

**RESOLUTION ENDORSING AND SUPPORTING THE ADOPTION OF THE REVISED OWASCO LAKE
WATERSHED RULES AND REGULATIONS**

BY: Cayuga County Board of Health

November 24, 2020

WHEREAS, Owasco Lake is the source of public water supply for the City of Auburn, the Town of Owasco, and approximately forty-five thousand water users within Cayuga County; and

WHEREAS, in 1984, pursuant to Public Health Law Section 1100, the New York State Department of Health adopted Title 10 of the New York Codes, Rules and Regulations, Section 104.1, which is commonly referred to as the Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations (the “Watershed Rules and Regulations”); and

WHEREAS, the 1984 Watershed Rules and Regulations were adopted with the goal of enhancing protection and preservation of the water quality in Owasco Lake; and

WHEREAS, since 1984 the water quality in Owasco Lake has declined considerably as evidenced by significantly increased weed growth and the proliferation of harmful algal blooms; and

WHEREAS, in 2016 toxins associated with harmful algal blooms known to be harmful to human health were found in the public drinking water provided by the Town of Owasco and the City of Auburn; and

WHEREAS, elevated levels of disinfection by-products have been found in many water systems in Cayuga County that purchase water from the Town of Owasco and the City of Auburn; and

WHEREAS, the 1984 Watershed Rules and Regulations are not adequate to protect Owasco Lake from the current challenges and land use practices within the watershed; and

WHEREAS, a community committee including representatives from the City of Auburn, the Town of Owasco, the County of Cayuga, the Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council, the Owasco Watershed Lake Association, the Cayuga County Board of Health, and Agricultural Representatives from Dairy and Crop Farming sectors and including input from agricultural and residential focus group, and agencies such as the Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County have developed a revised Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Auburn City Council and Owasco Town Board expressed their joint support and endorsement of the revised Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations by adopting municipal resolutions requesting that the New York State Department of Health repeal the existing 1984 Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations, which are cited at 10 New York Codes, Rules and Regulations, Section 104.1, and replace the same with the revised Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations, attached herein; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Health promotes source water protection as an essential component towards protecting public health by preventing pollutants from

entering a drinking water supply, avoiding preventable drinking water treatment costs and increasing community confidence in their local public drinking water; and

WHEREAS, Protecting the water quality of Owasco Lake is essential to the public health of the residents of Cayuga County; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Health now wishes to express its support for the adoption of the revised Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations by the New York State Department of Health; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cayuga County Board of Health does hereby endorse and support the revised Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations, and respectfully requests the review, consideration and adoption of the revised Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations by the New York State Department of Health.

MOVED: Brian Brundage, MD SECONDED: John Cosachov, DO

AYES: Cassandra Archer, MD; Keith Batman, Cayuga County Legislator; Elane Daly, Cayuga County Legislator; Ralph Battista; Tim Fessenden.

NAY: None