



## Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization (CWIO)

Wednesday, October 27, 2021

Held VIA ZOOM

### Minutes

Participating Members Present: Liz Thomas, Roxy Johnston, Don Slocum, Michael Reynolds, Mitch Rowe, Amanda Champion, Dave Sprout, Tony Del Plato, Bronwyn Losey, Carolyn Greenwald, Michael Allinger, Kelly O'Hara, Kent Hubbell, Jackie Cassaniti, Roxanne Marino.

Stakeholders Present: Greg Hutnik, Darby Kiley, Shawn Murphy, Joel Gagnon Dan Walker

**Agenda Item 1** – Open the meeting – **\*\*Please note that the November and December CWIO meetings will be on the **THIRD** Wednesday; 11/17 and 12/15\*\***

**Agenda Item 2** – Resolution to approve minutes and finance report.

**RESOLVED** that the CWIO approves the draft minutes of the 9/22/2021 meeting provided in the meeting package, and financial report ending 9/30/2021 with a balance of \$65,636.33  
Moved: Liz Thomas                      Seconded: Don Slocum                      Vote: Unanimous

**Agenda Item (4)** – Watershed Manager Grant Application –

A grant application is proposed to be submitted, with a due date before the next CWIO meeting, to the Park Foundation to fund a CWIO watershed manager. It will be for \$232,056 for 5 years; the watershed manager is expected to be fully self-funded by 2026. The grant decision will be made by the end of November.

**WHEREAS** with funding from the Park Foundation, CWIO has recently undergone an organizational assessment and one of the resulting recommendations was as follows:

**Staff up.** The CWIO has great priority areas of work and important work to do, but is limited by the scale of the watershed, number of members, and being “staffed” solely by volunteers. If CWIO leaders can find funding to hire a consultant, even for a year, it will likely make an enormous difference to what CWIO accomplishes. This person should focus on:

- a. Coordinating activities, getting discussions and events happening more quickly
- b. Building relationships and looking for shared interests and connections
- c. Advancing the CWIO mission
- d. Increasing member participation (both for fees and, more importantly, to increase interest and engagement in what CWIO is trying to accomplish)
- e. Advocating at the state on behalf of watershed and member needs, sometimes framed as government or public affairs
- f. Seeking funding to provide additional and ongoing contractor (“staff”) capacity

**WHEREAS** with funding from a NYS DOS grant, CWIO developed a prioritized list of projects that need assistance to be implemented, and

**WHEREAS** CWIO has developed a job description for a Watershed Manger, and

**WHEREAS** CWIO has adopted a new dues formula that would over 3-5 years bring in funding to hire a full-time Watershed Manager; and

**WHEREAS** the Town of Ithaca has given preliminary approval to hold the grant if successful.

**Therefore be it**

**RESOLVED** that CWIO approves submission of the application to the Park Foundation as presented at the 10/27/2021 CWIO meeting to provide bridge funding from 2022-2026 to help pay for a full-time Watershed Manager.

Moved: Dave Sprout  
call vote)

Seconded: Roxy Johnston

Vote: Unanimous (14 on a roll-

**Agenda Item (3) – Regulatory Tools to Protect Stream Buffers – Presented by Darby Kiley**

Discussion items were: What is a stream buffer, buffer widths, the 2019 WRC stream buffer training, NYS Water Quality Documents and Action Plan, importance of stream buffers, streams with most phosphorous and lowest cost to remove it, Tompkins County Resources, Municipal Law # 239 Review Guide, drainage areas for setbacks, examples of minimum setback widths for the Towns of Ithaca and Ulysses. The 2019 WRC stream buffer class can be found on the Cooperative Extension website at <http://ccetompkins.org/environment/water-conservation-quality/streams-flooding/stream-buffers>. Also Tompkins County has “natural features focus areas” mostly in the southern part of the county.

Comments: Only 2 municipalities in Tompkins County have formally adopted the wetlands maps. Municipalities with even gradual slopes make a difference for water quality when there are heavy rains. Darby said FEMA is updating the floodplain maps. Not all municipalities have wetlands maps – but Tompkins County could help them set the maps up. There was discussion on area setbacks, how they get set up and if they were ever reversed. Dave spoke about the need to update the floodplain regulations in the Town of Dryden. Liz said the CWIO should have a meeting discussion during the day regarding these tools to accommodate planners and staff from Soil and Water Conservation District offices. Kent asked how the state regulates the buffers; Darby said they are anywhere from 25 to 100 feet back, depending on the municipality.

**Agenda Item 5 – Constitutional Amendment -**

Voters will be asked to vote for a change to the NYS Constitution which would add the sentence “Each person shall have the right to clean air and water and a healthful environment.” on the November 2<sup>nd</sup> ballot. Ballot proposals are on the back of the ballot.

**Agenda Item 6 - Camp Barton update –**

The Bell Station Land seems to be preserved although CWIO is not aware of further details. Brad Granger, from the Boy Scout Council, said the Boy Scouts plan to sell 39 acres of Camp Barton that runs along Route 89, and are trying to preserve the 90 acres that contains most of the lake frontage, where the camp is; the Boy Scouts need the money soon. Brad asked for support of the CWIO. Liz said that Trumansburg and the Towns of Covert and Ulysses are working on a memorandum of understanding to help preserve the area. Mike Reynolds said they have 3 years to sort it out. Liz reminded municipalities that open space land can be preserved somewhat by using various land use tools available to municipalities such as park/recreation zones, conservation zoning, buffers, etc.

**Agenda Item 7 - Projects - DOS Grant Update –**

We have the final report from Kathy Bertuch (who is retiring from CNYRPDB) for the projects; there should be a final meeting about the projects soon. The CWIO needs to form a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to replace the Project Advisory Committee that worked with Ms. Bertuch. The Executive Committee recommends the TAC be about 5-7 people which can be expanded as needed for the work they will be doing. The CWIO will annually ask for new submissions of projects for the TAC to consider adding to the existing list. All projects should fulfill recommendations made in the Restoration and Protection Plan or the HABS Action Plan.

**Agenda Item 8 – Chair Report –**

Liz met with the new chair of CLWN, Dave Wolfe, and hopes to build a strong connection with CLWN. Hilary Lambert is retiring from CLWN leadership as is Steve Penningroth from CSI; no one hired for either

position yet. Liz asked if any municipality is willing to share their IT person to help with the CWIO website, which is currently being managed by CNYRPDB, until the end of the grant; they will be compensated for the work. The next few meetings will be working on the budget, work plan, and committee members for the CWIO. A reminder that the November and December meetings will be on the THIRD Wednesday; 11/17 and 12/15. Liz congratulated Bud Shattuck and Cayuga County Planning for completing the Village of Union Springs Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan Spring which helps when applying for certain NYS grants. Greg Hutnik from Cayuga County Planning is helping complete one for the Village of Cayuga and hopes to have it completed by next year. Liz said the next CWIO news will be chocked full of information.

**Agenda Item 9 - Committee Reports –**

Executive Committee - They are working on the Park Foundation Grant mentioned in Agenda Item 4. And with EPPOC are looking for help with the CWIO website. EPPOC needs new leadership if Roxy moves to the Tech Advisory Committee. Now that the bylaws allow associate members to be on committees, please think about joining one.

Membership Committee – no report

Ag Committee – no report

Finance Committee – They are on pause since adopting the new dues schedule.

**Agenda Item 10 – General Announcements –**

At the next meeting on 11/17 there will be short presentations from CLWN and CSI. CLWN has information on HAB's and hydrilla.

**Agenda Item 11 – Motion to adjourn –**

Moved: Roxy Johnston

Seconded: Dave Sprout

Submitted by Jackie Cassaniti