

## Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization (I O) Meeting Minutes 1/29/2020

Attendance: Tee Ann Hunter, I O Chair, T Ithaca; Guest Speaker, Lisa Cleckner, Finger Lakes Institute (FLI); Rich De Paulo, T Ithaca; Hilary Lambert, CLWN; Ronny Hardaway, V Lansing; Charlie Ripley, Cayuga County Legislature; Joseph Wetmore, T Lansing; Roxanne Marino, T Ulysses; Cynthia Brock, C Ithaca; Michael Allinger, T Newfield; Elizabeth Thomas, T Ulysses; Tom Vawter, T Lansing; David Sprout, T Dryden; Jason Haremza, T Danby; Becky Sims, T Enfield; Tony Del Plato, V Interlaken; Michael Murphy, V Dryden; Jason Leifer, T Dryden; Roxy Johnston, C Ithaca; Darby Kiley, T Ulysses; Liz Cameron, Tompkins County Health Dep't; Jackie Cassaniti, T Caroline; On ZOOM: Grace Bates, V Aurora

Lisa Cleckner from FLI, part of Hobart and William Smith Colleges (HWS), talked about Seneca Lake and its organizations. Like the I O, they are also evolving, there were 5 counties and 40 municipalities (munis) that started to get together in 1999, in 2015 the Seneca Lake Watershed Management Plan came into being, then in April 2019 the FLI hired Ian Smith as the watershed steward for at least the next 2-3 years. (See <https://www2.hws.edu/fli-welcomes-seneca-watershed-steward/> for details of his position.) State Senator Pam Helming helped by putting \$200,000 into the NYS budget for 2018. (Lisa's power point will be sent to Tee Ann to put online for further reference.) They are working on a 9-Element Plan; this includes Keuka Lake, because part of it flows into Seneca Lake. They also received a \$270,000 grant (with a \$90,000 match) from NYS DOS through a CFA process in 12/18. To get things started they used a RACI Diagram. They do not charge a membership fee to belong, and as of now they have asked the munis for MOU's and they have 22 yes, 3 no (Amish, the political times, not water issues) and 15 pending. EcoLogic is helping them with continuous monitoring and a mini educational seminar; if these things are not in place they won't be eligible for the next level of funding.

Tee Ann talked about the I O and the RPP update done in 2017. She said if an organization wants to turn their plans into a 9-Element Plan it can be done without restarting. Roxy said one thing that is holding the I O back is that NYS doesn't have its TMDL plan yet. Tee Ann asked Lisa if they had help putting the RACI Diagram together, she said they had a corporate friend who facilitated that part. Lisa also said that Ian is working with munis and some have come forward with projects; Hilary added that on Seneca Lake they are looking for more science-oriented projects than shovel-ready ones. Hilary asked about the HAB's and Lisa said Barrington, Benton and Jerusalem in Yates County aren't waiting for NYS to help, but taking on the HAB's themselves to keep tourists coming. Lisa also said they are not dealing with "rules and regulations" or source water protections yet as they are trying to do for Cayuga Lake. Becky asked about agriculture and Lisa said that is being handled by soil and water dep'ts. Michael Murphy asked about successes and Lisa spoke of the retention ponds on farms; she also said students from HWS made a documentary on how they got this Seneca Lake organization together. Darby asked if Lisa received funds through FLOWPA, and Lisa said it was the Environmental Protection Fund. Tee Ann said Lisa is the first lake speaker to come to an I O meeting: next, in Feb. or March, will be Kevin Olvany from the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council. (How does he bring in over \$100,000 a year? What's his equation for acreage, population, lake shore, tourism, etc.?) Tee Ann and Cynthia met Barbara Lifton to start a lobbying campaign to get help from the state legislature and others to share funding requests for a lake steward.

To the business meeting: the minutes from 12/5/19 and the financial report stating that the I O has \$59,360.60 as of 12/31/19 were approved.

Liz Thomas talked about the Cayuga Lake Watershed I O bylaws last amended on 9//22/08 saying they were good, but the points in the bylaws aren't being followed and the committees are not set up; as a result 2 of 3 committees were

set up at this meeting: The Executive Committee, 4 waterfront munis from the 3 main counties---Tee Ann Hunter, Roxy Johnston, Tony Del Plato and Charlie Ripley; The Finance Committee, 5 voting members---Elizabeth Thomas as chair, Michael Allinger, Ronny Hardaway, Tom Vawter and David Sprout; The Membership Committee, 5 voting members --- (4 were picked at the meeting) Cynthia Brock, Elizabeth Thomas, Grace Bates and Tee Ann Hunter, so far, now asking for a 5<sup>th</sup> member. Tee Ann made a recommendation to live with our bylaws and that was accepted. The 2020 officers are Chair: Tee Ann Hunter, Vice Chair: Roxy Johnston, Minutes keeper: Jackie Cassaniti

Other points...Hilary suggested talking to other entities, (ex.) other water resource councils; get muni members to talk to neighboring munis to join the I O. David Schenck, from the Town of Springport, wants to have an I O member talk to his board. Tee Ann will be having lunch with Casey Ottis from the Town of Ledyard. Liz suggested having the MOU's last for 5 years instead of just 1 year. Joe said members get 1 vote each, they don't have to be different munis, but can't be for the same thing. Darby said the records of the set-up for the old finance committee are in the basement of the Ithaca Town Hall! And to talk to Deb Grantham. Tee Ann said Kathy Bertuch is back and meeting with Andy Zepp from the Finger Lakes Land Trust to get his ideas; and the Advisory Committee will be meeting soon. Hilary said she is 2/3's done with her search for other ways to organize, and will present it to the I O when it is done. Liz Cameron said she is talking to her counterparts in other counties about potable water. Tee Ann is now applying for a grant from the Park Foundation for \$24,000 for an organization assessment and an RFQ; the Village of Aurora will hold that grant. Tony said he has a project in Interlaken for stream buffers. Tee Ann said the I O still needs a grant writer and research person, a capital projects list and a better funding stream. Jennifer Karius would like to help set up meetings at the north end of Cayuga Lake (a place with ZOOM capabilities) and help to develop meeting agendas. These meetings would be to get more munis to participate in the I O "To build confidence, know-how and linkages between people...projects executed efficiently...combat HAB's...and build measurable results." This has been deemed doable by Tony Prestigiacomo from the DEC, Finger Lakes Hub.

Submitted by Jackie Cassaniti