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Cayuga County Health Department  
Attn: Eileen O'Connor  
8 Dill Street  
Auburn, NY 13021

December 01, 2020

**RE: Owasco Lake Watershed Rules & Regulations**

Dear Eileen O'Connor,

As the Chair of the Seneca Watershed Intermunicipal Organization (SWIO) and Supervisor of the Town of Geneva, I am writing to express support for the work undertaken by the Town of Owasco and City of Auburn to update the Owasco Lake Watershed Rules & Regulations.

Formed in 2015, SWIO is a partnership group organized to represent the 40 municipalities and 5 counties within the Seneca Lake watershed with the mission to preserve, protect and restore the Seneca Lake watershed. As such, we have been closely following the efforts of the local communities in the Owasco Lake watershed to update the Owasco Lake Watershed Rules & Regulations.

While I and SWIO do not directly endorse any specific rule or regulation within the revised Owasco Lake Watershed Rules & Regulations, we express our support for the authority of the Town of Owasco and City of Auburn to update these rules, and commend them for the communal approach by which these updates were arrived at.

SWIO has drafted an official resolution (attached) expressing our endorsement for the updates to the Owasco Lake Watershed Rules & Regulations on which members will have the opportunity to vote on at our next meeting in January 2021. Until such time, I hope this support letter aids your community in its efforts to protect Owasco Lake.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Venuti".

Mark Venuti, SWIO Chair

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## **Seneca Watershed Intermunicipal Organization Resolution**

### **ENDORISING AND SUPPORTING THE ADOPTION OF THE REVISED OWASCO LAKE WATERSHED RULES AND REGULATIONS**

Sponsored by Chairperson Mark Venuti

**WHEREAS**, Seneca Watershed Intermunicipal Organization was formed in 2015 out of the Seneca Lake Area Partnership; and

**WHEREAS**, the mission of the Seneca Watershed Intermunicipal Organization is to bring watershed municipalities together to work collectively and collaboratively to protect, improve and restore watershed resources; and

**WHEREAS**, 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, water purveyors are granted the authority to develop and update Watershed Rules and Regulations; and

**WHEREAS**, Watershed Rules and Regulations are developed for the preservation of public drinking water sources and their protection from point and nonpoint source pollution; and

**WHEREAS**, since the original Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations were adopted in 1984 the lands within the Owasco Lake watershed have witnessed cumulative changes in land use and development; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2017, as a part of continued efforts to protect water quality, the City of Auburn, the Town of Owasco and Cayuga County passed resolutions endorsing a project to update and revise the 1984 Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations; and

**WHEREAS**, over the last three years, the Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations Steering Committee has worked diligently and used a very engaged public process with staff representatives, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, and Project Stakeholder groups, in a coordinated effort to create and recommend a revised draft of the Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations; and

**WHEREAS**, on October 29, 2020, a final draft of the revised Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations was endorsed by the City Council of Auburn and the Town Board of Owasco; and

**WHEREAS**, on October 29, 2020, the City Council of Auburn and the Town Board of Owasco requested that New York State repeal the 1984 Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations and replace them with the revised 2020 Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Seneca Watershed Intermunicipal Organization does hereby express support to the Town of Owasco and City of Auburn in their efforts to update the Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Seneca Watershed Intermunicipal Organization does hereby express support to the Town of Owasco and City of Auburn in their effort to integrate local watershed municipalities and stakeholders in updating the Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that while the Seneca Watershed Intermunicipal Organization does not specifically endorse any rule or regulation within the revised Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations, the Seneca Watershed Intermunicipal Organization endorses any revisions based on the authority of the Town of Owasco and City of Auburn to do so, and the communal process by which those revisions which made; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Seneca Watershed Intermunicipal Organization 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.

VOTE: Unanimously Passed

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.