

Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency
March 5, 2020 Meeting Minutes

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

Others Present: Miranda Ciardulli, Jason Cuddeback, Dale Dewing, Jeff Emerson, Olivia Green, Brian Hall, Jim Keib, Gary Landsdowne, April Wright Lucas, Charlie Ripley, Greg Rejman, Kaitlyn Shanahan, Bud Shattuck, Emily Sheridan, Krista Tyrrell, Michele Wunderlich

Announcements

None.

Old Business

Minutes

The minutes from the February 6, 2020 WQMA meeting were reviewed. Carl Wiezalis made a motion to accept the February 6, 2020 minutes as written. Steve Lynch seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

New Business

Ed Wagner presented Harry Hinman with a plaque thanking him for his service to the Cayuga County WQMA. This was Harry Hinman's last meeting as a member.

Presentation: CCE Delaware County Watershed Agricultural Program, Dale Dewing, MS, CCA

Dale Dewing from CCE Delaware County presented on the Watershed Agricultural Program.

WQMA Priority Working Groups Reports

Michele Wunderlich had distributed copies of the 2020 Cayuga County WQMA Work Plan prior to the meeting. Eileen O'Connor made a motion to approve the 2020 Cayuga County WQMA Work Plan as written. Rick Nelson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Communication and Outreach Working Group

Eileen O'Connor stated that the next quarterly newsletter is due at the end of March. She stated that the group is looking for articles that show the positive things that are being done to protect water quality in Cayuga County. She requested short articles by March 20th.

Invasive Species Working Group

Michele Wunderlich stated that she was going to have a display at the Bob Brower Scientific Symposium on Saturday and is attending a Finger Lakes Partnership for Regional Invasive Species meeting in March.

Nutrient-Sediment Working Group

The Nutrient-Sediment Working group is meeting after the WQMA meeting.

Agency Reports

Cayuga County Health Department

Eileen O'Connor reported that a Wastewater Treatment System Inspector Course is being held on March 30 and 31, 2020.

Cayuga County Department of Planning and Economic Development

Steve Lynch reported that the steering committee met to review the draft update of the Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations and will have another meeting on March 12th for further discussion.

Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)

Doug Kierst reported that the SWCD will hold three more four hour Erosion and Sediment Control Workshops for Construction Site Contractors and Operators. He reported that they had worked on soil group worksheets as required by the State and grant writing. He also stated that their plant, tree, shrub and fish sales are currently on-going.

Cayuga County Solid Waste Management Program Office

Bruce Natale reported that they completed their Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility 2019 Annual Report. He stated that attendance and quantities at collection events are up. He also reported that the NYSDEC Cleanup Program is having a meeting to discuss the proposal to clean up Auburn's third coal gasification site.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County (CCE)

Ron Kuck reported that they are working with Partnership for Healthy Watersheds on a meeting in April.

City of Auburn

Seth Jensen reported that the City of Auburn working on bond authorization for a new biosolids treatment facility which will allow for a final product with beneficial reuse; and sewer replacement and combined sewer overflow upgrades. He also reported that they are finishing their GIS mapping, have begun work on grant funded zebra mussel control in the drinking water intake from Owasco Lake and exploring funding for a capital improvement project at the slow sand filtration plant.

Town of Owasco

Ed Wagner reported that the granular activated carbon microcystin treatment system project is out to bid and they hope to complete it before the harmful algal bloom season. They are working on starting a wetland restoration project.

Lake Reports

Cross Lake Report

Carl Wiezalis reported that the Central New York Waterways, Inc. is working on their organizational planning and membership drive.

Lake Como Report

Gary Landsdowne reported that Lake Como is frozen and they are still fighting the beavers in Fall Creek.

Little Sodus Bay Report

Gary Clark reported that on February 25th there were waves around 20 feet high in Lake Ontario. He announced that Susan Gately will be doing on a talk on the West Barrier Bar and the dangers of high water at the Village Board meeting on March 9th. He stated that Senator Katko is working on legislation to hold the International Joint Commission accountable for the high water and flooding damage.

Owasco Lake Report

Rick Nelson reported that the Bob Brower Scientific Symposium will be held on March 7, 2020 at 9 am at the Auburn Public Theater.

Partner Reports

NYSDEC Great Lakes Program

Emily Sheridan announced that there will be workgroup meetings in May. She reported that they are planning an invasive species focused workshop in the Sterling Creek watershed.

Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council (OLWMC)

Kaitlyn Shanahan reported that they have send the Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection and Protection Division's annual report to the printer.

Partnership for Healthy Watersheds

Greg Rejman reported that they are planning on presentations and tours this year.

The Nature Conservancy

Olivia Green reported that they continuing their work on their source water protection grant in the Owasco Lake Watershed.

Doug Kierst made a motion to adjourn. Steve Lynch seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The meeting was closed at 11:55 am.