

Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency
January 3, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Members or Designees Present: Seth Jensen, Doug Kierst, Ron Kuck, Steve Lynch, Bruce Natale, Rick Nelson, Eileen O'Connor, Dale Powell, Ed Wagner, Carl Wieszalis

Others Present: Rachael DeWitt, Chris Drogi, Ryan Franklin, Jo-Anne Humphreys, Aileen McNabb-Coleman, Charlie Ripley, Emily Sheridan, Michele Wunderlich

Announcements

None

Old Business

Minutes

The minutes of the December 6, 2018 WQMA meeting were reviewed. Ed Wagner made a motion to accept the December 6, 2018 minutes as written. Rick Nelson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

WQMA Priority Working Groups Reports

Steve Lynch asked the Working Groups to prepare their year end reports for the February WQMA meeting and their work plans for the March WQMA meeting.

Communications Working Group

Eileen O'Connor urged members to use the WQMA website.

Invasive Species Working Group

Ed Wagner stated that the group has completed their year end report.

Nutrient Working Group

Eileen O'Connor reported that they continue to finalize their educational document on what homeowners can do to protect water quality.

Sediment Working Group

Doug Kierst reported that they met with OWLA to discuss sediment in road ditches.

Agency Reports

Cayuga County Parks Department

Steve Lynch reported that there is a meeting planned with the designers to discuss the Deauville Island improvements project.

Cayuga County Department of Planning and Economic Development

Steve Lynch reported that the extended steering committee finished the review of the draft Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations update and plan on meeting to make the edits and complete the final draft. The next stage is to plan meetings with stakeholder groups.

Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)

Doug Kierst reported that they assisted the Parks Department in installing the bridge on the Cato-Brutus Trail. He reported that they received a \$390,000 grant from the WQIP program for revegetation and repair of 4000 feet of streambank; they are finalizing the paperwork after installing 783 acres of cover crops in the Cayuga Lake Watershed; finished the culvert assessments in the

Union Springs and Yawger Brook sections of the Cayuga Lake Watershed; and have developed signage for their projects.

Cayuga County Solid Waste Management Program Office

Bruce Natale reported that they are wrapping up last year's programs and reported that the electronics recycling market continues to deteriorate and they will have to start charging to recycle flat screens.

Cayuga County Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County (CCE)

Ron Kuck reported that he is an interim part time Ag Educator at CCE. The Board of Directors is searching for a new executive director.

City of Auburn

Seth Jensen reported that the City of Auburn received WQIP funding to conduct a Combined Sewer Overflow study and funding to purchase the property in the Owasco Flats. He reported that the lagoon has started up again.

Town of Owasco

Ed Wagner reported that they received funding of \$3.5 million to make the granulated activated charcoal treatment of their drinking water permanent and bids are out.

Doug Kierst reported that SWCD worked with the Town of Owasco to remove two trees that fell across Dutch Hollow Brook and were blocking water flow.

Lake Reports

Cayuga Lake Report

Steve Lynch reported that the sampling of Cayuga Lake tributaries by the Community Science Institute was funded again this year by the County Legislature.

Cross Lake/Seneca River

Carl Wiezalis reported that the water level has been up since November and is about 3 feet above summer navigation. He has concern that the water level gage at Quimby's Bridge has been out. Bruce Natale stated that we should look into who runs that gage to see what its status is.

Duck Lake Report

Dale Powell reported that the Duck Lake Association is getting prepared for their weed control program; the lake is currently open and they are seeing foam; and there are beavers doing damage to lake properties.

Owasco Lake Report

Rick Nelson reported that Seth Jensen will be presenting on Combined Sewer Overflows at the February 6th Owasco Watershed Lake Association meeting. He reported that March to Lake Day will be held on March 9th and presenters include John Halfman, Dr. Howarth and Dr. Schultz.

Skaneateles Lake Report

Rachael DeWitt reported that they received \$300,000 for the development of a nine element plan for Skaneateles Lake and they plan on having a survey released in mid-January to gauge people's perception of the lake. She stated that she met with NYS Senator Antonacci and that they have hired a profession grant writer.

Partner Reports

Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council

Eileen O'Connor reported that they have made a job offer to one of the two candidates for executive director. She reported that the January meeting has been moved to January 22nd so John Halfman can give his report. The SWCD director from Tompkins County is also meeting with them to discuss projects they are doing in the Owasco Lake Watershed. Michele Wunderlich updated the Agency on the progress of the Owasco Lake Watershed Nine Element plan project.

Cayuga County Water and Sewer Authority

Steve Lynch reported that the County co-funded sewer infrastructure report was presented to project stakeholders at the City of Auburn in December.

Great Lakes Action Agenda Southeast Lake Ontario Work Group

Emily Sheridan reported on the meeting they held at the SWCD in November. She reported on the funding of the WQIP Program and the Resilient NY funding. She also reported that she is going to reach out to get projects for the Wolcott/Sterling Creek Watershed.

Adjournment

Eileen O'Connor made a motion to adjourn. Seth Jensen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The meeting was closed at 11:18 am.