

Regular Meeting

Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization (I O) Minutes

Wednesday, August 26, 2020 @ 7:00 pm

Held via ZOOM

Minutes

Voting Members Present: Tee Ann Hunter, Grace Bates, Don Slocum, Michael Allinger, Ronny Hardaway, Roxy Johnston, Michael Murphy, Dave Sprout, Liz Thomas, Tony DelPlato, Bronwyn Losey, Jackie Cassaniti

Others Present: Shawn Murphy, Roxanne Marino, Darby Kiley,

Agenda Item 2 - Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED that the I O approves the minutes from the June 24, 2020 meeting as submitted.

MOVED: Liz Thomas SECONDED: Roxy Johnston VOTE: Unanimous

Agenda Item 3 - Financial Report

BE IT RESOLVED that the I O approves the 7/31/2020 Financial Report (\$60,548.28) as submitted.

MOVED: Roxy Johnston SECONDED: Grace Bates VOTE: Unanimous

Agenda Item 4 – Report of Organizational Assessment of the I O

Liz summarized: the Village of Aurora received 5 responses, Tee Ann and Roxy Johnston went to Aurora to check the list of responses; interviewed by Roxy, Liz and Tony;
River Network-- they had no additional information, so were not a good fit
Novak—they were too high

Bergman -- they were \$10,000 over budget and not willing to fit what the I O wanted
De Young -- they were from Minneapolis and had family in the Keuka Lake area, didn't work out
Consensus Building Institute -- they had good experience and worked on the Owasco Lake Watershed rules and regulations, had good questions, and they were picked.

The contract is next, and the Executive Committee (ex com) will meet with Consensus to work out the details. The Village of Aurora will hold the contract because the I O has no grant number and can't hold a grant, the grant will be given by the Park Foundation; \$24,000, this includes \$4,000 for fees and the attorney. The ex com would like any I O suggestions.

Agenda Item 5 – Consider Appointment of Cynthia Brock to the I O Executive Committee

WHEREAS Cynthia Brock has regularly attended I O Executive Committee meetings and contributed to the work of the committee and

WHEREAS the I O recognizes the need for actively engaged and contributing committee members,

NOW, THEREFOR, BE IT RESOLVED that the I O appoints Cynthia Brock as a member of the I O Executive Committee

MOVED: Tee Ann Hunter

SECONDED: Dave Sprout

VOTE: Unanimous

Agenda Item 6 -- Committee Reports

Executive Committee

Tee Ann Hunter presented the following report on ex com meetings:

The ex com met of June 30th, July 15th, July 22nd, July 27th, Aug. 3rd, Aug. 11th

The bulk of committee work focused on the IO Organizational Assessment. The committee and the Village of Aurora reviewed the responses received to the RFQ, selected 3 of the 5 respondents to interview, developed interview questions, and held Interviews. Interviews were conducted on July 27th and Aug. 3rd. At their Aug. 11th meeting committee members recommended Consensus Building Institute. On July 22nd, the committee received an update on the LWRP project from Kathy Bertuch. 15 projects have been submitted and she is expecting 6 more to come in over the next few weeks. Kathy has done field inspections on some of the projects. Once all have been collected, she will send out package to PAC and post projects on the IO website. She is working on filling in some gaps in project descriptions prior to review and ranking. PAC participants will be asked to review project submittals and an "in person" (via Zoom) meeting for ranking projects will be held. In response to questions from the committee, Kathy said the IO was welcome to submit project ideas. Ongoing topics of discussion at committee meetings include: working with Education and Outreach Ad Hoc committee on refining definition of IO's educational focus, 2021 work plan, 2021 budget, preparing to work with CBI on organizational assessment, wetlands mapping and scheduling a presentation to the full IO from Darby Kiley on the WRC's work on mapping Tompkins County wetlands, IO's developing presentation to local municipalities including fair funding formula and PowerPoint presentation.

Next meeting will be held on Sept 1st.

Finance Committee They have not met

Membership Committee Cynthia was not at the meeting to give a report, but Tee Ann and others went over her power point

Ad Hoc Education and Outreach Committee

There were 15 projects (with 6 more possible) that will be ranked by Kathy Bertuch of CNYRPDB, with more that could be submitted by the I O. Dave Sprout asked if he could see the projects and Tee Ann said he could contact Kathy.

Agenda Item 7 – Consider Approval of Watershed Map

RESOLUTION ADOPTING CAYUGA LAKE WTERSHEd MAP and

CORRECTING INCONSISTENCIES O THE 2017 RESTORATION AD PROTECTION PLAN

WHEREAS Cayuga Lake has the lowest elevation of all the Finger Lakes in New York State and as such is key in managing water levels in surrounding areas, and

WHEREAS the Seneca River sub-watersheds, identified by the hydrologic unit boundaries as 041402010905 - Silver Creek-Seneca River and 041402010906 - Sucker Brook-Seneca River flow to Lake Ontario via the Seneca River at the north end of Cayuga Lake, and

WHEREAS Mud Lock is located at the north end of Cayuga Lake and is an important tool used to regulate Cayuga Lake water level and address flooding, and

WHEREAS in certain conditions, Mud Lock allows water from the Seneca River sub-watershed into Cayuga Lake, and

WHEREAS the Seneca River sub-watershed is not included as part of the Seneca Lake watershed, and

WHEREAS the Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization has an interest in reaching out to all municipalities that impact the water quality of Cayuga Lake to preserve and protect this important natural resource.

Therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization reaffirms that the maps in the 2017 Cayuga Lake Restoration and Protection Plan on pages 172 and 174 are accurate and include the Seneca River sub-watershed as part of the Cayuga Lake Watershed including all or parts of the following municipalities: Town of Geneva, Town of Phelps, Town of Junius, Town of Seneca Falls, Town of Tyre, Town of Waterloo, Village of Waterloo, and

Further

RESOLVED that the Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization authorizes the map on the 2017 Cayuga Lake Restoration and Protection Pan on page 173 to be replaced by the map of the watershed municipalities adopted at their meeting of 8/26/2020 that includes the Seneca River sub-watershed as part of the Cayuga Lake watershed.

(Please see the attachments in the Monday, 8/24/2020 at 10:49am email from Tee Ann to I O members for maps* and an explanation of why the map in the RPP should be changed. USGS has adopted the newer map of water coming out of Seneca Lake. *Please see end of minutes for the most up-to-date map of this area.)

MOVED: Dave Sprout SECONDED: Roxy Johnston VOTE: Unanimous

Agenda Item 8 – Discuss Submissions of Water Quality Projects to CNYRPDB as part of the LWRP grant

BE IT RESOLVED that the I O approves the submission of the Project Information Sheet regarding the development of Watershed Rules and Regulations for review and prioritization as part of the NYS DOS LWRP grant funded project

MOVED: Roxy Johnston SECONDED: Tee Ann Hunter VOTE: Unanimous

Agenda Item 9 – Recommend payment of invoice from Central New York Planning and Development Board

BE IT RESOLVED that the I O recommends payment of the 3/31/2020 invoice in the amount of \$15,795.43 received from CNYPDB for work on the NYS DOS LWRP project.

MOVED: Dave Sprout

SECONDED: Grace Bates

VOTE: Unanimous

Roxy asked if the I O can approve a contract in the ex com and Tee Ann was not sure. Can the ex com approve a contract from CLWN for the DOS grant work. They will vote on it just in case it is what is needed to be done.

MOVED: Grace Bates

SECONDED: Roxy Johnston

VOTE: Unanimous

Next--- a letter of interest to the Finger Lakes Institute to engage in a discussion to contract with the I O to help administer 4 or 5 projects through projects Kathy Bertuch is working on. The I O can't get funding itself and most municipalities are small and can't take on grants. It's possible the I O could work with a not-for-profit organization for watershed management. Tee Ann will set it up.

Liz said the WRC has developed a request for a water resources coordinator; and Darby said she is looking at a wetlands map and will talk to the ex com about it. Tompkins County used LIDAR to set up their maps, but Seneca and Cayuga Counties will use GIS. The reason is that sometimes the older maps are not accurate, ex. a pond could be in a different place than shown; check the Natural Resources Inventory.

Shawn Murphy brought up the fact that Seneca has more than one sub-watershed, but the I O may not check this, Shawn will email the map to Tee Ann (see map below). Roxy doesn't want to adopt this idea now because the "Seneca River Sub-watershed" is the legal name.

Agenda Item 10 – Consider Adjournment

MOVED: Liz Thomas

SECONDED: Dave Sprout

VOTE: none!

Submitted by Tee Ann Hunter and Jackie Cassaniti