

Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency
January 7, 2020 Meeting Minutes
Meeting conducted virtually on 8x8

Members or Designees Present: Doug Dello Stritto, Jeff Emerson, Seth Jensen, Doug Kierst, Ron Kuck, Stephen Lynch, Dale Powell, Ed Wagner,

Others Present: Walt Aikman, Adam Effler, Michelle McGinnis, Liz Moran, Greg Rejman, Kaitlyn Shanahan, Emily Sheridan, Michele Wunderlich

Presentation

Walt Aikman, PhD, of EarthHeritage, gave a presentation on the Owasco Highway Department Wetland Remediation Project in the Town of Owasco.

Old Business

Minutes

The minutes from the December 3, 2020 WQMA meeting were reviewed. Seth Jensen made a motion to accept the December 3, 2020 minutes as written. Jeff Emerson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

WQMA Priority Working Groups Reports

Michele Wunderlich stated that the Year End Report of the WQMA is due in February and she asked the chairs of the working groups to get her their information.

Communication and Outreach Working Group

Michele Wunderlich reported that the quarterly newsletter was released in December. She thanked Adam Effler for assisting with the newsletter.

Agency Reports

Cayuga County Buildings and Grounds Department

Doug Dello Stritto stated that they have begun the work to clean out the culverts (sluiceway) and have prepared an area to receive the spoils. Michele Wunderlich reported that they have used Finger Lakes-Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance (FOLLOWPA) funds to purchase a CD3 boat cleaning station for Emerson Park.

Cayuga County Department of Planning and Economic Development

Steve Lynch reported that the Department has approved funding to hire two planner positions that are currently vacant. One planner will work on environmental and solid waste issues.

Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)

Doug Kierst reported that they are working on planning and grant closeouts. They have funding to evaluate culverts in the Owasco Lake Watershed using the North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative protocol for culvert assessment. They are also working on ag value assessments and Trade-A-Tree.

Seth Jensen stated that there is the need for a culvert inventory in the Town of Moravia and Southeast on Owasco and the City would be willing to partner. Doug Kierst stated that they are using a \$20,000 WQIP grant to conduct this work.

City of Auburn

Seth Jensen reported that the City is moving forward on design of combined sewer overflow projects to have shovel ready projects. He stated that he met with Michele Wunderlich and the NYSDEC to view the second phase of the Owasco Flats Project and it looks fantastic.

Lake Reports

Cayuga Lake Report

Steve Lynch reported that the Cayuga Lake Intermunicipal Organization is undergoing a transfer of leadership with a new chair, Liz Graeper Thomas.

Partner Reports

NYSDEC Great Lakes Program

Emily Sheridan reported on grant programs that might be of interest to the WQMA. She stated that there is new group called the Sterling Water Stewards who are working on sustaining the Sterling Creek water resources.

Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council (OLWMC)

Adam Effler reported that they are continuing their watershed surveillance activities as well as creating watershed information packets. They are going to hold their biannual meeting with the NYSDEC this month. They have installed five of the Hyfi sensors in the Owasco Inlet and Owasco Flats area and on Veness Brook. They wrote a recognition article that spotlighted the work presented by Walt Aikman and have scheduled monthly recognition articles. More towns and villages have taken the Lake Friendly Program pledge. He also reported that John Halfman will be presenting on his work at the January 19th OLWMC meeting.

Partners for Healthy Watersheds Report

Greg Rejman reported that he is working with the National and International Stewardship Programs and he is going through it to see where his score lands. He stated that they are in the preliminary stages but so far it appears that local farms are as good or better than other farms in the world. He reported that they had a conference call to discuss the Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations. He reminded people to look at their social media posts.

Miscellaneous

Doug Kierst made a motion to adjourn. Jeff Emerson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The meeting was closed at 11:07 am.