

**Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency**  
**April 1, 2021 Meeting Minutes**  
**Meeting conducted virtually on 8x8**

Members or Designees Present: Doug Dello Stritto, Doug Kierst, Ron Kuck, Dale Powell, Eileen O'Connor, Ed Wagner, Dan Welch, Carl Wiezalis

Others Present: Greg Colucci, Adam Effler, Kate Monacelli, Steve Penningroth, Greg Rejman, Michele Wunderlich

**Presentation**

Steve Penningroth from Community Science Institute gave a presentation "Approximating Loads and Yields Based on Stormwater Nutrient Data and Drainage Basin Ratios".

**Old Business**

**Minutes**

The minutes from the March 4, 2021 WQMA meeting were reviewed. Doug Dello Stritto made a motion to accept the March 4, 2021 minutes as written. Doug Kierst seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**New Business**

**Earth Day**

Michele Wunderlich stated that she sent the members a request from the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network that the WQMA declare Earth Day (April 22nd) a Community Cleanup Day to help protect water quality in the County. Carl Wiezalis made a motion to declare Earth Day (April 22nd) a Community Cleanup Day to help protect water quality in the County. Dan Welch seconded it and it passed unanimously.

**WQMA Priority Working Groups Reports**

**Communications Working Group**

Eileen O'Connor reported that the March newsletter was sent out and it was very interesting that all the topics were on invasive species. She thanked Michele Wunderlich for putting it together and stated that the next newsletter will go out in June.

**Invasive Species Working Group**

Michele Wunderlich reported that the Finger Lakes Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management is holding their full board meeting on Monday, May 3, 2021.

**Nutrient and Sediment Working Group**

Dan Welch reported that the group has not met yet but they are working on getting a followup presentation from Laura Klaiber from the Miner Agricultural Institute who presented on tile drains at the Bob Brower Symposium.

## Agency Reports

### Cayuga County Health Department

Eileen O'Connor reported that there was a manure spill at Ashland Farm where the manure lagoon was overtopped and the farm personnel notified the NYSDEC. She stated that they don't know how much manure was released, but it was significant and entered an unknown tributary which flowed into Great Gully and then Cayuga Lake. The farm is currently transferring manure to neighboring and low risk farms and the NYSDEC issued a notice of violation.

Eileen O'Connor also reported that they have sent out letters to the properties that need to have septic inspections this year.

### Cayuga County Buildings and Grounds Department

Doug Dello Stritto stated that the work on sluiceway at Emerson Park is about 50% done and they had to expose the extensions for diver safety. He stated that he continues to work with Drew Snell on the plans to plant riparian buffers on the north side of the channel that mimic the ones on the other side.

Doug Dello Stritto thanked the Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District for work they are doing at the Sterling Nature Center as part of the Lake Ontario Resiliency and Economic Development Initiative (REDI) Project.

### Cayuga County Department of Planning and Economic Development

Michele Wunderlich reported that the construction on the Owasco Flats Wetland Restoration and Riparian Buffer project will be done this spring and the project will be completed. She also stated that the modeling is going well for the 9E Plan for Owasco Lake.

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

Doug Kierst reported that with the good weather, they are getting ready for construction season. He reported that they received two grants from the Agricultural Non-Point Source Grant Program for a total of \$1.5 million along with landowner match. Each grant will fund the planting of cover crops on 14,000 acres. One grant is to work with Tompkins County in the Owasco Lake Watershed and one is to work with Seneca County in the Cayuga Lake Watershed.

He stated that they are still holding their annual tree and shrub sale, their fish sale and barley bag sale.

### Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County Update

Dan Welch reported that they are working with Dickman Farms on a rain barrel workshop and with OWLA on a composting workshop. They are still waiting on the finalization of the State budget to see if they can hire water quality staff.

### Town of Owasco

Ed Wagner reported that they have done the final walkthrough for the GAC system and it will be ready to go live when the Health Department tells them to; usually August 1<sup>st</sup>. He reported that they have gone out to bid on replacing the water lines from Green Shutters to Adams Avenue.

## **Lake Reports**

### **Cross Lake/ Seneca River Report**

Carl Wieszalis reported that the ice has broken up and this year the ice caused damage on the trees on the East side of Cross Lake. He reported that they are working with Megan Harris of the Finger Lakes Institute on a whole lake inventory of macrophytes and they are looking to find volunteers to help. He also reported that there is concern because the southwest side water chestnut infestation was not touched last year.

### **Duck Lake Report**

Dale Powell reported that Duck Lake wintered over pretty good with no damage from winds or ice. He stated that they are gearing up for their herbicide treatment this summer.

## **Partner Reports**

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

Kate Monacelli reported that they have seasonal positions open and provided a link in chat. She stated that she is supervising the hydrilla team and they will be targeting marinas and boat launches but they did not find any new infestations last year. She stated that there are two volunteer programs that are doing surveys this summer; one is macrophyte survey and one is a trail survey. Finally, the PRISM working group meeting will be April 12<sup>th</sup> and the full partnership meeting will be May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

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

Adam Effler reported that they received the permits from the NYSDOT for installation of the Hyfi water level sensors and they are installing them on Sucker and Dutch Hollow Brooks off of Route 38A. He reported that they have the program signage for the Lake Friendly Living Pledge and are looking for suitable municipal locations. He reported that they are assisting with The Nature Conservancy sponsored Lake Friendly Living webinar series. Their April article in *The Citizen* will be on LED technology flares and their annual report is done and being distributed. They are working with OWLA in planting willow riparian buffers along Veness Brook. Their April 20<sup>th</sup> meeting will have Cornell Cooperative Extension giving a presentation on conservation efforts and the new watershed inspector is Ally Berry.

### **Partners for Health Watersheds**

Greg Rejman stated that there was an unfortunate manure spill a couple weeks ago and he read a statement from Partners for Healthy Watersheds; which is available on their Facebook page.

### **Miscellaneous**

Doug Kierst made a motion to adjourn. Doug Dello Stritto seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The meeting was closed at 10:58 am.