

Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency
March 7, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Members or Designees Present: Rachael DeWitt, Harry Hinman, Steve Lynch, Bruce Natale, Rick Nelson, Don Oltz, Eileen O'Connor, Tim Schneider, Ed Wagner, Carl Wiezalis

Others Present: Cynthia Brock, Christopher Drogi, Adam Effler, Ryan Franklin, Paul Harris, JoAnne Humphreys, Tee-Ann Hunter, Hilary Lambert, Nate Launer, Alma Lowry, Liz Moran, Kelly O'Hara, Stephen Penningroth, Charlie Ripley, Emily Sheridan, Drew Snell, John West, Michele Wunderlich

Announcements

None

Old Business

Minutes

The minutes of the February 7, 2019 WQMA meeting were reviewed. Ed Wagner made a motion to accept the February 7, 2017 minutes as written. Carl Wiezalis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Presentations

Steve Penningroth from Community Science Institute presented "Monitoring Phosphorus, Nitrogen and Pathogenic Bacteria in the Cayuga Lake Watershed, 2004-Present". Nate Launer, also from Community Science Institute presented "The 2018 Cayuga Lake HABs Monitoring Program." Both presentations are available on the Cayuga County WQMA website. Portions of this work was funded by Cayuga County.

WQMA Priority Working Groups Reports

Communication and Outreach Working Group

Eileen O'Connor stated that her group met last month and has the goal of being "the source for water quality information in Cayuga County". Work will include a quarterly electronic newsletter and more blogs on the WQMA website. They are looking at finding authors to write on different topics.

Invasive Species Working Group

Michele Wunderlich reported that she listened in on the call for the new Starry Stonewort Collaborative that is based at the Finger Lakes Institute. She is working on next year's work plan for the group.

Nutrient-Sediment Working Group

Eileen O'Connor reported that the Nutrient Group met and came up with a draft work plan. Since they have merged with the Sediment Working group, she will schedule an additional meeting to discuss the work plan.

Agency Reports

Cayuga County Department of Planning and Economic Development

Steve Lynch reported that work continues on the draft Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations. He stated that they are closely watching water levels on Lake Ontario.

Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)

Tim Schneider announced their tree sale. He reported that they are planning for their summer construction season; have closed five grants; and have completed four and updated two AEM Tier III Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans for farms. Staff attended the RAMP meeting, which is a program that ranks road ditches in regards to erosion, recommends projects and estimates costs. They are also working with the City of Auburn on Mill Street Dam stabilization and shoreline erosion work in Ensenore on Owasco Lake funded by a WQIP grant.

Cayuga County Solid Waste Management Program Office

Bruce Natale reported that they are working on scheduling this year's events which include an electronics collection in May, a tire collection in June, a chemical collection in the fall and possibly two other events. He is happy to report that he found a vendor to recycle small Freon appliance for free.

City of Auburn

John West reported the City applied for the Drinking Water Source Protection Plan grant with the NYSDEC; the UV disinfection system replacement project at the City's waste water treatment plant will be going out to bid this month; and the City will also be going out to bid this month to build onto the upper pump station for PAC dry storage as part of the Microcystin Grant funding from New York State and plans have been provided for County Parks to review to ensure no negative impact will result from this minor addition. He reported that the City assisted with and is helping to coordinate a multi-jurisdictional funding request to New York State for protection projects for Owasco Lake and distributed a flyer. Steve Lynch stated that the flyer was created by the Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council and it lists five projects in the Owasco Lake watershed supported by the Owasco Lake Harmful Algal Bloom Action Plan. This document was created so funding requests can be consistent among the groups.

Town of Owasco

Ed Wagner reported that they are working on the \$3.5 million permanent granulated activated charcoal treatment and hope to have it operational by August 1, 2019.

Lake Reports

Cayuga Lake Report

Hilary Lambert reported that the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network is working on public outreach and the harmful algal bloom program.

Tee-Ann Hunter reported that they received a NYSDOS Local Waterfront Revitalization Grant to hire Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board to look at the Cayuga Lake Watershed Management Plan, available data and identify priority projects. She also reported that the Cayuga Lake Intermunicipal Organization completed a survey of water quality projects in the watershed and it will be circulated after review.

Cross Lake/Seneca River

Carl Wiezalis reported that it is quiet at the moment.

Owasco Lake Report

Rick Nelson reported that HABs in Owasco Lake Scientific Symposium will be held on March 9th. He stated that OWLA plans on continuing the harmful algal bloom monitoring program, conducting upstream testing of tributaries, and providing money to assist Cayuga County SWCD with hydroseeding.

Skaneateles Lake Report

Rachael DeWitt reported that they are in the beginning phases of their remediation projects and are working with JoAnne Humphreys and Syracuse University students who are doing the site designs as part of their capstone program. She reported that they are looking at testing three stormwater and sewer outfalls and they are assisting the Finger Lakes Land Trust with site visits. She stated that they received 557 surveys back that gauge people's perception of the lake. She stated that they are not sure when the NYS DOS will approve their grant to develop of a nine element plan for Skaneateles Lake. They are looking at finding funding for \$60,000 worth of sampling they want to do for this plan.

Partner Reports

Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council

Steve Lynch discussed the process of updating the Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations and the public participation process.

Partners for Healthy Watersheds

Kelly O'Hara stated that the Partners for Healthy Watersheds is a co-sponsor of the HABs in Owasco Lake Scientific Symposium and will provide more educational programs in the future.

Great Lakes Action Agenda Southeast Lake Ontario Work Group

Emily Sheridan reported that she is working on the Wolcott/Sterling Creek Ecosystem Based Demonstration Area strategy which will identify local interests and water quality projects in that area.

Miscellaneous

Christopher Drogi reported that water quality in Little Sodus Bay was good after the sewer system was installed until last year and then the water quality went down. Steve Lynch reported that the County is working with the Mayor of Fair Haven because the wind storms have damaged the channel area causing metal edges to peel off the concrete sections.

Adjournment

Eileen O'Connor made a motion to adjourn. Ed Wagner seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The meeting was closed at 11:40 am.