

Regular Meeting
Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization (IO) Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 27, 2021
Held Via ZOOM
Minutes

Voting Members Present: Liz Thomas, Tee Ann Hunter, Bud Shattuck, Roxy Johnston (alternate), Dave Sprout, Don Slocum, Becky Sims, Grace Bates, Amanda Champion, Cynthia Brock, Mike Allinger, Michelle Henry (alternate), Tom Vawter (alternate), Bronwyn Losey, Tony Del Plato, Jackie Cassaniti

Stakeholders Present: Steve Lynch, Dave West, Rebecca Minas, Jennifer Karius, Ian Smith, Jon Negley, Robert Meek, George Patte, Shawn Murphy, Hilary Lambert, Darby Kiley

Liz opened the meeting with the purpose of the IO: "To bring watershed municipalities together to work collectively and collaboratively on monitoring, protecting and restoring the health of the watershed."

Agenda Item 2 - Consider Approval of the Minutes –

BE IT RESOLVED that the IO approves the minutes from the January 26, 2021 meeting as submitted.

MOVED: Tee Ann Hunter SECONDED: Dave Sprout

VOTE: 11 Yea 2 Abstentions

Agenda Item 3 – Consider Approval of the Financial Report –

BE IT RESOLVED that the IO approves the Financial Report from the January 27th meeting as submitted in the amount of \$66,966.65.

MOVED: Dave Sprout SECONDED: Don Slocum

VOTE: 12 Yea 1 Abstention

Consider Approval of reimbursement of \$149.90 to Liz Thomas for the Zoom payment for 2021

MOVED: Dave Sprout SECONDED: Cynthia Brock

VOTE: Unanimous

Agenda Item 4 - Finalize work plan and organizational meeting for 2021 appointments and committees-

Resolved that the CLWIO membership appoints Roxy Johnston to be the Vice Chair for 2021 (Article III, Section 2.b)

MOVED: Cynthia Brock SECONDED: Grace Bates

VOTE: 12 Yea 1 Abstention

Nominating and Membership Committee – needs one more member according to bylaws. There were no volunteers at this time.

2021 Meeting Dates – have been the 4th Wednesday of the Month – 1/27/21, 2/24, 3/24, 4/28, 5/26, 6/23, 7/28, 8/25, 9/22, 10/27, holiday dates: November 17th, December 15th.

Agenda Item 5 – Watershed Manager – Ian Smith – Update on work plan.

Ian Smith will be the IO part-time watershed manager to help move watershed projects. He is now on the project advisory committee. Projects may involve Seneca Lake, since he works for them also; ex. a common problem is ditching. He is housed at the Finger Lakes Institute. He will be involved with

1. Education and outreach
2. On the ground projects,
3. Sharing the research he is involved with on Seneca lake that is relevant to Cayuga Lake.

Questions: Tom: Does Seneca Lake have a management plan?

Ian: It has a 9-Element Plan downstream of the Keuka Lake outlet and Keuka Lake does not have its own plan as of 2015.

Cynthia: Can the IO work with the Seneca Lake Watershed Organization in combine projects?

Ian: There are things that would benefit both lakes. There could be projects such as the one I applied for today getting 8 organizations together for planting 5000 trees. I am looking at, right now unproven, phosphorous removal with tile drainage systems involving a number of organizations such as soil and water, ag and markets, material providers in West Virginia. An example is Hector which is in both watersheds, whatever scale the IO chooses.

Liz: When projects arise that are grant funded, the IO should seize the opportunities, but will need IO municipalities to hold the grants since the IO cannot itself hold grants. Ian will also help with outreach to municipalities to make them aware of the benefits of the IO, and extend education and outreach done on behalf of Seneca Lake that could apply to Cayuga Lake. Geneva Town Supervisor Mark Venuti is the SWIO Chair. We will be reporting back to the IO regularly what Ian is doing.

Agenda Item 6 - Grant Opportunities –

Liz will be sending out grant/education opportunities to the municipalities in a package form, a lot of them have very short deadlines, the municipalities may get multiple copies.

Agenda Item 7 – Update on Organizational Assessment –

Ona Ferguson and Sophia Soto Reyes of the Consensus Building Institute are doing well with the survey. If you have not been interviewed and would like to participate in the survey it will be online until February 10th. Hilary Lambert from CLWN will make her presentation about different organizational structures at the February meeting, and Ona is targeting the March IO meeting to make her presentation .

Agenda Item 8 – Information on the Green Amendment –

It would be an amendment to the NYS Constitution, reading, “Each person shall have a right to clean air and water, and a healthful environment.” To make this change the amendment must be passed by 2 different legislatures and then it goes to a vote at the general election. Liz suggested the IO adopt this resolution as well. As with all the attachments, please see Liz’s email from January 22nd entitled “IO Meeting 1/27/21 at 7:00”. Tony said the Pennsylvania resolution is now being used more widely and every municipality in the IO should consider adopting it. Liz asked Tony to draft a resolution for the February IO meeting. Cynthia said clean

water and air should have rights such as corporations, which is something to consider at a future meeting.

Agenda Item 9 – Committee Reports –

Executive Committee –

Liz has enjoyed working with the committee; working with Ian Smith and the organizational assessment has taken up most of the committee time.

Membership Committee –

Cynthia said this committee needs at least one more person. The goal of the committee is to increase membership by 1. Creating an application and approval process for non-voting members 2. Create a working list of all terms and vice-chairs 3. Create a welcome packet for new members 4. Grace and Cynthia will create a short liaison report to keep municipalities updated and engaged in the IO 5. Identify municipalities that are not members 6. Basic nominating duties. Tom said a good summary of the minutes would be good to take to the municipalities. Liz added that it is important to have the stakeholders who are water experts and that the IO appreciates them.

Finance Committee –

They are waiting to add the new acreage in the Northern part of Cayuga Lake to the IO.

EPPOC Committee –

This committee needs official approval of their work plan. Their goal is to 1. Work to develop our relationship with CLWN 2. Educate municipal officials about land and water protection options, how to use them and how to respond to threats. 3. Improve the IO's website, include social media and better the electronic meetings because of Covid, we need feedback. And put out bids for proposals.

Plans for an Agriculture Committee –

Jennifer Karius and Shawn Murphy wrote about forming an ad hoc committee to form an agriculture committee. Check the bylaws and the municipalities to present a slate for who could be on the committee which would need one voting member of the IO. It was suggested that Kelly O'Hara from Aurelius is a farmer and a voting member. Shawn and Jennifer hope to get the upper part of Cayuga Lake involved with the IO.

Agenda Item 10 – Agenda topics and speaker suggestions for the future –

Jennifer – Have more meetings around the lake and invite more stakeholders with projects. Give them a hand with knowledge about grants. Ex. Cayuga County will have funds for CSI to do stream sampling. Invite Steve Penningroth to an IO meeting as a speaker. Tony said some municipalities are afraid of what they will find! Hilary listed some organizations that might be receptive to volunteer for projects in the Interlaken area.

Shawn said he asked the IO for a letter of support and that helped get a grant from "Sustain our Great Lakes" for good fish habitat in the headwaters of Virgil Creek, bank stabilization and other things. Also, use the information Jennifer collected when she did her work around Cayuga Lake. Bud said check the list of Kathy Bertuch's work and see that there are no projects from Cayuga County. The IO needs to get them into the IO so they will know about project ideas and opportunities. Roxy said she may do her presentation there again.

Agenda Item 11 – Adjournment –
Submitted by Jackie Cassaniti