

Cayuga Watershed Manager Quarterly Report

Funding: Park Foundation Grant

Progress Report: August 1 – September 30, 2022

Submitted to:
CWIO Executive Committee
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SUMMARY

The Cayuga Watershed Manager (CWM) began on August 1st and has since focused efforts on familiarizing herself with CWIO organizational materials and history as well as reviewing watershed plans and data and reviewing project (both past and presently submitted for the Local Waterfront Restoration Project which reviewed and ranked projects submitted to the IO. Additionally, the CWM began meeting with jurisdictions to review possible projects and discuss priorities and this work will continue into the next quarter as the CWM seeks to further prioritize projects for funding matches and implementation. Lastly, not listed in this report are the various webinars, papers, plans, and books that the CWM has read since day one to get up to speed on BMPs, Cayuga Lake history, and water quality issues in the watershed. That information can be provided at request.

DELIVERABLES:

1. Identifying and updating on the status of priority water quality improvement projects.

<i>Task</i>	<i>Status</i>
Meeting with POCs with county agencies and municipalities who submitted projects for the Local Waterfront Restoration Project ranking and assessment.	In progress – of the 20 ranked projects, all have been discussed with POCs/those familiar with the project(s).

2. Encouraging, facilitating, and coordinating inter-municipal and inter-agency partnerships to accomplish regional water resource initiatives that protect and preserve water quality.

<i>Task</i>	<i>Status</i>
Regular (quarterly) meetings with CLWN Steward and CSI Executive Director to review goals and opportunities.	In progress – 1 meeting held, 1 planned for November
Attending meetings with CWIO Chair and CLWN Steward and leadership to increase collaboration.	In progress – 1 meeting held, 1 postponed
WRI-led Monthly Ditch Management Meetings	In progress – 1 meeting attended (conflict with August meeting)
FLRWA Bi-Monthly Meeting	Attended September meeting (virtually)

3. Initiating and advancing water quality improvement projects that support the strategies identified in Cayuga Lake Watershed Restoration and Protection Plan, the Harmful Algal Bloom Action Plan or other plans officially recognized by the state or CWIO that address water quality issues.

<i>Task</i>	<i>Status</i>
Established meetings with points of contact who submitted projects on the 2022 Cayuga Lake Watershed Ranked Best Management Practices Projects listing. Remaining POCs to set meetings with are: Lodi, Seneca County SWCD, Cortland County SWCD,	In progress – Of the 20 ranked projects that have been addressed (thru Oct 7 th), 3 are completed, 4 are identified for funding/awarded and moving toward construction (including one unranked project), 1 was recently denied funding (but will reapply next round and likely be selected), and 2 are in progress where there are meetings that have been held to identify project scope and possible funding sources. Additionally, 1 is ready to go, however a landowner is holding up the project, and 1 was noted to possibly be not worth pursuing (see attachment for details).
Cayuga Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations	In progress - Identifying state funding for planning grants to analyze current regulations in place in the watershed (using template and analysis process from Seneca – Keuka 9E).
Village of Interlaken/Seneca SWCD – Retention Pond/Stream Stabilizaiton	In progress – Met with both stakeholders separately to gain background on the project possibilities and past work. Next step to identify possible work and possible funding streams and bring stakeholders together for a meeting.
Town of Ithaca/Tompkins SWCD – Multiple Projects	In progress – Site visit with Tompkins SWCD (including PT Engineer) and Town of Ithaca Public Works planned for Oct 13 th .
Ulysses Ditch Management Remediation Project	In progress – Held one kick-off meeting and organized a follow-up meeting with the Town and Dr. Rebecca Schneider for Oct 11 th .

4. Identifying and pursuing sources of funding to support actions that preserve and protect waters within the watershed.

<i>Task</i>	<i>Status</i>
Research and organize funding in order better assist municipalities.	In progress – working on a database/catalog of sorts to track various funding sources and general eligibility, work area and timelines to make it easier to match project to funding. Additionally, a pair to this resource is a document which compiles all of the possible supporting documentation which may be needed for a grant request.
Meeting with County SWCD and Planning Departments to learn more about funding sources they are leveraging for what project types and processes for municipalities to obtain funds for projects through them.	In progress - Met with Seneca SWCD, Tompkins SWCD. Have a meeting in mid-Oct with Cayuga Planning. Did also learn more about funding streams like FLOWPA from a meeting with NYSDEC Finger Lakes Hub.
Attend Grant Webinars	Attended grant informational webinars for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) FY22 Forest Restoration program, FEMA Building Resilient

	Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) and Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA), Freshwater Futures.

5. Assisting municipalities to prepare grant applications, administer, and manage grant requirements.

<i>Task</i>	<i>Status</i>
Not yet applicable.	

6. Encouraging the adoption of local land use regulations and best management practices throughout the watershed that will protect and improve water quality within the Cayuga Lake watershed.

<i>Task</i>	<i>Status</i>
Planning meeting with Seneca IO and Owasco Manager to discuss a checklist for municipalities	Not yet started.

7. Attending Cayuga Watershed IO meetings including monthly intermunicipal meeting, weekly executive committee meetings, and other meetings with stakeholders as needed.

<i>Task</i>	<i>Status</i>
Monthly CWIO Meetings	August, September, and planning October's
TAC Meetings	August, September, Oct site visit
EPPOC Meetings	Attended September meeting and additional discussions regarding outreach to State Senator Anna Kelles and US Senator Schumer
State Outreach Committee Meetings	Attended one meeting.
Tompkins County Water Resources Council	August meet-up/tour of Stewart Park, September meeting.
Cayuga County WQMA Meeting	August and September meetings
Weekly Executive Committee Meetings	Attended all thus far (minus one, conflict with a SWCD meeting)

8. Networking with other regional watershed managers to share best practices, disseminate information, and build more collaborative partnerships including development and execution of a long-term funding model for the CWM position.

<i>Task</i>	<i>Status</i>
Seneca Watershed Steward (Ian Smith)	Weekly to bi-weekly meetings with FLI staff and meet separately on watershed projects as needed.
Owasco Lake ED (Adam Effler)	One one-on-one meeting, additionally I attended the Owasco Lake meetings (agency and association in August and September).
NYS DEC Finger Lakes Hub (Aimee C, Tony P)	Introductory meeting where I was able to learn about projects, agency organization/structure, oversight, and processes of the hub.
Skaneateles Lake Association	Attended annual meeting in August.
Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council (Kevin Olvany)	Not yet started.

PROJECTS:

Project Name & Description	Grant/Funding Source	Cost Estimate	Timeline
See attached spreadsheet.			

County-by-County Breakdown:

Cayuga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended monthly WQMA meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Participating on the Outreach committee (newsletter development) • Planned meeting with Cayuga County planning in mid-Oct. • Attended 1 Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council Meeting (virtual). • Attended 2 Owasco Watershed Lake Association meetings (virtual).
Cortland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connected with SWCD to update progress on projects submitted to CWIO for ranking and assessment project.
Schuyler	None
Seneca	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oct 4 meeting to discuss ditch project (SWIO & Seneca SWCD) and possibility of picking up the water quality committee meetings again for the county. • Oct 13 Seneca County Fall Ag Tour, Oct 17 TAC and Exec Committee tour of VanRiper project. • Meeting with Village of Interlaken Mayor and Water Commissioner regarding project 23a. • Conducted outreach to Seneca STEPS to join the E3 (Educational, Economic, Environment) Working Group (follow-up still needed).
Tioga	None
Tompkins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended Water Quality Council meetings. • Attended Stormwater Coalition of Tompkins County. • Met with SWCD in early October. • Met with Town of Ithaca regarding submitted, ranked projects, and planned a site visit for October 13th. • Met with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Tompkins County to discuss PES and my position priorities and CWIO goals. • Corresponded with Town of Lansing Planning Department regarding status of submitted projects (Salmon Creek Stabilization, Myers

	Park). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended meetings and site visits with Town of Ithaca and Seneca Watershed Steward regarding Six Mile Creek Vineyard project.
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CWIO GOALS: 2022

Below are the CWIO goals.

GOAL
<p>1. Increase membership and engagement of municipalities within the watershed by meeting with municipalities directly to describe the goals and benefits of the IO.</p>
<p>2. Analyze financial needs 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.</p>
<p>3. Recommend projects for implementation</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>4. Establish or maintain connection with other entities working on water quality, 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.</p>
<p>5. Oversee scope of work for Watershed Manager</p> <p>Depending on funds received from dues and grants, the Executive Committee and CWIO will oversee the scope of work for a Watershed Manager.</p>
<p>6. Recommend projects to progress forward</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>7. Update Website to be able to include more information and allow for a set of CWIO members to post and edit pages.</p> <p>7a. Educate and increase awareness of those within the watershed on issues affecting water quality.</p> <p>Support at least one education event.</p> <p>Investigate the possibility of enlisting assistance from the existing groups doing education and outreach for the watershed. Suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County-wide Water Resource Councils,

GOAL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County-wide Health Depts and/or Planning Departments • County Soil and Water Conservation District offices, • Volunteer and advocacy organizations such as the CLWN or CSI, CLEAN • Finger Lakes Hub. • Discover Cayuga <p>Develop guidelines for educational funding requests and establish deadline for applications.</p>
8. Update CWIO and watershed partners about water quality protection work going on within the watershed.
9. If funds are available, consider supporting monitoring efforts throughout the watershed. If not, enlist municipalities to become part of on-going monitoring efforts.
10. Review work done by the Cornell Institute of Public Administration reviewing local laws and regulations already enacted by municipalities. Encourage municipalities to adopt water protective regulations. Work with and Leverage resources our state and federal representatives to help achieve the RPP goals.
11. Leverage connections with state and federal contacts and representatives to help achieve common goals of preserving and protecting water quality.

The CWM is working to support the goals for 2022. The CWM is focusing most of her time in support of goals #3, #4, and #6. The CWM is also pursuing goal #1 through participation on the Membership Committee and through speaking on the organization's goals to municipalities during project and priorities meeting/introductory meetings with municipalities and county officials.

In support of goal #4 specifically, the CWM has regular meetings with the CLWN Steward and the CSI Executive Director to discuss collaboration opportunities and goals. Additionally, the CWM attends water quality group meetings in Tompkins County and Cayuga County, attends neighboring lake meetings (Owasco, Skaneateles), and occasional federal, municipal, and/or county meetings (as applicable/if/when water quality topics are on the agenda).

The CWM also looks to support goal #9 through regular meetings with CLWN and CSI leadership, and in November a site tour of CSI and further training on understating the water quality database for Cayuga Lake.