

> Cayuga Lake Intermunicipal Organization Meeting Minutes (I O) 7/26/17

> Attendance: Tee Ann Hunter - Town of Ithaca, Darby Kiley - Town of Ulysses, Ric Dietrich – Town of Danby Supervisor, C J Randall – Town of Danby planner, Roxy Johnston – Watershed Coordinator, City of Ithaca, Tom Vawter – Wells College, Michael Boggs – Town of Ulysses, Cynthia Brock – City of Ithaca, Hilary Lambert – Cayuga Lake Watershed Network (CLWN), Jackie Cassaniti – Town of Caroline

> The 3 year grant to plan the recommendations of the updated RPP has been accepted by the DOS. The Town of Ithaca, lead municipality (muni) of the I O, as stated in the work plan for the new project, the I O “has contracted with Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board to [JC1] manage the project and CLWN for the public outreach and educational components of the project.” The muni that holds the grant must be a waterfront community, even though the work that needs to be done could be upstream, as in Danby. There was a lot of water in the creek by Brown Road that went into Buttermilk Creek that goes to the Cayuga Inlet. A study of that area showed that 2,000 tons of sediment a year (as said by Don Horner of T.G. Miller) goes to the inlet from that one creek. Danby is looking at sources to help fix the problems such as the Water Resources Council and the Storm water Coalition, but it could be very expensive; this is where the I O could help, by putting this project in the grant planning.

> Cynthia mentioned the wastewater treatment plant and that it is getting a lot of storm water, which doesn't need to be treated in the same way, it is hoped that a solution can be found for this problem. Cayuga Heights wants to send more wastewater without the storm water to the Ithaca plant so it can take on more wastewater from a growing area of Lansing.

> Hilary will find out, at Tee Ann's request how many munis of Tompkins, Seneca and Cayuga Counties are talking about water quality. Ric asked about the political will of the 45 munis in the watershed. How can the problems and resources be prioritized? C J mentioned that Seneca County has a listing of the organizations that can help with water problems, this will be done for the Cayuga watershed by Hilary as well. There is a need to find all the “hotspots” of water problems; do all the munis know about the problems of Buttermilk Creek? Do all the munis help each other? Ex. Bud Shattuck, mayor of Union Springs, has applied for 4 grants for his community with the help of Cayuga County.

> Hilary said in the southern part of Cayuga Lake there was only a small amount of hydrilla near the chamber of commerce this summer. The plan is to treat the incoming creeks, esp. Fall Creek, again even if they don't find anything for a year, as standard procedure. As for the hydrilla find off Aurora, the Army Corps of Engineers is treating that area for 12 weeks this year, and Steve Penningroth of the Community Science Institute, is doing water quality testing in the area. Hilary said an intern is going door to door to try to get residents and renters to be aware of the hydrilla problem; to recognize it and not to spread it, because people are not coming to public meetings.

> A problem has arisen with the spread of blue-green algae this summer. The toxic nature of

the algae (not all algae is toxic) is the cyanobacteria that can cause "vomiting , nausea, diarrhea, skin, eye or throat irritation, and allergic reactions or breathing difficulties after drinking or having contact with the blooms" as written in the Ithaca Journal, 7/26/17. They don't usually last a long time but, (ex.) dogs can be especially susceptible because they drink lake water. The algae usually gets blown into eastern areas of the lake by the west wind. Lake events that may be affected are the "Sup Cup" races – stand up paddleboards - July 28th and Women Swimmin' August 12th. These blue-green algae areas were found by volunteers sending photos to the DEC.

> Submitted by Jackie Cassaniti