and the presentations were recorded and are available on their website. She stated that they are looking for nominations for their Morehouse and White Awards which are given to two individuals who have given substantial contributions to Cayuga Lake and its watershed.

Erin Norris reported that the Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization (CWIO) new website is on-line ([cwio.org](http://cwio.org)). Their annual report and 2023 work plan will be placed on the website. She reported that Rebecca Schneider will be presenting on roadside ditches at the CWIO meeting in January.

#### Lake Como Report

Pat Mooney reported that their paperwork has been submitted to the NYSDEC for the permit to treat the lake with herbicides this year.

#### Little Sodus Bay/ Lake Ontario Report

Gary Clark reported that the United States Army Corp of Engineers has finished the Little Sodus Bay west pier and he discussed the changes that were made from the previous one.

#### Owasco Lake Report

Ann Robson asked if there could be conversation about potential projects and funding sources for projects in Cayuga County and Owasco Lake. A discussion occurred and the Agency will think about ways to bring it forward at future meetings.

Ann Robson reported that OWLA will be doing thirty-five classroom presentations on watersheds and sustainability. She reported that the Bob Brower Symposium will be held on March 11<sup>th</sup> and will be on the effects of climate change on Owasco Lake. She stated that they will continue to do the tributary sampling; are in the final year of their hemlock woolly adelgid grant; are participating in the Citizen Statewide Lake Assessment Program in 2023 and will continue to work with the Cayuga County SWCD with their cost share for ditch work.

#### Skaneateles Lake Report

Frank Moses introduced Patty Orr who will be the new member to the Agency for Skaneateles Lake once she gets back from Florida. Frank Moses stated that they are using Legacy Funds this year to support hemlock woolly adelgid treatment of critical steep areas in Glen Cove and Firelane 16A in Niles; have surveyed 7954 watercrafts as part of their aquatic invasive prevention efforts at boat launches; installed 325 benthic mats over dense milfoil monocultures

which totalled about 6 acres as part of their Milfoil Control and Survey Program; used their boat “The Bob” for a turbidity satellite study by SUNY ESF, a lake sediment study by Syracuse University, and Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) monitoring; and they are promoting the septic enhancement matching grant program.

### **Partner Reports**

#### **Finger Lakes Institute/Finger Lakes Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM)**

Lisa Cleckner reported that Sam Beck-Anderson is the new coordinator for the PRISM and they have hired a new aquatic invasive species program manager. She reported that Matt Gallo is their terrestrial invasive species manager and they have created a terrestrial invasive species strike team.

Lisa Cleckner reported that the Finger Lakes Institute has a certified lab. She reported that the Finger Lakes Institute has Water Resources Institute funding for research with Cornell University on harmful algal blooms and the microbiome primarily focused on Cayuga Lake. She reported that they are hosting a SUNY ESF PhD student to work on benthic cyanobacteria research. They are also working with SUNY ESF on mercury and PFOAs contamination of fish.

Lisa Cleckner reported that the Finger Lakes Institute has funding from NOAA and Sea Grant for education and have been working with the Wild Center in the Adirondacks and Paul Smith College to provide education to students and teachers on climate change, watershed resiliency and water quality.

#### **Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council (OLWMC)**

Adam Effler reported that they are getting ready to close on the Fillmore Nature Preserve property; they will continue their monthly feature articles in the Citizen in 2023; are working with others to plan the 2023 monitoring program; and are working on the Lake Friendly Living Program. He announced that John Halfman will be presenting at their January meeting. Finally, he reported that the Owasco Lake Watershed 9E Plan Project Coordinating Committee will begin meeting to implement the Owasco Lake Watershed 9E Plan.

#### **Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board**

Aaron McCeon reported that they are helping the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation promote a webinar for municipalities on how to deal with limited grant application and administration capacity at the municipal level and they are holding stormwater trainings.

### **Miscellaneous**

Doug Kierst made a motion to adjourn. Dan Welch seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The meeting was closed at 12:05 pm.