

**Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency**  
**June 2, 2022 Meeting Minutes**  
**Meeting held at Emerson Park and on 8x8**

Members or Designees Present: Gary Clark, Doug Dello Stritto, Jeff Emerson, Doug Kierst, Ron Kuck, Seth Jensen, Steve Lynch, Pat Mooney, Ann Robson, Ed Wagner, Dan Welch

Others Present: Adam Effler, Liz Kreitinger, Evan Tuthill, John West, Michele Wunderlich

**Announcements**

None.

**Minutes**

The minutes from the May 5, 2022 WQMA meeting were reviewed. Doug Dello Stritto made a motion to accept the May 5, 2022 minutes as written. Dan Welch seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**WQMA Priority Working Groups and Ad Hoc Committee Reports**

**Communications and Outreach Working Group**

Michele Wunderlich stated that the next newsletter will go out in June and Dan Welch will be putting it together.

**Invasive Species Working Group**

Ed Wagner asked if the group wanted to do the Asian clam survey this summer and the answer was yes. Michele Wunderlich announced she is holding a virtual invasive species identification class as part of New York Invasive Species Awareness week on June 7<sup>th</sup> at 10 am.

**Nutrient and Sediment Working Group**

Seth Jensen reported that the Nutrient and Sediment Working Group met prior to the WQMA meeting at Emerson Park and they are doing well on hitting their initiatives.

**Clean Watershed Needs Survey Ad Hoc Committee**

Eileen O'Connor requested that the WQMA form an Ad Hoc Committee to work on the Environmental Facilities Corporation's Clean Watershed Needs Survey. Steve Lynch made a motion to form an Ad Hoc Committee to work on the Environmental Facilities Corporation's Clean Watershed Needs Survey. Seth Jensen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Eileen O'Connor will chair the group and members volunteered to be on it. She will set up a meeting in the next two weeks.

**Agency Reports**

**Cayuga County Health Department**

Eileen O'Connor reported that the project at the Y-Camp is moving forward with the Cayuga County Health Department approving the proposal put forth by their engineer which would include the installation of a septic system with phosphorus removal technology and a sampling plan.

Eileen O'Connor reported that the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (NYSDEC) Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) website is now open for reports of HABs. She also reported that the Health Department is in discussion with the City of Auburn and Town of Owasco on the sampling plan for potential toxins in the drinking water from HABs for the summer. She reported that they are also doing a public information campaign and postcards to people along the Finger Lakes who use lake water as their water source to let them know about HABs.

Eileen O'Connor reported that the hydrilla treatment will start at the end of June in Cayuga Lake, and the treatment area has expanded from Long Point State Park to north of the Village of Aurora. She stated that the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the NYSDEC will each pay half of the chemical treatment due to funding issues. She reported that the Health Department will still be taking samples from Wells College during the treatment to make sure their water system is not impacted.

#### Cayuga County Parks Department

Doug Dello Stritto reported that there are delays in getting materials for the Sterling Nature Center project but it will be completed on-schedule.

#### Cayuga County Department of Planning and Economic Development

Steve Lynch introduced Evan Tuthill who is the new planner and will be doing environmental planning and working on the local solid waste management plan update. He reported that the two local waterfront revitalization plan projects are in the final draft stage. He reported that there is a County resolution in June to fund a student from Yale University, Anna Feldman. She will be working on the SWAT model with Nick Colas and Greg Hutnik.

Steve Lynch stated that the entrance used for the Owasco Flats Project is considered temporary by the NYSDOT. He stated that the Department has engaged with EDR for a cost estimate to come up with a permanent access to the site.

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

Doug Kierst reported that they finished a roadside drainage stabilization project in the Skaneateles Lake Watershed in the Town of Niles. He reported that they have submitted six applications to two grant programs. He announced that there will be Soil Health Climate Resiliency Field Days offered statewide and the closest ones are one in Seneca County at Rodman Lott and Son Farms on July 13<sup>th</sup> and Thompson Research Farm in Freeville on July 25<sup>th</sup>. He reported that they have received Cayuga County American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to purchase an aquatic harvester, bark blower and survey equipment.

#### Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County

Dan Welch announced that there will be two pasture walks on July 6<sup>th</sup>; one at Maridale Farm at 12:30 pm and one at Will-Sho farm at 6:30 pm. The National Grazing Lands Coalition Soil Health Trailer will also be on-site during those events. He reported that they have hired a half time 4H educator and are still trying to hire an agricultural environmental sustainability specialist. Finally, he reported that there will be a tire collection event at the Natural Resource Center on June 25, 2022 from 8 am to 11 am.

### City of Auburn

Seth Jensen reported that the City of Auburn has applied for a couple of FEMA Hazard Mitigation grants. One is for a culvert replacement and the other is for funds for the sewer separation project that will reduce stormwater flooding and flows so that there are less CSO activations.

He reported that he is working on a number of projects to list in the EFC's Clean Watershed Needs Survey including replacing the raw water line between Emerson Park and filtration plant. He also stated that the slow sand plant improvements are out for bid.

### Town of Owasco

Ed Wagner reported that American Waterworks filmed their GAC filter for a future seminar. He reported that the Town has applied for a member item grant from Congressman Katko for \$2.5 million for sewer stormwater separation and has made it through the first round. He also reported that the Town is in the final stage of getting reimbursed by FEMA for funding from Tropical Storm Fred.

### **Lake Reports**

#### Cayuga Lake Report

Liz Kreitinger reported that the hydrilla treatment in Cayuga Lake will begin soon and press releases will be sent out prior to treatment. She reported that the harmful algal bloom monitoring program has started and they have an intern to deliver samples to CSI. There will be a HABs Harrier training in Aurora and virtually on June 15, 2022, as well as one on the west side of the Lake on June 13, 2022. She reported that they are looking for Board members. She reported that the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network Community Conference will be June 21<sup>st</sup> at 2:30 pm.

#### Duck Lake Report

Michele Wunderlich read Dale Powell's report which stated that the herbicide permit was held up so the herbicide treatment of Duck Lake will be probably be June 19 or 20, 2022.

#### Lake Como Report

Pat Mooney reported that Solitude will treat about 18 acres of Lake Como in early June. He reported that they are scheduling a meeting with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and Land Trust to discuss the beaver dams at the south end of Lake Como.

#### Little Sodus Bay and Lake Ontario

Gary Clark reported that Rich Hadcock resigned as president of the Little Sodus Bay Betterment Association and the new president is Ron Alexander. He reported that they are in the process of selling LED flares as a fund raiser, and they are getting rid of their website and using Facebook instead. Finally, he reported that the lake level is stable.

#### Owasco Lake Report

Ann Robson reported that the OWLA meeting was held on June 1<sup>st</sup> and it was a general membership meeting with elections. She reported that the HABs monitoring program training has been set up and the CSLAP materials have been delivered for that program. She reported

that four certified applicators are applying pesticides to hemlock stands to control hemlock woolly adelgid. They are hosting a membership campaign and a social event on June 22<sup>nd</sup> with the Chamber of Commerce and Owasco Yacht Club. She reported that they are working with BOCES on marketing pieces. Finally, she stated that they are developing a repository of OWLA records.

### **Partner Reports**

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

Adam Effler reported that the June feature article will be on the Owasco Lake Watershed and Inspection Protection Division. He stated that the keynote speaker at the OLWMC board meeting will be Kristin Workman on her work with cover crops and Senator Mannion will be there. He reported that they installed a willow shrub nursery in Owasco and the shrubs will be used to install buffers in the Owasco Lake Watershed. Finally, he stated that they are looking at installing a new Hyfi sensor off of Long Point Road.

#### **Miscellaneous**

The July meeting will be held on July 7, 2022 and the August meeting will be held on August 11, 2022.

Doug Dello Stritto made a motion to adjourn. Doug Kierst seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The meeting was closed at 11:10 am.