

**Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency**  
**May 5, 2022 Meeting Minutes**  
**Meeting held at Cayuga County Soil & Water Conservation and on 8x8**

Members or Designees Present: Doug Dello Stritto, Jeff Emerson, Doug Kierst, Ron Kuck, Seth Jensen, Pat Mooney, Dale Powell, Ann Robson, Carl Wiezalis

Others Present: Sam Beck-Anderson, Lauren Darcy, Adam Effler, Ani Fish, Olivia Green, Greg Hutnik, Liz Kreitinger, Frank Moses, Bruce Natale, Michele Wunderlich

**Announcements**

Seth Jensen reported that Rick Nelson has passed away on April 23, 2022. On behalf of the Cayuga County WQMA, he presented the family with a plaque of the Owasco Lake Watershed at his calling hours. He presented a resolution honoring Rick Nelson (Attachment 1). Doug Dello Stritto made a motion to accept the resolution as written. Ann Robson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Minutes**

The minutes from the April 7, 2022 WQMA meeting were reviewed. Doug Dello Stritto made a motion to accept the April 7, 2022 minutes as written. Seth Jensen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously, with Jeff Emerson abstaining.

The minutes from the March 3, 2022 WQMA meeting were reviewed. Ann Robson made a motion to accept the March 3, 2022 minutes as written. Jeff Emerson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Presentation**

Steve Penningroth from the Community Science Institute presented “A Novel Approach to Estimating Nutrient Transport and Its Applications.”

**WQMA Priority Working Groups Reports**

**Communications and Outreach Working Group**

Eileen O’Connor stated that the next newsletter will go out in June and she will reach out for articles at the next meeting.

**Invasive Species Working Group**

Michele Wunderlich announced that the Finger Lakes PRISM full board meeting will be held on May 6, 2022. She reported that she is planning on doing an invasive species identification class as part of New York Invasive Species Awareness week. She also announced that she will be doing an iMapInvasives class after the June Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council meeting.

**Nutrient and Sediment Working Group**

Seth Jensen would like the Nutrient and Sediment Working Group to meet prior to the June WQMA meeting at Emerson Park.

## Agency Reports

### Cayuga County Health Department

Eileen O'Connor reported that before Covid 19 pandemic, they were researching phosphorus removal technologies for septic systems and they found one company and were looking for volunteers to install this technology. However, someone raised concerns about the environmental impacts of that technology and so they started researching it but Covid happened.

Eileen O'Connor reported that The Nature Conservancy contracted with a consultant to again look at phosphorus removal technologies for septic systems. She stated that they researched what is available in other places and they found one that they are going to implement at the Y-Camp as a pilot project. She stated that Bruce Natale submitted an engineering design and they hope to approve it and install it this year. Olivia Green stated that they will have some interpretive signage at the camp explaining the system.

### Cayuga County Parks Department

Doug Dello Stritto reported that they are still doing lawn repair at Emerson Park and working on the permit for dredging the channel at the back side of the island.

### Cayuga County Department of Planning and Economic Development

Michele Wunderlich reported that they working on the revision to the Owasco Lake Watershed Nine Element Plan and will have a public meeting this summer.

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

Doug Kierst announced that their annual report is on-line. He stated that it is grant writing season and they are writing grants for the Ag Non-Point Source and Climate Resiliency Farming programs. He stated that they are working on bank stabilization in Niles and their tree sale and fish sale is in progress. Doug Kierst also announced that the tire collection day will be held on June 25<sup>th</sup> from 8 am to 11 am at the Natural Resource Center.

### Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County

Ron Kuck announced that they joined 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. He announced that there will be a job posting for an Ag/Environmental Sustainability Coordinator. He also reported that Quirine Ketterings from the Cornell University Spear Program and Kirsten Workman from Pro-Dairy have an on-farm research project on the value of manure to evaluate nitrogen fertilizer replacement value of manure. This is funded by the NY Farm Viability Institute. He also announced that on July 6<sup>th</sup> he will hold a pasture walk and a healthy soils workshop along with the National Grasslands Coalition for Soil Health trailer.

### City of Auburn

Seth Jensen reported that the City of Auburn has received a \$9 million grant for biosolids processing and drier project which will allow them to produce Class A biosolids that can be used for beneficial reuse as a NPK fertilizer.

## Lake Reports

### Cayuga Lake Report

Liz Kreitinger is the new executive director/steward for the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network. She is coordinating with CSI, Inc. on their harmful algal bloom monitoring program and the HABs Harriers. They are on-boarding summer interns who will be doing things like the HABs Newsletter and they are also adding a youth outreach intern.

### Lake Como Report

Pat Mooney reported that the water level of Lake Como has gone down about a foot since the beavers have moved on. He stated that they hired Solitude to treat about 18 acres of the Lake in early June for milfoil and they will have an algaecide application in later summer as part of that contract. He stated that the Lake Como Association will have to begin to raise money to do this program again next year. He stated that there will be a meeting of the Lake Como Association during Memorial Day weekend. Finally, he stated that he will look at if the Lake Como Inn would host a WQMA meeting in the future.

### Cross Lake Report

Carl Wieszalis stated that the campers and seasonal people are beginning to come back and see the extent of the flood damage from last year. He stated that there is a meeting on May 14, 2022 at the Cato American Legion regarding flooding and water chestnuts. He stated that Senator Mannion has found \$100,000 for water chestnut mitigation.

### Owasco Lake Report

Ann Robson thanked the WQMA for their recognition of Rick Nelson. She reported that the Cayuga County Chamber of Commerce awarded OWLA as their non-profit organization of the year. She reported that volunteers are out water sampling tributaries today and the United States Forest Service grant has been registered and funds are being released to begin treatment of hemlocks for hemlock wooly adelgid. She stated that they will continue their MOU with Cayuga County SWCD on the ditch remediation program and the HABs monitoring program will have 27 zones this year. Ann Robson also stated that the OWLA meeting will be on June 1<sup>st</sup> and the new officers will be elected and she is the new incoming president. They are hosting a membership event on June 22<sup>nd</sup> with the Chamber of Commerce and Owasco Yacht Club and they will be presenting their annual report and their work plan.

### Skaneateles Lake Report

Frank Moses reported that the Skaneateles Lake Association submitted a grant application to the Great Lakes Commission for a stream stabilization, retention, and nutrient reduction project; they continue to support Syracuse University with sediment sampling and analysis of lake bottom sediment; they are continuing development of the Dr. Robert Werner Research & Education Boat; they installed their first weather station and planning on siting and installing five more; and are sponsoring and promoting Landscape Design workshops in March, April, June, and July. He reported that they are also busy working with Lake Friendly Living Coalition of the Finger Lakes. He reported that they started their Aquatic Invasive Species prevention and monitoring season early with watercraft steward program due to the lift on season and limits for walleye; and are contracting with vendors for Hemlock Woolly Adelgid treatment. Finally, they are getting

engaged with Libraries Love Lakes program and continue development of Skaneateles Lake Emerging Watershed Science initiative and curriculum.

### **Partner Reports**

#### **Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board**

Lauren Darcy reported that they continue to work on the Skaneateles Lake Nine Element Plan; the modeling is on-schedule and they had their first watershed advisory meeting. She also reported that the first public meeting for that project is planned for mid-June.

#### **Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council (OLWMC)**

Adam Effler reported that they have replaced some of the Hyfi sensors and are working on putting a new one at Long Point Creek. He promoted the Lake Friendly Living Program. One event is a hands-on with SUNY ESF and it is a shrub willow planting at the Town of Owasco nursery. He reported that they are working toward the transfer of property ownership from The Nature Conservancy to the OLWMC. He announced that Jon Negley will present at the OLWMC in May.

#### **The Nature Conservancy**

Olivia Green reported that she is working on a communications plan for the work at the Y-Camp. She reported that the Our Owasco Project barn sessions have wrapped up for the season and there will be a case study on Sam Rose's Farm published in *The Citizen*.

#### **Duck Lake Report**

Dale Powell reported that the permits for the herbicide treatment are in place and the application will be done around June 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### **Miscellaneous**

Pat Mooney made a motion to adjourn. Ann Robson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The meeting was closed at 11:55 am.

Attachment 1:

Whereas the Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency and the Cayuga County community lost a valued member and leader, Rick Nelson, who passed on April 23, 2022;

Whereas Rick Nelson was a tireless and outspoken advocate for Owasco Lake and water quality; and

Whereas, Rick Nelson served as the Owasco Watershed Lake Association's representative to the Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency since 2017 and actively participated in its work on committees such as the Nutrient and Sediment Working Group; therefore be it

Resolved, the Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency, on behalf of its members, honors the memory of Rick Nelson, celebrates his legacy of advocacy for Owasco Lake and water quality and remembers his service to the Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency and the Owasco Watershed Lake Association; and

Resolved, the Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency, on behalf of its members, extends its sincerest condolences to his friends and family.