

Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization
Wednesday, September 22, 2021
Held VIA ZOOM

Minutes

Participating Members Present: Liz Thomas, Grace Bates, Michael Murphy, Becky Sims, Roxanne Johnson, Tony Del Plato, Don Slocum, Jessica Giles, Mitch Rowe, Bronwyn Losey, Amanda Chapman, Carolyn Greenwald, Dave Sprout, Jackie Cassaniti

Stakeholders Present: Ian Smith, Andrew Zepp, Robert Meek, Julia Selby, Steve Riddle, Shawn Murphy, Roxanne Marino, Margret Johnson, Jengni Zhang, Lyuan Han

Agenda Item 1 - Call to Order

Agenda item 2 - Consider approval of Minutes and Financial Report (\$65.629.38)
Moved: Amanda Champion Seconded: Dave Sprout Vote: Unanimous

Agenda Item 3 - Watershed Manager Report - Ian Smith

Mr. Smith reported on this year's accomplishments.

1. A 9-Element Plan for Seneca Lake.
2. A state-wide viticulture plan to be piloted in the Finger Lakes.
3. Reconnect the Keuka Lake Outlet to its northern floodplain.
4. Sediment and nutrient reduction projects around Seneca and Cayuga Lake.
5. Phosphorus sequestration involving tile drainage
6. Outreach education and research events.
7. Projects – ex. Ditch project in Seneca County and the Six Mile Creek tributary project for Cayuga Lake.
8. Identifying new potential projects in the Cayuga Lake Watershed.

Agenda Item 4 – Drinking Water Source Protection Program – Steve Riddle, Director, Bolton Point

Steve reported that work on this with NYS Health Department started in 2019 and was put on hold due to COVID. A study focusing on the southern end of Cayuga Lake is planned and the goal is to have members from the 5 municipalities who actually use the water for drinking will be actively involved. Approximately 2.5-3.5 million gallons of water is used every day and this is important to protect.

Agenda Item 5 - Land Preservation Update – Bell Station and Camp Barton, Andrew Zepp, Finger Lakes Land Trust (FLLT)

Mr. Zepp was going to discuss the situation discussed at the last meeting regarding the auctioning of the NYSEG-owned property, but since then, the auction has been cancelled. More information here

<https://ithacavoices.com/2021/09/amid-public-outcry-auction-for-lansing-property-cancelled/>

Mr. Zepp reported that the FLLT did acquire a different piece of land across from Taughannock, south of the Bell Station land, that be developed for public use in 2023.

Camp Barton on Cayuga Lake's west shore is likely to be sold due to the cost of legal actions against the Boys Scouts. Tompkins area Scouts are in the same council as those in the Southern Tier who more often use Camp Tuscorora which is of lower value than Barton. FLLT would like the property protected, but they are not interested in owning it and it seems other municipalities and state agencies are not either.

A motion was made by Roxy Johnston, seconded by Tony Del Plato, for the Executive Committee to draft and send a letter of support to preserve the Camp Barton lands for public use and protection of the watershed. Unanimous.

Agenda Item 6 – Letter of Support for Seneca County Septic System Testing Program

The draft letter was reviewed and approved upon motion by Ms. Johnston, seconded by Ms. Champion, unanimous.

Mitch gave an update on the topic, saying that Paul Kronenwetter reintroduced a local law last month for county-wide septic testing every 5 years, and after discussion and debate, the final draft for voting will apply to properties 250' feet or less from the lake or canal water. A public hearing was set for October 12, 2021. (see letter at end of minutes)

Agenda Item 7 – Letter of support for Interlaken Flooding regarding FEMA –
Roxy reported that the Executive Committee was authorized to write a letter in support of FEMA funding for Interlaken's flooding. (see letter at end of minutes)

Agenda Item 8 – Chair Report

- Speaking to the towns of Ledyard and Dryden in October
- Attended a regional Watershed Associations meeting about ditching. Great information to get out to public works and highway departments.
- Hilary Lambert (CLWN) and Steve Penningroth (CSI) are retiring next year.

Agenda Item 9 – Committee Reports

Executive Committee – Members needed for 2022.

Tech Advisory Committee – Starting 2022

Membership Committee – No report

Agriculture Committee – No report
Finance Committee - Will meet as needed in 2022.
EPPOC – Meeting on October 5th.

General Announcements – Don't forget to turn over the ballot in November to see the NYS Constitutional Amendment on cleaner water and a healthier environment. Robert Meek has posters to hand out for that, if you are interested in helping to distribute them. Contact Liz for his information.

Agenda Item 10 - Adjournment

Meeting adjourned upon motion by Amanda Champion, seconded by Tony Del Plato, unanimous.

Submitted by Jackie Cassaniti