



News **December 2022**

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Summary of Recent CWIO Activities

- **CWIO Website is Live!** After a year of work, the CWIO website went live this week. It’s entirely new, so likely will have some bugs. Let us know if you find any and let us know if there is additional information that would be helpful for your local government. See it at CWIO.org. The old url is not currently working, but when it is, both cayugawatershed.org and

CWIO.org will go to the same site. See prior newsletters [here](#). Thanks to all who worked so hard to put this site together—that was a LOT of work!

- **CWIO Organizational:** [This document](#) contains the 2023 budget, work plan, and committee/member appointments.
- **Great Lakes Action Agenda:** Linked here are the [CWIO comments](#) submitted for the [Great Lakes Action Agenda](#) in November. Cayuga Lake falls within the Lake Ontario watershed.
- **Annual Report:** A CWIO Annual Report with CWIO actions from 2022 will be ready soon.
- **Dues:** Be on the lookout for dues letters coming out in January with the 2023 dues payment deadline of June 30, 2023.

FROM CWIO PARTNERS WORKING ACROSS THE WATERSHED

Community Science Institute

December CSI News

See the [December CSI News](#)¹ containing articles on:

- The recent CSI water quality database workshop
- Notes on HABs from 2022
- Water Monitoring Program Updates
- CSI's New Monitoring New Data
- Invitation to Open Lab Nights Every Thursday

Cayuga Lake Watershed Network

12/14 6:30-7:30 - CLWN Presents: Challenges to Cayuga Lake and Opportunities to Protect It

Learn about the issues surrounding inflows from Seneca and Keuka Lake, downstream limitations of the Seneca River, and the management challenges related to seasonal changes in water levels and forecasting. [Register here](#)².

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES and FUNDED WORK

Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Program 2023 Request for Proposals

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and partners are requesting proposals for the 2023 Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration grant program. This program seeks to develop community capacity to sustain local natural resources for future generations by providing modest financial assistance to diverse local partnerships focused on improving water quality, watersheds and the species and habitats they support. Approximately \$1.6 million will be awarded in grants nationwide. Full proposals are due by **January 31, 2023**. To learn more about the grant program and the application guidelines [here](#).

¹ <https://mailchi.mp/90a41b84e0c6/csi-monthly-update-november-5299153?e=7240942499>

² <https://uso2web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYrduCurj8tH9DQx-GIVAu-jOcNcXv1FLfX>

WATERSHED PLANNING, MODEL LAWS, POLICIES

12/18/22 - 2022 Draft NYS Stormwater Design Manual

The NYS DEC has announced the availability of the final draft of the New York State Stormwater Management Design Manual (Design Manual) for public review. Comments will be accepted until December 18, 2022.

The 2022 draft Design Manual includes new stormwater management practices (SMPs), clarifies calculations for designing SMPs, provides enhanced guidance for implementing several SMPs, updates precipitation data criteria, improves document organization, provides enhanced guidance for addressing pollutants of concern, adds green infrastructure SMPs for poor site conditions, and provides guidance on addressing climate change.

Find the draft [Design Manual](#)³ on DEC's website. View the October 19th Environmental Notice Bulletin for information about [how to submit comments](#)⁴.

RESEARCH and RESOURCES

Warming Climate Prompts Oxygen Loss in Lakes

The concentration of dissolved oxygen (DO) is an important attribute of aquatic ecosystems, influencing habitat, drinking water quality, biodiversity, nutrient biogeochemistry, and greenhouse gas emissions. While average summer DO concentrations are declining in lakes across the temperate zone, much remains unknown about seasonal factors contributing to deep-water DO losses. New research from Cornell and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute shows that warming temperatures are leading to extended, late-summer water stratification, provoking conditions called hypoxia (low oxygen) and anoxia (no oxygen) leading to negative consequences for fish and other species. [Read the research](#)⁵.

Researchers Look at Ways to Remove and Destroy PFAs

Research teams are looking into methods to breakdown PFAs, or “forever chemicals” used for years in non-stick surfaces and flame retardants. Finding methods that prove effective on a widespread basis would be a significant step forward in efforts to remove the chemicals from the environment. [See the full article](#)⁶.

NEWS AND REPORTS

Cayuga Lake

Area Environmental Group Focuses on Awareness of Mining, Salt Risks after Lawsuit Denied

The group Cayuga Lake Environmental Action Now (CLEAN) recently announced that the organization will focus its efforts on educating officials and the public about under-lake salt

³ <https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/29072.html>

⁴ https://www.dec.ny.gov/enb/20221019_noto.html

⁵

https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/gcb.16525?utm_campaign=R3MR425&utm_content=LifeSciences&utm_medium=paidsearch&utm_source=google

⁶ https://www.record-eagle.com/news/local_news/effective-pfas-disposal-methods-still-elusive/article_39a1ae22-7748-11ed-a223-03825d2bbff0.html

mining risks, runoff from Cargill's operations, and the high levels of salt being used today for deicing. [Read the article](#)⁷.

Great Lakes Watershed (Cayuga Lake is included in this watershed)

Ohio must put Lake Erie on 'pollution diet' under settlement terms

The state of Ohio must develop a mandatory cap on algae-fueling nutrient pollution entering Lake Erie under the terms of a proposed court settlement. [See the story](#)⁸.

Canton trustees consider 'rights of the river'

The Canton, New York village board of trustees is considering a resolution to recognize the rights of the Grasse River in upstate New York. [See the full story](#)⁹.

Unusually Long Toxic Algal Bloom in Lake Erie

In Lake Erie's western basin, toxic algal blooms lasted into November for the first time in the past 20 years of data gathering. Researchers at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration are analyzing the impacts of weather conditions and the species of algae on the bloom's extended stay. [Read the story](#)¹⁰.

Study Looks at Using Lake Erie Sediment as Fertilizer Alternative

A geochemist is studying the effects of using dredged lake sediment from Lake Erie as a farm soil amendment to mitigate nutrient overflow into the lake. [Read more](#)¹¹.

Major Improvement in Federal Clean Water Act Permit Compliance

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced that the nation has achieved major improvement in compliance with the Clean Water Act permits over the past five-year period. EPA led an effort that reduced the overall noncompliance (SNC) rate from over 20% to 9%. New York, which started with a substantially lower SNC rate than the national average, saw the SNC rate decrease 45% from 14.3% in 2018 to 7.8% today. [Read the press release](#)¹².

EPA orders Ohio power plant to stop dumping toxic coal ash

In a major action to address toxic wastewater from coal-fired power plants, the EPA ordered a power plant in Ohio, to stop dumping dangerous coal ash into unlined storage ponds and speed cleanup of the site. This marks the first time the EPA has formally denied a utility's request to continue disposing toxic coal ash after a deadline to stop such disposal has passed. [Read the full story](#)¹³.

EPA Proposes Rule to Enhance Reporting of PFAS Data to the Toxics Release Inventory

The U.S. EPA proposed a rule that would improve reporting on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) to the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) by, among other proposed changes, eliminating an exemption that allows facilities to avoid reporting information on PFAS when those chemicals are used in small concentrations. Because PFAS are used at low concentrations in many products, this rule would ensure that covered industry sectors and federal facilities that make or use TRI-listed

⁷ https://www.ithaca.com/news/area-environmental-group-focuses-on-awareness-of-mining-salt-risks-after-lawsuit-denied/article_19e26b32-66b6-11ed-aead-b325ae2b5139.html

⁸ <https://www.mlive.com/public-interest/2022/11/ohio-must-put-lake-erie-on-pollution-diet-under-settlement-terms.html>

⁹ https://www.nny360.com/news/stlawrencecounty/canton-trustees-consider-rights-of-the-river/article_613c32e6-f09d-5560-b788-b3667b574f7b.html

¹⁰ <https://www.mlive.com/public-interest/2022/11/a-long-strange-bloom-lake-erie-algae-acted-very-unusual-this-year.html>

¹¹ <https://www.toledoblade.com/a-e/living/2022/11/21/bgsu-geochemist-studying-lake-erie-sediment-commercial-fertilizer-alternative/stories/20221121003>

¹² <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-and-state-partners-announce-major-improvement-clean-water-act-permit-compliance>

¹³ <https://www.greatlakesnow.org/2022/11/ap-epa-orders-ohio-power-plant-stop-dumping-coal-ash/>

PFAS will no longer be able to rely on the exemption to avoid disclosing their PFAS releases and other waste management quantities for these chemicals. [Read on](#)¹⁴.

ELAP Certification Required for Labs Conducting Whole Effluent Toxicity Tests

Starting January 1, 2023, the DEC will require municipal and industrial wastewater treatment facilities to use labs certified under the NYS Department of Health (DOH) [Environmental Laboratory Approval Program \(ELAP\)](#) for all Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) testing. The DEC encourages the wastewater treatment facilities that are required to complete WET testing after January 1, 2023, to ensure that the lab they are using has received the DOH ELAP certification or is in the process of obtaining it.

Direct inquiries about ELAP to DOH at elap@health.ny.gov. Contact DEC at WET@dec.ny.gov for questions about the WET testing program.

¹⁴ <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-proposes-rule-enhance-reporting-pfas-data-toxics-release-inventory>