

**Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency  
February 4, 2021 Meeting Minutes  
Meeting conducted virtually on 8x8**

Members or Designees Present: Doug Dello Stritto, Jeff Emerson, Seth Jensen, Doug Kierst, Ron Kuck, Stephen Lynch, Rick Nelson, Ed Wagner, Carl Wiezalis

Others Present: Greg Colucci, Adam Effler, Tee-Ann Hunter, Tricia Kerr, Nathaniel Launer, Steve Penningroth, Greg Rejman, Michele Wunderlich

**Presentation**

Nathaniel Launer gave a presentation “Three Years of Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) on Cayuga Lake.” The group discussed plans for 2021, funding issues and ways to get more volunteers.

**Old Business**

**Minutes**

The minutes from the January 7, 2021 WQMA meeting were reviewed. Jeff Emerson made a motion to accept the January 7, 2021 minutes as written. Seth Jensen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**WQMA Priority Working Groups Reports**

Michele Wunderlich stated that the Year End Report of the WQMA was distributed to members prior to the meeting. Steve Lynch made a motion to accept the Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency 2020 Year End Report as written. Rick Nelson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Michele Wunderlich stated that the 2021 Work Plan is due for the March meeting. She will ask for volunteers for the working groups and set up meetings to work on this.

**Agency Reports**

**Cayuga County Buildings and Grounds Department**

Doug Dello Stritto stated that they are working on the SEQR for the dredging of the back channel of the Island on the northern side. He stated that they are planning buffer zone plantings on both sides of the channel and they are working with Adam Effler on a portion of that.

**Cayuga County Department of Planning and Economic Development**

Steve Lynch reported that the Department is working on Local Waterfront Revitalization plans for the Village of Cayuga and the Village of Fair Haven/Town of Sterling. He reported that they are interviewing planning candidates and working to transfer delegation of the flood responsibilities that used to be Bruce Natale’s to another department where it will be a better fit now that he has retired.

Michele Wunderlich stated that they are still working on validating the SWAT model for the development of the Nine Element Plan for Owasco Lake and she thanked Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and the other ag partners who have been assisting in this work. Doug Kierst stated that it is important to the SWCD that this modeling is accurate and it has been a good process so far.

Michele Wunderlich reported that the punch list for the contractor at the Owasco Flats Wetland Restoration and Riparian Buffer Project has been sent to them and the construction should be completed by the end of April to closeout by mid-June.

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

Doug Kierst reported that they are working on their farm planning, highway planning and their annual tree sale. He reported that the Trade-A-Tree program brought in about 200 Christmas trees.

#### City of Auburn

Seth Jensen reported that the City is looking at the Green Innovation Grant Program for funding for infrastructure improvement projects for infiltration and inflow detection.

#### Town of Owasco

Ed Wagner reported that the shell is completed for the granulated activated carbon system building and it should be done by the end of February.

### **Lake Reports**

#### Cayuga Lake Report

Tee-Ann Hunter reported that the Cayuga Lake Intermunicipal Organization (IO) is wrapping up a Local Waterfront Revitalization Grant that identified shovel ready projects in the Cayuga Lake Watershed. A map and description of the projects are available on the IO's website. She reported that they are undergoing an organizational assessment funded by the Park Foundation and being done with assistance from the Consensus Building Institute. They have also contracted with the Finger Lakes Institute to fund use of the Seneca Lake Watershed Steward for one day a week to look for high priority projects with Cayuga Lake watershed municipalities.

#### Cross Lake/ Seneca River Report

Carl Wiezalis reported that the Central New York Waterways, Inc. is working on membership and leadership development.

#### Owasco Lake Report

Rick Nelson reported that the Bob Brower Scientific Symposium will be held on March 6<sup>th</sup> and it will be a virtual event. He asked for the WQMA to co-sponsor this event as it has done in the past. Carl Wiezalis made a motion for the Cayuga County WQMA to co-sponsor the Bob Brower Scientific Symposium. Seth Jensen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Partner Reports**

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

Adam Effler reported the Village of Moravia and Town of Sennett have taken the Lake Friendly Program pledge. He reported that due to work by the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association and Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council, Wegmans will no longer sell chemical flares and will only sell LED flares. He reported that they continue to work with Hyfi on the tributary level sensor project and will have an article about it in the Citizen in February. He is also working on a spring willow planting project with OWLA.

### Partners for Healthy Watersheds Report

Greg Rejman reported that they continue with their social media campaign. He also suggested that Dr. Neil Murphy, who presented at the OWLA meeting in February, might be a good presenter at a future WQMA meeting.

### Miscellaneous

Greg Rejman asked about the status of the Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations. Steve Lynch stated that there was a delay in the postal service delivering the package to the State and it had to be resent. He thinks that the pandemic may affect the timing of the review.

Steve Lynch reported that the County Legislature passed the approved WQMA bylaws.

Tricia Kerr stated that Dr. Neil Murphy's presentation at the OWLA meeting was very interesting and he would be a good speaker to have in the future.

Doug Kierst made a motion to adjourn. Ed Wagner seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The meeting was closed at 11:15 am.