

Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency
November 5, 2020 Meeting Minutes
Meeting conducted virtually on 8x8

Members or Designees Present: Doug Dello Stritto, Jeff Emerson, Seth Jensen, Doug Kierst, Stephen Lynch, Rick Nelson, Dale Powell, Carl Wiezalis

Others Present: Adam Effler, Olivia Green, Greg Rejman, Kaitlyn Shanahan, Emily Sheridan, Michele Wunderlich

Announcements

None.

WQMA Priority Working Groups Reports

Communication and Outreach Working Group

Michele Wunderlich reported that the next quarterly newsletter will be released in December.

Invasive Species Working Group

Michele Wunderlich discussed a November 4th webinar which reported the end of season reports on hydrilla in Cayuga Lake.

Agency Reports

Cayuga County Buildings and Grounds Department

Doug Dello Stritto thanked Seth Jensen for the work he is doing to find funding for the cleanout of the sluiceway. It will cost \$60,000 and there is money left over from the upper station grant that could be used as well as \$5,000 from OWLA with the County needing to fund the rest (\$31,000). He has a resolution in for this funding from the County and he hopes it to go forward by the end of the year.

Doug Kierst reported that he visited McIntyre Road at Sterling Nature Center which was washed out by a storm event. There are REDI funds available to rehabilitate this road for access.

Cayuga County Department of Planning and Economic Development

Steve Lynch reported that the Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations were approved by both the City of Auburn and the Town of Owasco and they are being sent to the NYSDOH Bureau of Water Supply Protection for review.

Michele Wunderlich reported that Cornell University is still working on the calibration and validation of the SWAT model for Owasco Lake. Greg Rejman stated that he heard that the assumption in the model is that all the manure from the CAFOs in the Owasco Lake Watershed are applied in the Owasco Lake Watershed and that the model doesn't take commercial fertilizer into account. Doug Kierst stated that the Soil and Water Conservation District has been working with Cornell University and Ecologic LLC to make the model more realistic by providing reasonable and accurate information related to both commercial and manure related fertilizer applications.

Michele Wunderlich also reported that Hyfi will be installing water level sensors on tributaries in the Owasco Lake Watershed and in the Owasco Flats Wetland project basins.

Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)

Doug Kierst reported that they have been working on grant closeouts. He stated that they are working on culvert replacements in Sempronius and Summerhill. He reported that they have begun soil sampling for farm plans and nutrient management since it was too dry over the summer. Finally, he reported that they assisted with the household hazardous waste collection event.

Cayuga County Solid Waste Management Program Office

Steve Lynch stated thanked all the partners who assisted in the household hazardous waste collection and he hopes to replace Bruce Natale with a planner who would work on the County solid waste management plan and would be designated as a WQMA member.

Lake Reports

Cross Lake/Seneca River Report

Carl Wiezalis reported that they still are having issues with water chestnut in the Seneca River. He stated that there is lack of money to sustain the work that Onondaga County had been doing to treat and hand pull water chestnut. He stated that the Finger Lakes PRISM has been helping they need resources. He stated that it is hard to get members involved due to Covid-19, but they are planning an in person meeting. Carl Wiezalis also reported that the Onondaga County Sheriff's Office has been doing a lot of patrolling because Cayuga County's has had cuts and boat issues. Cross Lake Marina provided a slip to the Onondaga County Sheriff's Office when they lost their launch location.

Duck Lake Report

Dale Powell reported that Duck Lake went down 1 ½ feet during the summer but it is back up 6 inches. He reported that their weed application in June worked well.

Owasco Lake Report

Rick Nelson reported that Bruce Natale spoke at the last OWLA meeting and gave a great presentation on the Owasco Flats project and other properties acquired in the Owasco Flats area. He reported that OWLA has been installing storm water medallions in the Village of Groton; continues to work on their ditch remediation cost share program; is working to plant trees along Veness Brook and is collaborating with science teachers. He announced that the March symposium will be held the first Saturday in March.

Old Business

Minutes

The minutes from the November 5, 2020 WQMA meeting were reviewed. Steve Lynch made a motion to accept the November 5, 2020 minutes as written. Jeff Emerson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Update WQMA Bylaws

Steve Lynch stated that the draft bylaws require a 30 day review by the WQMA members so they will be brought to resolution at the next meeting. He stated that the main changes are adding designees to the other member positions besides the environmental advisors; clarifying how members are chosen from the lake associations; and changing the Solid Waste Program Manager to a Cayuga County Planning and Economic Development employee designated as Solid Waste Program Administrator.

Lake Friendly Living Pledges Support Resolution

Michele Wunderlich had distributed the resolution “Endorsing the Lake Friendly Living Pledges Created by the Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council and the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network and the Lake Friendly Land Care Pledge Created by the Skaneateles Lake Association” to members prior to the meeting (Attachment 1). Carl Wiezalis made a motion to advance the resolution forward and Jeff Emerson seconded the motion. A discussion occurred and Seth Jensen made a motion to accept the resolution as written. Jeff Emerson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Agency Reports continued

City of Auburn

Seth Jensen reported that the City of Auburn is moving forward with their Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO) and biosolids projects. The zebra mussel control project is complete and he is working with the County on cleaning out the sluiceway.

Partner Reports

NYSDEC Great Lakes Program

Emily Sheridan stated that they are looking for presenters to continue their virtual webinar series since they were so well received. She announced that the Community Risk and Resilience Act guidance documents have been announced and there is a webinar on the habitat management of the Northern Montezuma Wildlife area.

Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council (OLWMC)

Adam Effler reported that the Town of Sennett joined the OLWMC. He reported that their yearly audit will be shared soon and they have their proposed 2020/21 budget. He reported that their staff are being trained in installing the Hyfi water level sensors. Other work includes cost sharing with OWLA on Lake Friendly Living signage; installing no dumping medallions for storm drains; inventory of hemlock wooly adelgid; a trash pickup day and working with Evidn.

Partners for Healthy Watersheds

Greg Rejman reported that their buffer social media post had about 19,800 views. He stated that he is disappointed that the Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations were passed by the Town of Owasco and City of Auburn. He discussed what financial impact the regulations will have on him.

The Nature Conservancy

Olivia Green reported that they are closed on the property next to Fillmore Glen State Park and they are looking at a quick transfer over to New York State Parks in May. She stated that they

did a public opinion poll over the summer of 800 registered voters in the Finger Lakes region with 400 of them from the Eastern Finger Lakes. She discussed some of the results of the poll and stated that they are now looking at how information flows regarding farmers and water quality and are working at finding the best bridging organizations. She stated that she is sending out another survey soon.

Miscellaneous

Doug Kierst made a motion to adjourn. Carl Wieszalis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The meeting was closed at 11:11 am.

Attachment 1

ENDORISING THE LAKE FRIENDLY LIVING PLEDGES CREATED BY THE OWASCO LAKE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COUNCIL AND THE CAYUGA LAKE WATERSHED NETWORK AND THE LAKE FRIENDLY LAND CARE PLEDGE CREATED BY THE SKANEATELES LAKE ASSOCIATION

WHEREAS, in recent years Cayuga County Finger Lakes including Owasco Lake, Skaneateles Lake and Cayuga Lake have experienced widespread harmful algae blooms due to nutrients that promote the growth of algae and Cyanobacteria; and

WHEREAS, harmful algae blooms threaten lake water quality and the health and safety of water consumers and lake users; and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes offer source water to Cayuga County consumers and experience the effects of nonpoint source pollution from land use activities; and

WHEREAS, the Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council, Skaneateles Lake Association, and the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network are looking to advance pollutant reduction strategies and land and water conservation within their respective watersheds; and

WHEREAS, the Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council's and Cayuga Lake Watershed Network's Lake Friendly Living Pledges and the Skaneateles Lake Association's Lake Friendly Land Care Pledge align with a Finger Lakes Regional pledge effort;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency thereby strongly endorses the Lake Friendly Living pledge programs led by the Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council and the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network and the Lake Friendly Land Care Pledge led by the Skaneateles Lake Association.