

Regular Meeting

Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization (I O) Minutes

Wednesday, September 23, 2020 at 7:00 pm

Held via ZOOM

Voting Members Present: Tee Ann Hunter, Liz Thomas, Don Slocum, Dave Sprout, Tony Del Plato, Michael Murphy, Becky Sims, Roxy Johnston, Ronny Hardaway, Deborah Dawson, Grace Bates, Bud Shattuck, Cynthia Brock, Tom Vawter, Jackie Cassaniti

Others Present: Hilary Lambert, Darby Kiley Roxanne Marino, Jennifer Karius, Shawn Murphy, George Patte

Agenda Item 2 - Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED that the I O approves the minutes from the August 26, 2020 meeting as submitted

MOVED: Liz Thomas    SECONDED:    Dave Sprout    VOTE: 12 Approved    ABSTAINED: 1

Agenda Item 3 – Finance Report

Discussion: The CD came due, that is why the interest rate is lower, and it will be reinvested at a later date, since the Town of Ithaca Finance Officer is not available.    Roxanne Marino asked if the finance report could reflect where the money is earmarked for, because it looks like the I O has that money when a lot of it is spoken for.

MOVED: Tom Vawter    SECONDED: Roxy Johnston    VOTE: Unanimous

Agenda Item 4 - Presentation of the Tompkins County Wetlands Mapping Project by Darby Kiley

This presentation will be made available to the I O by Darby soon.    Wetlands exist via terrestrial ecosystems; certain hydrology, specific vegetation and soil conditions. What are the ecological values of wetlands, goods and services, human activity impacts wetlands? In 2008 8 to 19% of Tompkins County wetlands weren't protected. There was another mapping project in 2012 with the help of Hilary Lambert from CLWN; and again in 2016. Newer technology: NYS Orthoimagery Program, LiDAR in 2008; in 2012 the mapping was more accurate, but still missed wetlands less than ½ acre, some smaller ones were identified by CLWN. These maps are publically available, their uses are project development and legal identification. Some reasons the wetlands change are beaver activity and roads moved by highway departments. Cayuga County has their own maps; and they were adopted by the Town of Ulysses. Federal Regulations are from 1972 (contact Bridget Brown from Army Corps of Engineers) and the NYS Fresh Water Act is from 1975 (contact Jean Foley from DEC). Hilary said it was hard, demanding work, heavily detailed. The work was done by Nick Hollingshead and Nick Schapansky.

Questions for Darby: Tee Ann asked Liz, who was the Supervisor of the Town of Ulysses at the time, if the I O should adopt these maps also for legal reasons and to protect wetlands. Tony asked if Seneca and Cayuga Counties could be involved with this discussion about the lake. Brian Rohm sent out 54 pages of what NYS drainage laws. Darby said to check with New Paltz for their law passed. Michael Murphy asked how the wetlands affect Cayuga Lake? It is the impacts of erosion, and Hilary added that he could check with the Center for Watershed Protection. Wetlands act as a sponge, they keep

sediment from rushing to streams that go to the lake and they recharge aquifers. Tony asked how property owners deal with regulations, etc. Roxanne Marino said there is a webinar series about wetlands. She also said there is an emerging project on Kathy Bertuch's list for municipal wetland management. Tee Ann said the Town of Ithaca does use these maps and she wondered if Cayuga and Seneca Counties also use these maps.

#### Agenda Item 5 – I O Operational Structures Project presented by Hilary Lambert

Hilary got information from other organizations about their structure and how that could be adopted by the I O. There were 5 organizations and they answered 12 questions. Please see Tee Ann's email from 9/23/2020 entitled "Additional Meeting Materials for the 9/23/2020 I O meeting" for Hilary's spreadsheet. Hilary said the I O was able to get some good info out of this project already. Ona Ferguson from the Consensus Building Institute will talk to the Executive Committee on 9/29. George Patte suggested that the I O look at Owasco Lake, but Hilary reminded him that Owasco Lake is all in one county.

Bud Shattuck volunteered to be the representative from the I O to the Cayuga County Water Quality Council

MOVED: Tee Ann Hunter      SECONDED: Tom Vawter      VOTE: Unanimous

#### Agenda Item 6 - Resolution Requesting Tompkins County Continue Funding for the Community Science Institute presented by Liz Thomas

Last year Tompkins County had \$28,000 in the budget for CSI. Deborah Dawson said the county needs a resolution to continue to fund CSI's work, but there is still \$6,000 in the budget for HAB's monitoring. Becky said CSI provides an information data for the county. Bud added that the service is needed for Cayuga and Seneca Counties as well. Darby doesn't know if Cayuga County will fund CSI in 2021. Tee Ann suggested 3 different resolutions because Seneca County may not fund CSI; Tom said it should all be in one document. Now it is just Tompkins and Cayuga Counties; Grace suggested to add a sentence that Seneca County could consider joining later, Michael Murphy said send a separate resolution to Seneca County. Tom asked if the vote should be postponed, but that was denied - just don't mention Seneca County in the resolution, but let them know that Tompkins and Cayuga are working on this resolution that could be in a letter form. Roxy Johnston suggested voting on the resolution, but let the Executive Committee contact Seneca County.

MOVED: Liz Thomas      SECONDED: Tony Del Plato      VOTE: Unanimous

#### Agenda Item 7 – Committee Reports

Executive Committee – from Tee Ann Hunter

Finalizing scope of work for the Consensus Building Institute for the Village of Aurora; Ona Ferguson will meet with the committee at 10am on 9/29. Also, they want to talk to Ian Smith, Seneca Lake Watershed Manager and Mark Venuti, Supervisor of the Town of Geneva, as well as Lisa Cleckner at the Finger Lakes Institute about contracting with them for the services of their watershed manager. What would that mean? The I O wants a percent of time, to talk about the benefits of a watershed manager and to accompany members of the I O to municipalities to help explain the need for the new funding formula. It would also entail help with preparation for grant applications for the Kathy Bertuch projects and with

help developing a job description of a watershed manager, as well as help with the membership committee. This would cost \$10,000.

Membership Committee from Cynthia Brock

They are putting together a slide show to present to the municipalities about reaffirming membership in the I O to municipalities and talk about the new funding formula. They are working on getting it down to 15 minutes. They will meet again in early October.

Finance Committee – No report at present

Ad Hoc Education and Outreach Committee – They have not met

Agenda Item 8 – Consider authorization to reimburse Zoom charges

Tee Ann would like to have the I O pay her for the Zoom license it has already cost her about \$100 for 7 months, Bud suggested getting it for a year at a time.

MOVED: Bud Shattuck SECONDED: Roxy Johnston VOTE: Unanimous

Agenda Item 9 – Consider Adjournment

MOVED: Tom SECONDED: Grace VOTE: No opposition

Submitted by Jackie Cassaniti