



News **June 2022**

In This Issue:

Summary of the 5/25/22 CWIO Meeting and Recent Progress..... 2

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES and FUNDED WORK..... 2

 6/17 and 8/31 deadlines: Financing Available for Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Projects..... 2

 7/1/22 10:00 a.m. - New York Great Lakes Basin Small Grants projects 3

 7/29/22 4:00 - Water Related Funding Programs Open Through July Through the NYS CFA 3

TRAININGS and EDUCATION..... 5

 Lake Friendly Living Series Offers Education on How to Protect Water Quality 5

 Critical Environmental Area Training and Assistance..... 5

 Water Quality Education Webinars..... 5

RESEARCH 6

 2022 State of Science: Harmful Algal Blooms and Invasive Species. 6

MONITORING..... 6

 Volunteer to Monitor the Lake for Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) – please help spread the word. ... 6

 DEC Reminds Boaters to “Clean, Drain, and Dry’ Watercraft to Protect Waters from Invasive Species..... 7

NEWS AND REPORTS 7

 Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation Service Annual Report..... 7

 Skaneateles Watershed Nine-Element Plan 7

 Actions and Resources from the Owasco Lake Watershed 7

 Examples of how Trees for Tribes Help Protect Drinking Water 8

 Study Finds Need for Public to See Connection Between Forests and Clean Drinking Water 8

 Owasco Farmer’s Improvements have Downstream Benefits for the Lake. 8



Summary of the 5/25/22 CWIO Meeting and Recent Progress

- **Watershed Manager:** Candidates for the Cayuga Watershed Manager position were interviewed in late May. Several candidates were selected for a second in-person interview in June. Interviews will conclude on June 27 after which we hope to be able to bring the final candidate to the July 27 or August 24 meeting in-person for final CWIO approval.
- **Dues:** The deadline to pay municipal dues in order to be a voting member is June 30. Currently CWIO expects to reach 86% of its target for 2022. Thanks to SO MANY municipalities that have paid!
- The CWIO approved comments to submit regarding the [Climate Act Scoping Plan](#)¹. If implemented, sections of the scoping plan would help achieve some of the goals of the Cayuga Lake Restoration and Protection Plans (RPP).
- Brian Rahm, Director of the NYS Water Resources Institute gave CWIO an overview of WRI and its work. WRI provides resources across the state on water issues. Much of their work in the Hudson Valley estuaries can be applicable to watershed concerns here in the Cayuga Watershed. See more at their website² and a snippet of their resources below in the TRAINING and EDUCATION section.
- CWIO voted unanimously to create a State Outreach Committee. This committee will work with CWIO to select topics to take to state elected officials, state agencies and departments.
- A poll of CWIO and CWIO partners is being developed to help narrow down the focus of our work in the near future. General topics from the RPP will be selected. Stay tuned for how to give input into topics or actions that will be the CWIO focus for the next year or two.
- Committees:
 - Communications: The communications committee is on schedule to have the new CWIO website go live in July.
 - Technical Advisory: TAC is working on methods to add projects to the project list created in 2018-21³. TAC is developing a template for new project submissions and an updated ranking system.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES and FUNDED WORK

6/17 and 8/31 deadlines: Financing Available for Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Projects

The NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC), DEC, and the Department of Health (DOH) [have announced](#) the availability of funds in support of Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) for water pollution control and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). The CWSRF and DWSRF programs are available to municipalities and certain non-municipal entities in New York State to finance water quality and drinking water related projects.

New project listing forms and project updates will be accepted through **Friday, June 17, 2022**, from municipalities interested in competing for:

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

² <https://wri.cals.cornell.edu/resources/>

³ https://www.cnyrpdb.org/programs/env/docs/Final_Matrix_Revised_with_Annotation_v3.pdf

- FFY 2023 CWSRF Base funding
- FFY 2022 CWSRF BIL General Supplemental funding
- FFY 2022 CWSRF BIL Emerging Contaminants (EC) funding
- FFY 2023 DWSRF Base funding
- FFY 2022 DWSRF BIL General Supplemental funding

New project listing forms and project updates will be accepted through **Wednesday, August 31, 2022**, for municipalities interested in competing for:

- FFY 2022 DWSRF BIL Lead Service Line Replacement (LSLR) funding
- FFY 2022 DWSRF BIL EC funding

Check [EFC's website](#) for more information.

7/1/22 10:00 a.m. - New York Great Lakes Basin Small Grants projects

New York Sea Grant and DEC announced the availability of \$400,000 for Great Lakes Basin projects (includes Cayuga). Proposed projects must address key water quality, natural resource, and resiliency priorities in New York's Great Lakes Action Agenda and should advance local priorities identified in existing community plans. Eligible projects may include planning, design, implementation, information management tool development, demonstration projects, and targeted educational outreach.

Not-for-profit organizations, county and local government or public agencies, municipalities, regional planning and environmental commissions, and educational institutions are eligible to apply.

Examples of past [New York Great Lakes Basin Small Grants projects](#) can be found online on the New York Great Lakes Basin Small Grants Program website.

[Application instructions are available online](#), including details to register for the "how to apply" webinar on May 19, at 10 a.m. Proposals must be submitted by 4:30 p.m. EST on July 1, 2022. For more information, contact New York Sea Grant at (315) 312-3042.

7/29/22 4:00 - Water Related Funding Programs Open Through July Through the NYS CFA

Many water-related funding opportunities are currently open through the NYS consolidated funding application (CFA) with applications due on July 29, 2022 by 4:00:

- **Water Quality Improvement Projects⁴ (WQIP):** WQIP funds implementation projects to improve water quality or aquatic habitat, or protect a drinking water source. Eligible project types include wastewater treatment improvement, non-agricultural nonpoint source abatement and control, land acquisition for source water protection, salt storage, aquatic connectivity restoration, and marine habitat restoration. A total of \$75 million is available.

One of the project types the WQIP program funds is [Land Acquisition for Source Water Protection](#). This project type protects sources of public drinking water by providing funds for the purchase of parcels and/or conservation easements for land in key areas of an active public drinking water supply's source area. It has a low-cost match requirement and a sizeable maximum grant award.

⁴ <https://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/4774.html>

To date, DEC has awarded over \$60 million to more than 25 municipalities and land trusts to conserve and protect sources of public drinking water through land acquisition. Acquisitions have ranged from 1 acre to 700+ acre parcels.

Visit the [WQIP website](#) or the [WQIP Land Acquisition Projects for Source Water Protection Toolkit](#) web page to learn more.

- **Non-Agricultural Nonpoint Source Planning⁵ and Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Mapping Grant (NPG)**: NPG funds the writing of planning reports for nonpoint source water quality improvement projects and mapping of Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems. A total of \$3 million is available with a 10% match. Grant awards of up to \$30,000 are available for planning services to produce project planning reports, with up to \$75,000 available for comprehensive stream corridor studies. Grants from \$30,000 per municipality to \$400,000 for an MS4 collaborative are available for MS4 mapping.
- **NYSDEC Climate Smart Communities Grants** - Up to \$12,000,000 is available for 50/50 matching implementation grants, between \$50,000 and \$2,000,000 for eligible climate change mitigation, adaptation, and planning and assessment projects. Up to \$2 million is available for certification project grants between \$10,000 and \$200,000, with the full list of certification actions available at: <https://climatesmart.ny.gov/actions-certification/actions/>. See the Climate Smart Communities website for more information: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/109181.html#CSC>
- **NYS Department of State (DOS) Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) Grants** - Up to \$16.3 million is available for preparing, updating, or implementing a local waterfront revitalization or watershed management plan, including updates to mitigate future climate risks. State assistance will fund up to 75% of the total eligible project costs, and up to 85% within an [environmental justice](#) community. More information on the DOS LWRP funding is available at: <https://dos.ny.gov/2022-2023-local-waterfront-revitalization-program>
- **NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation Green Innovation Grant Program (GIGP)**- Up to \$15,000,000 is available for projects that improve water quality and mitigate the effects of climate change, for green practices such as green storm water infrastructure, water efficiency, energy efficiency, and environmental innovation. Grants of up to \$3,000,000 may be awarded, with 50% to 90% of the project being funded depending on a municipality's median household income, and if the project benefits an environmental justice community. More information is available at: <https://efc.ny.gov/gigp>
- **NYS Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation - Preservation, and Heritage grants**- Up to \$26,000,000 is available for the acquisition, planning, development, and improvement of parks, to municipalities and not for profits with an ownership interest. For more information, visit: <https://parks.ny.gov/grants/grant-programs.aspx>
- **Engineering Planning Grant Program** (Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC))

Apply for funding through the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) through 4:00 on Friday, July 29, 2022.

See resources that can be helpful in preparing applications:

- [Regional Economic Development Councils Available CFA Resources](#)
- [REDC Guidebook](#)
- [Standalone CFA Programs](#)

⁵ <https://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/116725.html>

Plans for Cayuga Lake exist, but remember these other plans to use to justify applications:

- Goals of the **NY's Great Lakes Action Agenda (GLAA)**
- **Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI):**

TRAININGS and EDUCATION

Lake Friendly Living Series Offers Education on How to Protect Water Quality

Water Associations across the Finger Lakes organized an impressive number of events for Lake Friendly Living Awareness Month in May. Didn't catch them? See the links below and please share with your residents through your municipal outreach outlets.

- [The Value of Community-Led Water Quality Monitoring](#) Grascen Shidemantle, Community Science Institute.
- [Nature-Based Shorelines for Lake Friendly Living](#) – Alaina Robarge, Ontario SWCD
- [Lake Friendly Living for Watershed Resiliency](#)
- [Connecting Land and People: Seneca County Soil and Water Conservation District's Local Projects](#). Erin Peruzzini, Seneca County Soil and Water Conservation District.
- [Developing a Community Rain Garden Project](#) – Kim Mills, Owasco Watershed Lake Association, Ally Berry, Watershed Inspector for the Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council; Doug Dello Stritto, Director of Cayuga County Parks and Trails.

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 setbacks or other protective measures through 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](#).

Water Quality Education Webinars

This comprehensive set of webinars can help municipalities better understand actions and resources that affect water quality. This series is a united effort between the DEC, NYS Water Resources Institute (WRI) and the Hudson River Estuary Program but is relevant to the Cayuga Lake watershed. Consider using these as part of municipal training efforts. Please share with Planning Boards, municipal staff, and elected officials.

- [Conservation Overlay Zoning \(March 23, 2022, webinar recording\) | Webinar transcript \(PDF\)](#)
- [Vernal Pool Habitat Conservation \(February 15, 2022, webinar recording\)](#)
- [Introduction to Vernal Pools \(January 25, 2022, webinar recording\)](#)
- [Headwater Streams: Values and Threats \(November 3, 2021, webinar recording\)](#)
- [Headwater Streams: Mapping and Planning \(November 10, 2021, webinar recording\)](#)
- [Headwater Streams: Protection \(November 17, 2021, webinar recording\)](#)

- [Headwater Streams: A Virtual Field Trip in the New Paltz Mill Brook Preserve](#)
- [Online Tools for Conservation Planning in the Hudson Valley \(July 20, 2021, webinar recording\)](#)
- [Scenic Resource Protection in the Hudson River Valley \(June 15, 2021, webinar recording\)](#) | [Scenic Resource Protection Guide](#)
- [Wetlands: Values and Threats \(May 5, 2021, webinar recording\)](#)
- [Wetlands: Mapping, Identification, and Field Verification \(May 12, 2021, webinar recording\)](#)
- [Wetlands: Regulatory Status and Local Protection Strategies \(May 19, 2021, webinar recording\)](#)
- [Wetlands: A Virtual Field Trip in the New Paltz Mill Brook Preserve](#)
- Model Local Laws to Increase Resilience (April 20, 2021) - [webinar recording Part 1 \(Intro to the Community Risk and Resiliency Act\)](#) | [webinar recording Part 2 \(Model Local Laws\)](#) | [Model Local Laws Guidance](#) (leaves DEC website)
- [Critical Environmental Areas \(Mach 23, 2021, webinar recording\)](#) | [CEA Fact Sheet](#)
- [Open Space Inventories and Plans \(February 23, 2021, webinar recording\)](#)
- [Natural Resource Inventories \(January 26, 2021, webinar recording\)](#)
- [Streams 101 \(July 23, 2020, webinar recording\)](#)
- [Best Practices for Local Environmental Reviews \(June 17, 2020, webinar recording\)](#)
- [Natural Heritage Important Areas \(April 15, 2020 ,webinar recording\)](#) | [Important Areas data and resources](#) (leaves DEC website)
- [Wetland Conservation \(March 18, 2020 ,webinar recording\)](#)
- [Stormwater Management \(February 26, 2020, webinar recording\)](#)
- [Conservation Advisory Councils and Boards \(September 25, 2019, webinar recording\)](#) (leaves DEC website)

RESEARCH

2022 State of Science: Harmful Algal Blooms and Invasive Species.

[Listen to this video](#) of the most recent research on the connections between HABs and invasive species cohosted by the NYS Water Resources Institute and the NY Invasive Species Research Institute.

MONITORING

Volunteer to Monitor the Lake for Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) – please help spread the word.

The Community Science Institute (CSI) is in the process of once again organizing volunteer HABs monitoring efforts. Help provide current and accurate information on HAB outbreaks this season. Staff of lakeshore municipalities and their residents are encouraged to join this effort. Contact Nate Launer to join the effort Nathaniel.launer@communityscience.org.

CSI is the official HABs monitoring organization for Cayuga Lake and they report HABs outbreak information on to the DEC, so for Cayuga Lake, please [report HAB sightings](#) to directly to CSI who will then forward monitoring information to the DEC.

DEC Reminds Boaters to “Clean, Drain, and Dry” Watercraft to Protect Waters from Invasive Species.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Basil Seggos reminded everyone to clean, drain, and dry boats and trailers, and disinfect fishing gear before recreating in New York’s waters to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS). Starting Friday, May 27, watercraft inspection stewards, will be stationed at more than 225 boat launches throughout the state to educate and assist the public in cleaning their equipment.

Boaters and anglers should follow these steps to make sure equipment is not harboring invasive species:

- Clean mud, plants, fish, or animals from boating and fishing equipment (trailer bunks, axles, rollers, lights, transducers, license plates, motor props, tackle, waders, etc.) and discard the material in trash cans, at a disposal station, or well away from the waterbody, so it won’t get washed in during a storm.
- Drain water-holding compartments, including ballast tanks, live wells, and bilge areas, before leaving an access site.
- Dry everything thoroughly before using boats or equipment in another waterbody. Drying times can vary but a minimum of five to seven days in dry, warm conditions is recommended. When there is no time to dry between uses, disinfect with hot water that is at least 140 degrees Fahrenheit, or visit a [decontamination site](#).

NEWS AND REPORTS

Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation Service Annual Report

The [Cayuga County SWCD annual report](#)⁶ is worth a read. See not only the incredible work they are doing in conjunction with the ag community to protect water, but also before and after photos of their work with municipalities (page 5-8)

Skaneateles Watershed Nine-Element Plan

A Nine-Element Watershed Management Plan identifies water concerns and outlines strategies to address them. The Town of Skaneateles, with support from the Central NY Regional Planning and Development Board, are working to complete their 9E plan which addresses nutrient loading and HABs as well as other issues. They are holding their first round of public hearings on the plan in June.

Actions and Resources from the Owasco Lake Watershed

The Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection and Protection Division staff completed the following educational materials that are also largely applicable to Cayuga Lake.

[New Homeowner Packet](#)⁷

[Understanding Stormwater](#)⁸

[Raingarden Brochure](#)⁹

[Green Infrastructure Brochure](#)¹⁰.

⁶ http://www.cayugaswcd.org/uploads/1/1/4/3/11439932/2021_annual_report_-_final.pdf

⁷ https://www.olwmc.org/_files/ugd/ba2foe_2c9a72348fba4fce92db4c9496df87b4.pdf

⁸ https://www.olwmc.org/_files/ugd/ba2foe_08bf00863f2f4cc3b03b5c2f8a892e18.pdf

⁹ https://www.olwmc.org/_files/ugd/ba2foe_daf99a1c9a4c4f738559a18aeb978ce4.pdf

¹⁰ https://www.olwmc.org/_files/ugd/ba2foe_daf99a1c9a4c4f738559a18aeb978ce4.pdf

Examples of how Trees for Tribes Help Protect Drinking Water

On May 22, 140 native trees and shrubs were planted in the Town of Newburgh along Quassaick Creek. These plants will help intercept pollutants that would otherwise end up in the drinking water reservoir.

More than 370 trees and shrubs were planted this year by over 50 volunteers in a floodplain in the Town of Gardiner along the impaired Wallkill River. Revegetating this riparian buffer not only will help reduce erosion and improve water quality but gave the town points on their Climate Smart Communities Certification goals.

Study Finds Need for Public to See Connection Between Forests and Clean Drinking Water

While forests are known to enhance the water quality of nearby watersheds, oftentimes people don't recognize forests' role in providing clean drinking water, according to a new study from Michigan State University. [Read the story](#) and please share with residents.

Owasco Farmer's Improvements have Downstream Benefits for the Lake.

The latest farmer profile has been published in The Citizen. It features Sam Rose's farm at the southern end of the Owasco Lake Watershed (Tompkins County) and Sam's investments in covered barnyards and other best management practices (BMPs) that have been especially effective at reducing runoff during heavy rain events. [See the story](#) showing how BMPs can be good for cattle and streams.