

Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency
April 7, 2022 Meeting Minutes
Meeting held at Cayuga County Soil & Water Conservation and on 8x8

Members or Designees Present: Gary Clark, Doug Dello Stritto, Doug Kierst, Ron Kuck, Seth Jensen, Steve Lynch, Rick Nelson, Dale Powell, Dan Welch

Others Present: Adam Effler, Emily Fell, Roxanna Johnston, Bruce Natale, Michele Wunderlich

Announcements

None.

WQMA Priority Working Groups Reports

Communications and Outreach Working Group

Michele Wunderlich reported that the newsletter went out in March and the next one will be in June. She thanked Adam Effler for this work on this newsletter.

Agency Reports

Cayuga County Parks Department

Doug Dello Stritto reported that the Cayuga County SWCD is working on several resiliency projects at the Sterling Nature Center. He also reported that the Cayuga County SWCD has completed the seawall installation on Deauville Island and did a great job. Doug Dello Stritto thanked the City of Auburn for closing out the sluiceway project. Finally, he reported that they making some small drainage modifications where they started the rain garden project last year to make sure they have the proper area for sheet flow, it discharges properly and they want to expand the area for additional stormwater treatment.

Cayuga County Department of Planning and Economic Development

Steve Lynch stated that they have a new planner coming on in May. He also reported that they are working on permanent access to the Owasco Flats Wetland Restoration and Riparian Buffer Initiative Project.

Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)

Doug Kierst announced that their tree sale and fish sale is in progress. He reported that they are working on bank stabilization in the Town of Niles to protect a roadway. He reported that they received \$25,000 from the Genesee River and Finger Lakes Watershed Program for an implementation grant for erosion and sediment controls on some farmland in the Owasco Lake watershed. He stated that they have one more 4-hour Erosion and Sediment Control Workshop for Contractors and Operators on April 21st and that they have completed one Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan update by its April 1st deadline.

Cayuga County Solid Waste Management Program Office Update

Doug Kierst reported that the tire collection day will be held on June 25th from 8 am to 11 am at the Natural Resource Center. Steve Lynch stated that Nucor really contributes a lot to the work that we do.

Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County

Dan Welch reported that the electronics collection event on April 9th is full. There will be another event in the fall and registration will open later in the summer. There will also be a household hazardous waste in the fall.

Dan Welch reported that they are now participants in the South-Central New York Regional Ag Extension Team which gives them access to a farm business management specialist, a field crop management specialist and a dairy management specialist. This team has done a lot of work in the Upper Susquehanna and Skaneateles Lake watersheds.

City of Auburn

Seth Jensen reported that the City of Auburn has received a grant of \$150,000 from the State to focus restoration efforts at Hoopes Park and its pond. They are hoping to turn this project into a water quality project as well for the brook. The pond acts as a sediment trap and water quality basin but they have not had a good way to dewater the pond or maintain it. There are challenges with the gate structure and having a good structure will help future maintenance and flow. He stated that they will be planning this year.

Seth Jensen reported that the City of Auburn will be having budget presentations and his is tonight. They will continue to fund the Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council and support their efforts.

Seth Jensen reported that their combined sewer overflows (CSO) project and sewer separation project design is at 60% and they have additional funding and are working on a change order to take the design to 100% completion. They are also going to begin the early phases of an inflow and infiltration study.

Lake Reports

Cayuga Lake Report

Roxy Johnston reported that the Cayuga Watershed Intermunicipal Organization (CWIO) had a NYSDOS grant from 2017 that developed a project list and they wrapped it up with public meeting on March 16th. She stated that the technical advisory committee has been repopulated and they will work with the future watershed manager to rank projects and find funding for some and complete them. She stated that they will solicit new project ideas every year. She stated that the watershed manager position has been posted and they are working with Hobart and William Smith Colleges and the Finger Lakes Institute. Roxy Johnston reported that the dues request went out based on a fair funding formula and the goal is to fund the watershed manager position. They do have a two-year Park Foundation grant to currently fund this position. Finally, she stated that the CWIO is updating their website.

Duck Lake Report

Dale Powell stated that the ice is out on Duck Lake and it did not damage the docks. He stated that their weed control program is advancing along and once they find out how much funds they have to purchase the herbicide, they will be ready to go.

Little Sodus Bay

Gary Clark reported that the water level is normal for Lake Ontario at this time of the year. He stated that there is a report that the water level will rise about six inches, but he feels that is a normal amount. He stated that funding has been approved for West Barrier Bar and work will be done this summer. He stated that they have two boat ramps on the bay that are undergoing repair and improvement.

Owasco Lake Report

Rick Nelson thanked the attendees and presenters of the Bob Brower Scientific Symposium and he thanked Seth Jensen for his idea of providing professional hour credits for professional engineers. He stated that the presentations will be on their website. He reported that the hemlock woolly adelgid hunters have surveyed over 20 sites in the watershed and plan on applying insecticide this spring funded by the United States Forest Service.

Partner Reports

NYSDEC Great Lakes Program

Emily Fell reported that the Sterling & Wolcott Creeks Integrated Watershed Action Plan Watershed Stakeholder Committee meeting will be held May 9th at 2 pm. She stated that they will share the draft indicators of assessing the ecosystem. She stated that the first public meeting went well and they developed goals and plans for the plan.

Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council (OLWMC)

Adam Effler reported that Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection and Protection Division has been out looking for exposed lands and erosion impacts of the spring rains. He stated that the inspectors working through some professional development opportunities by taking the 4-hour Erosion and Sediment Control Workshops for Contractors and Operators and septic system training. He reported that they are working with Tompkins County SWCD on a sediment sock project implementation in exposed ditches in the Owasco Lake watershed. They are also scheduled for a tour of the Moravia waste water treatment plant.

Adam Effler reported that the Council's April recognition article in *The Citizen* spotlighted the Lake Friendly Living Coalition Pledge program. They are finalizing their combined vision and annual report. He reported that they viewed an appendix to the Owasco Lake Watershed 9E plan on projects and programming outcomes since the 2016 plan. He stated that work continues on the City of Auburn Drinking Water Source Protection Plan; with SUNY ESF on a willow nursery at the Town of Owasco for riparian buffer planting; with OWLA on their 2022 sampling program; and their LED road flares program.

Miscellaneous

The meeting was closed at 11:10 am.