

Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency
September 5, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Members or Designees Present: Barbara Harvey, Harry Hinman, Doug Kierst, Ron Kuck, Seth Jensen, Steve Lynch, Bruce Natale, Rick Nelson, Dale Powell, Carl Wiezalis

Others Present: Richard Hadcock, Pat Mooney, Hilary Mosher, Emily Sheridan, Alan Williams, Michele Wunderlich

Announcements

None

Old Business

Minutes

The minutes of the July 11, 2019 WQMA meeting were reviewed. Carl Wiezalis made a motion to accept the July 11, 2019 minutes as written. Rick Nelson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

WQMA Priority Working Groups Reports

Communication and Outreach Working Group

Michele Wunderlich reported that a newsletter was sent out in July.

Nutrient-Sediment Working Group

No report.

Invasive Species Working Group

Michele Wunderlich stated that the group organized an Asian clam survey in Owasco Lake off of Emerson Park in the beginning of August and that she will do a presentation on the results at a future meeting. Seth Jensen stated that the City of Auburn plans on lowering Owasco Lake to a winter level of 709 to help kill off the Asian clams in that area of the lake.

Agency Reports

Cayuga County Parks Department

Steve Lynch reported that they are mobilizing the construction for the work on Deauville Island.

Cayuga County Department of Planning and Economic Development

Steve Lynch reported that he is on the Cayuga Lake Project Advisory Committee and there was a kickoff meeting at the Ithaca Town Hall. This project is a NYSDOS grant funded project to identify priority water quality improvement projects for funding and consider an improved organizational structure for the Cayuga Lake Intermunicipal Organization.

Steve Lynch reported that there will be a meeting on Friday with the Owasco Watershed Lake Association and other stakeholders on the Nine Element Plan for Owasco Lake and how to focus planning, sampling and mitigation measures.

Steve Lynch reported that they are working on compiling the feedback to the draft Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations and responding to that feedback. Then the draft will be revised and reviewed by the steering committee and extended staff working group as well as presented to Tompkins and Onondaga Counties. Then it will be sent to the City of Auburn and Town of Owasco for their approval.

Steve Lynch reported on the Governor's Resiliency and Economic Development Initiative grants to address the flooding of Lake Ontario.

Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)

Doug Kierst reported that it is construction season and they have conducted streambank stabilization work on Dutch Hollow and Veness Brook. He reported that they have installed a grassed waterway and have been working with farms to put in 666 acres of cover crops. They have been notified that they have received ~\$373,000 for the CAFO waste storage program; \$1 million in resiliency grant funds to install covers and flares over manure storage on three farms, and ~\$227,000 in funds for cover crops. He reported that they submitted grant applications through the CFA process for the WQIP and Agricultural Non-Point Source grant programs.

Doug Kierst stated that there will be a Lime Seminar on September 17, 2019 from 10 am to 2 pm at Cuddeback Farms and a Soil Health Seminar on October 7, 2019 from 10 am to 2 pm at Cuddeback Farms.

Doug Kierst reported that the weed harvesting is done and they need a new tank for their conveyer due to damage. He reported that they removed an estimated 335 tons of weeds from Cayuga Lake, 165 tons from Little Sodus Bay, 330 tons from Otter Lake, 90 tons from Lake Como and 320 tons from Owasco Lake. He stated that they are seeing less milfoil this year and are seeing more starry stonewort and muskgrass.

Cayuga County Solid Waste Management Program Office

Bruce Natale reported that there will be an electronics and propane collection event on October 5th at Cayuga Onondaga BOCES and a chemical collection event on October 26, 2019.

Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) of Cayuga County

Ron Kuck reported that he is still working to get farms to sign up with the Dairy Acceleration Program and is providing information to dairies on how to properly manage their corn silage harvest to minimize leachate. He also reported that the Executive Director interviews are still going on.

City of Auburn

Seth Jensen stated that the UV disinfection project construction is scheduled to start in October. During construction they will be using a temporary disinfection system as required by the County. Seth Jensen reported that the City is submitting a grant application for their Zebra Mussel Control Project to upgrade their zebra mussel control system at their intake in Owasco Lake and stated that they have 100% approved design documents for the project. He stated that the City uses preliminary disinfection as the water comes in from the lake to keep the zebra mussels from building up in the intake. Bruce Natale made a motion for the Cayuga County WQMA to support this project and have Steve Lynch sign a letter of support endorsing this project for the City of Auburn's grant application to the State. Carl Wieszalis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Seth Jensen reported that the Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council is interviewing for a new watershed inspector and that the purchase agreement for the 150 acre property on Rockefeller Road is proceeding. He also stated that they are working with a consultant to look the combined sewer overflows in the City and looking at how to get more sewer separation in the future.

Lake Reports

Cayuga Lake Report

Hilary Mosher reported that hydrilla has been found in a private marina at Myers Point and the Finger Lakes Partnership for Invasive Species Management (PRISM) is working with the United States Army Corps of Engineers on how to treat this new infestation. She stated that they hope they can wrap it into the existing treatment plan. She reported that they will be doing kayak surveys again this fall along the shoreline of Cayuga Lake.

Cross Lake/Seneca River Report

Carl Wiezalis reported that there have been reports of mats of water chestnut floating into Cross Lake. There was a discussion on the grants that addressed water chestnut and how there are no funds currently for Cayuga County to address water chestnut. There was a discussion of the permitting issues related to hand pulling water chestnut and how they are onerous and make it difficult to do hand pulling in NYSDEC Region 7. Hilary Mosher is going to put together a resolution and pass it by the members prior to the next meeting requesting NYSDEC take a look at the permitting process and try to make it easier to conduct handpulling.

Duck Lake Report

Dale Powell reported that the Duck Lake Association conducted their herbicide treatment of milfoil and broadleaf weeds on June 17, 2019.

Lake Como Report

Barbara Harvey reported that the lake level is finally down.

Little Sodus Bay Report

Richard Hadcock reported that the Bay Betterment Association is meeting again. He reported that Emily Sheridan came to their last meeting to speak about her programs and invasive species. They are currently working on education and training, but they are not doing water quality monitoring at this time. They are concerned about invasive species and have found a water chestnut plant but are not sure where it came from. He reported that the water level is coming down but is still above average.

Owasco Lake Report

Rick Nelson reported that the Owasco Watershed Lake Association Board's focus is currently on education and outreach and erosion control. They are raising funds to provide the match on a Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District grant to conduct hydroseeding and ditch remediation. The Emerson Foundation and Osborn Family Foundation have also provided donations.

Partner Reports

Great Lakes Action Agenda Southeast Lake Ontario Work Group

Emily Sheridan reported on the Cladophora monitoring and the on-line reporting tool to report it along the shorelines of the Great Lakes. She stated that she is working on a fact sheet for the Sterling/Wolcott Creek. She also stated that there are meetings for the NYSDEC Urban and Community Forestry grants in Avon on Sept 11, 2019 and Dewitt on September 12, 2019. Hilary Mosher volunteered help and letters of support for these grants.

Finger Lakes Institute and Finger Lakes Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management

Hilary Mosher reported that the Aurora, King Ferry and Ithaca infestations of hydrilla have been treated by the United States Army Corps of Engineers. The Finger Lakes PRISM is conducting education and outreach and is working with the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network, NYSFOLA and

the Montezuma Audubon Center to do training. She stated that they have submitted for a no cost time extension for their EPA hydrilla grant as well as for their Starry Stonewort Collaborative grant. She also asked people to be on the lookout for spotted lanternfly and oak wilt.

Adjournment

Doug Kierst made a motion to adjourn. Seth Jensen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The meeting was closed at 11:45 am.