

**Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency**  
**May 2, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

Members or Designees Present: Barbara Harvey, Harry Hinman, Seth Jensen, Doug Kierst, Ron Kuck, Steve Lynch, Bruce Natale, Rick Nelson, Dale Powell, Ed Wagner, Carl Wiezalis, Jim Young

Others Present: Adam Effler, Ryan Franklin, David Gardner, Tim Lattimore, Debby McCormick, Aileen McNabb- Coleman, Greg Rejman, Patty Wakefield-Brown, Michele Wunderlich

**Announcements**

None

**Old Business**

**Minutes**

The minutes of the April 4, 2019 WQMA meeting were reviewed. Ed Wagner made a motion to accept the April 4, 2019 minutes as written. Rick Nelson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**WQMA Priority Working Groups Reports**

**Communication and Outreach Working Group**

Michele Wunderlich reported that the Communication and Outreach Working Group sent out a newsletter in April.

**Invasive Species Working Group**

Michele Wunderlich reported that she plans on holding two iMapInvasives trainings during New York State Invasive Species Awareness Week.

**Nutrient-Sediment Working Group**

Jim Young reported that Eileen O'Connor is setting up a meeting for the Nutrient-Sediment Working Group.

**Agency Reports**

**Cayuga County Parks Department**

David Gardner reported on events that are planned for the park in the summer.

**Cayuga County Department of Planning and Economic Development**

Steve Lynch reported that work continues on the Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations update and that the County is partnering up with the Town of Brutus on the Erie Canal Re-Watering Project.

**Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)**

Doug Kierst stated that the tree pickup from their sale is May 3<sup>rd</sup>. He reported that there is one more four hour sediment and erosion control contractor training and the SWCD is working on grant applications.

**Cayuga County Solid Waste Management Program Office**

Bruce Natale reported that the electronics and small Freon collection will be held on May 18<sup>th</sup> at Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES. He is looking for volunteers because the jail crew has been deployed to fill sandbags.

### Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) of Cayuga County

Ronald Kuck reported that the Executive Director search is closing and they are in the process of hiring two 4-H educators. He announced that CCE statewide dairy educators are working on training for watershed protection and water quality on dairies.

### City of Auburn

Seth Jensen reported that the City of Auburn has gone out to bid to hire a contractor to replace lead service lines as part of a \$700,000 grant. He stated that they are ready to award the project to add on the upper pump station for activated powdered carbon storage; that they have proposals due on Friday for an engineering planning grant design report to develop a strategy to manage stormwater flows; they are waiting on legal and surveys for the Owasco Flats land acquisition; and there is a potential to increase the Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection Program budget to \$200,000 from the City.

### Town of Owasco

Ed Wagner reported that the Town of Owasco has also increased its contribution to the Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection Program from \$12,000 to \$20,000. He reported that they are going forward with the bidding for the granulated activated carbon system.

## **Lake Reports**

### Cayuga Lake Report

Jim Young stated the weather over the past six months has not been ideal for manure incorporation, but that the new technologies available have helped mitigate this. He stated that he is implementing variable rate technologies and fertilization on his farm and it has taken five years and has been a challenge.

### Cross Lake/Seneca River Report

Carl Wiezalis reported that the water level is reasonable for this time of the year. He reported that the east side of the lake has seen tree damage from ice in the winter and the area where the water chestnuts mats were washing in last summer has a large number of nutlets.

### Duck Lake Report

Dale Powell reported that they are waiting for the water level on Duck Lake to go down before they do their inspection of the aquatic plants. The Duck Lake Association has their permit for the herbicide treatment of milfoil this year.

### Lake Como Report

Barbara Harvey reported that Board of Directors for the Lake Como Association is meeting this weekend and they are planning for their spring meeting which will be held on May 25<sup>th</sup>.

### Owasco Lake Report

Rick Nelson reported that a group of Owasco Watershed Lake Association members are attending the New York State Federation of Lake Associations conference and they have started their tributary sampling program.

## **Partner Reports**

### Great Lakes Action Agenda Southeast Lake Ontario Work Group

Michele Wunderlich reported that the next Southeast Lake Ontario Work group meeting will be held on May 29<sup>th</sup> at Fair Haven State Park at 1 pm; the Lake Ontario Lakewide Action Plan draft is available for comment; the draft Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Action Plan III is available for

review; and the CFA has been announced. Steve Lynch discussed the high lake levels in Lake Ontario and the response that is occurring.

#### Finger Lake Institute (FLI)/Finger Lakes Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (FLPRISM)

Patty Wakefield-Brown reported that the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has renewed the five year contract with the FLPRISM; they are hiring watercraft stewards for the summer; the Starry Stonewort Collaborative is planning a workshop during New York State Invasive Species Awareness week; the dredging of Don's Marina to treat hydrilla is complete and they plan on surveying Cayuga Lake for hydrilla again this summer; and she has a macrophyte survey program that she is looking for volunteers for.

#### Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council

Adam Effler reported that the Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council has changed the name of the Watershed Inspection Program to the Watershed Inspection and Protection Division. He reported that the Village of Moravia has joined the Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council; the Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations general public participation meetings will be held at 6:30 pm on May 15th at Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES and May 16th at the Moravia High School Auditorium; and he is working with Pro Dairy to reach out to farmers to promote the dairy acceleration program.

#### Partners for Healthy Watersheds

Greg Rejman stated that the wet weather has been an issue for farmers this year.

#### The Nature Conservancy

Michele Wunderlich reported that The Nature Conservancy's Science Team is finalizing the first cut of prioritized parcels for the Source Water grant; The Nature Conservancy's partners at the University of Rochester's Environmental Policy class are working on final recommendations to increase diversity in watershed planning efforts; and Jo-Anne Humphreys has a Power Point Presentation draft to share with the Nutrient-Sediment Working Group.

#### Adjournment

Dale Powell made a motion to adjourn. Seth Jensen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The meeting was closed at 11:10 am.