



Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization  
(CWIO)



**News** **January 2023**

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## Summary of Recent CWIO Activities

- **CWIO Website is Live!** After a year of work, the CWIO website is live. We’ll be adding even more content as we move into 2023.
- **Annual Report:** See some of the actions and accomplishments of CWIO in the 2022 [Annual Report](#).
- **Dues:** Be on the lookout for CWIO dues invoices coming out in January with the deadline of June 30, 2023.
- **CWIO Organizational:** [This document](#) contains the 2023 budget, work plan, and committee/member appointments.
- **Next CWIO Meeting:** Wednesday, January 25 at 7:00.

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## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES and FUNDED WORK

### 1/25 and 3/1/23 NY Sea Grant and DEC Grants Available to Support Great Lakes Action Agenda Projects

New York Sea Grant, in partnership with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), announced funding is now available for projects that apply an ecosystem-based management approach to address local watershed challenges. Projects will implement the goals of [New York's Great Lakes Action Agenda](#) and address actions specifically identified in locally supported plans pertaining to water quality, natural resources, or sustainable land uses. A total of \$460,000, with up to \$50,000 per project, in New York Great Lakes Basin Small Grants will be awarded.

County and local government or public agencies, municipalities, and regional planning and environmental commissions, not-for-profit organizations, and educational institutions are eligible to apply. A webinar will be held on January 25th at 11:30 a.m. for interested applicants to learn more. [Register here](#).

Applications are due by 4:30 p.m. EST on March 1, 2023; [instructions](#) are online at the New York Sea Grant website. Read the [full press release](#)<sup>1</sup>.

### 2/28/23: 2023 Household Hazardous Waste Grant Program Accepting Applications

The NYS DEC is offering a grant opportunity to reimburse eligible applicants up to 50% of the costs of holding household hazardous waste (HHW) collections programs. Household hazardous wastes are materials found in

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.dec.ny.gov/press/press.html>

household waste that would be regulated as hazardous waste if they were generated at a business or industrial site like, pesticides, automotive fluids, home hobby chemicals, and compact fluorescent bulbs. A HHW collection event includes receiving HHW from residents and ensuring the materials are properly packaged and sent to the appropriate management facilities.

Eligible applicants include counties, cities, towns, or villages, local public authorities and public benefit corporations, school districts, supervisory districts, improvement districts, Native American Tribes or Nations residing in NYS, and any combination of the above. There is no minimum award amount, and the maximum award amount is \$2,000,000.

Applications are due by 3:00 p.m. EST on February 28th, 2023; Find more on instructions for [how to apply](#)<sup>2</sup> or reach out to [RecyclingGrants@dec.ny.gov](mailto:RecyclingGrants@dec.ny.gov) or 518-402-8678.

### **1/19/23 and 2/14/23: Webinar: Sustain Our Great Lakes Funding Guidance for Applicants**

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and partners of the Sustain our Great Lakes program will be hosting an informational webinar on **January 19th at 2:00pm** for interested applicants to learn about the upcoming funding opportunity that will be announced in January. To [Register](#)<sup>3</sup>.

In 2023, the Sustain our Great Lakes pre-proposals will be due by February 14th, 2023, and will be awarded in four categories:

- Habitat Restoration to Conserve Species and Improve Water Quality
- Green Stormwater Infrastructure in Great Lakes Communities
- Invasive Species Control to Protect and Enhance Restored Habitat
- Conservation Practices and Regenerative Agriculture on Working Lands

The request for proposals is available at [www.nfwf.org/greatlakes](http://www.nfwf.org/greatlakes)

### **1/25/23: New York Sea Grant Great Lakes Basin Small Grants Program**

This funding is available to county and local government or public agencies, municipalities, and regional planning and environmental commissions, not-for-profit organizations, and educational institutions that are located within the Great Lakes Basin and promote the Great Lakes Action Agenda Priorities, including:

- Virtually eliminate discharges of persistent toxic substances.
- Control sediment, nutrient, and pathogen loadings.
- Accelerate the delisting of NY's Areas of Concern.
- Combat invasive species.
- Conserve and restore native fish and wildlife biodiversity and habitats.
- Conserve Great Lakes water supplies.
- Enhance community resiliency and ecosystem integrity.
- Promote Smart Growth, Redevelopment, and Adaptive Reuse.
- Enhance recreation and tourism opportunities.
- Plan for energy development.

You can [view](#)<sup>4</sup> the watershed boundaries, and previously-funded projects at. [Register](#)<sup>5</sup> to learn more.

### **1/31/23: 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

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<sup>2</sup> [https://grantsgateway.ny.gov/intelligrants\\_NYSGG/module/nysgg/goportal.aspx?NavItem1=4&ngolD=5002343](https://grantsgateway.ny.gov/intelligrants_NYSGG/module/nysgg/goportal.aspx?NavItem1=4&ngolD=5002343)

<sup>3</sup> <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/60391096373520397>

<sup>4</sup> <https://small-grants-program-ccegeomaps.hub.arcgis.com/pages/project-dashboard>

<sup>5</sup> <https://small-grants-program-ccegeomaps.hub.arcgis.com/pages/apply-for-funding>

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](#).

### **2/10/23: Grants Available to Support High Hazard Dam Repairs**

Over \$560,000 in grant funding is now available to assist eligible dam owners with infrastructure repair costs. Funding is provided through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) High Hazard Potential Dam grant program. DEC is accepting applications for grants to assist with technical, planning, design, and other pre-construction activities associated with the rehabilitation of eligible dams classified as High Hazard dams.

New York State's High Hazard dam classification refers to the potential for damage upon a dam's failure, not its likelihood of failure. A High Hazard (or Class C) dam is classified where failure may result in widespread or serious damage. New York State has 425 Class C dams.

The Request for Applications is available online through the [New York State Grants Gateway](#). Apply by **February 10, 2023**. Learn more about the classification of dams and dam safety on DEC's [Dam Safety webpage](#).

### **Funded Projects Improve Road-Stream Crossings and Resiliency for Municipalities**

DEC's Estuary Program and NEIWPCC<sup>6</sup> provide funding to help **municipalities** prioritize improvements to places where roads cross streams to restore aquatic habitat and become more resilient to climate change. This year, county-wide and intermunicipal projects were funded through the States' Environmental Protection Fund (EPF).

Ulster County was awarded \$125,464 to develop an interactive map and prioritization web tool to support county and municipal decision-makers in addressing current and future inadequate road-stream crossings. The web-based map can be filtered to display each of the county's 24 municipalities, allowing local officials to prioritize replacements that support transportation infrastructure, natural resource protection, highway department operations, and hazard mitigation. The project also will assess road-stream crossings in five municipalities in the Lower Esopus Watershed and will complete conceptual designs for eight priority crossings within the city of Kingston and the towns of Hurley, Marbletown, Olive, and Ulster.

Trout Unlimited was awarded \$129,776 to identify priority road-stream crossing replacement projects that reconnect high-quality aquatic habitat and improve community flood resiliency and road infrastructure conditions within the **towns** of Berlin, Grafton, and Brunswick. The project will include the evaluation of road-stream crossing survey data; an evaluation and prioritization of the results of the survey; and the development of conceptual and final designs for the highest priority aquatic barriers in each town. The survey results will be compiled into an inventory document and a web-based map resource for each town to further support future budgeting and planning efforts. [See more about the program](#)<sup>7</sup>

## **TRAINING, WATERSHED PLANNING, MODEL LAWS, POLICIES**

### **Integrating Land Use and Water Management**

This report makes the case for integrated land use and water management planning. It describes the overall benefits and connection points between land use and water management; explores existing regulations related to integrated planning, both within comprehensive land use plans and water management plans; provides case studies of successful integrated planning within specific communities; and provides policy recommendations for encouraging and solidifying coordinated planning, whether through regulation or not. [See the report](#)<sup>8</sup>.

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<sup>6</sup> New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission

<sup>7</sup> [https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/remediation\\_hudson\\_pdf/culvertfactsheet19.pdf](https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/remediation_hudson_pdf/culvertfactsheet19.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> [https://go.lincolnst.edu/integrating-land-use-water-management-pfr.pdf?\\_ga=2.153058800.813221974.1665669369-1316605904.1665669369](https://go.lincolnst.edu/integrating-land-use-water-management-pfr.pdf?_ga=2.153058800.813221974.1665669369-1316605904.1665669369)

## **Dams and Culverts: Reconnecting Our Waterways**

See examples of municipalities upgrading culverts and removing aging dams as a way to improve stream ecology and resiliency to climate change. The [video](#)<sup>9</sup> features a culvert replacement project in the Town of Angram and a dam removal in the City of Newburgh.

## **Designating Critical Environmental Areas**

Municipalities can designate [critical environmental areas \(CEAs\)](#) to bring attention to unique and exceptional natural areas during environmental reviews.

## **3/14-17, 2023: Water Quality Symposium.**

Hold the date for the annual training session and Water Quality Symposium presented by the NYS Conservation District Employees Association and the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee and held in Syracuse, NY.

## **1/25/23: Learn About the New Features of How's My Waterway**

The US EPA's [How's My Waterway](#) tool was designed for users to easily find, access and understand information about their local water quality. By displaying all of this information visually, it gives this data more perspective and transparency. EPA will be hosting a webinar on **January 25th at 2:00 p.m.** Register for the webinar [here](#).

## **An Example of a Multi-Municipal Watershed Action Plan**

A cooperative effort among **five municipalities** in Westchester County is underway to develop an intermunicipal, conservation overlay-zone to protect water quality in their watershed. The project stems from a recommendation in their [Watershed Conservation Action Plan](#). (PDF).

The five municipalities seek to adopt unified environmental regulations that will protect drinking water in the aquifer by minimizing the potential for contamination in the areas that feed these public water supply sources. DEC's Estuary Program is supporting this project through grant funding and technical assistance.

## **MONITORING and RESEARCH**

### **Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Survey**

The Finger Lakes Institute is seeking volunteers to join in the fight against a destructive invasive species, the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA). This tiny insect is killing hemlock trees across the Finger Lakes. These trees help stabilize stream beds to slow sedimentation and erosion. For [more information](#), or email [gallo@hws.edu](mailto:gallo@hws.edu).

### **4/4/23 at 7:30: Harmful Algal Blooms in the Finger Lakes**

The Finger Lakes Land Trust is hosting Lisa Cleckner, Director of the Finger Lakes Institute at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, for a presentation on recent research and monitoring programs focused on harmful algal blooms across New York as well as the environmental health implications for humans and other organisms. [More information and registration.](#)

### **3/16/23 7:30: Threats to Our Forests by Invasive Species**

Healthy forests help to keep streams and waterbodies healthy too. The Finger Lakes Land Trust is hosting a presentation to hear more about the threats to forests throughout the Finger Lakes. [See more and register.](#)

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<sup>9</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eZmvoVE4dAg>

## NEWS AND REPORTS

### *Cayuga Lake Watershed:*

#### **Cayuga Lake Watershed Network - Kick of 2023 with Lake Friendly Living Practices**

The Cayuga Lake Watershed Network is planning an active 2023. See the CLWN monthly list of Lake Friendly Living resolutions with January focusing on removal of snow and ice in a lake-friendly way. [See more on their website](#)<sup>10</sup>.

#### **Finger Lakes Land Trust Annual Conservation Update**

If you missed the annual conservation update from the FLLT, [this video](#)<sup>11</sup> gives an overview of the great work they do to protect water in the Finger Lakes.

#### **Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Report - Schuyler County**

The following are implementation totals for Schuyler County SWCD with \$2.5 million in implementation of on the ground conservation practices:

7 retention ponds, 14 culvert upsizings, 7 structures for water control, 1,100 ft of road ditch stabilization, 19.3 acres of riparian buffer installations, 52,700 feet of stormwater fencing, 4 alternative water systems, 250 acres of rotational grazing, 1 barnyard water management system, 1 milkhouse waste collection system, 1 Manure waste management system, 1 irrigation management system, 1 pesticide mixing facility, 1,110 feet of clean water diversion, 800 feet of roof water management, 2,300 acres of cover crops planted, 200 acres no till seedings, 250 acres herbaceous weed management, 1,575 feet grassed waterways, 80 acres hydroseeding, 1,375 Lined outlets, 725 feet of access road improvements.

### *Owasco Lake Watershed*

#### **Cayuga County Water Management Agency December Newsletter**

[See the accomplishments](#)<sup>12</sup> on Owasco Lake including

- A tree planting project in the Owasco watershed
- Eurasian watermilfoil control on Skaneateles Lake
- The Town of Owasco wetland remediation project
- A report from the Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection and Protection Division.

### *Seneca and Keuka Lake Watersheds*

#### **Project Reduces Phosphorus Flow to Keuka Lake -**

This impressive project is aimed at reducing the flow of phosphorus into Keuka Lake. Changes in the tributary leading into the lake have already reduced sediments. Yates County SWCD built dams to slow the flow of water which often carries nutrients that are believed to increase HABs.

The [article](#)<sup>13</sup> highlights the many other accomplishments within the watershed and is definitely worth a read.

### *Skaneateles Lake Watershed*

#### **Managing Milfoil and Making a Difference**

The Skaneateles Lake Association has released a [2022 Annual Report on the Skaneateles Lake Eurasian Watermilfoil Control Program](#)<sup>14</sup> which includes:

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<sup>10</sup> <https://www.cayugalake.org/>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.flit.org/watch-a-recording-of-our-annual-conservation-update/>

<sup>12</sup> <http://cayugacountywater.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/WQMA-Newsletter-December-2022-for-pdf.pdf>

<sup>13</sup> [https://www.fltimes.com/news/projects-to-reduce-phosphorus-flow-into-keuka-lake-underway/article\\_119e37d5-0af4-5810-8c8b-f1bd33818756.html](https://www.fltimes.com/news/projects-to-reduce-phosphorus-flow-into-keuka-lake-underway/article_119e37d5-0af4-5810-8c8b-f1bd33818756.html)

<sup>14</sup> <https://skaneateleslake.us19.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d9f56777a8558f67a89ece71b&id=f355a24419&e=59a52d2bfc>

- Program and financial overview
- 2022 milfoil control operations report
- Milfoil survey synopsis

### *Finger Lakes*

#### **The Finger Lakes, Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance (FOLLOWPA) Report**

FOLLOWPA includes our key partners at the state level and county departments, especially Soil and Water Conservation Service offices. [This video highlights some of the work that FOLLOWPA partners accomplish](#)<sup>15</sup> throughout the FOLLOWPA region utilizing funding from the NYS Environmental Protection Fund, stakeholder contributions, and other sources.

Also see the impressive [work done with FOLLOWPA funding in Tompkins, Cortland, and Cayuga](#)<sup>16</sup> Counties including:

- Salmon Creek Steam Restoration Project with the Town of Lansing (Tompkins Co. in Cayuga watershed)
- Covered Barnyard Project (Tompkins Co. in Owasco watershed)
- Cover Crop Program (Tompkins and Cayuga Counties in Cayuga and Owasco watersheds)
- Virgil Creek Tributary Culvert Replacement (Cortland Co in Cayuga Watershed)
- Grout Brook Culvert Replacement and Stream Enhancement (Cortland Co. in Skaneateles watershed)
- Watercraft Cleaning Station (Cayuga Co in Owasco watershed)
- Stormwater Runoff Management System (Cayuga Co in Owasco watershed)

Visit [www.followpa.org](http://www.followpa.org) for more information.

#### **USDA Invests Nearly \$4.7 Million in Wetland Mitigation Banks**

The US Department of Agriculture is awarding nearly \$4.7 million for the Wetland Mitigation Banking Program (WMBP)—a program that supports the development of mitigation banks for the restoration, creation, or enhancement of wetlands to compensate for impacts to wetlands at another location. [View a summary of the projects.](#)

#### **Streams Protected Through a Cooperative Effort Between Municipalities and Others**

Hudson Estuary Trees for Tributaries (Tribs) offers free native trees and shrubs to qualifying projects in the Hudson River Valley. This year, Trees for Tribs planted over 3,840 native trees and shrubs at 26 sites along 1.1 miles of stream with the help of more than 430 volunteers. Trees planted along streams help protect water quality, fish, and wildlife, and also reduce erosion and flooding. Twelve of these plantings took place on public lands where municipal staff, land trusts, and local volunteer groups teamed up to help plant more than 2,200 plants.

#### **Algae Depresses Lake Erie Home Values**

The U.S. “Staying afloat: The effect of algae contamination on Lake Erie housing prices,” is the first study to measure the economic impacts of the agreement. The authors of the 2021 study hope to highlight the importance of water quality management policies in terms of the housing market. [Read the full article.](#)

#### **EPA & Army Finalize Rule Establishing Definition of WOTUS and Restoring Fundamental Water Protections**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of the Army (the agencies) announced a final rule establishing a durable definition of “waters of the United States” (WOTUS) to reduce uncertainty from changing regulatory definitions, protect people’s health, and support economic opportunity.

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AEpG85Jucss>

<sup>16</sup> <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/e19286930b9a4546bb3035fee74e3437>

The final rule restores essential water protections that were in place prior to 2015 under the Clean Water Act for traditional navigable waters, the territorial seas, interstate waters, as well as upstream water resources that significantly affect those waters. As a result, this action will strengthen fundamental protections for waters that are sources of drinking water while supporting agriculture, local economies, and downstream communities. [See the press release.](#)

### **Road Salt Impacts Fresh Water. Here's How to Use Less and Stay Safe**

High chloride levels in freshwater can be toxic to aquatic life, increase the potential for harmful algal blooms, disrupt the ecosystem of a river or lake and seep into groundwater, which can corrode pipes and other infrastructure. In other words, that handful of extra salt thrown onto the sidewalk could eventually, in a different form, damage a fish in a nearby river. [Read the full story.](#)

### **DEC Conserves 1,300 Acres to Help Protect Water**

As part of DEC's state forests, this parcel in the Hudson Valley will be managed for multiple uses, including sustainable timber production, watershed protection, wildlife habitat, and recreation. Funding for this purchase comes from the NYS Environmental Protection Fund. [See the full article.](#)

## **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

### **1/31/23 - NYS Water Resources Institute (WRI) Restoration Hydrologist**

The NYS WRI Hydrologist will provide road-stream crossing modeling and outreach support to improve the effectiveness of mitigation and restoration efforts focused on, 1) improving aquatic species passage; 2) reducing or eliminating hydraulic constrictions; and 3) incorporating climate change science into road-stream crossing and floodplain management analysis. This is a full-time position located on the Cornell University campus in Ithaca, NY. A link to the official opportunity is [here](#). Applications are currently being accepted through the end of January.

### **1/23/23: Finger Lakes Land Trust – Development Associate**

Reporting to the Senior Director, the Development Associate is responsible for providing high-level administrative support, maintaining accurate records, and helping with special projects to grow all aspects of a comprehensive fundraising and communications department. [See more here.](#)