

REGULAR MEETING

CAYUGA LAKE WATERSHED INTERMUNICIPAL ORGANIZATION

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 2020 @ 7:00 pm

HELD VIA ZOOM

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7pm

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Tee Ann Hunter, Mike Allinger, Don Slocum, Ronny Hardaway, Deborah Dawson, Bud Shattuck, Bronwin Losey, Dave Sprout, Roxanne Johnston, Elizabeth Thomas, Mike Murphy, Jackie Cassaniti

OTHERS PRESENT: Roxanna Marino, Shawn Murphy, Michelle Henry, Jason Haremza, Jennifer Karius, Hilary Lambert

Agenda Item 1 – Financial Report

BE IT RESOLVED that the IO approves the 5-31-20 Financial Report, \$60,505.03

MOVED: Dave Sprout SECONDED: Don Slocum VOTE: Unanimous

Agenda Item 2 – Review of Dues Letter

BE IT RESOLVED that the IO approves the 2021 Dues Letter There was much discussion over what the IO hopes to do in the future, and placement of items mentioned in the letter.

MOVED: Roxy Johnston SECONDED: Dave Sprout VOTE: Unanimous

Agenda Item 3-- The MOA will not to be included with the dues letter.

MOVED: Roxy Johnston SECONDED: Michael Allinger VOTE: Unanimous

Agenda Item 4 – Update on RFQ for a consultant to perform an organization assessment of the IO

The RFQ was sent out on June 12, 2020. The deadline for quotations is Monday, July 3 and the quotations will be opened on July 13. To date, we have received questions from two possible respondents. The Executive Committee will review the quotations and make a recommendation to the Village of Aurora.

Agenda Item 5 – Committee Reports

Executive Committee

Tee-Ann Hunter presented the following report of Executive Committee meetings:

May 29, 2020 @ 10:00 AM

Present: Tee-Ann Hunter, Tony DelPlato, Roxy Johnston, Cynthia Brock, Lisa Clekner, Finger Lakes Institute (FLI)

The Executive Committee met with Lisa Cleckner of the Finger Lakes Institute to learn more about the role of the FLI in funding, housing, and overseeing the Watershed Manager for the Seneca Watershed. The discussion led to how the IO and FLI might work together in support of watershed management staff and the advancement of water quality improvement projects in both watersheds. To explore possible opportunities to collaborate with FLI, Ms. Cleckner recommended a letter of inquiry the IO send a letter of inquiry.

June 5, 2020 @ 10:00 AM

Present: Tee-Ann Hunter, Tony DelPlato, Roxy Johnston

Follow up on discussion with Lisa Cleckner – The Committee recommended a letter of inquiry be drafted for IO review. Roxy Johnston volunteered to draft a letter. Members also felt we should explore what sort of administrative support Cayuga County Planning Department might be able to provide in applying for and administering grants.

Restoration and Protection Plan – Roxy Johnston commented on the focus of education and outreach of both 2001 and 2017 RPP and reported on three things that came up during the Ad Hoc Education & Outreach Committee meetings. 1) Are we trying to inform IO member municipalities or the public about water quality issues, 2) If it is municipal officials/staff, how do we get information to them and how do we deal with turnover, 3) It seems as though the focus of the IO has sifted towards project identification and implementation and we should look at how to reflect this shift in the RPP.

Watershed Map – There was discussion of differing watershed maps appearing in IO documents that would add square miles and an additional municipality to the watershed. The Membership Committee wondering which map to include in their PowerPoint presentation. Efforts are underway to determine which map to use.

Zoom License – The Committee approved Tee-Ann Hunter submitting Zoom license bills for reimbursement from the IO.

June 13, 2020 @ 10:00 AM

Present: Tee-Ann Hunter, Tony DelPlato, Roxy Johnston, Liz Thomas

IO Organizational Assessment – Tee-Ann Hunter gave an update on the RFQ and the Committee discussed how best to identify who the consultant should contact. Liz Thomas suggested the Project Advisory Committee be considered. She went on to request that Kathy Bertuch reach out to PAC members with an update and to remind DOS LWRP Project Advisory Committee might be asked that Kathy Bertuch reach out to members of the Project Advisory Committee with an update. Tee-Ann agreed to contact Kathy.

Roxy thought we should work with the consultant to develop questions and identify interviewees. The committee agreed.

Education and Outreach - The Committee continued their discussion of IO education and outreach. There was discussion of what percentage of the IO budget should go towards education/outreach. Roxy wondered whether we should continue to spend our money on education and asked if it wasn't better to spend our money getting projects off the ground. Liz suggested that the Ad Hoc Education and

Outreach Committee could provide information on educational priorities. Roxy felt future funding should be directed towards municipalities with a fee for services. The funding would be focused on getting dollars to municipalities for projects.

Liz suggested the IO may want to consider setting a pot of money for water quality projects.

The Ad Hoc Education and Outreach Committee will be meeting again to discuss possible changes to the RPP and come up with budget recommendations and priorities. Tee-Ann said that she will contact Kate Hugel about the process of amending the RPP.

Finger Lakes Alliance – Tony asked if any committee members were familiar with the Finger Lakes Regional Watershed Alliance. He has recently become aware of the group which he believes is made up of a group of attorneys. Tony will follow up and see if we can learn more about the organization.

Fair Funding Formula – Liz felt that she had gone as far as she could with the fair funding formula. She asked that Tee-Ann circulate the formula to the IO regular attendees.

June 19, 2020 @ 8:30 AM.

Present: Tee-Ann Hunter, Tony DelPlato, Roxy Johnston, Liz Cameron, Cynthia Brock

Letter of Inquiry to Finger Lakes Institute (FLI) – The Committee reviewed the draft letter of inquiry. Cynthia Brock asked for clarification on what we were asking. Tee-Ann explained that the letter was a first step in initiating a conversation with FLI and the Seneca Lake Intermunicipal Organization to explore the feasibility of a mutually beneficial relationship. At this point there was nothing specific to request.

Tee-Ann circulated the beginning of a letter she was drafting to Cayuga County acknowledged that this letter would need to contain specifics.

The committee reviewed the FLI letter of inquiry, made minor changes to the letter, and agreed to forward it on to the full IO for their review.

IO Organizational Assessment – The Committee went through and answered questions received from two possible bidders.

The Committee went over the agenda for the upcoming IO meeting.

Finance Committee They did not meet this month, but Liz is getting data and calculations to be approved by the executive committee and then the general IO.

Membership Committee They did not meet this month, but Cynthia has put in a lot of work.

Ad Hoc Education and Outreach Committee They did not meet this month but will soon.

Additional Agenda Item Letter of Inquiry This letter is to be sent to Lisa Cleckner at the FLI to ask to share or contract with their watershed manager. “Be it resolved that the IO authorizes the chair to send a Letter of Inquiry to the FLI”

MOVED: Dave Sprout SECOND: Michael Allinger VOTE: Unanimous

Agenda Item 6 – Update on CLWN Watershed Management Groups Hilary sent a spreadsheet to the I O members and will have a completed presentation in the future; four out of the six organizations she contacted gave answers.

Agenda Item 7 – Consider Determining Watershed Map There are two maps of the Cayuga Lake Watershed, this was brought to the attention of the I O by Liz Thomas. The question is the upper left part of the lake by Waterloo and Phelps; because of the Seneca River, the Seneca Cayuga Canal and the Mudlock water control structure, the waters of the lake are affected by the water levels and the locks. Please see the letter sent to Roxy Johnston from Bill Kappel about the additional part to the Cayuga Lake Watershed in her email to the I O on June 24, 2020 at 8:45 pm. Will this change the HAB's plan and the member plan for the lake? It is a case of direct drainage vs. non-direct drainage. Michelle said it was like the inlet and Fall Creek here in Ithaca where the water is pushed back and forth. The DEC is aware of this circumstance. There was no one opposed to modifying the map with the new information. Dave Sprout suggested putting an asterisk on that area until further notice.

Agenda Item 8 – Consider Adjournment MOTION: Don Slocum SECOND: Dave Sprout VOTE: Unanimous at 8:35pm

Submitted by Tee Ann Hunter and Jackie Cassaniti