

Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency
January 9, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Members or Designees Present: Gary Clark, Harry Hinman, Doug Kierst, Seth Jensen, Steve Lynch, Bruce Natale, Rick Nelson, Eileen O'Connor, Don Oltz, Dale Powell, Dan Welch, Carl Wiezalis

Others Present: Jim Beckwith, Miranda Ciardulli, Greg Colucci, Olivia Green, Paul Harris Frank Moses, Charlie Ripley, Greg Rejman, Kaitlyn Shanahan, Emily Sheridan, Michele Wunderlich

Announcements

None.

Old Business

Minutes

The minutes from the December 5, 2019 WQMA meeting were reviewed. Seth Jensen made a motion to accept the December 5, 2019 minutes as written. Rick Nelson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

New Business

Elections

Eileen O'Connor representing the nominating committee put forward the slate of Seth Jensen as Chair and Doug Dello Stritto as Vice Chair. Eileen O'Connor made a motion that Seth Jensen be Chair of the WQMA and Doug Dello Stritto be the Vice Chair. Rick Nelson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

WQMA Priority Working Groups Reports

Michele Wunderlich asked for volunteers for the working groups and passed around a sign in sheet. She reported that the year-end report for the WQMA Priority Working Groups is due in February and the work plan for 2020 is due in March.

Communication and Outreach Working Group

Eileen O'Connor reported that the group sent out a newsletter in December and she thanked those who provided articles for the newsletter. She stated that they will look at sending out another one in March.

Invasive Species Working Group

Michele Wunderlich reported that she is working on the year-end report for the group and it will be sent out after the meeting.

Nutrient-Sediment Working Group

Eileen O'Connor distributed the "Residential Guidelines to Protect Water Quality in Cayuga County" which was the document that the Nutrient-Sediment Working Group created in 2019 with the help of Nick Colas from the Cayuga County Department of Planning and Economic Development.

Agency Reports

Cayuga County Parks Department

Steve Lynch reported that the County received money from the State's Resiliency and Economic Development Initiative (REDI) to do work along the Sterling Nature Center trails and green infrastructure for the parking lot. He reported that the bridges have been installed in Emerson Park and the pathways are about 80% complete.

Cayuga County Department of Planning and Economic Development

Steve Lynch reported that Nick Colas will be retiring March 31st and he introduced Greg Colucci, who is the new Senior Planner/GIS Analyst.

Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)

Doug Kierst reported that the SWCD received three CFA awards equaling approximately \$729,000. One is for a salt storage structure in the Cayuga Lake watershed, one is for a stream modification in the Town of Summerhill (\$500,000) and one is for a culvert assessment study in the Owasco Lake Watershed (around \$30,000). They are planning their Erosion and Sediment Control Workshops as well as conducting stabilization work.

Cayuga County Solid Waste Management Program Office

Bruce Natale reported that they are working on annual reports and grant reimbursements. They set records last year for crowd size at the electronics collection events.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County (CCE)

Dan Welch reported that they are working on the Dairy Advancement Program which is State funded and assists farms with less than 300 cows with planning.

City of Auburn

Seth Jensen reported that the City's combined sewer overflows are in need of improvement and they need about \$20 million in improvements in the next five years. He stated that the City of Auburn received a grant to study the evaluation and design of upgrades needed and hope to get more grants in the future to cover cost of the upgrades. He also stated that because the Auburn Landfill is closing they are working on evaluating the use of a biosolids dryer for the waste water treatment plant. This would help make the unstabilized sludge into something with a beneficial use that would no longer need to be landfilled.

Lake Reports

Cross Lake Report

Carl Wieszalis reported that he has reviewed the "Reimagine the Canal" projects and he has concern that there is nothing in there for flood management in this region. He stated that he only saw re-establishment of wetlands and he is concerned about water levels. He stated that the WQMA might want to ask someone to come to talk about this at a future meeting. He stated that the Central New York Waterways, Inc. is working on their annual planning and have concerns about water chestnut. He stated that they are thinking of requesting that towns along the river and lake provide funds for mitigation.

Duck Lake Report

Dale Powell reported that Duck Lake is in good shape and they are working on the paperwork for next year's herbicide application

Little Sodus Bay Report

Gary Clark reported that the water level in Lake Ontario is starting to drop but is still about 15 inches higher than normal.

Owasco Lake Report

Rick Nelson reported that the Owasco Watershed Lake Association is working on fundraising and has grants for ditch and stream remediation and sampling. He reported that the Bob Brower Scientific Symposium will be held on March 7, 2020.

Skaneateles Lake Report

Frank Moses reported that they had 23 harmful algal blooms reported in Skaneateles Lake in 2019 and of these, seven were confirmed and five of those had high toxins. He reported that the Skaneateles Lake Association, Inc. has a draft business plan for aquatic invasive species which includes stronger mandated inspections. He reported that they matted six acres of milfoil in 2019 and have surveyed to see where patches are growing; O'Brien and Gere will be doing the modeling for the Skaneateles Nine Element Plan and they are working on a lake manual. Finally, he reported that there will be a data summit on January 22, 2020; location to be determined.

Seth Jensen stated that he would like to tour the member lakes.

Partner Reports

Atlantic States Legal Foundation

Paul Harris stated that they are available to provide technical assistance to help with gaps in capacity.

Great Lakes Action Agenda Southeast Lake Ontario Work Group

Emily Sheridan stated that Aimee Clinkhammer from the Finger Lakes Water Hub stated that work continues on water quality monitoring. She reported that the Great Lakes Research Consortium grants are available and provided a summary of the Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) Program grant awards that were funded.

Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council (OLWMC)

Kaitlyn Shanahan reported that the OLWMC received their new water quality monitoring sonde and are working on some grant applications. She invited everyone to the OLWMC meeting on January 21, 2020.

Partnership for Healthy Watersheds

Greg Rejman reported that they are meeting at the end of the month to plan their work for the year. He stated that they have been doing nutrient management system and separation trials and have provided targeted Facebook posts.

The Nature Conservancy

Olivia Green stated that Evidn will be presenting on January 27, 2020 on their work using behavioral science to understand farmer's resistance to best management practices, location most likely Auburn City Hall. She reported that they have closed on the Parmaley property; which was donated.

Miscellaneous

Steve Lynch discussed the process to finalize the Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations. He reported that the Cayuga Lake Intermunicipal Organization and the water purveyors that draw water from Cayuga Lake are looking at possibly doing watershed rules and regulations.

Doug Kierst made a motion to adjourn. Dan Welch seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The meeting was closed at 11:37 am.