

Cayuga Lake Intermunicipal Organization Meeting 4.26.17

Attendance: Tee Ann Hunter, Darby Kiley, Dave Sprout, Tom Vawter, Hilary Lambert, Roxy Johnston, Jackie Cassaniti

At a meeting on the afternoon before the I O meeting, Tee Ann, Hilary and others met with DEC representatives and talked about the statewide monitoring program called CSLAP (the Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program) for Cayuga Lake. Although this program has been in existence since the mid 80's, it may be a program the Cayuga Lake I O is interested in now. There is more attention to this part of the state now because of the monitoring points on Owasco Lake done by the Upstate Freshwater Institute (UFI). This may come in conflict with the monitoring that is done on Cayuga Lake by CSI (the Community Science Institute) run by Steve Penningroth. CSI already has a body of data about Cayuga Lake, would it be possible to bring together the information of these 2 groups? Should CSLAP money go to CSI? Usually the UFI gives a summary of the data it collects, but the I O wants the raw data, which may be O K.

Hilary said the status of the updated RPP (Restoration and Protection Plan) is in the final week before submission to the DOS, there will also be a companion document with photos of the areas of Cayuga Lake. Hilary is still working on getting all the hours from participants of the RPP for the matching funds, there seems to be enough for the match.

Tee Ann said we haven't received the document for the next grant for ditching from the DOS yet, but Stephanie Wojtowicz said it's in the works, and Tee Ann hopes to meet with Kathy Bertuch from CNY RPTD who will help with the outreach of the updated RPP. We could possibly invite her to a future I O meeting. Tee Ann said the I O will try to restructure itself so more of the members will attend meetings (an I O rep from the municipalities (munis) doesn't have to be an elected official); as shown there were only 7 members present at this meeting. So other lake organizations will be studied, ex. Seneca Lake has a successful organization with lakeshore owners who have a real stake in what happens and want to be heard. Our structure is different and most of our voting is for the Floating Classroom.

The next grant proposals are due in June so the I O will wait until next year to make applications. Darby said the I O needs to bring the updated RPP to the munis and get them interested in getting projects started around the lake. Hilary said there will be a conference at the north end of the lake again on Saturday that should be well attended because they are advertising a lot paid by CLWN. There needs to be more information given to the public, maybe via monthly columns in newspapers, public information sessions and meetings with highway superintendents around the lake with I O contact information, will help. Tee Ann and Hilary met with an Ithaca Journal reporter and the article will be in the paper soon. Also, the information will be sent to all the munis around the lake. The new designation of all of Cayuga Lake having to do the TMDL may get more munis involved as the I O could help the munis understand it.

Rebecca Schneider with the Dep't of Natural Resources at Cornell and TCSW will help with the water quality improvement plan with the ditching project. Right now her class is working on how to write a grant and the subject is the Perry City Road area.

Ann Harch of Brooktondale Road asked for help from the Caroline Watershed Committee because the dam on Six Mile Creek on her property is failing. She is concerned about the sediment that would fall into the creek if that happens. She has had other water people out there but nothing has been done since the early 1990's when a concrete lip was added to the top of the dam; that is now being washed away. Roxy is concerned because of the sediment coming to the reservoir. Could a hydroelectric dam be put there to generate electricity, and would it be economical?

Tom talked about the proposed dredging project for the Cayuga Inlet, but he said the lake is what determines the level of the water, not how deep the inlet is. The idea of dredging is a transportation issue, not a flooding issue. Ithaca didn't find an acceptable place to put the dredged materials and the DEC has higher standards now.

There will be a May meeting if necessary.

Submitted by Jackie Cassaniti