

Grants, Training, Educational Opportunities and Watershed News
Compiled by
Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization
April 5, 2021

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CAYUGA LAKE WATERSHED INTERMUNICIPAL ORGANIZATION

Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization –Summary of 3/24 meeting
Did you miss the March IO meeting? [Listen](#) anytime. Passcode: fExqH\$f4

Summary:

The CWLIO is undergoing an organizational assessment guided by the Consensus Building Institute (CBI). Ona Ferguson and Sofia Soto Reyes from CBI presented their findings from interviews of members, partners and stakeholders within the watershed. The final report of those findings will be complete soon and then CBI will lead some strategic planning sessions to help determine how the CLWIO can best meet the needs of its municipal members in their goal of protecting water quality within the watershed.

Ian Smith, the CLWIO part-time Watershed Manager, continues to be on the lookout for projects that are eligible for grant funding in 2021. Kathy Bertuch will be winding up the ranking of the 29 projects that were submitted for potential funding last year. See details of those projects at <http://www.cayugawatershed.org/>.

A draft Fair Funding Formula was recommended by the CLWIO Finance Committee to raise enough funding to staff the CLWIO. The formula is similar to that used in the Canandaigua watershed, and that proposed in the Seneca and Keuka watersheds. The Executive Committee has discussed the draft. The final formula will need CLWIO membership approval.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES.

Tompkins County – Septic Systems

Tompkins County is applying for a grant that could pay for 100% of the costs of repairing or replacing septic systems for some income-eligible households. These systems often cost more than \$10,000 – a major expense for most households.

In order to successfully obtain grant funding, Tompkins County must demonstrate the need for this funding. To assist in this effort, Tompkins County is asking for the public's help to measure interest and need by filling out a brief [survey](#).

If Tompkins County is successful in obtaining funding, there would be no cost to income-eligible households for the septic system replacements. Please fill out the survey if:

- Your septic system has to be pumped a lot, has backed up into the home, or is otherwise struggling to function; OR
- Your septic system is more than 20 years old; OR
- Your septic system is impacting a drinking water well.

The information submitted by residents will be used to meet a grant requirement – *a waiting list of low-to moderate-income households interested in this funding*. If funds are awarded to Tompkins County, the list may be used to notify eligible households that funds are available. The information collected will not be used for any other purposes.

The survey can be found here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TCSepticFunds>. For assistance, contact Tompkins County Environmental Health at 607-274-6688 or tceh@tompkins-co.org.

BRIDGE NY Funding Program – Deadline 4/14

The NYS Department of Transportation is accepting applications for the BRIDGE NY funding program, which will help local governments over the next two years restore and replace bridges and culverts statewide. These infrastructure investments will enhance the quality of life for residents and businesses in every region of the State and provide support for making communities more resilient to the impacts of climate change. Draft applications must be **received by April 14, for culvert projects** and by **May 5 for bridge projects**.

For more information, visit [the Department of Transportation's website](#).

TRAININGS

4/14 - Replumbing Roadside Ditches—Simple Solutions to Reduce Flooding, Droughts, and Water Pollution.

Conservation practices for roadside ditch maintenance within watersheds are important for lake protection. The Finger Lakes Land Trust will be offering a special zoom program on Wednesday April 14th at 7:30 pm. Cornell professor Rebecca Schneider will discuss how networks of roadside ditches are degrading water quality and suggest solutions for improving local watershed management. While the event is free, pre-registration is required. Follow this link for details: <https://www.flit.org/events/re-plumbing-roadside-ditches-simple-solutions-to-reduce-flooding-droughts-and-water-pollution/>

Great Lakes Regional Sediment Management Webinars

The Great Lakes Regional Sediment Team is hosting a series of webinars focused on water quality, nutrient reduction and regional sediment management in the Great Lakes (Cayuga Lake is within the Lake Ontario

watershed). The webinars will occur each Tuesday in April (beginning April 6) at 2:00 p.m. EDT and will cover the following topics:

- April 6 – urban stormwater and green infrastructure
- April 13 – coastal systems and sediment transport
- April 20 – habitat and restoration
- April 27 – agricultural nonpoint source runoff

This webinar series is being hosted by the Great Lakes Regional Sediment Management Team, a collaboration of agencies including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Great Lakes National Program Office, the U.S. Geological Survey, the U.S. Department of Agriculture – Natural Resource Conservation Service and the Great Lakes Commission. For more information and to register, go to: <https://greatlakesrsm.net/events/2021-great-lakes-regional-sediment-management-workshop/>

RESEARCH AND MONITORING

Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Effects on Water Quality in Owasco Lake

Did you miss the Bob Brower Symposium: *Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Effects on Water Quality in Owasco Lake—A Scientific Symposium in “Plain English”* held on 3/6/2021? It’s available now: <https://owla.org/bbss2021/>. Thanks to the Owasco Watershed Lake Association for organizing this set of informative presentations that are relative to Cayuga Lake as well.

Three Years of Monitoring HABs on Cayuga Lake - Community Science Institute

See this excellent [presentation on the last 3 years of HABs monitoring data](#) given by CSI Outreach Coordinator, Nathaniel Launer’s on 2/4/2021 to the Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency. This is an excellent review of the trends of HABs in Cayuga Lake. See more presentations from CSI at: <http://www.communityscience.org/outreach-and-education/public-event-presentations/>.

NEWS AND REPORTS - from Our Partners and Stakeholders

CAYUGA LAKE WATERSHED

Cayuga Lake Watershed Network (CLWN)

Spring Newsletter: The CLWN Spring Newsletter is out. See this newsletter full of information about the watershed at their website: <https://www.cayugalake.org/resources/newsletters/>.

4/22/21 Embrace the Lake: The CLWN is organizing a spring clean up of areas along the lake, streams and ditches leading to the lake. To learn more, contact springcleancayuga@gmail.com.

5/2-8 Lake Friendly Living Initiative: In 2019, the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network joined other Finger Lakes lake associations and watershed groups in developing and launching a program called Lake Friendly Living (LFL). LFL outlines simple steps every homeowner (whether a lakeshore owner or not) can take to help protect and improve water quality and create sustainable watershed living environments. The partner lakes include Canandaigua, Cayuga, Honeoye, Keuka, Otisco, Owasco, Seneca, and Skaneateles.

This year, from May 2-8, the LFL coalition is planning a series of public events - held virtually and free, of course! During this week, lake groups will be holding webinars, Facebook Live events, and demonstrations that explain and exemplify some of the 12 simple strategies outlined in the Cayuga Lake LFL program. Find all 12 strategies outlined here: <https://www.cayugalake.org/lake-friendly-living/>.

REGIONAL AND STATE

2020 Annual Report from the Owasco Lake Inspection and Protection Division

This [impressive report](#) from the Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council highlights their work in 2020. They've been busy! Some of the features:

- Watershed Rules and Regulations
- Progress on their 9 Element Plan
- Endorsement of a Lake Friendly Living campaign
- Website improvements www.LOWMC.org
- A mobile billboard to be positioned at boat access locations to educate about invasive species.
- Tributary level sensor installations within the Owasco Lake Watershed
- Increased funding for all this work and more. It's a great report.

Road Salt Article – As Liability Looms for Contaminated Drinking Water, NYS Abruptly Changes Rules for Road Salt Task Force.

<https://fingerlakes1.com/2021/03/08/as-liability-looms-for-contaminated-drinking-water-nys-abruptly-changes-rules-for-road-salt-task-force/>

Funding Provided by NYS for Agricultural Projects that Help Farmers Address Water Quality Challenges

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo has announced that nearly \$15 million has been awarded to support agricultural water quality conservation projects across the state, benefiting 147 farms. The funding is being provided through the Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control program, which supports projects that address water quality challenges in priority watersheds and protect the environment.

The 147 projects awarded to 26 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) will support on-farm environmental planning and the implementation of best management practice systems (BMPs) to keep nutrients and other potential pollutants from entering waterways. BMPs include: vegetative buffers along streams, cover crops, nutrient management through manure storage, and other conservation measures.

Congratulations to Cayuga County SWCD for their award of \$746,378, and \$61,409 in Schuyler County for projects that will improve waters within the Cayuga Lake watershed.

For a complete list of projects awarded, visit the Department of Agriculture and Markets website.

5/6 - NYS Water and Wastewater Virtual Legislative Forum

[Register](#) for a legislative forum on Thursday, May 6 from 10:00 to 12:30 (credits available). Topics:

- A special welcome from NYS **Senator Todd Kaminsky**, NYS Senate Environmental Conservation Committee.
- Water Challenges: PFOS and PFOA; Emerging Contaminants—Residuals and Nutrients; Revised Lead and Copper Rule; Funding Priorities—State and Federal, and more.

Lake Ontario Lakewide Action and Management Plan Finalized

The governments of Canada and the United States have finalized a 2018-2022 Lake Ontario Lakewide Action and Management Plan (LAMP), an ecosystem-based strategy for restoring and protecting the water quality of Lake Ontario and the connecting St. Lawrence and Niagara Rivers. The LAMP for Lake Ontario identifies key priorities for the lake and connecting rivers, including:

1. Nutrient and bacterial-related impacts;
2. Loss of habitat and native species;
3. Aquatic invasive species; and
4. Critical and emerging chemical contaminants.

For more information, visit: <https://binational.net/2021/03/16/on-final2018-2022acplan/>

Who's Who Working on Finger Lakes Water Quality

Focus on the Finger Lakes Institute:

The goals of the FLI are to:

- Advance, coordinate, and disseminate scientific understanding about the Finger Lakes environment;
- Provide interdisciplinary training for the next generation of environmental researchers, educators, and policy makers;
- Serve as a clearinghouse for environmental information about the region;
- Enhance understanding of environmental issues by regional policy makers and the public;
- Promote models that integrate economic, environmental, and social impacts of specific economic development strategies; and
- Create and disseminate educational resources and opportunities at all levels.

These goals are accomplished through four primary program areas:

Research projects carried out by FLI faculty and collaborators are often interdisciplinary and primarily focused on water quality and other issues relevant to the Finger Lakes region. Research projects provide background information and insights about the local environment and systems.

Education is focused on developing curricular materials and resources that support and extend middle school and high school inquiry-based environmental education. The FLI creates, disseminates, and coordinates a variety of educational initiatives in the Finger Lakes region including the Science on Seneca and Stream Monitoring programs.

Community Outreach promotes knowledge, resources, and life experiences leading to stewardship of the Finger Lakes. Programming is targeted to a variety of learners and ages to inspire participants to become active and knowledgeable citizens of the Finger Lakes.

Economic Development and environmental quality are inextricably linked in the Finger Lakes region. Comprehensive land use planning, policy development, and sustainable enterprise can help to simultaneously support and promote economic vitality and environmental protection in the region.