

Regular Meeting
Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization (CWIO) Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 28, 2021
Held Via ZOOM
Minutes

Voting Members Present: Michael Allinger, Jackie Cassaniti, Amanda Champion, Tony Del Plato, Carolyn Greenwald, Kent Hubbell, Tee Ann Hunter, Roxanna Johnston, Bronwyn Losey, Don Slocum, Dave Sprout, Liz Thomas

Stakeholders Present: Shawn Murphy, Paulette Rosa, Jennifer Karius, Rebecca Minus

Agenda Item 1 – Call to order.

Agenda Item 2 - Resolution to approve minutes and finance report.

***RESOLVED** that the CWIO approves the draft minutes of the 6/23/2021 meeting provided in the meeting package, and financial report ending 6/31/2021 with a balance of \$59,364.65.*

Moved: Roxy Johnston, Seconded: Dave Sprout

Vote: Unanimous

Agenda Item 3 – Update on Organizational Assessment

Liz gave an update on the organizational assessment to date. Ona Ferguson from the Consensus Building Institute (CBI) will be at the August 25 meeting to present her recommendations. The current bylaws are from 2008 and in need of updating and clarification as is the memorandum of understanding. Both documents are updated but retain much of the original structure. Liz pointed out the areas that changed the most. The job description for a watershed manager is new. Work on the organizational assessment has been on-going since September 2020.

Comments on these draft documents are welcome and due by August 9, 2021. CWIO members and others attending the August 25 CWIO meeting will be able to comment further at that time.

Liz reviewed the bylaws and CWIO members wondered if CWIO needed to adhere to the Open Meetings law. Since the watershed is spread geographically, zoom meetings have helped municipalities to attend, however all agree with the intent of the Open Meetings law. Paulette Rosa from the Town of Ithaca offered to find a legal opinion on this matter and Liz offered to ask other watershed organizations for their interpretation.

CWIO discussed the 25% quorum requirement in the bylaws. Liz said this is a change from the 2008 bylaws which specify 6 paying members constitute a quorum. The normal number of paid municipalities is approximately 20. A question was raised about what constitutes a vote and Liz referred to Section 3 of the draft bylaws which stipulates a simple majority of fully paid member municipalities is required to pass a resolution

The CWIO then looked at section 5: Associate and Ex Officio Advisors and pointed out there was not a definition of Associate Member.

The group reviewed the committee structure recommended including allowing special committees that will be flexible to meet the needs of CWIO and the availability of members to be on those committees. A

friendly amendment was made to the Membership and Nomination committee duties to emphasize community building.

CWIO members recognize the importance of meeting in person and changed the bylaws to require 3 meetings per year to be in person at locations around the lake.

CWIO had no comments on the memorandum of understanding nor the watershed manager job description.

Work for this organizational assessment has been paid for under two grants, one from the Department of State which is also funding Kathy Bertuch's work on prioritizing projects from around the watershed, and the other from the Park Foundations which funds the work done by CBI.

Agenda Item 4 – Letter of Support for Lansing grant

The Town of Lansing is applying for funds through the Water Quality Improvement Program to address the lateral migration of the Salmon Creek stream channel which is resulting in the deposition of excessive amounts of sediment going into Cayuga Lake. They asked for a letter of support to accompany the grant application.

***Resolved** that the Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization authorizes the chair to sign and submit a letter of support for the Town of Lansing's application to the Water Quality Improvement Program for funds to reconfigure and stabilize parts of the embankment of Salmon Creek which are subject to erosion.*

*Moved: Liz Thomas, Seconded: Dave Sprout
Vote: Unanimous*

Agenda Item 5 – Chair Report-

Liz has been meeting with municipalities from within the watershed to explain about what the CWIO does and its goal to hire a watershed manager. She has met with the Seneca County Board of Supervisors, the Tompkins County Planning, Energy and Environmental Quality committee, the Tompkins County Council of Governments, and the Town of Ulysses. On the docket are the Town of Lansing, the Town of Newfield and the Town of Ithaca. Please contact Liz if you are interested in having her or someone else from the Membership and Nomination Committee present to your board.

Agenda item 6 - Committee Reports –

Executive Committee - has been working with CBI and the Organizational Assessment Planning Team to review CBI recommendations, ready documents for CWIO review and adoption.

Membership Committee – Working on PowerPoint presentation

Agriculture Committee – Will be meeting in August.

Financial Committee - No meetings expected until early 2022.

EPPOC – No recent meetings.

Agenda Item 7 - General Announcements

Tee-Ann Hunter mentioned the invitation to visit 3 farms in Cayuga County, one, Oakwood Farm, belonging to Kelly O'Hara, the CWIO Aurelius representative, to learn about the farm process, she said it

was very informative. Jennifer has copies of all 3 tours if anyone is interested. Liz will look to post the videos on her monthly report.

The August CWIO meeting will be virtual, but hopefully the September 25th meeting will be in person.

Agenda Item 9 – Adjournment

Moved: Amanda Champion; Seconded: Tee Ann Hunter

Submitted by Jackie Cassaniti