

Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency
April 6, 2023 Meeting Minutes
Meeting held at Cayuga County Soil & Water Conservation District Offices and 8x8

Members or Designees Present: Doug Dello Stritto, Doug Kierst, Ron Kuck, Steve Lynch, Eileen O'Connor, Ann Robson, Ed Wagner, Carl Wiezalis

Others Present: Ally Berry, Lauren Darcy, Greg Hutnik, Gary Landsdowne, Liz Kreitinger, Frank Moses, Bruce Natale, Erin Norris, Greg Rejman, Amy Slentz, Ryan Staychock, Evan Tuthill, Kirsten Workman, Michele Wunderlich

Minutes

The minutes from the March 2, 2023 WQMA meeting were reviewed. Carl Wiezalis made a motion to accept the March 2, 2023 minutes as written. Ann Robson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

New Business

Michele Wunderlich announced that the Seneca County Board of Supervisors sent a letter to local and state representatives requesting that the NYSDEC complete the Cayuga Lake TMDL. She stated that the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network and Tompkins County Water Resources Council are also doing letters. Eileen O'Connor made a motion for Michele Wunderlich to put together a draft letter for discussion for the May WQMA meeting. Carl Wiezalis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

WQMA Priority Working Groups Reports

Communications and Outreach Working Group

Michele Wunderlich reported that the newsletter went out in March and that Frank Moses had a blog post on the WQMA website.

Invasive Species Working Group

Michele Wunderlich and Amy Slentz reported that the Finger Lakes PRISM is holding a spring partnership meeting on May 2nd at Hobart and William Smith Colleges. Amy Slentz reported that they are finalizing their plan for hydrilla treatment in Cayuga Lake.

Agency Reports

Cayuga County Health Department

Eileen O'Connor reported that they sent out postcards to lakefront residents on Cayuga, Owasco and Skaneateles Lakes and Lake Como with septic systems about the septic system replacement grant. She reported that they have been talking with SUNY Stony Brook Center for Clean Water Center about phosphorus removal technologies in septic systems to evaluate at their site.

Cayuga County Parks Department

Doug Dello Stritto reported that the Cayuga County SWCD continues to work on the dredging and dock moving project in Emerson Park. He reported that there will be an Earth Day Event on May 20, 2023 from 10 am to 2 pm and they will be working on the rain garden.

Presentation: Making Manure Recommendations...Maximizing Crop Uptake and Managing Environmental Risk

Kirsten Workman gave a presentation on “Making manure recommendations...maximizing crop uptake and managing environmental risk.”

Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)

Doug Kierst reported that construction season is starting. He reported that the tree and fish sale are still going on and there will be a tile drainage workshop on April 18th. Michele Wunderlich reported that she is working with Cayuga County SWCD with funding provided by NUCOR to give away free trees and shrubs to participants of Earth Day events.

Cayuga County Solid Waste

Evan Tuthill reported that the electronics recycling event that was held on April 1st had about 516 cars attend and they collected over 50,000 pounds. He reported that he gave a presentation to the Cayuga County Legislature on the Solid Waste Management Plan in March and is planning on moving forward in selecting the alternatives to include future programming in the plan.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County (CCE)

Ron Kuck reported that their last shop meeting was March 15th at John Daly Farm in Cato. He stated that participants took manure sampling kits and how to calibrate my spreader information sheet. He announced the workshop on tile drainage on research that has been done at the Miner Institute and the University of Vermont on April 18th at the Natural Resource Center and preregistration is required.

Ryan Staychock reported on the Cornell Climate Steward Program, which is a twelve-week training, and he plans on doing one this year. He is also organizing rain garden programs in Cayuga and Seneca Counties.

Lake Reports

Cayuga Lake Report

Liz Kreitinger reported that the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network is planning their Lake Friendly Living month Cayuga Lake workshops and the events will be focused on rain gardens. She reported that they have their litter cleanup program called Embrace the Lake and they can help provide support and materials. She reported that they have prepared a draft letter to legislative representatives asking that the Cayuga Lake TMDL be prioritized and finalized. Finally, she reported that their spring conference will be held on May 18th starting at 2 pm.

Erin Norris reported that CWIO will be holding a virtual meeting on April 19th from 3 pm to 5 pm with Kate Black from NYSDOS and Greg Hutnik of the Cayuga County Department of Planning and Economic Development. They will be discussing tips and tricks for applying for grants and identifying projects. The second CWIO meeting in April will be held in person at Cornell University on April 26th. It will have a student presentation on a local law assessment by students of Cornell Master of Public Administration program.

Cross Lake/Seneca River Report

Carl Wiezalis reported that Cross Lake has gone up about two inches in the last couple of days and they have concerns about spring flooding.

Lake Como Report

Gary Landsdowne reported that they are still waiting on their NYSDEC permit to treat the lake with Solitude. He also reported that they have a roadside cleanup in early May.

Owasco Lake Report

Ann Robson reported the Bob Brower Symposium was held on March 11th and their monthly meeting had members from Partners for Healthy Watershed presenting. She reported that they are working on a letter writing campaign to County Legislators to restore funding for the Owasco Lake buoy. She also reported that they are getting ready for their Citizen Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP), tributary sampling program and harmful algal bloom monitoring program.

Skaneateles Lake Report

Frank Moses reported that they are working on the secchi disk satellite learning with SUNY ESF. A Syracuse University technician is doing some ancillary subwatershed characterization which might help with the modeling for the 9E plan for Skaneateles. He reported that they are working with the Skaneateles Emerging Watershed Scientist Program educational consultant to develop curriculum for schools and developing educator workshops that will be held over the summer. He reported that they are putting out weather stations to circumscribe the lake and possible dockside monitoring. Finally, he reported that UFI is working with the City of Syracuse on a monitoring buoy for Skaneateles Lake.

Lauren Darcy reported that CNYRPDB is working on the 9E plan for Skaneateles Lake and the Watershed Advisory Committee is working on best management practices scenarios to put into the model. She also reported that they are providing technical assistance to the NYSDEC and NYSDOH drinking water source protection plan program.

Partner Reports

Finger Lakes Institute/Finger Lakes Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM)

Amy Slentz reported that they are currently hiring for the summer field season. She reported that they are wrapping up the hemlock woolly adelgid survey programs and are planning for the macrophyte and trail survey programs. She reported that New York State Invasive Species Week will be held June 5th to 11th.

Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council (OLWMC)

Michele Wunderlich reported that the Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection and Protection Division staff are finalizing their 2022 report. She reported that the next Watershed Rules and Regulations meeting will be held on May 2nd; the Owasco Lake 9E Plan Implementation Committee met to discuss their work plan; and the “Clean, Drain, Dry” billboard was placed south of the Southshore Marina on West Lake Road. She also reported that they are working on finalizing planning and approvals for the tributary identification signage in the southern portion

of the Owasco Lake Watershed; developing a Sustain Our Great Lakes funding proposal in partnership with Cayuga County SWCD and EA Consulting targeting stream restoration; and the NYS Class C stream protection bill was reintroduced in the 2023 State Legislative session under a new print number (S1725).

Partners for Healthy Watersheds

Greg Rejman stated that Partners for Healthy Watersheds will be holding farm tours this summer.

Miscellaneous

Doug Kierst made a motion to adjourn. Carl Wiezalis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The meeting was closed at 11:50 pm.