



News **March 2023**

Contents

- Summary of Recent CWIO Activities..... 2
- FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES and FUNDED WORK..... 2
 - Navigating Grant Funding: Municipal Success Stories – this is really worth listening to..... 2
 - 3/29 10-12:30 - State & Federal Funding, Financing, & Resources for Municipal Infrastructure 3
 - 4/21/23: Great Lakes Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Program Request for Proposals..... 3
 - 5/12: Water Quality Management Planning Grants 3
 - Final Amendment No. 1 to 2023 CWSRF Final Intended Use Plan 3
 - 4/6: Community Assistance Teams to Help Communities Access Water Infrastructure Funding..... 3
 - NYS Grant Award Winners Across the State 4
 - \$110 Million for Water Quality Improvement Projects and Planning Across the State 4
 - \$2 Million for Non-Agricultural Nonpoint Source Planning and MS4 Mapping Grants (NPG):..... 5
 - 4/11: Free Seedlings Available to Qualified Landowners for Streamside Plantings..... 5
 - 3/29 9:00-10:00 - Webinar: Urban and Community Forestry Grants Program 5
- TRAINING and WATERSHED PLANNING..... 5
 - Bob Brower Scientific Symposium 2023 5
 - 5/5-6: NYSFOLA's 4th Anniversary Conference 6
 - Use the MyCoast App to Document Flooding in Your Community..... 6
- MONITORING and RESEARCH..... 6
 - 4/4 7:30-8:30 - Research and Monitoring of Harmful Algal Blooms in the Finger Lakes..... 6
 - 2022 Nearshore Monitoring of Cyanobacteria (Blue-Green Algae) in Seneca and Owasco Lakes..... 6
 - CSI Monthly Newsletter..... 6
 - 4/27/23 4:00-6:00 - The Salt Mine Under the Lake: What are the Risks and Options?..... 6
- NEWS AND REPORTS..... 7
 - Final Multi-Sector General Permit..... 7
 - 3/31: Deadline Approaching for Annual Water Withdrawal Reporting..... 7
 - 4/14: EFC Eligibility Guidelines for Water Infrastructure Projects 7
 - 3/30 at noon: EPA/EFC Water Infrastructure Webinar for Municipalities..... 7

Regulation of PFOA, PFOS, and 1,4-Dioxane	8
Invasive Species Management Survey	8
FEDERAL	8
Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$2.4 Billion for Clean Water Infrastructure Upgrades Through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.....	8
Biden-Harris Administration Proposes Stronger Limits on Water Pollution from Power Plants	9
NRCS Refines Nutrient Management Strategies to Improve Conservation Outcomes	9
FOR YOUR RESIDENTS – Public Service Announcements to Share with Residents	9
Landscaping for Water Quality in the Finger Lakes Region.	9
Understanding Flood Risk for Your Community	9

Summary of Recent CWIO Activities

- **SWCD Joins CWIO:** Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) staff have deep knowledge about water quality issues. Representatives from SWCD district offices in Tompkins, Seneca, and Cortland County joined CWIO at the 3/22 meeting to explain more about their services and encourage municipalities to call their offices if there are questions about water quality issues.
- **Project ideas needed soon:** Both the CWIO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the Education, Public Participation, and Outreach Committee (EPPOC) finalized their systems for ranking projects. CWIO approved these systems at the 3/22 meeting. Within the next month CWIO will be reaching out for project ideas and encourages anyone, whether part of CWIO or not, to submit ideas for projects that would either improve or protect water quality within the watershed. More details on how to submit ideas will be forthcoming very soon.
- **State Outreach:** The State Outreach Committee and Executive Committee worked together on a packet of information that will be sent to State Assembly and Senate representatives from districts within the watershed. The packet includes an introduction to CWIO, information about the watershed, and several recommendations that we feel would help accelerate needed water quality work.
- **Watershed Manager Report:** See it [online](#)
- **Next CWIO Meetings:**
 - Wednesday, April 26 from 6:00-8:00 IN PERSON at Cornell University.** Directions to follow. The Cornell graduate students working on their Masters of Public Administration will present their overview of laws and policies on the books in municipalities throughout the watershed.
 - Date in April TBA:** Kate Black from the Department of State (DOS) will be giving tips about DOS grant programs. This is a good time to have your grant questions answered.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES and FUNDED WORK

Navigating Grant Funding: Municipal Success Stories – this is really worth listening to.

DEC and the NYS Association of Regional Councils hosted and recorded a webinar on March 1st to highlight strategies used by municipalities of various sizes across New York State to secure grant funding. Municipalities shared information, such as how they access grant funds, what barriers they’ve had to overcome, lessons learned, the skill sets needed, and the key players necessary to access grant funding.

DEC encourages municipal officials, especially those who think they do not have the expertise to apply for grants, to view the [recorded webinar](#)¹.

3/29 10-12:30 - State & Federal Funding, Financing, & Resources for Municipal Infrastructure

Are you interested in learning more about funding and financing municipal infrastructure in your town or village? Learn about funding opportunities for safe and clean water management, renewable energy, and other community investments from state and federal agency representatives at the Syracuse University Environmental Finance Centers Upcoming Hybrid Event on March 29th from 10:00am to 12:30pm. Lunch will be provided. In-person attendance is encouraged, but sessions will be livestreamed for hybrid viewing. [REGISTER HERE](#).

4/21/23: Great Lakes Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Program Request for Proposals

The Great Lakes Commission has issued a request for proposals for the [2023 Great Lakes Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Program](#) grant. Nonfederal units of government, tribes, and incorporated nonprofit organizations are eligible to receive grants for up to \$300,000 to support work over a period of up to three years. Eligible project types are agricultural and streambank/shoreline projects. Submit applications by 5:00 p.m. on April 21, 2023.

View the Great Lakes Commission's [Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Program webpage](#) for more information. Questions? Connor Roessler at croessler@glc.org or 734-396-6085.

5/12: Water Quality Management Planning Grants

DEC is accepting applications for the 2023 Clean Water Act Section 604(b) Water Quality Management Planning grants. Eligible applicants are regional public comprehensive planning organizations and interstate organizations. Applications must be completed and submitted through the New York State [Grants Gateway Grant Opportunity Portal](#) by 3:00 PM on May 12, 2023.

View DEC's [Water Quality Planning Grants webpage](#) for more details, including the list of eligible applicants, and to view the Request for Applications.

Final Amendment No. 1 to 2023 CWSRF Final Intended Use Plan

The NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) [has announced the Final Amendment No. 1](#) to the Federal Fiscal Year 2023 Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Final Intended Use Plan.

Amendment No. 1 addresses five topics:

- Revisions to the Annual Project Priority List
- Addition of Green Infrastructure Grant Program Round 14 projects to the Annual Project Priority List
- Addition of WIIA Round 7 projects to the Annual Project Priority List
- Clarifications to Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funding requirements
- Smart Growth review of projects added to the Annual Project Priority List

The Final Amendment No. 1 is available on NYS [EFC's website](#).

4/6: Community Assistance Teams to Help Communities Access Water Infrastructure Funding

Governor Kathy Hochul has announced the launch of a [proactive outreach initiative to help small, rural, and disadvantaged communities](#) address their water infrastructure needs. The New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC), working with DEC and the Department of Health, has assembled Community Assistance Teams to connect communities with experts who can help them undertake their critical water infrastructure projects. These Teams will provide on-site or virtual consultations to help communities across the state jump start planning, submit funding applications, and see their projects through to completion.

¹ <https://meetny.webex.com/recording/service/sites/meetny/recording/dfef9fad99a88103bbf2f00505681b5a0/playback>

April 6, Southern Tier Central Regional Leadership Conference, Corning Community College, 1 Academic Drive, Corning NY 14830. [Register online](#).

NYS Grant Award Winners Across the State

\$110 Million for Water Quality Improvement Projects and Planning Across the State

Governor Kathy Hochul [announced](#) that approximately \$110 million was awarded to 86 projects through DEC grant programs to protect and improve water quality across New York State. The grant programs support projects that will help protect drinking water, combat contributors to harmful algal blooms (HABs), update aging water infrastructure, and improve aquatic habitat in communities statewide.

WQIP Grant programs include areas:

- Wastewater Improvement Projects
- Nonpoint Source Abatement Projects
- Nonpoint Source Planning Reports
- Land Acquisition Projects to Protect Water Quality
- Salt Storage
- Aquatic Connectivity Restoration
- Marine Habitat Restoration
- Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Mapping

A [full list of awarded WQIP projects](#) is available on DEC's [WQIP webpage](#). Among the many grant recipients in the Cayuga Lake area:

\$219,546.00- Town of Romulus Sewer Collection System Improvements: The Town of Romulus will repair or replace sections of their sewage collection system to reduce the inflow and infiltration that is causing periodic sanitary sewer overflows. This project will improve the water quality in Indian Creek, Reeder Creek, and Cayuga Lake.

\$30,000 to the Town of Ulysses to prepare an **engineering report and condition assessment of seven culverts** throughout the town. The assessment will look at impacts of streambank erosion and aquatic connectivity of streams. The report will prioritize projects to address undersized or failing culverts, reduce erosion, and improve the movement of aquatic life in tributaries to Cayuga Lake.

\$30,000 to the Village of Trumansburg to complete a streambank stabilization planning report to address streambank erosion in Trumansburg Creek. The project will reduce erosion and address aquatic connectivity in the Cayuga Lake watershed.

\$610,000 to Ontario County SWCD for a Road Ditch Stabilization Program. The SWCD will implement a roadside stabilization programs in 2 towns. The program will slow stormwater flow, reduce roadside erosion, and reduce the amount of nutrients and other contaminants that could enter the drinking water supply. While the area covered by this grant is not in the Cayuga Lake Watershed, parts of Ontario County are.

\$30,000 to Town of Seneca Falls - for Stream Culvert Repair and Replacement: The town will prepare an engineering report to address a failing stream culvert. The project will reduce erosion in the Cayuga Lake watershed.

\$75,000 to Cortland County Soil and Water Conservation District - for Comprehensive Stream Corridor Assessment: SWCD will prepare a comprehensive stream corridor assessment, including flood risks, for the Trout Brook and Smith Brook watersheds using the North American Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative framework. The report will enhance data for over 70 miles of stream corridor and document priorities for erosion control.

\$2 Million for Non-Agricultural Nonpoint Source Planning and MS4 Mapping Grants (NPG):

DEC is awarding almost \$2 million to 35 projects through the Non-Agricultural Nonpoint Source Planning and MS4 Mapping Grant (NPG). The NPG program funds projects that help pay for the initial planning of non-agricultural nonpoint source water quality improvement projects, such as undersized culvert replacements and green infrastructure technologies, and State permit-required storm sewer mapping in urban areas. When implemented, these projects will reduce the amount of polluted stormwater runoff entering lakes, rivers, and streams, and improve resiliency against climate impacts.

A [full list of awarded NPG projects](#) is available on DEC's [NPG webpage](#).

\$75,000 for Cortland County SWCD work on two separate projects that will conduct a comprehensive **stream corridor assessment**, including flood risks, for several creeks. The study will evaluate erosion and prioritize erosion control needs and activities along 30 miles of stream corridor.

\$30,000 for Cortland County SWCD to work with a consultant to prepare a **streambank stabilization** design report to repair an eroding streambank and hillside prone to erosion, mudslides and flooding in the Town of Harford. The project will reduce nutrients in the watershed and protect existing infrastructure.

\$30,000 The Cortland County SWCD will prepare a **streambank stabilization** design report for an eroding streambank site on the East Branch of the Tioughnioga River. The project will reduce the amount of nutrients in the river and improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

\$58,000 The Cortland County SWCD will prepare a comprehensive **stream corridor assessment**, including flood risks, for the Grout Brook-Skaneateles Lake watershed. The assessment will evaluate up to 9 miles of stream corridor and prioritize erosion control needs and activities.

4/11: Free Seedlings Available to Qualified Landowners for Streamside Plantings

New York State DEC's application period for the [Trees for Tribes!](#) "[Buffer in a Bag](#)" Program is open. Qualifying private and public landowners may apply for a free bag of 25 tree and shrub seedlings for planting near streams, rivers, or lakes to help stabilize banks, protect water quality, and improve wildlife habitat. [Read more](#). Applications are due by 3 p.m. on April 11, 2022. Contact treesfortribs@dec.ny.gov

3/29 9:00-10:00 - Webinar: Urban and Community Forestry Grants Program

The DEC's Urban and Community Forestry Program will host a webinar on March 29th, 2023, from 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. to provide information on the upcoming Round 16 of the Urban and Community Forestry Grant program, which will be available this spring (2023). The goals of this grant program are to improve the health of urban and community forests and to increase the sustainability of forestry programs. This webinar will cover changes since the last Round 15 of the grant, disadvantaged community criteria, partnerships, application requirements, and time dedicated for questions for prospective grant applicants.

[Register](#) for the webinar. [Learn more about this grant program](#).

TRAINING and WATERSHED PLANNING

Bob Brower Scientific Symposium 2023

If you missed this excellent program, all the speaker presentation are now available [on-line](#). Excellent information!

5/5-6: NYSFOLA's 4th Anniversary Conference

The conference for the [New York State Federation of Lake Associations](#) (NYSFOLA) is holding their 4th annual conference in Lake George. The [program](#) is now online. **Registration for rooms and meals ends on April 21st.** There will be on-site registration for sessions-only.

Use the MyCoast App to Document Flooding in Your Community

[New York Sea Grant](#) and the [NYS Water Resources Institute](#) have developed an application to document flooding throughout the state with your help. The [MyCoast New York portal](#) is used to collect and analyze photos of flooding, changing shorelines, and hazardous weather impacts across New York's various coasts and waterbodies. Reports developed from this flooding documentation can be beneficial for emergency managers, local planners, residents, and state agencies to understand our changing environment and the impacts of flooding on every New York community.

Download the MyCoast app or visit the [MyCoast portal](#) for more information about reporting local flooding.

MONITORING and RESEARCH

4/4 7:30-8:30 - Research and Monitoring of Harmful Algal Blooms in the Finger Lakes

The Finger Lakes Land Trust hosts 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. [Register](#) in advance.

2022 Nearshore Monitoring of Cyanobacteria (Blue-Green Algae) in Seneca and Owasco Lakes.

The [Final Report](#) to the Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association, Fred L. Emerson Foundation and Cayuga County.

CSI Monthly Newsletter

Monitoring needs: Having long-term water quality data on the lake and its tributaries is key to understanding some of the threats but good data requires lots of volunteers. [See the latest news from CSI](#) with a map of areas in most need of volunteer monitoring help.

Also in this newsletter articles: Explaining pH and alkalinity in the lake, volunteer spotlight, and more.

4/27/23 4:00-6:00 - The Salt Mine Under the Lake: What are the Risks and Options?

Professor Raymond Vaughan, Professional Geologist and Environmental Scientist will present on this topic at the Tompkins County Library. Sponsored by Cayuga Lake Environmental Action Now ([CLEAN](#))

Following the presentation members of Cayuga Lake Environmental Action Now will be discussing regulatory issues of the Salt Mine such as the role of the Office of General Services in allowing mining and the concerns surrounding escapeways for miners in case of emergencies.

The Forum will be in-person. However, we hope to utilize zoom to make the forum available online. Please use [this link](#)² to access the forum: Passcode: 14850 Facebook link: <https://fb.me/e/1oQYuxzcf>

² <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/83831123736?pwd=T2M4MDJ3WHhDRFJhNTFiWm5VbXY5dz09>

NEWS AND REPORTS

Final Multi-Sector General Permit

DEC has posted the renewal of the [Final SPDES Multi-Sector General Permit \(MSGP\)](#) for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Industrial Activity (GP-0-23-001), Fact Sheet, and Responsiveness Summary.

A draft version of the renewal was announced for public comment in August 2022. This final permit, GP-0-23-001, replaces GP-0-17-004 and became effective March 8, 2023.

To have coverage under this permit, owners or operators covered under the previous permit, GP-0-17-004, and all new dischargers must develop a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) that meets the requirements of GP-0-23-001 and submit a new electronic Notice of Intent (e-NOI). Access to the e-NOI is available on DEC's [MSGP webpage](#). Owners or operators seeking to continue coverage have 90 days to submit the NOI. Contact MSGPcompliance@dec.ny.gov with questions.

3/31: Deadline Approaching for Annual Water Withdrawal Reporting

The DEC Water Withdrawal Reporting Program is accepting water withdrawal reporting data for 2022. Reporting is required by March 31 each year for [non-agricultural facilities](#) that have a withdrawal capacity of 100,000 gallons or more per day and for all [agricultural facilities](#) that registered or reported their existing withdrawals to DEC prior to February 15, 2012.

For additional information, contact Water Withdrawal Reporting staff at 518-402-8182 or AWQRSDEC@dec.ny.gov.

4/14: EFC Eligibility Guidelines for Water Infrastructure Projects

The NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) has announced guidelines for [public comment to implement funding under the Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act of 2022](#). These guidelines will be applied to financial assistance payments for municipal projects as authorized by the NYS Water Improvement Infrastructure Act of 2017 and the Intermunicipal Water Infrastructure Grant Program.

Public comments on the guidelines will be accepted until Friday, April 14, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. Find more information, including how and where to send comments in the March 15th [Environmental Notice Bulletin](#).

3/30 at noon: EPA/EFC Water Infrastructure Webinar for Municipalities

On **Thursday, March 30 at 12 p.m.**, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 2 and the NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) will host a webinar on water infrastructure funding opportunities for water systems and municipalities in New York State. EPA and EFC will present on various funds available and answer your questions.

The presentations will include information about the following programs:

- State Revolving Fund Programs for Clean Water (wastewater) and Drinking Water
- Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) SRF Funding
- Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA)
- BIL Emerging Contaminants - Small and Disadvantaged Communities
- Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act
- Water Technical Assistance (TA)

[Register to attend](#). EPA has expanded the webinar capacity; if you tried to register and saw a "sold out" message, try again.

Regulation of PFOA, PFOS, and 1,4-Dioxane

DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos has announced the issuance of [final water quality guidance values](#) to regulate Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS), and 1,4-Dioxane (1,4-D) in New York State waters. The finalized guidance values support the State's ongoing efforts to protect public health and the environment and prevent exposure to emerging contaminants through the protection of drinking water sources. Additionally, the new guidance values for PFOS and 1,4-Dioxane provide protection for aquatic life.

DEC's Division of Water has issued three new/updated Technical and Operational Guidance Series (TOGS) documents related to the control of PFOA, PFOS, and 1,4-Dioxane that became effective March 15, 2023:

Addendum to “TOGS 1.1.1 (PDF): Ambient Water Quality Standards and Guidance Values and Groundwater Effluent Limitations” establishes water quality guidance values for PFOA, PFOS and 1,4-Dioxane.

A revision of “TOGS 1.3.7 (PDF): Analytical Detectability and Quantitation Guidelines for Selected Environmental Parameters.” establishes how DEC selects analytical test methods for water quality monitoring and determines reporting limits for those methods. This TOGS provides guidance on how to select analytical test methods for monitoring PFOA, PFOS, and 1,4-Dioxane.

A new “TOGS 1.3.13 (PDF): Industrial Permitting Strategy for Implementing Guidance Values for PFOA, PFOS, and 1,4-Dioxane” establishes how the guidance values for PFOA, PFOS, and 1,4-Dioxane will be prioritized for select SPDES permits to maximize environmental benefits.

Find [more information](#) in the [March 15th Environmental Notice Bulletin](#) and on [DEC's website](#).

Invasive Species Management Survey

The State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry, in partnership with the New York Natural Heritage Program, is conducting a survey of people with invasive species management experience to learn about their experiences, ideas, and beliefs for the purpose of enriching a larger conversation about success in invasive species management and how the field as a whole could be improved, which supports New York's Great Lakes Action Agenda goal for invasive species management.

The online survey should take approximately 10 – 20 minutes and, if participants are interested, they can engage in an online interview (45-60 minutes, via Zoom) to discuss their invasive species management experiences in greater detail. If you have interest in participating, please access the [survey here](#).

FEDERAL

Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$2.4 Billion for Clean Water Infrastructure Upgrades Through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently announced over \$2.4 billion from President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for states, Tribes, and territories through this year's Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF). The funding will support communities in upgrading essential water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure that protects public health and treasured water bodies across the nation. Nearly half of this funding will be available as grants or principal forgiveness loans helping underserved communities across America invest in water infrastructure, while creating good-paying jobs. [See the full press release with more information](#)³.

³ <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/biden-harris-administration-announces-24-billion-clean-water-infrastructure-upgrades>

Biden-Harris Administration Proposes Stronger Limits on Water Pollution from Power Plants

The Biden-Harris Administration announced it is proposing to strengthen wastewater discharge standards that apply to coal-fired power plants. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposal follows the latest science and applies EPA's longstanding authority under the Clean Water Act to reduce discharges of toxic metals and other pollutants from these power plants into lakes, streams, and other waterbodies. The proposed rule would help protect our nation's vital water resources that support safe drinking water, agriculture, and healthy communities while providing greater certainty for industry.

Learn more about [the proposed Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards for the Steam Electric Power Generating Category](#) and direct final rule, including how to comment or participate in an online public hearing. Read the entire [press release](#).

NRCS Refines Nutrient Management Strategies to Improve Conservation Outcomes

In 2022, NRCS developed a strategic operational plan to address changing trends in agriculture, enhancing our existing nutrient management conservation efforts. This plan includes promoting SMART Nutrient Management planning and highlighting the importance of comprehensive, site-specific assessment of nutrient loss risks. It also includes several science-based nutrient management and water quality strategies for improving conservation outcomes, and NRCS continues to move this work forward. [Read more details](#).

FOR YOUR RESIDENTS – Public Service Announcements to Share with Residents

Landscaping for Water Quality in the Finger Lakes Region.

Please share [this guide](#)⁴ with your residents on how practices on their land can affect water quality.

Understanding Flood Risk for Your Community

The Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) has developed an interactive website--[ReduceFloodRisk.org](#)--to provide property owners and communities with a comprehensive understanding of potential flood risk and how to mitigate it. Reduce Flood Risk can help property owners, renters, and community officials to better understand flood risk, flood insurance, financial assistance options, and who to contact with questions.

Find more information and resources about floodplain management on [ASFPM's website](#) and DEC's [Floodplain Management webpage](#).

⁴ <http://cceanondaga.org/resources/landscaping-for-water-quality-in-the-finger-lakes>