

## **Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization (I O) Meeting Minutes 6/26/19**

**Attendance:** Grace Bates, Lynn Leopold, Michael Boggs, Elizabeth Thomas, David Sprout, Ronny Hardaway, Tee Ann Hunter, Becky Sims, Roxanne Johnston, Tony Del Plato, Rich De Paolo, Jennifer Karius, Michele Henry, Liz Cameron, Jackie Cassaniti (Angel Hinickle was misspelled in the 5/20 minutes)

The minutes from the May 20th combined meeting of the I O and the Tompkins County Water Resources Council (WRC) as well as the financial report as of 5/31/19 were adopted and approved. The I O has a balance of \$41,396.13; \$30,000 of that will be used as a match for the current grant from the DOS. There was a discussion about raising the dues, which are currently \$900 a year, with some municipalities (munis) paying less as an understanding or an introductory rate. It was suggested that they stay the same for the current year because budgets have already been set for next year. The dues could be raised with a gentle notice in the September '19 letter/voucher with the reorganization of the I O. It was noted that the WRC and the Community Science Institute (CSI) charge more for their services. Jackie said it took a long time for munis to pay the \$900, should the rate be raised? Others said should the rate be connected to the muni by wealth, population and/or land mass in the watershed?

Tee Ann said there were over 50 people at the combine meeting of the I O and WRC last month to hear about the proposed update to the Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations, it was organized by Steve Lynch, the Cayuga County director of planning and economic development. Tee Ann and Hilary Lambert (CLWN) went to talk to Ed Wagner, Supervisor of the Town of Owasco and Adam Effler, Executive Director of the Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council about setting up a watershed manager for the Cayuga Lake Watershed (CLW). Tee Ann talked about hiring an outside facilitator to help reorganize the rules and regulations. Hilary sent a letter to the I O about meetings she had with groups to find a "governance structure" that would meet the needs of the CLW; she has already contacted 17 in NY and 4 in Pennsylvania as models and will ask the DOS for ideas, with some coming from this meeting; ex. the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Please contact Hilary with suggestions. Lynn wondered if the proposed technical advisory committee would help in this matter.

There were 21 advisory committee nominees from around the CLW and 3 from NYS; this includes dep'ts of health, highway personnel, planning dep'ts, mayors, supervisors and other government officials, because they need the help now. They have not yet asked people from the Ag community (such as farmers and grape growers who are helped by soil and water dep'ts), but asked for suggestions from the meeting group tonight. (Tee Ann was surprised that there was no response from Seneca County yet.) A few people said they would attend the initial meeting and then communicate via the internet, such as "ZOOM". The next question was where and when to have the kick-off meeting; it was determined to have it in the beginning of August, during the day, with the location TBA...it has to have the capability of a ZOOM connection; possibly other meetings could rotate around the lake. Tee Ann thought a "DOODLE" poll to find some suggestions would help. Elizabeth Thomas said she would ask a staff person to check; various locations were suggested. Tee Ann will work with Kathy Bertuch to plan the meeting.

The presentation on the MV Teal (the Floating Classroom) on June 19th about pharmaceuticals and micro-plastics in Cayuga Lake by Jose Lazano, environmental lab director of the Ithaca Area Waste Water Treatment Facility, and Susan Allen-Gil, professor of environmental studies at Ithaca College, explained that this study done in 2017-18 is the beginning of what needs to be kept out of the lake. It was reported in the Ithaca Journal, June 21, 2019, please go to <https://www.ithacajournal.com/search/Pharmaceuticals%20found%20in%20Cayuga%20Lake/>

for the article. These pollutants are even affecting the smallest organisms that are eaten by larger creatures and goes up the food chain. The event was well attended, about 50 people.

Roxy mentioned the Reggae Festival that would happen this weekend and said there would be information about the watershed and a water truck with an “automatic filler” to fill up water bottles for the festival-goers.

Lynn said CSI is looking to train more people to recognize harmful algae blooms (HABS) in Cayuga Lake and who could adopt sections of the lake; check the CSI website for sections that need monitoring. (It was mentioned that hydrilla needs to be checked for also.)

Tee Ann said a person from CNYRPDB will take over the I O website to update it and add necessary information, such as...1. The survey of the munis, 2. A calendar of events, 3. List of contributing members, 4. The monthly minutes, 5. Links to other watershed organizations such as CSI, WRC, and the Stormwater Coalition, 6. A “contact us” button with an email and the Town of Ithaca’s phone #, since they are part of the grant. Rich wondered if there would be any social media connection, maybe Facebook. Roxy said it could possibly be set up by an intern at the city water plant.

Submitted by Jackie Cassaniti