



Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization
(CWIO)



News **April 2022**

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Summary of the 3/23 CWIO Meeting.

- Watershed Manager: CWIO took action to authorize their Executive Committee to complete the details needed to hire a Watershed Manager for Cayuga Lake municipalities. The final applicant selected will need to be approved by CWIO. The Finger Lakes Institute at Hobart and William Smith Colleges will house the Watershed Manager. The Town of Ithaca will manage the 2-year grant from the Park Foundation to fund the position. Thanks to all these entities for their help!
- The deadline to pay municipal dues in order to be a voting member is June 30. Let us know if your municipality needs to be re invoiced.
- The Town Supervisor from Enfield gave a review of their new Drinking Water Protection law tied to their site plan review process.
- CWIO is working to develop comments to the [Climate Act Scoping Plan](#)¹. Comments are due June 10. CWIO may take action to comment at their May meeting
- Roxanna Johnston gave an update on the progress of the Drinking Water Source Protection Plans being developed by three drinking water providers: the City of Ithaca, Cornell University, and Bolton Point which covers the watershed up to an approximate line between Taughannock Park and Salmon Creek. More to come on this topic.
- CWIO had a robust discussion about the threats of salt to the lake, both from road salt and the salt plant. The group would like to take this topic up more in depth.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES and FUNDED WORK

4/11/22-DEC Buffer in a Bag Program is Accepting Applications

The Buffer in a Bag program provides organizations and private landowners with free tree and shrub seedlings to help establish or improve a stream buffer on their property. The 2022 application period is open from **February 10th until April 11th**.

Anyone who owns or manages lands in New York State with at least 50 feet along a stream or waterbody is eligible for a free bag of 25 tree and shrub seedlings for planting near streams, rivers, or lakes to help stabilize banks, protect water quality, and improve wildlife habitat. [For more information and to apply](#)².

4/13/22 Community Forest Conservation Grants

This grant program funds municipal land acquisition for community forests, which are vital for wildlife habitat, flood mitigation, recreational opportunities, mental health, air quality, water quality,

¹ <https://climate.ny.gov/Our-Climate-Act/Draft-Scoping-Plan>

² <https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/77710.html#Bag>

and to meet the obligations outlined in New York's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. [See more information](#)³

4/15/22 NYS Pollution Prevention Institute Community Grant.

The New York State Pollution Prevention Institute (NYSP2I) is accepting applications for the 2022-2023 Community Grants Program. Eligible applicants can receive up to \$20,000 to fund their project.

NYSP2I provides an important funding source for community-focused pollution prevention initiatives. Proposals are solicited from community organizations, **municipal** departments, and other public sector and not-for-profit entities for projects that raise awareness and understanding of pollution prevention practices and lead to implementation at the local level. The application deadline is **5 p.m. EDT on April 15, 2022**. For questions, contact Ambika Walker at apwgis@rit.edu or (585) 475-2399.

4/22/22 Great Lakes Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Program (Cayuga watersheds are within the Lake Ontario watershed)

For more than 30 years, the Great Lakes Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Program has provided grants to reduce nutrients and sediments entering the Great Lakes. This year's program will focus on helping nonfederal units of government, tribes, or incorporated nonprofit organizations reduce phosphorus contributions to waters within the Great Lakes basin and other efforts to achieve measures of progress under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Action Plan III. Applicants are invited to submit proposals for sediment and nutrient reduction activities associated with one of three project types: 1) agricultural non-point; 2) stormwater; and 3) Great Lakes shoreline or streambanks.

The due date for applications is **5:00 p.m. EST on April 22, 2022**. Application instructions can be found [here](#)⁴. For more information, contact Nicole Zacharda at nzacharda@glc.org or (734) 396-6084.

5/16 1.35 Million Available to Conserve Forested Land

NYS DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos announced competitive grants for the Forest Conservation Easements for Land Trusts (FCELT) Grant Program. In partnership with the Land Trust Alliance, a total of \$1.35 million in grant funding is available for DEC to award to eligible, accredited land trusts to purchase conservation easements on forested land for the purpose of protecting these lands from future development. The goal of the grant program is to increase the pace of forest land conservation to keep forests as forests and combat climate change.

Applicants may apply for up to \$350,000 to fund the acquisition of conservation easements on forest land in New York State. To apply, a 25 percent match of grant funding requested is required and land trusts must be accredited by the [Land Trust Accreditation Commission](#).

The EPF provides funding for critical environmental programs such as land acquisition, farmland protection, invasive species prevention and eradication, enhanced recreational access, water quality improvement, and an aggressive environmental justice agenda. FCELT grants will further goals/strategies

³ <https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/124345.html>

⁴ <https://www.glc.org/work/sediment/apply-2022>

identified in the [New York State Open Space Plan](#), the [New York State Wildlife Action Plan](#), the [New York State Forest Action Plan](#), and/or other local, regional or statewide land protection plans.

Letters of interest are now being accepted and are due by May 16, 2022. Full applications are by invitation only. Applicants invited to submit a final application will be notified by June 13, 2022, after which final applications will be due by July 28, 2022. Complete details about this grant opportunity including eligibility requirements and other program elements can be found on the [FCELT webpage](#)

USDA Invests Nearly \$5 Million in Wetland Mitigation Banks

USDA has awarded nearly \$5 million in grant funding for the Wetland Mitigation Banking Program (WMBP), a grant program that supports the development of mitigation banks for the restoration, creation or enhancement of wetlands to compensate for unavoidable impacts to wetlands at another location.

The awarded funding adds to the more than \$12.4 million that has been provided to 13 partners in 11 states. This year's awards prioritized projects in states with large amounts of wetlands as well as large numbers of producers with wetland determination requests.

Free Technical Assistance to Help Municipalities Protect Public Drinking Water Sources.

Earlier this year, DEC and Department of Health, in collaboration with the Departments of Agriculture and Markets and State, announced the new Drinking Water Source Protection Program (DWSP₂) to assist municipalities with proactively protecting their drinking water sources. The State is now seeking communities to work with a technical assistance provider (TA provider), free of charge, to develop and initiate implementation of a drinking water source protection program.

TA providers will help municipalities develop community-specific DWSP₂ plans that they can implement by exploring and ultimately accessing numerous resources available to protect their source of public drinking water.

The DWSP₂ is open to all community public water supplies in New York. Selected municipalities must be prepared to work with a TA provider throughout the DWSP₂ process and to implement their programs.

To apply, visit the [Drinking Water Source Protection Program⁵](#) (DWSP₂) website and complete an electronic application (PDF). Direct questions to the DWSP₂ Team at source.water@dec.ny.gov.

TRAININGS and EDUCATION

4/4 1:00 Economic and Land Use Policies to Limit Nutrient Pollution.

The Cayuga Lake watershed is part of the Lake Ontario watershed. Learn more about water quality and nutrient pollution issues. A panel of experts will offer three perspectives on economic and land-use policies to limit nutrient pollution and increase climate resilience. The webinar is free but RSVP is required. [Register here⁶](#).

⁵ https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/115250.html#Free_Technical_Assistance

⁶ https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_VgwfF6tIS-a2BvS8OXSa_g

4/14 Climate-Adaptation in Practices: Sustainable Shorelines Webinar

This webinar offered by the Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve showcases projects and community partnerships that are taking the lead on climate adaptation, providing vision and technical support in reimagining shorelines and other community spaces. [Register for the webinar](#). Credits approved by the American Planning Association.

4/27 7:30-8:30 Stream Restoration and Why it Matters.

The Finger Lakes Land Trust hosts Gian Dodici, Private Lands Specialist in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's New York Field Office, to give a brief introduction to stream functions, opportunities for restoration, and why it matters by. Pre-register [here](#)⁷.

2022 Stormwater Training Series

Practical training for those involved with stormwater management.

- 4/6 8:30-1:00 SEQRA and the Development Process
- 4/27 8:30-1:00 Stormwater Filtration and Infiltration Practices
- 5/18 8:30-1:00 Updates for the MS4 Permit
- 6/8 8:30-1:00 SWPPP Preparation and Review

[See the details](#).

Critical Environmental Area Training and Assistance

Municipalities can designate conservation priorities as [Critical Environmental Areas](#) (CEAs) under State Environmental Quality Review regulations. The designation raises awareness about the important features contained within the CEA that might otherwise be overlooked, such as wildlife habitat, drinking water sources, or scenic values. CEA designation has the benefit of a simple adoption process and does not prohibit or regulate development. It can be a step toward future policy actions such as zoning, if desired by the community. Learn more about Critical Environmental Areas from our [CEA fact sheet](#), a [5-minute video](#) about CEA designation in an Ulster County town, and a recorded [CEA webinar](#).

10/23-28, 2022 National Symposium on Harmful Algae to be Held in New York.

The 11th U.S. Symposium on Harmful Algae will be held **October 23 - 28, 2022**, in Albany, NY. The theme is "Science to Support Solutions from Shore to Shore", and the intended audience is water managers, researchers and government officials. From freshwater to marine systems, the prevalence of harmful algal blooms (HABs) is a national environmental challenge, and solutions are needed. Mark the dates on your calendar now if you are interested in attending this event.

For information about the event, visit [NEIWPC's website](#). For general questions about attending, sponsoring, or exhibiting at the 11th U.S. Symposium on Harmful Algae, contact Maryann Dugan mdugan@neiwpc.org.

⁷ https://uso2web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMkcuCgrDssEtA_l0Pz3LlWDAYDHyswizlg

WATERSHED PLANS, and LEGISLATION

NYS Climate Plan – learn more about how this can affect water quality.

New York's Climate Action Council will hold 10 public hearings across the State to receive public input on the climate goals outlined in the Draft Scoping Plan for the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLPA). This document addresses many water quality issues. Public comments on the draft plan will be accepted through **June 10, 2022**.

The list of in-person public hearings and links to the virtual hearing are available on the [Climate Act website](#). Pre-registration is encouraged. All persons, organizations, corporations, and government agencies are encouraged to attend the public hearings and to submit oral or written comments.

Written comments can be **submitted through June 10, 2022**, via the online public comment form, via email to scopingplan@nyserda.ny.gov, or via U.S. Mail to Attention: Draft Scoping Plan Comments, NYSERDA, 17 Columbia Circle, Albany, NY 12203-6399.

For more information about the New York State Climate Action Council, visit the [Climate Act website](#)⁸.

4/13 at 5:30 – The Tompkins County Climate and Sustainable Energy (CaSE) advisory board will host a virtual event on April 13 at 5:30pm regarding the scope and plans. The event will include a presentation by New York State's Department of Environmental Conservation Assistant Director for the Office of Climate Change on the scoping plan developed by New York's Climate Action Council. The presentation will be followed by a Q&A session to help give community members the information they need to help shape the plan before adoption at the State level. [Register for the virtual zoom event here](#)⁹.

For more information and to register to attend, visit: <https://climate.ny.gov/CAC-Meetings-and-Materials>

MONITORING

2021 Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Notification Season

HABs notices from 2021 have been summarized and posted to the [HABs Archive webpage](#). During 2021, 192 waterbodies statewide were listed on the NY HABs System (NYHABS). Nearly 2,000 HAB reports were collected by DEC and its partners, and of these, over 1,100 met DEC criteria for a HAB. The reports ranged from a single observation to widespread blooms that were persistent throughout the season.

DEC's [Citizen Statewide Lake Assessment Program](#) and the [Lake Classification and Inventory Program](#) contributed extensively to HABs reporting. In addition, as in previous years, the Department of Health, the Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation, SUNY ESF, Stony Brook University, the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, and other agencies and organizations were instrumental in documenting HABs in New York State in 2021.

Historical data through 2020 is available on [Open NY](#) (Search the catalog for "Harmful Algal Blooms"). The [2012-2019 HABs Archive Summary](#) document is a comprehensive summary of HAB reports since DEC began the HABs Program. Both sources will be updated with 2021 data over the coming months.

⁸ <https://climate.ny.gov/Our-Climate-Act>

⁹ https://tompkinscountyny.gov.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN__N67NvsCQByS4UrYQgxCw

RESEARCH

2022 Bob Brower Symposium: Human Factors Affecting Water Quality in Owasco Lake.

If you missed this presentation of recent research, the talks can be seen [here](#)¹⁰.

The Role of Dreissenid Mussels in Nutrient Cycling

The Invasive Mussel Collaborative and Great Lakes HABs Collaborative co-hosted a [joint webinar](#)¹¹ on January 25. Presenters Sergei Katsev, University of Minnesota-Duluth and Derek Schlea, LimnoTech presented latest research on the role dreissenid mussels play in nutrient cycling in the Great Lakes basin.

NEWS AND REPORTS

Cayuga Lake Watershed Network – Embrace the Lake Cleanups

Annual cleanups are scheduled in various locations around the lake. For more information, contact programs@cayugalake.org or hlamberto@gmail.com to find out more.

Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency 2021 Annual Report

Lots of action. [See the report](#)¹² and the [WQMA 2022 Work Plan](#)¹³.

Land Acquisition to Protect Drinking Water in Capital Region

[DEC and the Rensselaer Land Trust \(RLT\) have announced](#) the acquisition of two parcels totaling 120 acres for source water protection. These acquisitions are the first of several purchased by RLT with funding from a \$1.5 million [Water Quality Improvement Project](#) (WQIP) grant.

To acquire the parcels, RLT worked with the Rensselaer Plateau Alliance and Agricultural Stewardship Association, a partnership known as the Tomhannock Rural Land Campaign. The two land acquisitions, located in the town of Pittstown, will help protect the Tomhannock Reservoir, which serves as a public drinking water supply for more than 135,000 people in the Capital Region. The land will be owned and managed by RLT.

To date, DEC has announced more than \$60 million for 47 land acquisition projects funded through the Water Quality Improvement Project grant.

¹⁰ <https://owla.org/bbss2022/>

¹¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2nIDmgIAxBI>

¹² <http://cayugacountywater.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/2021-WQMA-Year-End-Report.pdf>

¹³ <http://cayugacountywater.org/cayuga-county-wqma-2022-work-plan/>