

Cayuga Lake Intermunicipal Organization (I O) Meeting Minutes With additions and corrections
1/24/18

Attendance: Tee Ann Hunter, Town of Ithaca, I O chair; Mike Solvig, Town of Ithaca; Tom Vawter, Town of Lansing; Dave Sprout, Town of Dryden; Ric Deitrick, Town of Danby (He was not present); C J Randall, Town of Danby; Hilary Lambert, Cayuga Lake Watershed Network (CLWN); Bud Shattuck, Village of Union Springs; Grace Bates, Village of Aurora; Bill Foster, Floating Classroom (F C); Lynn Leopold, Village of Lansing; Becky Sims, Town of Enfield; Darby Kiley, Town of Ulysses; Cynthia Brock, City of Ithaca; Jackie Cassaniti, Town of mCaroline

1. Tee Ann, as of 12/31/17 the I O had \$38,988.42 in its budget. This is thanks to the dues paid amounting to \$18,350. The biggest expense in 2017 was \$7,000 for the FC, this year the I O will again fund the FC. Bill Foster gave a letter requesting funds and a presentation of what the FC program will be doing this year with a new boat they were able to buy with a bridge loan from an anonymous donor. Bill said the loan has to be paid back and he will be inviting donations. The FC was started in 2002 as an outreach program of the I O through the original Restoration and Protection Plan. In 2014 it became affiliated with the Center for Transformative Action in Ithaca. To see all about the FC, please check the website at www.floatingclassroom.net for the 2016 Annual Report and soon the 2017 A. R.; Bill said the I O has given the FC anywhere from \$7,000 to \$15,000 a year. This new chapter in the FC with a new boat will mean they can give time to eco- tourism on the lake to bring in money for the school education programs. It could be a "Discover Cayuga Lake" type of enticement for visitors to the area. The FC annual report could be attached to the request for dues to the I O in June, to show where some of the I O money goes each year. Bud said municipalities (munis) can't give money directly to the FC, but can donate some money to the I O then they can give it to the FC. Could there be a contract or a MOU between the FC and the I O? Tee Ann will see if Stephanie Wojtowicz from the DOS will agree that it fits with the new grant. Tom said that the I O needs an educational outlet and that has been the FC; also the FC can get together with CLWN for future projects. (The I O did not take a vote to fund the FC at this meeting.) Bill Foster said, "Funds allocated to the FC by the I O would NOT be used as part of the fund raising effort to purchase the new boat. Rather, the I O funds would strictly be used to maintain our educational programs and financial aid for participating watershed communities. Our vision is that the I O funding at \$10,000, for 2018 will ensure stability in that regard as we get the new tourism program up and running. Then in 2019, the tourism program should be able to support more of the educational programing needs."

2. Tee Ann said the I O will put in an application to the Cornell Engaged Opportunity Community program that will grant \$5,000 for projects. This will be used for the summit, itself. This will be good to help fund Kathy Bertuch from the CNYRPDB who has agreed to administer the new grant from the DOS for projects around Cayuga Lake. She said her fee could be reduced to \$3,500 and the rest of the money would go to projects. Part of the money from the Cornell Engaged Opportunity would be used for the watershed summit itself, not projects suggested at the meeting.

One could be as the keynote speaker for a “watershed summit,” getting people from around the lake and from different fields, including students, together to share ideas, projects and solutions to problems. A suggestion to have Dinosaur BBQ cater the event will help bring in the public works/highway dep’t workers. The application is due 2/9/18.

The new DOS grant is scheduled to start on 3/1/18, but the money may not come from NYS in time to fund the whole cost of the watershed summit (it may not come until July). Tee Ann would like to use some of the money in the I O budget to pay for part of that conference since Kathy Bertuch said the CNYRPDB budget is stretched thin, and then put the money back in the I O budget when the grant money comes in; there was a general agreement in the room. This watershed summit could be ½ day held in Seneca Falls in the spring, and Seneca Falls would give the room for free because they want to attend the meeting. Tony Prestigiacomo from the DEC’s Finger Lakes Water Hub could be asked to speak also.

Bud was asked about the DEC and WQIP grants received by the Village of Union Springs. He said the bass tournament held in Union Springs brings in thousands of people and he explained what the water grants are for (new docks and boat cleaning stations) and the process of utilizing them. You can check the progress at:

auburnpub.com/.../union-springs.../article_74e5d591-a5ed-57a5-b744-4832b598241...

1. CJ explained how Danby got the WQIP grant for work on the creek by Van Buskirk Road in Danby/Newfield; they had a feasibility study with help from TCSW to show there would be less sediment to the lake, necessary road repair, and stream stabilization; they got a grant from NYS for \$580,000, with a 25% match as in-kind work. From CJ Randall, “Funding for the Brown Road Streambank Stabilization Project came from the 2016 Tompkins County Stream Corridor Restoration and Flood Hazard Mitigation Program,” not the WQIP. “TCSW will provide technical assistance. We were awarded \$435,322 in funding from WQIP towards the \$580,000 total project budget,” not a total grant of \$580,000.

Darby said members of the I O have been meeting with people from a number of departments at Cornell to get them interested in helping keep Cayuga Lake clean. Again, there is a call for more project suggestions, last year the I O only got 3 or 4 suggestions. It might be possible the NYS Water Resources Institute at Cornell could help with the watershed summit too. NYS Water Resources at Cornell might help with the watershed summit. Tompkins County is interested in such work, but the I O would like to see Seneca and Cayuga Counties involved also; Cayuga County is heavily involved with Owasco Lake. The watershed summit could be planned for April, so it is important to get the word out to the munis and such places as the associations of town and villages. Becky hopes that funding opportunities help draw people to the meeting, she said that 75% of Enfield’s budget goes to the highway department.

1. Darby asked that since the Cornell grant would be from the endowed side and not the state side, could the “engaged community” grant be used as a match for the DOS

grant? Hilary has sent a templet for letters of support from the I O members to write for the Cornell grant. Darby will send Hilary a letter template for the Cornell grant so she can ask Seneca County SWCD for a support letter, instead of Hilary sent a templet for the Cornell grant. "Hilary said that CLWN, CSI and FC have drafted a joint services statement for use in I O municipal grants."

Tee Ann mentioned the 2 committees needed for the DOS grant. They should be a project advisory committee and an inter-agency committee, please think about people and organizations that would be good fits for next month. She added there is money available from NYS because of interest in the Finger Lakes, you just have to let the right people know about the needs and come up with funding sources and matches.

Submitted by Jackie Cassaniti