

Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency
July 11, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Members or Designees Present: Barbara Harvey, Doug Kierst, Bruce Natale, Rick Nelson, Steve Lynch, Eileen O'Connor, Donald Oltz, Dale Powell, Ed Wagner, Carl Wiezalis

Others Present: Adam Effler, Richard Hadcock, Tim Lattimore, Charlie Ripley, Emily Sheridan, Alan Williams, Michele Wunderlich

Announcements

None

Old Business

Minutes

The minutes of the June 6, 2019 WQMA meeting were reviewed. Eileen O'Connor made a motion to accept the June 6, 2019 minutes as written. Carl Wiezalis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Presentation

Michele Wunderlich presented on how to identify invasive species.

WQMA Priority Working Groups Reports

Communication and Outreach Working Group

Eileen O'Connor reported that the Communication and Outreach Working Group released a newsletter in April and is working on preparing a newsletter for July.

Nutrient-Sediment Working Group

Eileen O'Connor distributed the final draft of the "Residential Guidelines to Protect Water Quality in Cayuga County." She thanked Nick Colas for the design work on the document.

Invasive Species Working Group

Ed Wagner distributed a handout with the work that the Invasive Species Working Group has completed so far this year. He stated that they are looking at having the annual Asian clam survey of Emerson Park the second week of August. Michele Wunderlich updated the group on the hydrilla treatment of Cayuga Lake in the King Ferry and Ithaca areas. Eileen O'Connor stated that the United States Army Corps of Engineers have begun the herbicide treatment of the infestation at Aurora and the drinking water and swimming area samples have been non-detect for the herbicide.

Michele Wunderlich asked for volunteers for a water chestnut handpull in Sterling Creek on July 12th and 13th.

Agency Reports

Cayuga County Environmental Health Update

Eileen O'Connor reported harmful algal blooms have been found in many places on Cayuga Lake. It impacted the bathing beaches at Wells College Dock, Village of Cayuga, Casper Gregory Children's camp, and Long Point State Park. The Health Department sent drinking water samples from the Village of Aurora to the State Health Department for toxin analysis.

Cayuga County Department of Planning and Economic Development

Steve Lynch reported that the Department is working on preparing a Local Waterfront Revitalization Grant for Sterling and Fair Haven. He reported that there is \$300 million available

for the south shore of Lake Ontario in response to the flooding that is occurring and Cayuga County is working with Oswego County. He also reported that the Department is working on a Green Infrastructure grant for the boat launch area of Emerson Park.

Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)

Doug Kierst reported that they have the weed harvester on Cayuga Lake which was delayed due to high water levels and cool temperatures. They will then take the equipment to Fair Haven and then Owasco Lake. He reported that there was a storm on June 20th that dropped three and a half inches on already saturated soil that caused a lot of damage in the County. He reported that they will start work on Veness Brook soon, did some repair work at the West Barrier Bar and are working on their CFA applications.

Cayuga County Solid Waste Management Program Office

Bruce Natale reported that the tire recycling event on June 22, 2019 had about 150 cars and collected about 3000 tires. He reported that there will be an electronics collection event in September and a chemical collection event in October.

Bruce Natale reported that a storm in June damaged the access road to the Owasco Flats project site. It is at 94% completion and they plan to open it around August. The final design of the last phase will be done this year with construction next year.

Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) of Cayuga County

Michele Wunderlich reported that Ron Kuck is collaborating with Cornell Pro-Dairy/Dairy Acceleration Program and the Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council on how the new proposed Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulation for farms can be implemented and he visited dairy farms in the watershed that are not required through CAFO regulations to have comprehensive nutrient management plans.

Lake Reports

Cross Lake/Seneca River Report

Carl Wiezalis reported that Central New York Waterways had their organizational meeting on June 25th and Rick Nelson and Jim Beckwith from the Owasco Watershed Lake Association gave a presentation that was well received. He stated that the water level is finally down and he got his docks in yesterday. He stated that there is extensive water chestnuts on the east side of the lake and they have had some green water tested for harmful algal blooms.

Duck Lake Report

Dale Powell reported that the Duck Lake Association conducted their herbicide treatment of milfoil and broadleaf weeds on June 17, 2019.

Lake Como Report

Barbara Harvey reported that the lake level is finally down.

Owasco Lake Report

Rick Nelson reported that Andrew Kozlowski presented to the Owasco Watershed Lake Association (OWLA). Members from OWLA spoke at a Scipio Town Board meeting and their corporate campaign is active.

Doug Kierst stated that thanks to funding from OWLA, they have been able to hydroseed twice as many road ditches in the Owasco Lake Watershed. He also said that FLOWPA funding is providing funds for ditch work in the northern part of the County.

Partner Reports

Great Lakes Action Agenda Southeast Lake Ontario Work Group

Emily Sheridan reported that they had a workgroup meeting in May and she discussed some of the work that they will be looking at doing from suggested actions developed at that meeting. She stated that they are looking at educational kiosks at Fair Haven and Wolcott and an ecosystem assessment of Sterling Creek. She mentioned that the NYS Department of State released model local laws for resilience and they are available on the DOS website:

<https://www.dos.ny.gov/opd/programs/resilience/index.html>.

Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council

Adam Effler reported that their new website has a donations tab and a pledge not to use fertilizer; they are working on their financial audit for grants gateway and will probably be unable to submit any CFAs this year; are working on a draft position description for a deputy inspector; and are working on formal policies and procedures. They are working with NYSDEC Region 7 and other partners on a petition to make all streams in the Owasco Lake Watershed fall under Article 15 and would require a permit. He reported that they have met with OWLA to discuss preliminary tributary sampling results and the fish kill that was reported this month in Owasco Lake seems to be a natural phenomenon due to the fluctuation in water temperatures.

Adjournment

Don Oltz made a motion to adjourn. Rick Nelson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The meeting was closed at 11:25 am.