

**Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency
February 6, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

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

Others Present: Miranda Ciardulli, Adam Effler, Richard Hadcock, Paul Harris, Ron Kuck, Michelle McGinnis, Liz Moran, Frank Moses, Hilary Mosher, Charlie Ripley, Greg Rejman, Kaitlyn Shanahan, Michele Wunderlich

Announcements

None.

Old Business

Minutes

The minutes from the January 9, 2020 WQMA meeting were reviewed. Carl Wiezalis made a motion to accept the January 9, 2020 minutes as written. Dale Powell seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

New Business

Co-Sponsor the 2020 Bob Brower Scientific Symposium in Plain English

Steve Lynch made a motion for the Cayuga County WQMA to co-sponsor the 2020 Bob Brower Scientific Symposium in Plain English. Eileen O'Connor seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Stream Re-Classification within the Owasco Lake Watershed

Seth Jensen stated that the City of Auburn has a pending resolution to support the petition to the State of New York by the Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council to change the classification of all streams in the Owasco Lake Watershed to AA. He asked for a motion for the Chairman of the WQMA to write a letter of support supporting this petition. A discussion occurred on what this would mean. Doug Kierst stated that he was concerned about how the permit requirements would change and that it could delay water quality projects.

Eileen O'Connor made a motion to send a letter of support to the Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council for their petition to the State of New York to change the classification of all streams in the Owasco Lake Watershed to AA. Ed Wagner seconded the motion. Doug Kierst, Bruce Natale and Dan Welch voted no, the rest voted yes. The motion passed 9 to 3.

WQMA Priority Working Groups Reports

Michele Wunderlich had distributed copies of the 2019 Cayuga County WQMA Year End Report prior to the meeting. Eileen O'Connor made a motion to approve the 2019 Cayuga County WQMA Year End as written. Carl Wiezalis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Communication and Outreach Working Group

Eileen O'Connor reported that the group met prior to today's meeting to discuss their work plan for 2020. She stated that came up with the theme to celebrate good things done to protect water quality in all the watersheds in Cayuga County. She stated that they plan on having four newsletters that highlight member agencies of the WQMA. They will continue to use their social media accounts, newsletters and webpage to provide information and promote public events.

Invasive Species Working Group

Ed Wagner reported that the group is planning on meeting after the WQMA meeting to discuss their 2020 work plan.

Nutrient-Sediment Working Group

Dan Welch, the new chair of the Nutrient-Sediment Working group, reported that the group met to discuss their work plan for 2020. Samples of action that are planned include a septic system workshop, encouraging use of permeable pavement and lawn care that protects water quality.

Eileen O'Connor made a motion to adopt the "Residential Guidelines to Protect Water Quality in Cayuga County" which was distributed to members and designees prior to the meeting. Dan Welch seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Steve Lynch reported that the guidelines will go to the County Legislature for adoption at their February meeting.

Agency Reports

Cayuga County Health Department

Eileen O'Connor reported that there was an article in The Citizen about disinfection byproduct violations in five drinking water systems. She discussed what that meant and what they are doing to try to reduce these byproducts.

Cayuga County Parks Department

Steve Lynch reported that the Emerson Park Programming Plan meeting is February 6th at 6:30 pm at the park. He stated that there are opportunities to knit together water quality education into the programming at the park.

Bruce Natale stated that he released a Request for Quotes in November 2019 to clean out the sluiceway and four of the contractors contacted declined. He reported that he is meeting with one of the contractors to get their ideas for cleaning the two culverts.

Cayuga County Department of Planning and Economic Development

Steve Lynch reported that Nick Colas is teaching Greg Colucci, the new Planner/GIS Analyst, to run the SWAT model. He reported that work on the Owasco Lake Watershed Nine Element Plan modelling is a little behind schedule.

Bruce Natale stated that they are working on Phase II of the Owasco Flats Wetland Restoration and Riparian Buffer project and hope to bid it this spring.

Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)

Doug Kierst reported that the SWCD has held two four hour Erosion and Sediment Control Workshops for Construction Site Contractors and Operators and will have them every two weeks until construction season starts. He reported that they were working on shoreline stabilization work on Owasco Lake, a rock-lined ditch in the Owasco Lake Watershed, and grant writing and reporting.

Cayuga County Solid Waste Management Program Office

Bruce Natale reported that they are getting 2020 pricing for the electronics collection events and due to increased costs, he is not sure if they will be able to even hold two events this year.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County (CCE)

Dan Welch reported that they are assisting with the collection events. He reported that they have a new partnership with the Water Resources Institute at Cornell University and they have new resources for homeowners for lawns and gardens.

City of Auburn

Seth Jensen reported that the City of Auburn will have their UV disinfection system at the wastewater treatment plant on line by the end of February.

Lake Reports

Cayuga Lake Report

Steve Lynch made a motion to request that the Cayuga Lake Intermunicipal Organization designate a new member to the WQMA to be their representative. Rick Nelson seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. Charlie Ripley announced that he was just put onto the Cayuga Lake Intermunicipal Organization executive committee.

Cross Lake Report

Carl Wiezalis reported that Maureen Doyle has resigned as the president of the Central New York Waterways, Inc. and Daniel Rehkugler is the new one. They are working on recruiting new board members and their 2020 program.

Duck Lake Report

Dale Powell reported that Duck Lake is frozen with about five inches of ice.

Lake Como Report

Charlie Ripley reported that Lake Como is frozen and the ice fishing is good.

Little Sodus Bay Report

Gary Clark reported that the increased outflow from Lake Ontario lasted about ten days and Lake Ontario is about 16 inches higher than normal. Steve Lynch announced that the Cayuga County Emergency Management Office is holding a meeting in Fair Haven with the players in the flood response to discuss logistics and coordination for future flood response. He stated that parts of Sterling Nature Center have lost 30 to 50 feet of bluffs due to erosion.

Rich Hadcock reported that the Bay Betterment Association is getting organized and working with the Atlantic States Legal Foundation on a trash free shoreline grant.

Owasco Lake Report

Rick Nelson reported that Dave Carr presented on the Starry Stonewort Collaborative at the Owasco Watershed Lake Association (OWLA) meeting. He reported that the Bob Brower Scientific Symposium will be held on March 7, 2020 at 9 am at the Auburn Public Theater. He reported that OWLA provided funds to cost share a project with homeowners for a rock lined ditch installation by Cayuga County SWCD at Firelane 20.

Skaneateles Lake Report

Frank Moses reported that the data research summit was held in January and the videos from that summit will be on-line soon. He reported that Mid-Lakes Navigation staff have been trained to monitor for harmful algal blooms. Other projects include a floating classroom, development of a lake manual, nine element plan outreach meetings and a hemlock wooly adelgid program on March 8th.

Partner Reports

Atlantic States Legal Foundation

Paul Harris stated that they are working on a grant to organize lakeshore cleanups in four counties and are looking for support letters.

Cayuga County Water and Sewer Authority

Charlie Ripley announced that the regionalization plan has been reviewed by the Democrats and is being presented to the Republicans for concurrence. They need \$150,000 from the Legislature to put the plan out and conduct the study needed.

Finger Lakes Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (FLPRISM) and Finger Lakes Institute (FLI)

Hilary Mosher reported that the United States Army Corps of Engineers will be treating the hydrilla in Cayuga Lake at Aurora and Ithaca, and spot treat Don's Marina. The Finger Lakes Institute will treat the hydrilla in Cayuga Lake in Lansing. She stated that they will continue the surveying of the lake for hydrilla. She stated that they also have an RFP for a marketing and advertising campaign to increase awareness about hydrilla. They plan on having watercraft stewards at Emerson Park, Long Point and Union Springs. They are providing boot brush stations to Sterling Nature Center and are looking for volunteers to look for invasive plants.

Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council (OLWMC)

Adam Effler reported that the OLWMC approved the Council holding real property and they are working with The Nature Conservancy to target priority parcels. They are working with OWLA on a "Be Watershed Aware" campaign. Tompkins County SWCD will present at their next meeting and they have requested a monthly report from the NYSDEC on projects that they are working on in the Owasco Lake Watershed.

Partnership for Healthy Watersheds

Greg Rejman read a statement that Partners for Healthy Watersheds wrote to the OLWMC regarding comments made Don Oltz about the Lincoln Farm at the last OLWMC meeting that they felt were out of line regarding farmers. Adam Effler stated that they met with Lincoln Dairy representatives after the OLWMC meeting.

Dan Welch made a motion to adjourn. Rick Nelson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The meeting was closed at 11:45 am.