



## News

August 2021

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## Summary of the summer meetings of the CWIO.

- In July, CWIO submitted comments to the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation on the Total Maximum Daily Load for phosphorus in the lake. This was a group effort with special thanks to Roxy Johnston, Darby Kiley, and Hilary Lambert for their leadership and knowledge.
- Ian Smith submitted funding applications for 2 projects within or applicable to the watershed—one an erosion control project involving a vineyard, two municipalities and a public water supply. The second is to develop a ditch management assessment tool that can be used within the watershed.
- On June 23, the CWIO adopted a new funding formula to fairly and logically calculate dues from the 57 municipalities within the watershed. Bills for dues for 2022 will use this new calculation and be sent out in early 2022. If your municipality wants to know more about this change, contact Liz Thomas.
- The organizational assessment work by the Consensus Building Institute (CBI) and Hilary Lambert of the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network (CLWN) was completed. Hilary Lambert presented her survey of other watershed organizations earlier in 2021. CBI presented their interview findings this spring, and in August, Ona Ferguson from CBI presented her recommendations for CWIO moving forward.
- As part of the organizational assessment done by CBI and CLWN, the CWIO reviewed and approved updated bylaws, a memorandum of agreement between CWIO and the municipalities within the watershed that will accompany with the dues for CWIO services, and a draft job description for a watershed manager that describes the types of work to be done by this staff person once funding is secure.

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## TRAININGS, EDUCATION and MODEL LEGISLATION

### The Community Science Institute's Educational Programs for Children.

The following programs are being offered to kids this fall by CSI. To register, contact Adrianna Hirtler at [adrianna@communityscience.org](mailto:adrianna@communityscience.org). See more at <http://www.communityscience.org/4h2o/>.

9/4 at 1:00 -3:00- The Amazing Cyanobacteria of Cayuga Lake  
9/12 1:00-4:00 Water Quality Cruise on Cayuga Lake  
9/25 1:00-2:00 Stream Biomonitoring Fun

### Cayuga County Farms Model Environmentally Friendly Practices

On July 20, Partners for Healthy Watersheds hosted three tours of large dairy farms known as contained animal feeding operations (CAFO) within the Cayuga and Owasco lake watersheds. Farmers outlined agricultural practices that are implemented to protect water quality, improve farm efficiency and maintain compliance with New York state CAFO regulations within Cayuga County.

Partners for Healthy Watersheds was established by organizations that represent the dairy farmers of New York who advocate for environmentally sustainable and economically feasible nutrient management solutions to protect water quality. Their purpose is to develop a community that focuses

on agricultural solutions that are based in science and strategy directed toward resource conservation to benefit future generations. This innovative group hosted the farm tours event, which was provided online as well as in person to educate attendees about best management practices.

See recordings of the tour

- [Sunnyside Farm](#): Crop and Field Management (passcode: sunnysidefarm2021!)
- [Aurora Ridge Dairy](#): Manure Management (passcode: auroraridgefarm2021!)
- [Oakwood Dairy](#): Infield Technology and Efficiency (passcode: oakwooddairy2021!)

**Sustainable Shoreline Webinar: New Tools and Guidance for Designers and Practitioners**

This [webinar](#) was presented in August and features resiliency guidance that protects shorelines from the impacts of increasingly intense storms.

**NYS DEC – Using Natural Measures to Reduce the Risk of Flooding and Erosion**

Use this [NYS DEC guide](#) to help understand natural resilience measures to conserve, restore or mimic natural landforms to reduce the risk from flooding and erosion.

**FEMA’s 2021 Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities and Flood Mitigation Assistance Webinar Series**

See both future and past events and [trainings from FEMA](#) on how to reduce damage and injury from flooding.

## RESEARCH AND MONITORING

**Cayuga Lake Watershed’s HABs News**

The Cayuga Lake Watershed Network (CLWN) in cooperation with the Community Science Institute (CSI) have a weekly report about HABs sightings. Keep aware of outbreaks and news with their [updates](#).

**The Community Science Institute Monitoring News**

The Community Science Institute organizes monitoring and tests for HABs throughout the summer. See more about the other work they do in their June [newsletter](#).

## NEWS AND REPORTS - from Our Watershed Partners and Stakeholders

**Help With the NYS Constitutional Amendment to Protect Air and Water**

Friday 9/10 at Sheldrake Point Winery will host an event to promote a change to the NYS Constitution to add a sentence that reads “Each person has the right to clean air and water and a healthful environment”. This will be on the ballot for the general election on 11/2. Learn more and help spread the word about this potential change to the constitution. Registration for this event is required due to occupant limits. RSVP to Bob Meek at [robert.w.meek50@gmail.com](mailto:robert.w.meek50@gmail.com).

**NYS Secretary of State Approves the Union Springs Local Waterfront Revitalization Program**

NYS Secretary of State Rossana Rosado announced the approval of the Village of Union Springs’ Local Waterfront Revitalization Program, which provides a step-by-step process for the Village to advance waterfront planning from vision to implementation. The approval creates a path for the village to

advance any of 52 waterfront projects that are planned to revitalize abandoned sites, improve pedestrian access to the waterfront, encourage development of hospitality services for boating, protect scenic views, and improve water quality. [See the full article](#). CONGRATULATIONS to Union Springs!

#### Cayuga Lake Salt Mine – Article Discussing the Potential Risks from a Mine Collapse

Learn more about the potential for a mine collapse at the [Waterfront Online](#).

#### Cayuga County Water Quality Management Newsletter – June

See the [June issue](#) with an update on the Owasco Flats Wetland Restoration and Riparian Buffers Initiative Project

#### Farm Fined for Manure Storage Pit Overflow

A Cayuga County farm agreed to pay more than \$111,250 in penalties and adhere to strict state monitoring under the terms of a consent order reached with the state in July. The NYS DEC sited Ashland Farm in the town of Venice in connection with a manure storage pit overflow on March 7 that discharged into a tributary of Great Gully Brook. [See the full article](#).

#### Harmful Algal Bloom Notifications

The DEC posts harmful algal bloom (HABs) notifications through the fall using an online reporting and notification system dubbed [NYHABS](#). The system includes an interactive map that shows reports of freshwater HABs, as well as a public reporting system. Instructions on how to use NYHABS are on [DEC's HABs notification page](#).

Anyone can report a HAB. If you suspect you have seen a HAB, please report it to DEC.

- Fill out and submit a [Suspicious Algal Bloom Report Form](#). DEC requires your contact information (email and name) in the form but will not post this information to [NYHABS](#).
- Submit at least one digital photo of the suspected HAB with the form. Ideally, DEC would like to receive one close-up and one landscape photo to show the extent and location of the bloom.
- Email [HABsInfo@dec.ny.gov](mailto:HABsInfo@dec.ny.gov) if you are not able to complete the form.

Report any health symptoms to NYS Health Department at [harmfulalgae@health.ny.gov](mailto:harmfulalgae@health.ny.gov) and your [local health department](#).

#### Climate Change, Shore Run-off Lead to Increase in Harmful Algal Blooms.

CSI's Nate Launer and the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network's Hilary Lambert are interviewed for [this article](#) about some of the factors driving HABs.

## RELATED WATER NEWS FROM OTHER REGIONS

#### Drinking Water Source Protection and the Role of Watershed Rules and Regulations

Protecting public drinking water at its source is among the most important aspects of long term health of a community, and yet many communities don't realize how many gaps there are in existing laws that can allow for degradation. In recent years, several New York communities have suffered from harmful algal blooms, toxic contamination, or other consequences of inadequately protected drinking water supplies with significant health and economic impacts.

Watershed Rules and Regulations allow for specific protections tailored to a water supply's particular risks. In many New York State communities, Watershed Rules Regulations date to the early in the 20th

century and are inadequate for mitigating risks from modern development and land use activities. Further complicating water quality protection efforts, many municipally owned drinking water sources are located outside their municipal boundaries, making administration and oversight of land use controls difficult, if not impossible.

Updated Watershed Rules and Regulations can fill existing regulatory gaps to better protect public water supplies, and are one important tool in developing robust and effective drinking water source protection programs. The Capital District Regional Planning Commission, together with the Cayuga County Department of Planning & Economic Development and Riverkeeper prepared a [video](#) on ongoing efforts to update Watershed Rules and Regulations and share strategies from ground-up watershed planning to building a constituency for water quality.

#### Finger Lakes Partnership for Invasive Species Management (PRISM)

See the recently completed [2025 Strategic Plan](#) for managing invasive species.

#### Seneca Lake Watershed: June Newsletter

The [Seneca-Keuka Watershed Partnership Newsletter](#) this summer is rich in water topics.