



## Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization (CWIO)

Wednesday, November 17, 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, Carolyn Greenwald, Michael Allinger, Kelly O'Hara, Jackie Cassaniti, Grace Bates, Jessica Giles, Tee-Ann Hunter, Stephanie Redmond, Michelle Henry, Tom Vawter

Stakeholders Present: Darby Kiley, Shawn Murphy, George Patte, Julie Selby, Nathaniel Launer, Hilary Lambert, David Wolfe, Liz Cameron

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

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

**RESOLVED** that the CWIO approves the draft minutes of the 10/27/2021 meeting provided in the meeting package, and financial report ending 10/31/2021 with a balance of \$65,63642.59  
Moved: Tony Del Plato                      Seconded: Mike Allinger                      Vote: Unanimous

**Agenda Item 3 – End of Season Findings from the Community Science Institute – Nathaniel Launer.**

Cayuga Lake is one of 12 priority lakes that are important in the study of HAB's in NYS. The Cayuga Lake Action Plan had more than 90 volunteers checking for HAB's in 2021, they covered 57% of the lake from July 1 until recently. There were about 102 algae blooms this year, with the two worst days around July 19th-20th, and October 6th. CSI has distributed brochures to help people identify and report blooms to CSI. The largest number of blooms was in the northern part of Cayuga Lake, usually after intense rainstorms, this was because of the nutrient runoff accompanying the rain; also, there was no wind so the algae could rise to the surface. The total algae blooms per year have been increasing, or it could be that more people are aware of them and reporting them. The most toxicity has been the microcystin toxin this past year and they have been in similar places as previous years over the 4-year span. More density equals higher toxicity, and 2020 was higher density than 2021. Phytoplankton might be an early warning sign of when HAB's will occur; Michelle asked about hot spots: they were near the Village of Cayuga and just north of Union Springs. Tom asked if there are other bacteria tested for besides cyanobacteria and Nate said yes, but some, anatoxin-a, is hard to test for because it degrades so easily. Nutrients and temperature are the main ingredients for HAB's development. Tony asked if the data can show where toxin sources are? Nate said that some watersheds are small and high in agriculture, but they run slow in summer. Roxy added that nutrient cycling and nitrogen play a big part also.

**Agenda Item 4 – Cayuga Lake Watershed Network – Hilary Lambert, David Wolfe.**

Hilary has attended CWIO meetings for about 10 years and has been the Watershed Steward for CLWN for 12 years. She is now retiring. David Wolfe is the new Chair of the Board of Directors for CLWN.

CLWN has been involved with CWIO for quite a while--Hilary helped with the 2001 Cayuga Lake Characterization, the Restoration and Protection Plans, and lately has been involved with the reorganization of CWIO. She will be working for CLWN for a few more months and will be available for consultation after since she knows so much about Cayuga Lake. Hilary used this time to ask for help with the flooding that has been occurring around the shoreline of Cayuga Lake this summer and fall. People are calling CLWN asking for help since there has been house flooding, docks have floated away, and some lost their beaches. There has not been any kind of declaration of a disaster area, but people need help. Hilary is looking for suggestions on what and where they can get help. She said Bill Kappel, a retired USGS scientist, will give a presentation on flooding in Cayuga Lake. People can also check out presentation called "[The Ups and Downs of Cayuga Lake](#)".

Then she introduced Dave Wolfe as the next Chair of the Board of Directors of CLWN. He is a retired Cornell professor of plant and soil ecology. He met with Liz Thomas to explore potential areas of collaboration between CLWN and CWIO. He identified a year-long climate study and considers it a major priority for CLWN. Tom said Cayuga Lake is the lowest of the Finger Lakes and Lake Ontario is only about 100 feet lower and can back up quickly itself, so there is no place for the water to go; most of the public are surprised to find out that Cayuga Lake flows North

**Agenda Item 5 – CIPA Survey - Julia Selby, for the members Jingni Zhang, Lyuan Han, and Carrie Spanton**

Julia is a master student in the Cornell Institute of Public Affairs (CIPA) and worked with Tee Ann to see what policies, legislation, and practices that are protective of water quality are being used by municipalities around the lake. This information is in the 2001 Cayuga Lake Characterization report but needs updating. Julia reminded everyone to answer the survey they sent out, it is due November 22nd, just before Thanksgiving. Only 16 municipalities have sent it in out of 57 around the lake.

**Agenda Item 6 – Website Request for Proposals**

Liz said the CWIO website is still down. She has been trying to see if an IT person on staff of a CWIO member municipality could help, but that avenue has not worked. There is ~\$3,300 remaining from the Park Foundation Organizational Grant. Those funds can be used for updating the website if they are committed before December 31. Roxy Johnston drafted an RFP to rebuild the website including a content management system to make it easier to update information on the site. The RFP has a not-to-exceed amount of \$11,000.

Jerry Codner has been paying the \$100 annual fee for the <http://www.cayugawatershed.org> domain name for years for CWIO, and has a repair request in to get the site back up. The website has been managed by Central NY Regional Planning and Development Board for now as part of the CWIO Department of State Grant to identify projects, but once that grant is completed, CWIO will need to find a different way to maintain a site.

Liz offered that either CWIO, as a whole, can choose a web developer, or they can authorize the CWIO Executive Committee to do so on their behalf.

**Resolution to Approve a Request for Proposals for CWIO Website Improvements**

**WHEREAS** having a functional website for CWIO is essential as part of effective communications; and

**WHEREAS** the current website is being managed as part of the NYS DOS grant—a service that is limited and will soon end; and

**WHEREAS** the current website is down and needs rebuilding/updating to make it functional, user friendly, and easier to edit; and

**WHEREAS** the Park Foundation grant which ends in December 2021 has allowed the remaining \$3,337.64 to be used on a website if committed by the end of 2021.

**Therefore, be it**

**RESOLVED** that CWIO approves the request for proposals (RFP) to hire a consultant to rebuild/update the CWIO website as discussed at the CWIO meeting on 11/17/21 and

**RESOLVED** that CWIO authorizes the Executive Committee to select a web developer based on proposals that meet the RFP requirements.

Moved: Tom Vawter                      Seconded: Mitch Rowe                      Vote: Unanimous

**Agenda Item 7 – Work Plan, Budget, and Committee Nominees**

Goals from the 2021 Work Plan were achieved. The CWIO has a list of projects, worked on organization with the Consensus Building Institute, worked on an updated budget and got a (part-time) watershed manager. There is also good progress on setting up a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), with the revised bylaws allowing more flexibility for participation on CWIO’s committees.

The following resolutions were voted on and approved on 11/17/21:

[Resolved that the Town of Ithaca is approved by the Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization \(CWIO\) to be the official \*Administrative Center\* for 2022 as is specified by the CWIO bylaws.](#)

Moved by: Roxanna Johnston                      Seconded by: Amanda Champion                      Vote: Unanimous.

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2022 BUDGET**

[BE IT RESOLVED that CWIO approves the Proposed 2022 Cayuga Lake Watershed Budget as submitted.](#)

2022 BUDGET		Est EOY Balance:	
	Income	Expenses	
2022 Dues from municipalities (estimated)	\$32,511		\$98,154
Contracted work for watershed management (2022)		\$18,000	\$80,154
Education and Outreach (estimates)		\$7,000	\$73,154
Website	\$3,300	\$11,000	\$65,454
Project support		\$8,000	\$57,454
Other (zoom license, admin, postage)		\$3,000	\$54,454

Moved by: Roxanna Johnston                      Seconded by: Tony Del Plato  
Vote in favor: unanimous

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CWIO ANNUAL WORK PLAN – 2022**

RESOLVED that the Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization membership adopts the following CWIO work plan for 2022.

<b>GOAL</b>
<b>Increase membership and engagement of municipalities</b> within the watershed by meeting with municipalities directly to describe the goals and benefits of the IO.
<b>Analyze financial needs</b> of the IO, including the future hiring of a <i>Staff Director/Watershed Manager</i> . Make recommendation to the <i>Executive Committee</i> for dues for CWIO members.
<b>Recommend projects for implementation</b> Review the existing list of prioritized projects that would be beneficial to water quality. Solicit any additional project ideas from CWIO and CWIO partners. Recommend to CWIO a minimum of 2 projects to pursue based on impact on the lake and resources available for implementation.
<b>Establish or maintain connection with other entities working on water quality</b> , especially county-wide water quality groups; municipalities in the watershed; county departments with responsibilities for health, safety and welfare of the community; water quality community advocacy groups such as the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network.
<b>Oversee scope of work for Watershed Manager</b> Depending on funds received from dues and grants, the Executive Committee and CWIO will oversee the scope of work for a Watershed Manager.
<b>Recommend projects to progress forward</b> Review existing projects list. Recommend to CWIO a minimum of 2 projects to pursue based on impact on the lake and resources available for implementation.
<b>Update Website</b> to be able to include more information and allow for a set of CWIO members to post and edit pages. <b>Educate and increase awareness of those within the watershed</b> on issues affecting water quality. <b>Support at least one education event.</b> Investigate the possibility of enlisting assistance from the existing groups doing education and outreach for the watershed. Suggestions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• County-wide Water Resource Councils,</li> <li>• County-wide Health Depts and/or Planning Departments</li> <li>• County Soil and Water Conservation District offices,</li> <li>• Volunteer and advocacy organizations such as the CLWN or CSI, CLEAN</li> <li>• Finger Lakes Hub.</li> <li>• Discover Cayuga</li> </ul> Develop guidelines for educational funding requests and establish deadline for applications.
<b>Update CWIO and watershed partners about water quality protection work going on within the watershed.</b>
If funds are available, <b>consider supporting monitoring efforts</b> throughout the watershed. If not, enlist municipalities to become part of on-going monitoring efforts.
Review work done by the Cornell Institute of Public Administration reviewing local laws and regulations already enacted by municipalities. <b>Encourage municipalities to adopt water protective regulations.</b> Work with and Leverage resources our state and federal representatives to help achieve the RPP goals.

<b>GOAL</b>
Increase connections with <b>state and federal contacts and representatives</b> to help achieve common goals of preserving and protecting water quality.

Moved by: Tom Vawter

Seconded by: Tony Del Plato

Vote in favor: unanimous

**RESOLVED** that the Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization will meet on the

January 26, February 23, March 23, April 27, May 25, June 22., July 27, August 24, September 28, October 26, Nov 16 (not 23), Dec 14 (not 21)

Moved by: Roxanna Johnston

Seconded by: Mike Allinger

Vote In favor: unanimous

**Agenda Item 8 – Chair Report –**

- Olivia Green from the Nature Conservancy presented at the Finger Lakes Regional Watershed Alliance meeting in November about their efforts and successes at permanently preserving lands important for water quality through acquisition. She is very involved in the Owasco Lake watershed work.
- Camp Barton Boy Scout Camp update – the Scouts plan to sell 39 acres along route 89 for development. They also plan to sell about 6-11 acres of waterfront on the north part of the camp. They are working with the Towns of Ulysses and Covert and the Village of Trumansburg on an agreement that would allow the Scouts to still run their camp on the 90-acre core, along with some public uses.
- The grant proposal to help fund a watershed manager was submitted.
- Response to requests to be on the Technical Advisory Committee have been good but need someone from at least one SWCD office.

**Agenda Item 9 - Committee Reports –**

Executive Committee - They worked on the Park Foundation Grant to partially fund a Watershed manager and helped with the RFP for the CWIO website.

EPPOC – no report

Membership Committee – no report

Ag Committee – no report

Finance Committee – on pause for now.

**Agenda Item 10 – General Announcements – None**

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

Moved: Tee-Ann Hunter

Seconded: Amanda Champion

Submitted by Jackie Cassaniti