

**Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization (CWIO)**  
**Wednesday, December 15, 2021 at 7pm**  
**Held Via ZOOM**

**Minutes**

**Voting Members Present:**

Michelle Henry, Tony Del Plato, Tee-Ann Hunter, Stephanie Redmond, Don Slocum, Liz Thomas, Bob Hayssen, Roxanne Marino, Mitch Rowe, Carolyn Greenwald, Anne Koreman

**Stakeholders and Partners Present:**

Nathaniel Launer, Margaret Johnson, Darby Kiley, Aaron McKeon, Keith Batman, Mary Jump, Shawn Murphy, Holly Payne, Seth Lutter

**Agenda Item – 1 Call to Order**

Liz introduced Seth Lutter from Cornell’s NYS Water Resources Institute at the Biological Environmental and Engineering Department and Mary Jump, Seneca County Director of Environmental Services for the Health Department. Seth and Mary have volunteered to be on CWIO committees and started in September of 2021.

**Agenda Item – 2 Approval of the Minutes and Financial Report**

Motion made by Tee-Ann Hunter, to accept the minutes and financial report (\$65,648.40 Nov) as submitted, seconded by Don Slocum; Unanimous.

**Agenda Item – 3 Department of State Grant update**

Aaron McKeon has taken over for Kathy Bertuch; Kate Hogle from DOS and Aaron McKeon from CNYRPDB looked over the files Kathy submitted for the project and a public meeting to present the projects will be scheduled sometime in late February. Aaron may ask municipalities for help in understanding and presenting the rankings and Liz and Hilary Lambert of CLWN are willing to help promote this “living list” and public outreach effort.

**Agenda Item – 4 Website Update**

The website was set up by CNYRDB at the beginning of the DOS grant and needs to be updated and expanded. Roxy and Liz sent out a request for proposals to 13 web developers and 8 responded, 5 were interviewed.

The EC would like to have pictures of Cayuga Lake and any other items of interest from members for use on updating and expanding the website. Hilary Lambert will be reviewing the very old archived website for pertinent information to include on the new website, but other submissions are welcomed for review.

There is approximately \$3,000 left in the Park Foundation Grant funds remaining from the organizational assessment grant held by Aurora for work on the website and the EC would like

authorization to select the website developer and move forward utilizing those funds and will ask the chosen developer to present to the Organization.

**CWIO Resolution 2021-12 #4: Authorization to select and fund website developer.**

Resolved that the CWIO hereby authorizes the Executive Committee to select a website developer and execute any necessary contracts for the update and development of the CWIO website utilizing the remaining Park Foundation Grant fund held by the Town of Aurora, not to exceed \$3,337.64.

Moved: Liz Thomas                      Seconded: Tony Del Plato

Vote: Unanimous

**Agenda Item – 5 Watershed Manager Update**

Good News! The Park Foundation granted the CWIO \$180,000 over two years (\$90,000/year) for support of a Watershed Manager (Manager).

This will allow CWIO to hire the Manager in 2022 as the new dues structure is rolled out to supplement later years support for the Manager. The funds will be available in a week.

**Discussion**

Many questions about the watershed manager need to be answered prior to hiring such as: where will they be housed? Who will conduct the interviews, the amount of pay and benefits, where to advertise the position, and what will the final job description be? (A draft job description was adopted in August.)

Lisa Cleckner from the Finger Lakes Institute (FLI) suggested extending the current agreement with Ian Smith and said she could help with the interviews, as well as Darby Kiley and Ian Smith.

Ian did a lot of work for CWIO as a part-time watershed manager in 2021, and we want him to follow through on the Slaterville Road-Six Mile Creek Project (was funded) and the ditch assessment tool and CWIO wants to extend his part-position into 2022 to be able to complete these projects and help orient a new Watershed Manager. Ian has agreed to be on the Technical Advisory Committee and has done some work on the TMDL information for Cayuga Lake.

Darby reported that a list of projects that were funded was published on the Ithaca Voice and projects of note are: a CFA grant for the Town of Fayette for road drainage assessment for \$168,750 and a HUD Community Development Block Grant for the Village Of Interlaken for \$1,250,000 to update their sewer plant.

Liz stated that these successful grant proposals are inspirational examples for CWIO municipalities to see what is possible.

**CWIO Resolution 2021-12 #5: Authorization to pay Finger Lakes Institute for acting Watershed Manager – Ian Smith**

RESOLVED, the Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization (CWIO) approves payment to the Finger Lakes Institute (FLI) for 88 hours of Watershed Management work done by Ian Smith in the amount of \$3,960 in accordance with the agreement between FLI and CWIO covering the time period 4/1/2021 to 9/30/2021.

Moved: Don Slocum  
Vote: Unanimous

Seconded: Tee Ann Hunter

## **Agenda Item – 6 Committee Nominations and Appointments**

### *Executive Committee*

#### **CWIO Resolution 2021-12 #6a: Election of CWIO Chair and Vice Chair, and appointments to the Executive Committee for 2022**

Whereas, the Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization (CWIO) is made up of representatives of dues-paying member municipalities; and

Whereas, according to its bylaws the CWIO shall elect a Chair and Vice Chair annually from among its voting members, the duties of the Chair shall be to preside at all meetings of the CWIO and the CWIO Executive Committee and work closely with CWIO staff to set agendas from these groups, and the duties of the Vice Chair shall be to assist the Chair and, in the absence of the Chair, act as Chair; and

Whereas, according to its bylaws the CWIO Executive Committee shall be comprised of at least 4 voting CWIO representatives and/or alternates of CWIO voting members, at least 3 of the ExCom members should come from the three waterfront counties, and the CWIO appoints the Executive Committee for a one-year term at the organizational meetings of the CWIO occurring at the end of each year, to take effect the following January 1; and

Whereas, requests for nominations and volunteers were made at the September, October, and November meetings of the CWIO for those interested in serving on CWIO Standing Committees, including the Executive, Finance, Membership and Nominating, Education, Public Participation and Outreach, and Technical Advisory Committee, and the Chair of the CWIO and one member from each of the Standing Committees shall be members of the Executive Committee; and

Whereas, the Membership Committee recognizes the outstanding work of the 2021 Executive Committee and recommends the appointment of interested Executive Committee members and the nomination Liz Thomas and Roxy Johnston as 2022 Chair and Vice Chair, respectfully; now therefore be it

Resolved, the Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization hereby elects Liz Thomas (Tompkins County) and Roxy Johnston (Tompkins County) to serve as CWIO Chair and Vice Chair respectfully, for January 1 to December 31, 2022, and be it further

Resolved, the Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization hereby appoints the following people to serve on the CWIO Executive Committee for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2022:

Tee-Ann Hunter (Cayuga)      Ann Balloni (Cayuga)      Cynthia Brock (Tompkins)  
Tony Del Plato (Seneca)      Darby Kiley (Tompkins)

Moved by: Don Slocum      Seconded by: Mitch Rowe

Vote: ayes – Stephanie Redmond, Don Slocum, Roxanne Marino, Anne Koreman, Carolyn Greenwald, Bob Hayssen, Mitch Rowe      nays – None

Abstentions: Liz Thomas, Tee-Ann Hunter, Tony Del Plato.

***Technical Advisory Committee:*** The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) recommends watershed priority projects and makes recommendations to the CWIO on requests for funding among other tasks. 3 Members are required. Members of the TAC are not required to be voting members of CWIO. (Art. IV, §5.a.)

**CWIO Resolution 2021-12 #6a: Appointment of CWIO 2022 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Members**

Resolved that the Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization membership appoints the following people to the Technical Advisory Committee for 2022:

David Eckhardt – Cayuga County and former USGS  
Mary Jump – Seneca County Health Department  
Nathaniel Launer – Community Science Institute  
Darby Kiley – Tompkins County Planning  
Roxanna Johnston – City of Ithaca Drinking Water Facility  
Shawn Murphy – Cortland SWCD office  
Ian Smith – Watershed Manager for Seneca Lake

Moved: Liz Thomas      Seconded: Don Slocum

Vote: ayes – Unanimous

***EPPOC:*** Three members required with at least one voting CWIO member. (Art. IV, §4. a.)

**CWIO Resolution 2021-12 #6c: Appointment of CWIO 2022 Education, Public Participation, & Outreach Committee (EPPOC) Members**

Resolved that the Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization appoints the following people to be the Education and Outreach Committee for 2022:

Michelle Wunderlich      Liz Thomas

Roxanne Marino

Seth Lutter

Moved: Tee-Ann Hunter

Seconded: Don Slocum

Vote: ayes – Michelle Henry, Anne Koreman, Carolyn Greenwald, Mitch Rowe, Don Slocum, Stephanie Redmond, Tee-Ann Hunter, Tony Del Plato and Bob Hayssen. Nays – none  
Abstention: Liz Thomas

***Finance Committee:*** Three voting CWIO members/alternate members required (Art. IV, §2.a.)

**CWIO Resolution 2021-12 #6d: Appointment of CWIO 2022 Finance Committee Members**

Resolved that the Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization appoints the following people to the Finance Committee for 2022:

Tom Vawter

Dave Sprout

Liz Thomas

Moved: Michelle Henry

Seconded: Don Slocum

Vote: ayes – Michelle Henry, Anne Koreman, Carolyn Greenwald, Mitch Rowe, Don Slocum, Stephanie Redmond, Tee-Ann Hunter, Tony Del Plato, Bob Hayssen nays – None  
Abstentions: Liz Thomas

***M&N Committee:*** Three voting CWIO members/alternates required (Art. IV, §3.a.)

**CWIO Resolution 2021-12 #6e: Appointment of CWIO 2022 Membership and Nominating Committee Members**

Resolved that the Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization appoints the following people to the Membership and Nominating Committee for 2022:

Ann Balloni (Cayuga Co)

Cynthia Brock (Tompkins Co)

Tony Del Plato (Seneca Co)

Moved: Liz Thomas

Seconded: Tee-Ann Hunter

Vote: ayes – Unanimous

**CWIO Resolution 2021-12 #6f: Appointment of CWIO 2022 Agricultural Committee Members**

Resolved that the Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization appoints the following people to the Agriculture Committee for 2022

Farmers:

Kelly O’Hara

Erica Frenay

Paul Fouts

Jason Turek                      Cameron Hosmer

Municipal Government, Soil & Water and others with knowledge and expertise with agricultural processes:

Erin Kurtz	Justin Olson	Judy Wright
Doug Kierst	Shawn Murphy	Amanda Barber
Jerry Verrigni	Erin Peruzzini	Jon Negley
Paul Gier	Quirine Ketterings	Brian Boerman

Move: Liz Thomas                      Seconded: Tony Del Plato

Vote: ayes – Unanimous

**CWIO Resolution 2021-12 #6g: Appointment of CWIO 2022 Associate and Ex-Officio Member Appointments**

Whereas, per CWIO Bylaws, in order to encourage participation from those with special knowledge or expertise in water quality protection and preservation efforts, individuals may apply to the CWIO Membership/Nominating Committee to be an associate or ex officio member and may approve applications for these memberships, and

Whereas, once accepted/appointed, associate and ex officio members serve two-year terms that may be renewed, may participate in CWIO discussions, and serve on committees, ex officio or associate members shall be non-voting, are not required to pay fees for membership, but on a CWIO committee they may vote and serve as committee chair, and

Whereas, in November and December of 2021, the Membership/Nominating Committee made a public appeal for applications, will approve applications for these memberships, and received several applications, and

Whereas, on December 13, 2021, the Membership/Nominating Committee reviewed the applications received and approved the slate for Associate and Ex-officio membership consisting of:

Associate Member - Robert Meek

Ex Officio Members - Michele Wunderlich, Eileen O'Connor, Shawn Murphy and Seth Lutter

Now therefore be it

Resolved, that the Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization accepts the slate of Associate and Ex officio Members as submitted.

Moved: Tony Del Plato                      Seconded: Don Slocum

Vote: ayes – Unanimous

### **Agenda Item – 7 Chair Report**

Liz reported that the budget will be reviewed in January and the dues letters, Memorandum of Agreement and link to the Bylaws will be going out soon.

Bell Station land auction was cancelled. The Finger Lakes Land Trust plans to eventually have ownership in cooperation with the DEC and be made into a public wildlife management area.

Liz met with the CLWN Board of Directors to talk about the coordination of watershed efforts and met their new Steward, Elizabeth Kreitinger, who will start work in February.

The CWIO Executive Committee met with Cornell Institute of Public Affairs (CIPA) students who are working to update parts of the local law section of the Cayuga Lake Characterization from 2001. The student report provides model laws and regulations and the following recommendations for CWIO:

1. Educate municipal officials and the public about why water quality regulations are important
2. Provide clear guidance of standards that we are trying to achieve (it would help if the TMDL for Cayuga Lake was in place)
3. Coordinate municipalities getting together
4. Educate municipalities on the importance of comprehensive plans, including water preservation as part of those plans

It is possible that future groups of CIPA students will continue this work.

### **Agenda Item - 8 Committee Reports – None**

**Agenda Item – 9 General Announcements** - Liz has asked the county soil and water departments to make a presentation to the CWIO in January. .

### **Agenda Item-10 Adjournment**

Moved: Tony Del Plato

Seconded: Don Slocum

Vote: Unanimous

Submitted by Liz Thomas, Paulette Rosa and Jackie Cassaniti