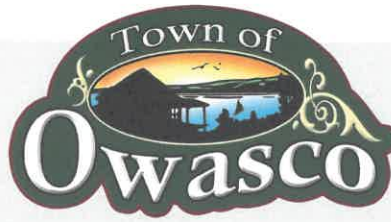


Edward J. Wagner  
Supervisor  
Tammy Flaherty  
Town Clerk



Frederick Cornelius  
Anthony Gucciardi  
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Michael Vitale  
Council

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**RESOLUTION 20-149 ENDORSING AND SUPPORTING THE ADOPTION OF THE  
REVISED OWASCO LAKE WATERSHED RULES AND REGULATIONS**

October 29, 2020

**WHEREAS**, Owasco Lake is the source of public water supply for both the Town of Owasco and the City of Auburn, and approximately forty-five thousand water users within Cayuga County; and

**WHEREAS**, the water quality of Owasco Lake is directly impacted by its watershed, which includes the lake, its tributaries, and all watercourses tributary thereto, and comprises approximately 205-square miles over Cayuga, Onondaga and Tompkins counties; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1984, pursuant to Public Health Law Section 1100, the New York State Department of Health adopted Title 10 of the New York Codes, Rules and Regulations, Section 104.1, which is commonly referred to as the Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations (the "Watershed Rules and Regulations"), a copy of which are attached hereto and incorporated herein; and

**WHEREAS**, the Watershed Rules and Regulations were adopted with the goal of enhancing protection and preservation of the water quality in Owasco Lake; and

**WHEREAS**, under the Watershed Rules and Regulations, the Town of Owasco and the City of Auburn are responsible for inspecting the watercourses within the watershed and for reporting violations in cases of noncompliance with the Cayuga County Health Department; and

**WHEREAS**, since 1984, the lands within the Owasco Lake Watershed have witnessed cumulative changes in land use and development; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2016, Owasco Lake showed its first detectable levels of toxins associated with harmful blue green algae blooms in its raw and finished (treated) water; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Owasco and the City of Auburn, and Cayuga County, have since worked cooperatively and with the Owasco Lake Management Council, Inc., to inspect, monitor, test, and, when necessary, treat the water, in order to continue to provide a clean public supply of water; and

**WHEREAS**, at the outset of the project, a Project Steering Committee was organized to lead the process by which the existing rules would be revised, and this Committee included representatives from the City, the Town, the Owasco Lake Management Council, Inc., the Cayuga County Board of Health, as well as interested farmers; and

**WHEREAS**, over the last three years, the Steering Committee has worked together with staff representatives and Project Stakeholder groups, to hold eight (8) Steering Committee meetings, five (5) public meetings, and at least ten (10) staff meetings, in a coordinated effort to create and recommend a revised draft of the Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations; and

**WHEREAS**, in October 2020, approximately four (4) years after the first harmful blue green algae blooms were detected in Owasco Lake, a final draft of the revised Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations was transmitted to, the Town Board of Owasco, City Council of Auburn Cayuga County, the public stakeholders, and the general public for review, consideration and support; and

**WHEREAS**, the **Town of Owasco** now wishes to express its support for the adoption of the revised Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations, a copy of which are attached hereto and incorporated herein, by the New York State Department of Health.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the **Town of Owasco Town Board** does hereby express its appreciation and thanks to the Watershed Rules and Regulations Project Steering Committee, the Extended Staff Working Group Affiliations, Project Stakeholder Groups, staff and the public at-large for all of the cooperative efforts and time spent in creating the revised Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the **Town of Owasco Town Board** does hereby endorse and support the revised Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations, which are attached hereto and made a part of this Resolution; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the **Town of Owasco Town Board** does hereby request that the New York State Department of Health repeal the existing 1984 Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations, which are cited at 10 New York Codes, Rules and Regulations, Section 104.1, and replace the same with the revised Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations, attached herein; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the **Town of Owasco Town Board** does hereby request that that a certified copy of this Resolution together with a copy of the revised Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations be prepared and transmitted to the Cayuga County Department of Health so that it may be further transmitted to the New York State Department of Health for adoption; and

