

Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization (I O) Meeting Minutes 12/5/19

Attendance: Tee Ann Hunter, I O Chair, T Ithaca; Roxanne Marino, T Ulysses; Hilary Lambert, CLWN; C J Randall, T Lansing; Tom Vawter, T Lansing; Tony Del Plato, V Interlaken; Elizabeth Thomas, T Ulysses; Darby Kiley, Tompkins County; Paul Kronenweiter, Seneca County Supervisor at Large; Bob Barton, T Hector, member of SWIO (see below); Jackie Cassaniti, T Caroline...AND on ZOOM, Grace Bates, V Aurora; Becky Sims, T Enfield; Kelly O' Hara, T Aurelius; Shawn Murphy, Cortland County Soil and Water

\*\* The January meeting will be on the 5th Wednesday, 1/29/20, at the Ithaca Town Hall at 7pm.\*\*

The October I O minutes (no November meeting) were approved (the presentation that Darby and Jon Negley gave was about wetlands). The financial reports from October and November are \$58,324.52 and \$59,291.02 (Town of Newfield paid \$900 for membership), respectively; both were approved. Tee Ann handed out a draft schedule for the 2020 meetings...all meetings would be the 4th Wednesday of the month except January which will be on 1/29/20 and November, on 11/18/20.

Tee Ann said a second grant will be requested to hire help to reach out to municipalities (munis) to see what munis want from the I O, form questions the muni's have and to interpret answers; this would be a \$20,000 grant, plus administrative costs, from the Park Foundation; Tee Ann intends to ask for the whole amount without need for a match, if the I O doesn't get it outright, she hopes that the I O members will vote to use I O money for this purpose. The grant application is due 1/10/20, and Tee Ann said members of the I O, specifically, Darby and C J, could help write the language for the grant. Tee Ann thought it would be good to have that center of that grant in Cayuga County. She was wondering if Bonnie Bennett, the mayor of the Village of Aurora, would be able to hold the new grant, and Grace said possibly. Bonnie would have to present it to the 12/19/19 village board, they would have to give a resolution to the I O to get it approved for the January 10th deadline. It can be done in one meeting if there is trust in the presenter. Tee Ann will go to the meeting. C J will look at the Park Foundation's questions and put them out on Google Docs for people to check the answers, then a meeting will be held on 1/6/20 to go over them before presenting the application. The grant decision could take 6-9 months.

The next topic was the reorganization of the I O. Tom wondered what the current bylaws say about reorganization of the I O. Darby and Liz said 2/3 of the I O members need to vote to change the I O. Liz added that the I O should re-start the executive (4 people) and finance (5 people) committees. If the I O would charge members more, then the I O might be able to hire a watershed steward at \$100,000 a year. (She reminded everyone that Ulysses pays \$6,000 to have CSI do its water monitoring.) Could bigger munis pay more? Tom said as it is now, the I O brings in about \$40,000 a year. Paul said Seneca County has someone at their soil and water district, but they don't have enough money to get things done for the county. Walter Hang of Toxic Targeting said Cayuga Lake has the most HAB's of all the Finger Lakes! He would like the DEC to be a lot more involved with Cayuga Lake. An example is Canoga Creek; "a significant portion of...Canoga Marsh...is...part of the NYS DEC Wildlife Management Area" according to the Canoga Creek Farm and Conservancy. Paul said the creek is 2 miles long, it starts clean, and ends up dirty because of the farms that have 3-6,000 cows along its route. Hilary said there is a new steward of SWIO, Ian Smith, he is working on a 9-Element Plan and he may start working with area farmers and the Amish community. A small part of Schuyler County is in the southwest part of the Cayuga Lake Watershed, Bob, who came to this meeting, was asked if his county had any money for Cayuga Lake, he said there is none budgeted for Cayuga Lake at this time.

Hilary presented a spreadsheet of the organizations she researched for the I O reorganization. She looked into 7 organizations; our own I O, the Upper Susquehanna Coalition (USC), Seneca Lake Watershed I O (SWIO), Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council (OLWM), Clean Chesapeake Coalition, Canandaigua Watershed Council, and Wappingers Creek Intermunicipal Council. There were 16 categories listed: What is the membership? Who are the decision makers? Where does the money come from? Not for profit, public agency, other? What do they have authority over? Enforcement capabilities? Relationship to the scientific...? Relationship to the municipalities? Governance documents? Mission statement/goals. Contact information? Membership requirements? Website, other media. Organizational structure? Watershed map(s). Annual reports. And Watershed plans. Hilary said this is not meant to replace the I O, but to compare how they work and get pointers from them. Not everything is filled in, more research is needed; ex. the USC is made up of 21 soil and water organizations, and SWIO and OLWM are new. Katherine Hogle from DOS suggested Chesapeake (hundreds of organizations) and other groups. Other questions suggested by I O members at this meeting: Do they have a paid staff? Where does that money come from? What is their relationship to the agricultural community?

Hilary stated that the county soil and water district offices need more money and CLWN tries to help by getting posters and going to the public; also Cornell Cooperative Extension has helped; ex. Terry Carroll and Osamu Tsuda are working for Climate Smart Communities. The I O wants communities to cooperate and help to meet real needs. The I O would like Lisa Cleckner from the Finger Lakes Institute to come to an I O meeting to speak about organization. An example is Keuka Lake, they have a watershed manager and he has a charge from the DOS for 3 years. The I O hopes to hear from an organization that works; Bob said SWIO's 9-Element Plan has Keuka Lake as part of it because water from Keuka flows into Seneca Lake. Shawn suggested that the I O members talk to munis that are not involved yet; taking along I O members that can answer questions, not an outside facilitator; Tee Ann gave an example, some Cortland County communities don't know they are part of the Cayuga Lake Watershed because they are east, in the Fall Creek area, which seems far away.

Paul said the Town of Seneca Falls did not pay for I O membership because they don't think they are in the Cayuga Lake Watershed. He said there will be 6 new members of the town board in January and he will present them with an updated map of the watershed, they might be receptive. Paul said the Village of Seneca Falls needs work, especially when there is high water. Tee Ann wants names to contact them.

Darby made and handed out an I O project intake form (find it at Tee Ann's email of 11/25/19) entitled "Is your municipality looking for funding for water quality projects? Fill out this form!" for a stream buffer meeting; she has not received any responses yet. She will have the form sent to Kathy Bertuch from CNYRPDB; they do not hold the I O grant, but have been hired to help the I O with it. Kathy is on leave right now, but should be back soon. Tee Ann said munis should dream big! ...from detention ponds, retention ponds to??? Additional questions asked at this meeting: Should the projects deal with agriculture? Are they watershed-wide or municipality-wide? What is the background info? What about all funding, not only from the DEC? When are the applications due? Add Kathy Bertuch's ideas.

Tony said the village of Interlaken completed an underground water tank. They now have a land area of 2 acres where they are thinking of making a pond (retention or detention) and a park; it would help everyone if they were flooded out again as in 2018. Darby said there was a detention pond put in on the west side of Rt. 96 in that area, they also added trees. Tony said they will have a workshop in January to

ask what could help prevent big floods, ex. Lively Run was a little stream then a giant torrent. He asked what about treatment plants that are not in compliance...such as Willard, Five Points and Hillside? Paul said DEC and DOS don't want to offend anyone, can the I O petition the state to get funds? Tee Ann and Cynthia Brock talked to Barbara Lifton to ask if they could talk to the state legislature to find out what they know about our watershed. Paul said sometimes it takes years to get funds; make the legislature aware of our problems. They gave a lot of money to Onondaga Lake.

Submitted by Jackie Cassaniti