

**Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency**  
**April 4, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

Members or Designees Present: Rachael DeWitt, Barbara Harvey, Harry Hinman, Seth Jensen, Doug Kierst, Steve Lynch, Bruce Natale, Rick Nelson, Don Oltz, Eileen O'Connor, Dale Powell, Ed Wagner, Jim Young

Others Present: Adam Effler, Paul Harris, Jo-Anne Humphreys, Greg Rejman, Michele Wunderlich

**Announcements**

None

**Old Business**

**Minutes**

The minutes of the March 7, 2019 WQMA meeting were reviewed. Don Oltz made a motion to accept the March 7, 2019 minutes as written. Harry Hinman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**WQMA Priority Working Groups Reports**

The Cayuga County WQMA 2019 Work Plan had been sent to members and partners for review. Ed Wagner made a motion to accept the Cayuga County WQMA 2019 Work Plan as written. Rick Nelson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Communication and Outreach Working Group**

Eileen O'Connor stated the Communication and Outreach Working Group wants to produce a newsletter each quarter. She requested that each agency/organization send a brief paragraph about the work they are doing and any announcements that they might have to Michele Wunderlich by April 12.

**Invasive Species Working Group**

Michele Wunderlich reported that she participated in the Finger Lakes Partnership for Invasive Species Management work group. She distributed information on spotted lanternfly.

**Nutrient-Sediment Working Group**

Eileen O'Connor reported that the group met to add sediment recommendations to the draft work plan.

Eileen O'Connor asked agencies and organizations to look at the actions under each priority to see if they can move them forward. Steve Lynch recommended that the WQMA review the work plan and our progress on it quarterly.

**Agency Reports**

**Cayuga County Health Department**

Eileen O'Connor reported that for the first time, there is a fish consumption advisory for Owasco Lake due to mercury. She stated that the researchers collected fish that were older than the other lakes, which may account for the higher mercury levels. She stated that there is not a lot known about how mercury enters the food chain. She reported that there has been no mercury found in the drinking water of the City of Auburn and the Town of Owasco.

Eileen O'Connor reported that they are looking for volunteers who would be willing to install phosphorus removal technology systems on their properties to treat septic system effluent.

### Cayuga County Department of Planning and Economic Development

Michele Wunderlich stated that there have been some issues with calibrating the model for the update to the Owasco Lake Watershed Management Plan to an EPA nine element plan.

Steve Lynch reported that the office is working with the Town of Sterling and the Village of Fair Haven on a local waterfront revitalization plan grant that will focus on flooding and resiliency. He also reported that he attended a meeting of a regional coalition of counties that is working to take over the dredging of Lake Ontario harbors.

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

Doug Kierst announced their fish and tree sale. He announced that there will be four hour sediment and erosion control contractor trainings on April 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> and May 7<sup>th</sup>. He asked if anyone knows of any sites on Owasco Lake that they can use to off-load the harvester in the summer. He also reported that they with the City of Auburn on stabilization work at the Mill Street Dam.

### Cayuga County Solid Waste Management Program Office

Bruce Natale reported that a preliminary date for the electronics collection is May 18<sup>th</sup> at BOCES and a preliminary date for the tire collection of June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County

Michele Wunderlich read Ronald Kuck's report: the job description for Executive Director complete and should be posted soon; Catherine Moran continues as interim director until search is complete; two 4-H educator position job descriptions were posted and active search now ongoing; two interim 4-H educators (Onondaga and Seneca County) are working part time; he is still the part time ag educator and his appointment is until the end of May; and the Board of Directors and staff conducted a strategic planning session March 28, 2019 with agriculture and environment coming out as important.

### City of Auburn

Seth Jensen reported that Cayuga County SWCD did a fantastic job in stabilizing the Mill Street Dam site. He reported that the UV upgrades and the pack storage upgrades to the upper pump station at Emerson Park are out to bid. He also reported that a group is going to meet with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Ag and Markets, Department of Health and Empire State Development to go over the priority projects for Owasco Lake.

### Town of Owasco

Ed Wagner reported that they are working on the contract for the permanent granulated activated charcoal treatment system.

### **Lake Reports**

#### Cayuga Lake Report

Jim Young stated that hydrilla is still a concern in Cayuga Lake.

#### Duck Lake Report

Dale Powell reported that they are waiting on their permits for the herbicide treatment of milfoil and they will be using Navigate this year.

#### Lake Como Report

Barbara Harvey reported that Lake Como is still ice covered and the Lake Como Association meeting will be in May.

### Owasco Lake Report

Rick Nelson thanked the sponsors of the HABs in Owasco Lake Scientific Symposium. He reported that the Auburn Mayor gave a proclamation honoring Bob Brower for his environmental and water quality protection efforts. He stated that OWLA plans on providing funds to cover the match needed for the Cayuga County SWCD's hydroseeding grant.

### Skaneateles Lake Report

Rachael DeWitt reported that she is leaving as Executive Director of the Skaneateles Lake Association and they are in the process of hiring a new one. They are also looking to hire stewards for the summer, interns and divers; as well as looking for office space in Skaneateles. She reported that they hope to start work in mid-April on a remediation project on the creek that is on the Skaneateles County Club property. She reported that they will launch the Legacy Fund in May. Onondaga County has offered to front the money to begin work on the EPA nine element plan for Skaneateles Lake, but they need to get confirmation that they will be reimbursed.

### **Partner Reports**

#### Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council

Adam Effler reported that the Village of Moravia is going to join the Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council. He reported that they plan on assisting OWLA with their sampling training, working with Cayuga County SWCD on ditch improvement projects, and working on a riparian buffer planting event in Emerson Park. He has also requested that the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation renew an MOU with Cayuga County SWCD and petitioned them to reclassify the streams in the Owasco Lake Watershed.

Steve Lynch stated that the OWLA Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations update stakeholder meeting will be held on April 8 and the agriculture Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations update stakeholder meeting will be held on April 9<sup>th</sup>. Both will be at the Agricultural Museum at 6:30 pm. The general public participation meetings will be held at 6:30 pm on May 15<sup>th</sup> at BOCES and May 16<sup>th</sup> at the Moravia High School Auditorium.

#### Cayuga County Water and Sewer Authority Report

Steve Lynch reported that the Cayuga County Water and Sewer Authority has completed their assessment and the master plan has been reviewed. It proposes a second source of water off of Long Point State Park.

#### Partners for Healthy Watersheds

Greg Rejman stated that the Partners for Healthy Watersheds attended the "Nutrients in the Watershed, Unusual Weather, and Harmful Algal Blooms: A Public Conversation" event in Aurora.

#### Atlantic States Legal Foundation

Paul Harris announced an event at the Wolcott Village Hall on April 30<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm to identify high priority water quality projects in the Wolcott Creek Watershed.

### Miscellaneous

Bruce Natale reported that he did a walk-through of the Owasco Flats site with Doug Kierst. He stated that we cannot open the treatment basins until the grass grows.

Adjournment

Ed Wagner made a motion to adjourn. Rick Nelson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The meeting was closed at 11:05 am.