

## Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization (I O) Meeting Minutes 4/25/18

Attendance: Ric Deitrich, Town of Danby; Roxy Johnston, City of Ithaca; Darby Kiley, Town of Ulysses, soon to be Tompkins County Planner; Cynthia Brock, City of Ithaca; Debra Dawson, Village of Lansing; Dave Sprout, Town of Dryden; Ronny Hardaway, Deputy Mayor, Village of Lansing; Tony Del Plato, water commissioner, Village of Interlaken; Tee Ann Hunter, Town of Ithaca, Chair of the I O; Lynn Leopold, Village of Lansing; Becky Sims, Town of Enfield; Hilary Lambert, Cayuga Lake Watershed Network (CLWN); Michael Boggs, Town of Ulysses; Jackie Cassaniti, Town of Caroline

The financial report was such that in April the I O spent \$500 for food from Dinosaur BBQ for the Watershed Summit. The I O ended the month with a balance of \$31,495.80. And the minutes from the March 2018 meeting were approved.

Tony (this position was held for many years by Barb Stewart) said Interlaken has 2 wells that are under Cayuga Lake, and he is not sure if they are in an aquifer or not. He also said that the village needs a new skater system and possibly a new water tank.... There are people in the I O who can give ideas and directions on how to help and/or get grants for water problems; coming to I O meetings is valuable for all munis around Cayuga Lake; check out the updated I O website at [www.cayugawatershed.org](http://www.cayugawatershed.org) and think about hosting an I O meeting. As Roxy said later: you don't have to start at step one, use the knowledge of the I O for access to money, ideas and work.... The I O will contact attendees and share the ideas received at the successful Watershed Summit with other munis around the lake, as well as the I O updated website mentioned above.

Everyone at the I O meeting thought the Watershed Summit (WS) was a success. Roxy said over 80 people were there and that it was good to have it at the north end of Cayuga Lake. There were highway people from Cayuga, Seneca and Tompkins Counties as well as soil and water people; also transportation representatives from Syracuse and representatives from munis. The ten minute talks were good because they kept everyone's interest. There was a lot of discussion by different people and groups in the breakout sessions and people who hadn't talked together before presented their views. The one group that was missing was ag and markets. (Others said it was a small space and they should have had a bigger venue!) CJ Randall, from the Town of Danby, made a good presentation on creek repair, as well as Rebecca Schneider, who talked about ditches. There will be more about the WS next month at the I O meeting as the notes from the breakout sessions were taken home by the Cornell students who attended the meeting. It was mentioned that the presenters should be thanked, even if it is by email, and maybe there should be a press release with pictures.

The new grant for administrative help was approved for the I O from NYDOS, but the money has not arrived yet. Tee Ann would like Kathy Bertuch from the CNYRPDB to administer the grant, but Kathy won't be able to do it until the \$64,000 is in. This may be because there is a lot of turn over at the DOS and things have slowed down. At any rate, Tee Ann has asked that the 3-year grant shouldn't start until the money arrives. She also reminded those at the meeting to

think of people to be on the 2 committees that will be set up by the grant: the project oversight committee and the inner agency committee. Some at the I O meeting said bring together the counties, planning departments, water districts and others to work with new ideas, and look for expertise at those who were successful in getting grants.

Ric talked about the difference in topography of Cayuga Lake from north to south, this is indicative of different problems of these areas. (Because of the hilly terrain, Danby, 10 miles away, affects Cayuga Lake by all the sediment sent there by its creeks.) Tony said there are different problems in Seneca County than in the Ithaca area, Seneca has a lot of farm runoff; (ex.) a high E.coli rate in Yawger Creek, and the southern parts have more sediment sent to the lake from Fall Creek and Six Mile Creek. Ric suggested that the I O put together a template of an action plan for goals and solutions, such as sediment control, flood plains, step dams, and shared services; and getting government groups together, such as TCCOG. Tee Ann said the updated management plan can be used, in the RPP there are 3 things to concentrate on; look at structure, prioritize recommendations, and apply for grants. Is there a deadline involved?...yes, when grant applications are due. Hilary said a shared governance structure will help. Becky added that when CSI does the water testing there are many reasons volunteers come out to work with the water to benefit Cayuga Lake. She mentioned that there are septic programs at the health departments to limit the amounts of waste that reaches the lake for systems that are in homes 200-250 feet from the lake front (not for seasonal or second homes). Debra added that this shows that the lake problem is not only from the farmers, even though they get a lot of the blame for polluting the lake. Cynthia said up to 40% of septic systems around the lake may be failing. The I O could look into outreach programs such as the DOS program called "Get pumped, Long Island."

Debra said the I O should have their goals defined, then bring in people to talk about them, update rules and regulations (check out the rules and regs. of Cayuga County for Oswego Lake). Tee Ann suggested having a day to talk of problems and solutions with folks from all the different areas, services and what they do as well as projects going on, get the counties involved. Hilary said to link what needs to be done with the new RPP. Ric added that the highway departments are key to keeping pollution out of the lake. Darby said all the counties have water quality groups, get them together to come up with a strategy for who is responsible for the care of water. There is a conference call number, maybe there could be daytime meetings. Roxy added that the hydrilla meetings are conference calls. Tony asked about "multiple municipal solutions" and Tee Ann said he should contact Debra Pinckney, the Aurelius town clerk, for information on work done there. Ric reminded Tony that even if you have a contractor do the work, you are still responsible for any mistakes. He said there is also a long reporting period, he is still sending reports on results, compliance and maintenance after 4 years after receiving a grant.

Lynn said the last coats of paint are going on the TEAL, the new classroom boat, along with a new name: the Floating Classroom is now called DISCOVER CAYUGA LAKE. This Sunday will be Streets Alive and Ithaca will have their water along with other municipalities for tasting at Cayuga and Cascadilla Streets.

Hilary handed out a flier on becoming a “Harmful Algae Bloom Harrier” ....one who attacks or harasses the HABs; for more information on volunteering, contact CLWN at [programs@cayugalake.org](mailto:programs@cayugalake.org) or call 607-319-0475; or CSI at [info@communityscience.org](mailto:info@communityscience.org) or 607-257-6606.

Submitted by Jackie Cassaniti