

Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization (I O) Meeting Minutes 9/25/19

Attendance: Tee Ann Hunter, Lynn Leopold, Liz Cameron, Becky Sims, Darby Kiley, Michael Solvig, David Sprout, Tom Vawter, Elizabeth Thomas, Roxanne Johnston, Joseph Wetmore, Tony DePlato, Rich DePaulo, Jackie Cassaniti

The August meeting minutes were approved, and the financial report as of August 31, 2019 ended with \$52,796.58. Tee Ann said Mike helped with the (calendar year) draft budget for the fiscal year 2020; with the proposed revenue of \$18,000, the I O should end up with \$57,750 for December 2020, of that there will be \$10,000 used for Kathleen Bertuch's help from the Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board (CNYRPDB) on the current DOS grant (see below).

After Hilary Lambert's report last month about different organizational styles and who could help the I O reorganize itself, Tee Ann (along with Annie Bastoni and Roxy Johnston) called the Consensus Building Institute (CBI) and spoke to Una Ferguson about possible help with grant writing and the importance of getting "everyone (municipalities) to the table early, as it is harder to get them involved later", and to figure out if the I O needs an RFP (if over or under \$20,000). Who will take the lead? How do you start this process? And Tee Ann said we need someone to help the I O with watershed regulations. How much does CBI cost? They are located in Boston and it was reported to cost about \$30,000. Roxy said she went to Bolton Point to talk about water rules and regulations (regs) and they want to have a follow-up meeting with the Tompkins County Health Dep't, the WRC, CBI and soil and water. The I O could reach out to Steve Lynch, planning and economic development in Cayuga County and see if they could help us, maybe come to a meeting; talk about how they were able to work with their rules and regs, and get the money to do it? (Eileen O'Conner was getting a large amount of comments, especially from Ag and markets, they are troubled stakeholders in Cayuga County.) Tee Ann also spoke with Diana Toledo from River Network about various models, but as of the August meeting, the I O decided they might be too big and expensive for what we need.

There was some confusion about what we were talking about at this meeting and the involvement of CNYRPDB; actually, they are two different things. Kathy Bertuch is working with the I O to help with the planning of new projects for the RPP with the DOS grant under the 4 titles of 1. regulatory management, 2. wetlands and riparian corridor management, 3. forestry and silviculture management, and 4. stormwater management and erosion control. CBI would work with what is the mission of the I O and how would we get the rules and regs we need to operate.

Tee Ann and Mike realized that the I O is not operating within its bylaws, Becky said we should be able to do this part on our own by setting up a subcommittee, Mike said that is how a lot of work gets done. As part of this, should the I O send emails to the municipalities (munis) themselves or to the counties and let them send notes to their munis? Tee Ann said Tompkins County will now devote more time to watershed concerns and the I O should appeal to all the counties involved with Cayuga Lake. We do send invoices to the counties with small areas in the Cayuga Lake watershed, but they don't pay anything; should we send them our plans and reasons we are interested in keeping Cayuga Lake clean? Joe suggested that we have different levels of memberships (different pay levels, too) for smaller watershed counties, and Tony said not all counties have the same way of governing. What do we want/need the counties to do? Becky said the I O needs a framework to talk about problems. What does the I O think of Cargill Salt? Liz Thomas suggested the I O check the "action plan" and the RPP. She added that the bylaws are what the I O thought what was going to happen.

Darby suggested that the I O have subcommittees that would get different areas of the lake together on their own; ex. the North end and the South end of the lake; the 3 main counties – legislative reps and/or administrators; the I O and WRC and other watershed orgs. What authority does the I O have to tell munis what to do?

Liz Cameron took the meeting in a different direction...she met with NYS environmental health officers, went to DOH presentations, met with Ashley Inserillo from the NYC area about source water protection; and others from the Cuomo administration. She said there were 30 grants for munis and 50 applications for source water protection proposals and the NYS DOH has some grant money also. Liz didn't commit to anything, but wants to get Tompkins County involved.

Tee Ann wondered about the water protection plan that Bolton Point has, it hasn't been updated since 1999, and she wants the I O to reinvestigate water protection. Here again, what is the authority of the I O? Do we need a higher level of governance? Darby added...what are our goals, what has been done? Liz Thomas, should county planners and chairs of committees make suggestions for the I O?

The next discussion was about the Floating Classroom (FC) aka Discover Cayuga Lake. Traditionally, the I O has given the FC \$10,000 a year, but with the plans that the I O has, and the FC plans to become self-sufficient by becoming a 501c3 organization and separate from the Cornell Center for Transformative Action, and the fact that the I O gave the FC \$7,000 in the spring, it was said that it was time for the FC to go out on its own. Lynn said the FC still has expenses until the end of 2019, its first full year on Cayuga Lake, and it is expensive to maintain a wooden boat. Tom added that the FC wants to buy the boat from their benefactor, but hasn't mounted a fundraising campaign yet. Lynn said the boat has had more trips for eco-tourism with many passengers for noontime, sunset, community and educational tours for the public as well as the classes for school children and "Trout in the Classroom". Tee Ann said there has not been a formal request for money in a while and even though it was part of the I O it is now supported by other organizations. Tom reminded the meeting that the I O used the FC as its educational outreach to the community as stated in the bylaws. Check out "Discover Cayuga Lake" for yourself.

Submitted by Jackie Cassaniti