

Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency
March 3, 2022 Meeting Minutes
Meeting held at Cayuga County Soil & Water Conservation and 8x8

Members or Designees Present: Jeff Emerson, Doug Kierst, Ron Kuck, Seth Jensen, Steve Lynch, Eileen O'Connor, Dale Powell, Ann Robson, Ed Wagner, Dan Welch, Carl Wiezalis

Others Present: Sam Beck-Andersen, Jason Cuddeback, Adam Effler, Ani Fish, Roxanna Johnston, Tyler Knapp, Joe Lawrence, Aaron McKeon, Bruce Natale, Greg Rejman, Kirsten Workman, Michele Wunderlich

Announcements

None.

Old Business

Minutes

The minutes from the February 3, 2022 WQMA meeting were reviewed. Seth Jensen made a motion to accept the March 3, 2022 minutes as written. Jeff Emerson stated that the minutes needed to be amended to reflect that he seconded the final motion for the Draft 2020-2022 Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List of Impaired/TMDL Waters resolution and he also voted yes. Jeff Emerson made a motion to accept the March 3, 2022 minutes as amended. Steve Lynch seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

New Business

None

Presentation

Joe Lawrence, a Dairy Forage Systems Specialist at PRO-DAIRY, and Kirsten Workman, a Nutrient Management and Environmental Sustainability Specialist at PRO-DAIRY, presented "Cover crops and Water Quality: Challenges and Opportunities."

WQMA Priority Working Groups Reports

Michele Wunderlich distributed the Cayuga County WQMA 2022 Work Plan to members and designees. Carl Wiezalis asked for an additional Action under the second priority of the Communication and Outreach Working Group to provide information on climate change and flooding. Michele Wunderlich stated that she added an action, which reads "Provide newsletter articles, blogs and information on climate change and flooding." Jeff Emerson made a motion to approve the Cayuga County WQMA 2022 Work Plan as amended. Steve Lynch seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Communications and Outreach Working Group

Michele Wunderlich stated that there will be a newsletter coming up in March. Adam Effler stated that he offered to help prepare the newsletter and asked the group to send any articles or photos to him.

Agency Reports

Cayuga County Department of Planning and Economic Development

Steve Lynch stated that work continues on the Local Waterfront Revitalization Plans for the Village of Cayuga and the Town of Sterling/Village of Fair Haven.

Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)

Doug Kierst reported that the break in the weather allowed them to finish most of Phase 1 of their project in the Town of Locke and finish an emergency stormwater project in the Town of Niles that was caused by the summer flooding. He reported that they got the permits from the NYSDEC to fix the seawall that collapsed at Emerson Park and have begun work on it. They were also able to finish the forebay area of the sluiceway at Emerson Park.

Doug Kierst stated that they are having a fish sale and that their tree sale deadline is May 3rd with a May 13th pick-up date. They are also busy planning for installation of best management practices (BMPs) and it is grant season. He stated that they have two more 4-hour Erosion and Sediment Control Workshops for Contractors and Operators on March 17th and April 21st.

Cayuga County Solid Waste Management Program Office Update

Steve Lynch reported that the electronics collection event will be on April 9th and the household hazardous waste collection event will be on October 29th. He also reported that they are interviewing for the vacant planner position.

Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County

Dan Welch reported that they are working with the Cayuga County SWCD to hold a tire collection day on June 25th.

City of Auburn

Seth Jensen reported that the City of Auburn is working with the Cayuga County SWCD on work on the Hoopes Park pond that is being funded by Senator Mannion.

Lake Reports

Cross Lake/Seneca River Report

Carl Wiezalis stated that the water level is up a couple of feet and there is some ice damming and ice encroachment on waterside trees.

Duck Lake Report

Dale Powell stated that they are still working on their herbicide program, but have not heard on how the permit is going.

Owasco Lake Report

Ann Robson reported that the Bob Brower Scientific Symposium will be held on March 19, 2022 from 9 am to noon and registration is on-line. She reported that the hemlock woolly adelgid hunters continue to survey ravines and gullies to mark which trees are critical to the health of the watershed and they starting the insecticide treatments in early April. They have raised some funding for the local match for the local roadside ditch program and are doing a membership campaign.

Partner Reports

Central New York Regional Development and Planning Board

Aaron McKeon stated that a virtual public meeting will be held on March 16th at 4:30 pm on the Cayuga Lake Intermunicipal Organization's project that prioritized water quality improvement projects submitted by municipalities in the Cayuga Lake watershed. He reported that will be holding five virtual stormwater trainings and the first is March 9th on post construction stormwater practices. Finally, he reported that they are working on the Skaneateles Lake 9E plan and will have an Advisory Committee meeting in early April.

Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council (OLWMC)

Adam Effler stated that Council's March recognition article in *The Citizen* will focus on conservation agriculture. The Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection and Protection Division are working on updating some educational documents and this work is an action item for the Communications and Outreach Working Group. He stated that they are working on completing their 2021 Annual Report and will also give this report in the form of a presentation to the Auburn City Council on March 24th. They are working on a Great Lakes Commission Conservation Kick grant project with the Cayuga County SWCD with funding from the Great Lakes Commission and the City of Auburn to implement a WASCOD on an Owasco Lake watershed property.

Partners for Healthy Watersheds

Greg Rejman reported that they continue to do their social media posts. He stated that they are having conversations on if they should be adjusting their strategy moving forward. He stated that reporting is not equal on what happens on farms versus municipalities and they are trying to figure out how to work together to make things equal.

Miscellaneous

Jeff Emerson made a motion to adjourn. Doug Kierst seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The meeting was closed at 12:00 pm.