



Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization (CWIO)

Wednesday, September 28, 2022

Held VIA ZOOM

Minutes

Members, Associate Members, and Ex-Officio Members Present: Susan Ainslie, Mike Allinger, Annie Bastoni, Jackie Cassaniti, Tony DelPlato, Tee-Ann Hunter, Roxy Johnston, Darby Kiley, Seth Lutter, Roxanne Marino, Erin Norris, Kelly O'Hara, Mitch Rowe, Don Slocum, Dave Sprout, Liz Thomas, Michele Wunderlich

Stakeholders, Partners, and Committee Members Present: Ian Smith, Tony Prestigiacomo, Grascen Shidemantle, Rebecca Minas, Doug Barnes.

Agenda Item 2: Resolution to approve minutes and monthly financial report and payment of bill

***RESOLVED** that the CWIO approves the financial report ending 8/31/22 with a balance of \$182,256.49*

Moved: Don Slocum Seconded: Susan Ainslie Vote in favor: unanimous.

***RESOLVED** that CWIO approves the reimbursement payment of \$237.46 to Elizabeth Thomas for refreshments for the CWIO in-person meeting on 8/24/22*

Moved: Mike Allinger Seconded: Don Slocum Vote in favor: unanimous.

***RESOLVED** that the CWIO designates the Executive Committee to approve website work performed by Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board (CNYRPDB) at the quoted 2022 rate of \$51/hour, not to exceed \$60/hour in the future, or \$1500 in total, nor extend beyond 12/31/23*

Moved: Tony Del Plato Seconded: Susan Ainslie Vote in favor: unanimous

Agenda item 3: Finger Lakes Hub – Tony Prestigiacomo

The Finger Lakes HUB was established in 2016 by Gov. Cuomo, Tony works in regions 7 and 8 and is based in Syracuse; he works with Cayuga, Owasco Keuka and Canandaigua Lakes. There are links and resources at <https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/122661.html>. There you can find a CSLAP dashboard demo, the NYSDEC-DOW monitoring portal, clean water planning as well as help with making 9-E plans. Also, the DEC HAB's research guide is online and in-lake mitigation treatment options in progress. There are links to non-DEC sites such as FLOWPA. You can contact Tony at 315-4267452.

Questions: Liz: What is CSLAP (Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program)? Tony: It is trained citizen scientists who monitor the lakes, there is a new dashboard built last year, (ex.) Cayuga Lake at site 4 gives lots of information.

Roxy Johnston: Are there samples of lakes in winter also? Tony: Yes, but didn't do all The research yet.

Roxy: How are the HAB's data points helpful? Tony: CSLAP Is instrumental in state HAB's action plan.

Darby: Is there an easy way to share information of all the studies? Tony: There is access to a tracking system, but not sure if he can share it yet. Liz added that any information would be helpful, especially to see what has already been done.

Liz: Before Covid, FLI (with the HUB involved) had an annual conference, will it happen again in the future? Tony: That is a question for Lisa Cleckner. Ian added that there was an international HAB's conference in Albany this year. Liz wanted to know if there was information specific to Cayuga Lake.

Grascen: Where do you see gaps in database that needs to be filled? Tony: He likes decisions to be data-driven.

Liz: Can CWIO help you or how can you help CWIO? Tony: You can check out the available fund sites.

Liz: If the Bond Act passes in November, maybe there will be a lot of extra money in the pipeline, how can organizations get it? Tony: Organizations will be made aware when it happens.

Roxy: How will the HUB handle HAB's research? Tony: Check the sources guides, among other places. The HUB will have lots of information collected in many streams and water area. Roxy: Will you check all the data? Tony: Yes.

Liz: Any news of the TMDL? Tony: The response to the comments is being reviewed, not released yet.

Darby: Do you collaborate with the Great Lakes Program? Tony: The HUB is not in the GLP, but we talk to them about technical science questions. We are involved with FLLOPA, but are not in their program.

Roxy: Will anything change to get funds from the GLP? Tony: He said he doesn't do a lot with funding, reach out to Ryan Elliot to see how it could be better. Ian said he has a program now with the Great Lakes Commission that involves both Cayuga and Seneca Lakes.

Darby: Why do you not include the Seneca River with Cayuga Lake? Tony: This will be answered in the TMDL comments.

Tony then sent a copy of the links he provided and referred to:

- FLW Hub Website <https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/122661.html>
- NYSDEC DOW monitoring portal <https://nysdec.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=692b72ae03f14508a0de97488e142ae1>
- CSLAP dashboard- DEMO <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/c32878596a0a47deb5f97ea5e07ec9c5>
- CSLAP <https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/81576.html>
- HABS, NYHABS <https://nysdec.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=ae91142c812a4ab997ba739ed9723e6e>
- Clean Water Plans <https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/23835.html>

- DEC HABs Research guide: https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/water_pdf/researchguide.pdf
- HAB Action Plans <https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/113733.html>
- HABs In-Lake Mitigation <https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/120970.html>
- Water Quality Standards Program <https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/23853.html>
- Quality Assurance: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/23850.html>
- CALM https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/water_pdf/calmmay2021.pdf
- FLOWPA <http://www.followpa.org/>
- DOWinformation@dec.ny.gov

Agenda item 4: Letter of Appreciation for Hilary Lambert

Hilary Lambert was the CLWN steward for many years and has helped the CWIO in many ways. Some of the things she has done for CWIO were: helped update the RPP, helped with the organizational assessment and the new website, assisted with the HAB's monitoring work and interpreting it for the public; and she set up the Hydrilla hunters.

RESOLVED that CWIO approves the letter of appreciation for Hilary Lambert for all the work she has done on behalf of the Cayuga Lake Watershed as her role of Watershed Steward for the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network.

Moved: Roxy Johnston Seconded: Susan Ainslie Vote in favor: unanimous

Agenda item 5: Watershed Manager Report – Erin Norris

Erin started on August first, 2022 and lives and will work in Geneva, NY at the FLI along with Ian Smith. Her current goals are

Integration: get to know the data of the Cayuga Lake Watershed and how it operates, as well as funding programs.

Collaboration: go to meetings with other organizations and municipalities, visit sites and check the research that has been done, as well as check the ranked programs.

Execution: diving into the projects; why were some advancing and the challenges for those that have not. Out of 20, she has checked 10 and is currently looking at 5 more. She will continue to work on the project list. Her email is NORRIS@hws.edu

Ian Smith also had a report on the tributary by Six Mile Creek Winery funded by the Tompkins County non-point, nonagricultural Planning Grant, about 12 firms have shown interest in doing the work, we should have an engineer in a couple of weeks. Also, the Seneca-Cayuga ditch/culvert assessment tool is moving ahead, he is working with Erin Norris and the Seneca County Soil and Water Conservation District, and waiting for DOS paperwork.

Erin reminded municipalities that the Clean Watersheds Needs Survey application has been extended to December 23, 2022 for water quality projects, but it is not an easy application according to Michele Wunderlich. (This is not for drinking water.)

Agenda item 6: Chair Report – Liz Thomas

The budget requests have been sent out. Please check with your municipality to make sure the new deus are incorporated into 2023 budgets.

She included a summary of the Clean Air and Water Bond Act that will be on the NYS ballot in November. If the voters approve it, it will mean \$4.2 billion for the environment.

Liz sent out her newsletter with trainings, funding opportunities and other information. She is continuing to meet regionally with CSI and CLWN, and has made a presentation to the West Shore Homeowners Association to let them know what CWIO does.

Rebecca Schneider, from the Cornell Roads Department, will speak on ZOOM at 7pm about Owasco Lake on 10/5/22.

Both SWIO and CWIO will put in \$5,000 towards the ditch/culvert assessment tool Ian is working on. In the next few months CWIO will be mentioning work plans and committees. And, hopefully, the October CWIO meeting will be in person in Aurora

Agenda Item 8 - Committee Reports

Executive Committee –

The Executive Committee has been working with the chair on many of the issues in the chair report.

EPPOC Committee

Roxy said they are looking at non-shovel-ready projects and how to move them forward.

Membership and Nominations

No reported actions

Agriculture

The committee needs a chairperson. Kelly said he would ask the Cayuga County Soil and water manager, Doug Kierst.

Technical Advisory Committee

Darby said they are interacting with Erin to do some site visits in the Van Riper Preserve. Anyone who would like to come along, they are thinking of Oct. 12th, 17th, or 19th.

State Outreach

Tee Ann said she met with Liz, Erin, Margaret Johnson and Stephanie Redman, on 9/27. They are preparing to meet in Senator Schumer's office and are coming up with a list of "asks" about ditches and salt for state legislatures. They want to get information from soil and water departments who need more funding. Tee Ann met with Shawn Murphy in August

Agenda Item 8: General Announcements:

Shawn Murphy from Cortland County SWCD said people can go to the Cortland training about Septic System Maintenance, but they need to sign up.

Grascen Shidemantle from the Community Science Institute (CSI) said they are wrapping up their HAB's monitoring at the end of October. They are getting their yearly lab inspection in October, so things will be slowing down a little.

Tee Ann said the LWRP (Local Waterfront Revitalization Project) that created the prioritized projects list is nearing completion. CWIO paid the last bill to the CNYRPBD and has to pay \$24,000, which is less than CWIO was funded for, so CWIO contribution will be less, that is good, thanks everyone who worked on this.

The next meeting will hopefully be live in Aurora on October 26th, with more details to be announced.

Submitted by Jackie Cassaniti and Liz Thomas