



Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization  
(CWIO)



**News** **April 2023**

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## CWIO MEETINGS – Two Meetings in April

### 4/19 3:00-5:00: Tips on Grant Funding.

- **Kate (Hogle) Black**, Coastal Resource Specialist with the NYS Department of State (DOS), Office of Planning, Development & Community Infrastructure will speak about DOS grant funding opportunities, and tips on successful grant applications and management.
- **Greg Hutnik**, Senior Planner & GIS Analyst, Cayuga County Planning & Economic Development will speak on project development, grant writing, grant administration, and how the county assists municipalities with grant.

This is a good opportunity to have your grant questions answered.

ZOOM LINK:<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8532417193?pwd=dGJBNGlJUnNxSCtJODR4Y2JUbmZjZz09>

Meeting ID: 853 241 7193

Passcode: 392742

By phone +1 929 205 6099 US (New York) or +1 646 931 3860 US

### 4/26 6:00-7:30 IN PERSON at Cornell University. Please note different time.

This is the regular CWIO meeting of the month and will include the regular agenda. We are working on a zoom option. Fingers crossed.

The featured presentation is a team of 3 Cornell graduate students will present their report on an overview of local government laws in effect throughout the watershed that are protective of water. There will be time for questions after.

Room 2250 Martha Van Rensselaer Building on the Cornell Campus. Park at 37 Forest Home Drive, Ithaca, NY. A map of the building and conference room is at the end of this document. Walk to the building entrance at 116 Reservoir Ave, Ithaca or take the elevator from the parking garage.

**SWCD Joined 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. Check out their annual reports to learn more about their good work.

- [Tompkins, Cortland, Cayuga](#) – a short film about their work.
- [Seneca County](#)
- [Schuyler County](#)
- [Ontario County](#)
- [Tompkins County](#)

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## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES and FUNDED WORK

### 4/20 8:30-9:30 a.m. - Culvert Projects and Funding Sources

Improper structures that carry roads over streams pose hazards and liabilities to both transportation and ecological networks, resulting in flooding, habitat fragmentation, erosion, and disruption of critical services. Culvert rightsizing programs are key to improving stream connectivity and flood resilience across the Hudson River watershed.

Join the Hudson River Watershed Alliance's monthly breakfast webinar to learn about planning and implementing culvert improvement projects. [Register here](#)<sup>1</sup>.

### 4/21 - Application Deadline for CSP and EQIP Funding – for agricultural producers and landowners.

The USDA through its Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is now accepting additional applications for the [Environmental Quality Incentives Program](#) (EQIP) and [Conservation Stewardship Program](#) (CSP) through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), as well as CSP Classic. Applications that meet eligibility and ranking criteria for each program, and are received by April 21, 2023, will be considered for fiscal year 2023 funding.

EQIP provides technical and financial assistance to agricultural producers and forest landowners to address natural resource concerns, such as: water and air quality, soil health, and wildlife habitat. NRCS works one-on-one with producers to develop a conservation plan that outlines conservation practices and activities to help solve on-farm resource issues. Producers implement practices and activities in their conservation plan that can lead to cleaner water and air, healthier soil and better wildlife habitat, all while improving their agricultural operations. EQIP helps producers make conservation work for them. Financial assistance for practices may be available through EQIP. Some producers may also qualify for advance payment.

### 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](mailto: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

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<sup>1</sup> [https://uso2web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_3Neh3uSQayEREUp0Nt5CA#/registration](https://uso2web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_3Neh3uSQayEREUp0Nt5CA#/registration)

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.

### **Town of Seneca Falls Awarded NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) for Water Infrastructure Project.**

The Town of Seneca Falls was awarded \$5,130,000 short-term interest free financing and \$1,710,000 WIIA grant (Water Infrastructure Improvement/Intermunicipal Grants) for the planning, design, and construction of a new excess flow tank at the Seneca Falls Wastewater Treatment Plant. [Read the full story](#). CONGRATULATIONS SENECA FALLS!! These funds are part of the \$70 million allocated by NYS for infrastructure improvement projects across NYS.

### **Water Quality Improvement Program (WQIP)**

This document gives an overview of the [WQIP program](#)<sup>2</sup> from 2022 and while some of the requirements may change for 2023, this outlines the types of projects eligible for grant funding from WQIP which generally fall into these categories:

- Wastewater Treatment Improvement
- Non-Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control
- Land Acquisition for Source Water Protection.
- Salt Storage

## **TRAINING and WATERSHED PLANNING**

### **4/21 1:00-2:00 - Using the Riparian Opportunity Assessment in Project and Resiliency Planning**

The [Statewide Riparian Restoration Opportunity Assessment](#)<sup>3</sup> is a comprehensive mapping tool that can be used to analyze watershed conditions (such as water quality, riparian forest cover, floodplain complexes, erosion risk, and more) and inform conservation projects across watersheds statewide, down to the catchment level. Join staff from the Tug Hill Commission, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's Great Lakes Program, and the Water Resources Institute at Cornell University on April 21st from 1pm to 2pm to learn how the tool can be used in local and regional project and resiliency planning. [Register here](#)<sup>4</sup>.

### **4/25 1:00-2:00 – Conservation Nature is Climate Smart – Municipal Training Opportunity.**

Nature is an integral part of climate solutions – but what does that mean for local governments? Natural areas store and sequester carbon, cool temperatures, and **buffer storm surges and floods**. New York's [Climate Smart Communities Program](#) supports local governments in adapting to climate change, building community resilience, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Participating communities benefit from free technical assistance and access to grants.

This webinar will focus on climate smart actions related to land-use planning and protecting nature, including actions for planning, zoning and protection of natural areas.

[Click here to register via Webex](#). Confirmation of attendance for 1.5 hours of municipal training credit will be available.

### **Watershed 101 Overview – For Chief Elected Officials**

Designed with elected officials and municipal staff in mind, [this video](#)<sup>5</sup> gives an overview of watershed principles suited for anyone in municipal or regional government including code enforcement. Made by the

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<sup>2</sup> [https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/water\\_pdf/wqiprfa2022.pdf](https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/water_pdf/wqiprfa2022.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.nynhp.org/projects/statewide-riparian-assessment/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://tinyurl.com/3knk63d3>

<sup>5</sup> [https://youtu.be/UNI8o\\_Ow6fY](https://youtu.be/UNI8o_Ow6fY)

Buffalo Niagara Waterkeepers with funding from the Lake Erie Watershed Protection Alliance and the NYS DEC Environmental Protection Fund.

### **Watershed 101 Overview – For Planning, Zoning, and Town Boards.**

[This video](#)<sup>6</sup> is similar to the previous but describes tools that board members can use to address water quality issues.

### **Highway Ditch Maintenance**

[This video](#)<sup>7</sup> describes roadside ditch maintenance practices and “replumbing”. David Orr, PE from Cornell University’s Local Roads Program discusses their survey of ditch management practices in NYS and gives an example of a watershed “replumbing” project. Great for highway departments and those looking to understand how drainage ditches function. Courtesy of the [Upper Susquehanna Coalition and Otsego County Conservation Alliance](#).

### **Saturated Buffers Can Reduce Nutrients in Water When Used in Rights-of-Ways.**

If your municipality has room in the road Right-of-way, or can work with landowners near tile drain outlets, a consider installing a saturated buffer to improve water quality.

A saturated buffer is an area of perennial vegetation between agricultural fields and waterways where tile outlets drain. Tile lines connect to a control structure, which distributes water laterally along the buffer. As water drains into the buffer, the living roots of perennial vegetation absorb water and nutrients, like nitrate-nitrogen. According to the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy, a saturated buffer has the potential to remove 50% of nitrate-nitrogen from water that is diverted through the buffer. [Read more about this study](#) that shows use of saturated buffers

- Decreases in nitrate-nitrogen being deposited in waterways.
- Decreases turbidity and volume of water in waterways.
- Stabilizes stream and ditch banks.
- Provides wildlife habitat.

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

The conference for the [New York State Federation of Lake Associations](#) (NYSFOLA) is holding their 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **MONITORING and RESEARCH**

### **4/18 1:00-3:00 – Tile Drainage on Farms – Managing for water quality and soil health.**

Researchers will share information related to tile drainage on farms in the Northeast as well as help give context to the larger topic of water, soil and nutrients in our agricultural watersheds. Strategies to understand and mitigate impacts to water quality will be presented. Speakers: Laura Klaiber (Miner Institute) and Dr. Joshua Faulkner (University of Vermont)

Location: Cayuga County SWCD (7413 County House Road, Auburn, NY 13021) or by zoom. [Register here by 4/14.](#)

### **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.

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<sup>6</sup> <https://youtu.be/agNazlhYrK8>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7aD1VftLm8w>

The Forum will be in-person. However, we hope to utilize zoom to make the forum available online. Please use [this link](#)<sup>8</sup> to access the forum: Passcode: 14850 Facebook link: <https://fb.me/e/1oQYuxzCF>

## NEWS AND REPORTS

### **Cayuga Lake Watershed:**

#### **The 2022 Community Science Institute (CSI) Monthly Update**

See the [latest news from CSI](#)<sup>9</sup> including features on learning the difference between turbidity, total suspended solids and total dissolved solids—all important aspects of understanding water quality work. Also included is their Water Monitoring Program information, new CSI data, events and articles of interest.

#### **5/18 2:00-5:00 The Cayuga Lake Watershed Network's Spring Community Conference**

The Cayuga Lake Watershed Network will host their Spring Community Conference on 5/18 at Wells College in Aurora, NY. Among other important watershed discussions, CSI's own Cayuga Lake HABs Monitoring Program Coordinator, Grace Haynes, will be giving a presentation on the Cayuga Lake HABs patterns observed in 2022.

#### **Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency (WQMA) Newsletter**

The Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency (WQMA) works on water quality issues throughout Cayuga County including the NE section of Cayuga Lake. This [issue](#) includes articles on:

- A review of the Bob Brower Symposium and link to the (excellent) presentations.
- Promotion of Lake Friendly Lawn Program.
- An article by Grace Haynes from the Community Science Institute (CSI) about the differences between water quality indicators and an overview of related fact sheets.
- Cleaning up pet waste.
- Perspectives on the Word "Sustainability" from Ryan Staychock of Cornell Cooperative Extension.

### **New York**

#### **NYS Announces Funding to Protect Water quality and Soil Health Around the Finger Lakes**

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Department of Agriculture and Markets (AGM) today announced \$370,000 for the Finger Lakes Cover Crop Initiative. The initiative helps support farmers' use of cover crops to reduce erosion, implement watershed management plans, and protect water quality in and around the 11 Finger Lakes: Conesus, Hemlock, Canadice, Honeoye, Canandaigua, Keuka, Seneca, Cayuga, Owasco, Skaneateles, and Otisco. [See the full press release.](#)

### **Federal News**

#### **Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$775 Million Investment in America for Clean Water Infrastructure Upgrades.**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced over \$775 million from the 2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act for states, Tribes, and territories through this year's Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF). The funding will help communities upgrade essential wastewater and stormwater systems to protect public health and treasured water bodies across the nation. Nearly half of this funding will be available as grants or principal forgiveness loans, which will help

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<sup>8</sup> <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83831123736?pwd=T2M4MDJ3WHhDRFJhNTFiWm5VbXY5dz09>

<sup>9</sup> <https://mailchi.mp/ec7d93146109/csi-monthly-update-november-5394957?e=7240942499>

underserved communities across America invest in water infrastructure while creating good-paying jobs. [See the full press release](#)<sup>10</sup>.

### **Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$6.5 Billion for Drinking Water Infrastructure Upgrades**

In March 2023, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced over \$6.5 billion for states, Tribes, and territories for essential drinking water infrastructure upgrades across the nation through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). Thanks to a \$6 billion boost from President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, EPA is increasing the investments available to rebuild the nation's water infrastructure. [See the full press release](#).

### **EPA Announces Proposal to Improve Public Awareness of Drinking Water Quality**

On March 28, 2023 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that would strengthen the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) Rule making annual drinking water quality reports with important public health information more accessible to residents and businesses across the country. A Consumer Confidence Report, sometimes called an "Annual Drinking Water Quality Report," summarizes information about the local drinking water for the previous year. EPA's proposal would support public education by more clearly communicating important information in water quality reports and improving access to the reports. [See the full press release](#).

## **General News**

### **Phosphorus Saved Our Way of Life, and Now It Threatens to End It.**

Fertilizers filled with the nutrient boosted our ability to feed the planet. Today, they're creating vast and growing dead zones in our lakes and seas. [Article from the New Yorker](#) by Elizabeth Kolbert  
February 27, 2023

## **FOR YOUR RESIDENTS AND LANDOWNERS WITHIN YOUR MUNICIPALITY – Public Service Announcements to Share.**

### **Look for the Zero: Use only phosphorus-free lawn fertilizer.**

The NYS DEC encourages homeowners to go phosphorus-free when using lawn fertilizer. Consumers should review bag labels for phosphorus content when shopping for fertilizer. Fertilizer labels have three numbers. The number in the middle is the percentage of phosphorus in the product.

Regardless of the lawn's location, excess phosphorus can wash off and pollute lakes and streams, harming fish and ruining boating and swimming.

For more information, [visit DEC's Lawn Fertilizer webpage](#).

### **Landscaping for Water Quality in the Finger Lakes Region.**

Please share [this guide](#)<sup>11</sup> 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.

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<sup>10</sup> <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/biden-harris-administration-announces-775-million-investment-america-clean-water>

<sup>11</sup> <http://cceanondaga.org/resources/landscaping-for-water-quality-in-the-finger-lakes>

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

### **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.

### **4/21 Application Deadline for CSP and EQIP Funding**

We are now accepting additional applications for the [Environmental Quality Incentives Program \(EQIP\)](#) and [Conservation Stewardship Program \(CSP\)](#) through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), as well as CSP Classic. Applications that meet eligibility and ranking criteria for each program, and are received by April 21, 2023, will be considered for fiscal year 2023 funding.

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## [Martha Van Rensselaer Hall](#)

116 Reservoir Ave, Ithaca NY 14850

There is parking along Forest Home Drive next to Beebe Lake and in the Forest Home Parking Garage. The parking garage and Forest Home lot are both free after 5 pm.

If you park in the Forest Home Lot, you would cross the street and walk up the stairs, entering the building near Martha's Café. You can take the stairs or the elevator, both near Martha's Café to the second floor (red line on the drawing). Alternatively, if you park in the garage, you would take the elevator at the Northwest end of the garage up to level T, enter the Human Ecology Building directly to your right. Walk straight ahead through the commons area to the elevator by Martha's Café and go up to the second floor (blue line on the map).

Room 2250 is all the way down the end of the main hallway once you exit the stairs or turn left off of the elevator.

