

Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency
February 2, 2023 Meeting Minutes
Meeting held at Cayuga County Soil & Water Conservation District Offices

Members or Designees Present: Gary Clark, Doug Dello Stritto, Doug Kierst, Steve Lynch, Patrick Mooney, Eileen O'Connor, Ann Robson, Ed Wagner, Dan Welch,

Others Present: Sam Beck-Anderson, Ally Berry, Frank Clarke, Lisa Cleckner, Emily Fell, Dr. Gioia, Dana Hall, Greg Hutnik, Liz Kreitinger, Ron Kuck, Aaron McKeon, Frank Moses, Gary Mutchler, Erin Norris, Patty Orr, Greg Rejman, Amy Slentz, Ryan Staychock, Evan Tuthill, Michele Wunderlich

Members or Designees Remote: Carl Wiezalis

Motion

Steve Lynch made a motion for the Cayuga County WQMA to be a partner of the Bob Brower Scientific Symposium. Eileen O'Connor seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Minutes

The minutes from the January 5, 2023 WQMA meeting were reviewed. Steve Lynch made a motion to accept the January 5, 2023 minutes as written. Dan Welch seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

WQMA Priority Working Groups Reports

Year End Report

Doug Dello Stritto asked if there were any comments on the WQMA Year End Report. Emily Fell suggested an amendment to put "NYSDEC" in front of "Finger Lakes Water Hub." Doug Kierst amended the Nutrient and Sediment Working Groups work done under the Action "Provide necessary letters and resolutions of support for funding agricultural best management practices and encourage their implementation" from "No action taken" to "Resolutions were not needed for many of the applications." Steve Lynch made a motion to accept the 2022 Cayuga County WQMA Year End Report as amended. Ann Robson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Communications and Outreach Working Group

Eileen O'Connor stated that the group will be meeting after the WQMA meeting to discuss their work plan for 2023.

Invasive Species Working Group

Michele Wunderlich reported that the group will be meeting by zoom on February 9th at 2 pm to discuss their work plan for 2023.

Nutrient and Sediment Working Group

Michele Wunderlich reported that she is working on setting up a meeting for this group to discuss their work plan for 2023.

Agency Reports

Cayuga County Health Department

Eileen O' Connor reported that she has been involved with the Drinking Water Source Protection Program for the Fall Creek Watershed. She stated that the City of Auburn is finishing up their Drinking Water Source Protection Program. She reported that the NYSDEC has funding through SUNY Stony Brook Center for Clean Water Technology to look at enhanced treatment septic systems and she has a meeting with them to discuss possible pilot projects in Cayuga County. Eileen O' Connor also reported that there are results from the nutrient reduction septic system at the Y-Camp and the phosphorus removal was not very good, but the nitrogen was better. She stated that there were some glitches in the start up to the system, and she is not sure what changes they will make to the system this coming year.

Cayuga County Parks Department

Doug Dello Stritto reported that the construction at the Sterling Nature Center has slowed for the winter. He reported that the Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District finished the dredging of the back channel around Deauville Island at Emerson Park.

Cayuga County Department of Planning and Economic Development

Steve Lynch reported that resolutions are going to the County Legislature for the Community Science Institute's HABS surveillance program and their tributary monitoring program; as well as the resolution to accept FLOWPA funding.

Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)

Doug Kierst reported that they collected over 100 Christmas trees during their trade-a-tree program. He stated that their tree and shrub sale goes until May 2nd with pick up on May 12th. He reported that they started their 4-hour Erosion and Sediment Control trainings, and the ag value assessments are coming in now.

Cayuga County Solid Waste

Evan Tuthill reported that he is working on alternatives programs and policies 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 they held their Winter Crop meeting and had about 50 attendees.

Lake Reports

Cayuga Lake Report

Liz Kreitinger reported that the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network continues to work with the Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization (CWIO) and Community Science Network. They are working on a youth education committee what will concentrate on watershed and placed based education throughout the Cayuga Lake Watershed. She reported that they continue work on Discover Cayuga Lake program that is funded by a NYS Pollution Prevention Grant

Erin Norris passed around the CWIO annual report. She reported on the work she has been doing in the Cayuga Lake Watershed and stated that she is working on identifying possible projects in the Village of Union Springs and Village of Cayuga. She reported that there will be a data inventory meeting with the NYSDEC Finger Lakes Water Hub.

Cross Lake/Seneca River Report

Carl Wieszalis reported that the lake and river levels has been up and down but there has not been any noticeable damage. He stated that their issues are still spring flooding, water chestnut and dead and dying ash trees.

Lake Como Report

Pat Mooney reported that they are waiting to hear back from the NYSDEC in regard to their permit to treat the lake with herbicides this year.

Little Sodus Bay/ Lake Ontario Report

Gary Clark reported that the lake level has been going up. He reported that the Colloca Estate Winery has received a grant to study tourism.

Owasco Lake Report

Ann Robson reported that OWLA has done fifteen classroom presentations on watersheds and sustainability to Auburn Junior High students. She reported that the Bob Brower Symposium will be held on March 11th and will be on the effects of climate change on Owasco Lake. She stated that hemlock woolly adelgid surveying continues.

Skaneateles Lake Report

Frank Moses stated that they have used Legacy Funds to treat 174 hemlock trees in Cayuga County for hemlock woolly adelgid around Glen Cove and there will be an outreach event “Helping Our Hemlocks: An Update on Research and Actions to Protect Hemlocks in Skaneateles” on February 22nd on Zoom. He also described their lake and research monitoring and watershed improvement projects; and reported that there is a memo being drafted to be provided to the Skaneateles Nine Element Watershed Advisory Committee that will provide an overview of best management practice scenarios in watershed management. He stated that he sent his report to Michele to send to the group.

Partner Reports

Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board

Aaron McKeon reported that they are holding stormwater trainings and the NYSDEC will be holding a webinar “Navigating Grant Funding: Municipal Success Stories.” He reported that work on the Skaneateles Nine Element Plan continues, and they are working on developing a memorandum to summarize key decisions the watershed advisory committee will have to make.

NYSDEC Great Lakes Program

Emily Fell reported on grants that are open and stated that the Sterling-Wolcott Integrated Watershed Action Plan is in the risk analysis stage and the next stakeholder meeting will be this spring. She also reported that they hope to restart the Great Lakes Action Agenda subbasin work groups.

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

Sam Beck-Anderson introduced Amy Slentz, who is the new aquatic invasive species program manager. He reported that they are planning their field season and their watercraft steward inspection program. He reported that there will be hemlock wooly adelgid training on March 4th in Skaneateles and virtually on February 8th.

Lisa Cleckner reported that the Finger Lakes Institute is planning their summer research and will be looking at HABs, macrophytes and nutrient sources.

Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council (OLWMC)

Ally Berry reported that they have closed on the Fillmore Glen property and that their annual report will be out soon.

Miscellaneous

Pat Mooney made a motion to adjourn. Ed Wagner seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The meeting was closed at 11:15 pm.