



CWIO News **June 2023**

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CWIO MEETING SUMMARIES

Finances: CWIO work is funded by municipalities. We are fortunate to have bridge funding from the Park Foundation to pay for our Watershed Manager's first 2 years, but we definitely need continued municipal funding to keep this work going. Dues for 2023 are due by June 30.

CLWN: At the 5/24 CWIO meeting, Liz Kreitinger from the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network (CLWN) gave CWIO an overview of their work throughout the watershed, especially their important role in monitoring, data collection, and education/outreach to the public.

Salt Mine Risks: Stephanie Redmond gave a summary of the meeting titled *Risks of Salt Mining Under the Lake* organized by CLEAN (Cayuga Lake Environmental Action Now). [The presentation¹](#) is available on-line.

Submit a Project Idea: The [CWIO project submission page is now open²](#). Anyone can submit a water quality project idea that would benefit from assistance by CWIO. Submission will be taken until October 1. A prioritized list will be available by February 2024.

Project ideas can vary widely. Some examples:

- Sediment and erosion reduction, flood & stormwater issues, hazard mitigation, stream bank stabilization, retention ponds, wetlands restoration, ditch management improvements, etc.
- Engineering and design– many projects require design or engineering work prior to applying for the funding to do the actual in-ground work.
- Planning – develop plans such as Local Waterfront Revitalization Plans (LWRP), Drinking Water Source Protection Plans (DWSP₂), Comprehensive Plans, Resource Inventories, etc.
- Training and Education – demonstrations, workshops, or educational materials relating to improved water quality protections targeting groups such as Planners and Planning Boards, Highway Departments, Stormwater Managers, Elected Officials, etc.
- Data – to identify water quality problem areas such as mapping, water quality indicators, etc.
- Or projects that fall outside the box – collaborations, developing Best Management Practices, or other tools that would be useful and protective of water quality.

TMDL: The [joint letter requesting the completion of the TMDL³](#) was mailed out in May to state and federal contacts representing areas of the Cayuga Lake watershed.

In person CWIO meetings 2023 (these may now be changed due to the recent resignation of the Watershed Manager):

- **The 8/23 CWIO meeting will be from 3:00-4:30 in the Village of Cayuga** with the topic being the benefits of planning and planning documents to water quality work. We hope to meet up at a local winery to socialize after (TBA)
- **The 10/25 CWIO meeting will be in the morning at the Seneca County Community Center.** The topic: Municipal Actions to Protect Water Quality

¹ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eooiq_Az1Cg

² <https://cwio.org/projects/submit-a-project-idea/>

³ <https://cwio.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Request-Cayuga-TMDL-CLWN-CWIO-04-2023.pdf>

FROM THE CAYUGA LAKE WATERSHED MANAGER

For CWIO members who were able to attend the Cornell University Master's of Public Administration student's presentation at CWIO's April 19th meeting you may have picked up on the fact that the students reviewed the [NYS Department of State's Model Local Laws to Increase Resilience](#). This [tool](#) covers five specific areas:

- basic land use tools for resiliency,
- wetland and watercourse protection measures,
- coastal shoreline protection measures,
- management of floodplain development, and
- stormwater control measures.

In my conversations with CWIO members thus far, I have regularly heard of interest and necessity to improve stormwater management. Therefore, I wanted to take a look at the stormwater control measures chapter, especially given that we are heading into summer in recent years we have seen thunderstorm cells in the area capable of producing significant rainfall in a mere matter of minutes.

[Part A](#) of this chapter covers steep slopes, including lot frontage and driveways, while [Part B](#) provides model stormwater management and erosion & sediment control with plug-in provisions for impaired waters and enhanced phosphorus removal watersheds. This chapter may be a helpful resource for municipal planning boards interested in developing or expanding upon stormwater and erosion control regulations. Another Finger Lakes watershed, Conesus, has developed a Stormwater Toolkit which is pack full of resources from a review of regulatory standards to possible solutions to common issues. The toolkit can be viewed [here](#).

To wrap up, I'd like to leave CWIO members with a [guidebook of example municipal stormwater regulations](#) which has been compiled by the Chautauqua Lake & Watershed Management Alliance.

If there are additional resources you are seeking pertaining to stormwater, or if you need assistance finding a solution for a particular issue, please do not hesitate to contact me at NORRIS@hws.edu.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES, FUNDED WORK, and ASSISTANCE

Funding Sources, Guidance, and Tips

- If your municipality is considering a grant this year, or has identified a project in need of grant funding, consider reviewing the Environmental Finance Center at Syracuse University's [Funding Source Guide](#).
- NYS DEC has a [Funding Finder tool](#) and [Grant Applications page](#) that are updated regularly with federal, state, and local funding opportunities designed to simplify the process of

finding grant opportunities. The tool enables grant seekers to filter grant opportunities based on criteria (e.g., eligible applicants, project type, project phase, etc.) that meets their specific needs.

Sign up for newsletters that often include these grant program announcements such as [MakingWaves](#) and the [DWSP2 Newsletter](#).

- **Grant Tips** - written by Aaron McKeon & Michele Wunderlich for the Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency (WQMA)
 - On March 1, 2023 the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Division of Water held a webinar on "**Navigating Grant Funding: Municipal Success Stories**". The presentation featured municipal officials from around New York State discussing their success strategies for applying for and managing grant funds. [Access a recording of the webinar](#)⁴. This presentation was VERY helpful.

Subjects discussed in this 90-minute webinar include:

- Using multiple grants to fund a project,
 - Developing local support for a project,
 - Building relationships with local partners,
 - Using in-kind services to meet match requirements,
 - Using grant funds to pay for staff, and
 - Tips for first-time grant applicants.
- On April 19, 2023, Kate Black and Greg Hutnik gave a presentation at the Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization (CWIO) on project development, grant management and funding opportunities. [This presentation is available for viewing on the new Cayuga County WQMA YouTube Channel](#)⁵.

RCAP Offers No-Cost Technical Assistance Available for Water and Wastewater Systems

The Rural Communities Assistance Partnership ([RCAP](#)) is available to assist municipalities with drinking and wastewater projects at no cost for municipalities <10,000. This is a great service for smaller municipalities with drinking water or wastewater responsibilities. Contact Becky Sims at bsims@rcapsolutions.org. See more about their services below. Becky will join CWIO at their June meeting to explain more and answer questions.

National Wildlife Foundation Database of Federal Funding

The National Wildlife Foundation has created a searchable database of federal funding and technical assistance opportunities for nature-based solutions, including a multitude of natural infrastructure related opportunities. The database is designed as a resource for government entities, non-profit organizations and more. Each funding source has its own direct contact. [See more information](#)⁶.

⁴ <https://bit.ly/3Msg2kH>

⁵ <https://www.youtube.com/@CayugaCountyWQMA>

⁶ <https://fundingnaturebasedsolutions.nwf.org/>

6/8/23 8:30 – Water Quality Improvement Program (WQIP)

The WQIP grant program funds projects to directly improve water quality or aquatic habitat, promote flood risk reduction, restoration, and enhanced flood and climate resiliency, or protect a drinking water source. There are eight eligible project types in Round 19 (2023) with maximum award amounts ranging from \$100,000 to \$10,000,000. Learn more about each project type and apply via the links below.

WQIP funds implementation projects to improve water quality or aquatic habitat, promote flood risk reduction, restoration, and enhanced flood and climate resiliency, or protect a drinking water source.

Eligible project types:

- wastewater treatment improvement;
- non-agricultural nonpoint source abatement and control;
- vacuum trucks in municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) areas;
- land acquisition for source water protection;
- salt storage;
- dam safety repair/rehabilitation;
- aquatic connectivity restoration; and
- marine habitat restoration.

View the [2022 Round 18 WQIP Award List](#) to see the awarded projects in your county. For details about the most recent round, view the [WQIP Round 18 \(2022\) Program Overview](#).

Eligible project types:

- [Land Acquisition for Source Water Protection \(PDF\)](#) (see below for more information)
- [Non-Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control \(PDF\)](#)
- [Vacuum Trucks in Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System \(MS4\) Areas](#)
- [Wastewater Treatment Improvement](#)
- [Salt Storage \(PDF\)](#)
- [Dam Safety Repair/Rehabilitation](#)
- [Aquatic Connectivity Restoration \(PDF\)](#)
- [Marine District Habitat Restoration \(PDF\)](#)

For full program details and requirements, or to be made aware of webinars on this funding program visit the [WQIP Webpage](#).

6/14 at 10:00 - Land Acquisition for Source Water Protection

The [Land Acquisition for Source Water Protection](#)⁷ program (through WQIP) focuses on acquiring and protecting lands that are critical to safeguard a source of drinking water. The grant provides money to purchase parcels and/or conservation easements, including associated transactional costs, for land that is near an active public drinking water supply. To date, WQIP Land Acquisition for Source Water Protection grants have funded 51 projects totaling over \$65 million to protect source water across the state.

- Maximum grant amount: \$5,000,000.
- Required local match: 25% of requested grant amount.

⁷ https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/water_pdf/wqipla.r19factsheet.pdf

- Eligible project costs include buying land or development rights; transactional costs such as surveys, appraisals, transfer taxes, title reports; and riparian buffer or wetland costs.

[Register⁸](#) for an informational webinar.

6/16 and 6/25 - Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) for Water Pollution Control and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)

The NYS [Environmental Facilities Corporation](#) (EFC), DEC, and the NYS Department of Health have announced the availability of funds in support of CWSRF and DWSRF eligible projects for Federal Fiscal Year 2024. The CWSRF and DWSRF programs are available to municipalities and certain non-municipal entities in New York State to finance water quality and drinking water related projects.

New project listing forms and project updates will be accepted through **Friday, June 16, 2023**, from municipalities interested in competing for:

- FFY 2024 CWSRF Base funding
- FFY 2024 CWSRF BIL General Supplemental funding
- FFY 2024 CWSRF BIL Emerging Contaminants funding
- FFY 2024 DWSRF Base funding
- FFY 2023 DWSRF BIL General Supplemental funding
- FFY 2023 DWSRF BIL Emerging Contaminants funding

New project listing forms and project updates will be accepted through Friday, August 25, 2023, for municipalities interested in competing for:

- FFY 2023 DWSRF BIL Lead Service Line Replacement funding

6/26 and 7/26: Governor Hochul Kicks Off Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act Listening Tour.

The Clean Water, Clean Air and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act is the largest environmental bond in state history and the first in New York since 1996. The Bond Act will make \$4.2 billion available for environmental and community projects that also support job creation. [Read more⁹](#)

In person listening sessions are occurring around the state but none very close to our watershed, however virtual meetings will occur on

6/26 from 6-8:00 p.m.

7/26 from 6-8:00 p.m.

7/28 - Consolidated Funding Application Requesting Proposals Through July 28th

Governor Kathy Hochul has announced that [Round XIII of the Consolidated Funding Application \(CFA\) is open](#) and applications are requested by **4:00 p.m. on Friday, July 28, 2023**. More than \$750,000,000 in funding will be made available under this year's CFA.

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<https://meetny.webex.com/webappng/sites/meetny/meeting/register/54a9247b95814d59a51029db45ebe55f?ticket=4832534b0000006ed59342d859dd946e637dad410b93a204f73369b1e567f3e4ace9e09febde467×tamp=1685549164992&RGID=r5e16b03cf953d4d7aaf085aef8fba7c2>

⁹ <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-kicks-clean-water-clean-air-and-green-jobs-environmental-bond-act-listening>

As with last year, funding is being made available outside of the Regional Economic Development Council Initiative through [standalone CFA programs](#), including grants from NYSDEC, NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC), and NYS Department of State (DOS) as follows:

- [DEC Climate Smart Communities \(CSC\) Grants](#)
- [DEC Water Quality Improvement Project \(WQIP\) Program](#)
- [DEC Non-Agricultural Nonpoint Source Planning and MS4 Mapping Grant](#)
- [DEC/EFC Wastewater Infrastructure Engineering Planning Grant Program \(EPG\)](#)
- [EFC Green Innovation Grant Program \(GIGP\)](#)
- [DOS: Smart Growth Program - Community Planning & Zoning Grant 2023](#)
- [DOS Countywide Resiliency Planning Grant 2023](#)
- [DOS Local Government Efficiency Program 2023](#)

Applicants are encouraged to consider how their project can support [New York's Great Lakes Action Agenda](#) within their grant applications.

7/28 EFC Accepting Applications for \$425 Million in Grants for Critical Water Infrastructure Projects.

The New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) announced the application period is open for \$425 million in state grants made available for critical water infrastructure projects that protect public health and the environment. Bolstered by the first spending under the Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act of 2022, this infusion of funds will continue to help make water infrastructure investments more affordable for local governments, strengthen resiliency, combat climate change and create jobs in the manufacturing, engineering, construction, plant operations, and related industry sectors.

Local units of government are eligible to apply for funding for:

- Water Infrastructure Improvement (WIIA) grant awards for critical wastewater projects.
- WIIA grant awards for projects that address emerging contaminants above the State determined Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL).
- WIIA grant awards for other drinking water projects.
- Intermunicipal Grant (IMG) awards for joint wastewater or drinking water projects undertaken by two or more communities to consolidate services.

Complete eligibility information and application materials are available on EFC's website at www.efc.ny.gov/wiia. Grant applications and required supporting documentation must be submitted by 5 p.m. on Friday, July 28. [Read the full press release.](#)

7/28 - Drinking Water Source Protection Program Grant Funding Available Via the CFA

The [Drinking Water Source Protection Program](#) (DWSP₂) understands how important it is to access and utilize grant funding to implement source water protection actions at the local level. This month's newsletter highlights the funding opportunities available through the [Consolidated Funding Application](#) (CFA). Several of these funding opportunities may be helpful to your community as you work to protect your source of drinking water.

The [CFA](#) is accepting grant applications now until **4:00 PM on July 28, 2023, for many funding programs**. The grants are available for municipalities, not-for-profits, or other qualified groups to improve water quality and the environment.

10/6 - Regenerate New York Forestry Cost Share Grant Program

Funding for private landowners with five acres of land or more is available to support the regeneration of forests so they may continue to deliver vital services such as mitigating climate change, protecting air and water quality, and supporting the economy. A minimum of \$10,000 and a maximum of \$100,000 with a 25% match requirement is available to reimburse landowners for eligible project costs, including:

1. Afforestation/reforestation
2. Forest stand regeneration
3. Competing vegetation/invasive species control
4. Deer fencing and slash walls

Applications for Round 3 will close **Friday, October 6th, 2023 at 5:00pm**, or when funds are exhausted, whichever comes first. [For more information and to apply](#)¹⁰.

Source Water Buffer Program

The goal of the Source Water Buffer Program is to protect public drinking water and to enhance water quality protection. The Program funds the purchase of conservation easements and the implementation of buffer systems, which filter surface runoff or shallow groundwater to protect the water quality of New York State's aquifers, watersheds, reservoirs, lakes, rivers, and streams. Over \$4 million is available for conservation projects with a required match of 25% of total eligible costs. Eligible applicants are soil and water conservation districts. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and are funded on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information and requirements, visit Ag & Market's [Source Water Buffer Program webpage](#).

Non-Agricultural Nonpoint Source Planning and MS4 Mapping Grant (NPG):

The Non-Agricultural Nonpoint Source Planning and MS4 Mapping Grant (NPG) funds planning reports for nonpoint source water quality improvement projects and mapping of Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s). The program aims to prepare nonpoint source projects for construction and application for implementation funding, and to encourage and support cooperation among regulated MS4s to complete mapping of their stormwater system.

For full program details and requirements, including project type descriptions, view DEC's [Non-Agricultural Nonpoint Source webpage](#).

Green Innovation Grant Program

The Green Innovation Grant Program (GIGP) supports projects across New York State that utilize unique stormwater infrastructure design and create green technologies to mitigate the effects of climate change through the implementation of one or more of the following green practices: **green stormwater infrastructure**, energy efficiency, **water efficiency**, and environmental innovation. The GIGP will provide up to \$15 million in grant on a competitive basis to projects. Eligible applicants are municipalities, private entities, state agencies, and soil and water conservation districts.

For full program details and requirements, view EFC's [Green Innovation Grant Program Webpage](#).

¹⁰ <https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/119950.html>

Funding for Dam Repair or Engineering Design Report

New this year, the Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) grant program includes "Dam Safety Repair/Rehabilitation". Municipalities can apply for up to \$5 million¹¹ to repair a dam with a downstream hazard classification of Class C (High) and Class B (Intermediate) to reduce flood risk and promote climate change resilience. Find more information on DEC's [WQIP webpage](#). Municipalities can also apply for funding from the [Non-Agricultural Nonpoint Source Planning and MS4 Mapping Grant](#) (NPG) to complete an engineering design report for a Class C or Class B hazard dam.

Funding Available for Local Waterfront Planning

Competitive matching grants supported by New York State's Environmental Protection Fund are available to municipalities to develop and [implement Local Waterfront Revitalization Programs](#) (LWRP) and Watershed Management Plans to revitalize communities and waterfronts.

The LWRP supports community planning efforts to evaluate local resources, develop goals and strategies, and identify ways in which the community can reduce risk to community assets to ensure successful and sustainable revitalization. Eligible applicants are villages, towns, cities, and counties (on behalf of eligible municipalities) located along New York's coasts or inland waterways.

The 2022 LWRP Request for Applications (RFA) can be referenced [here](#)¹² on the Department of State (DOS) website and more details [here](#). DOS can provide technical assistance to communities before the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) opens for 2023, contact irene.holak@dos.ny.gov or fred.landa@dos.ny.gov.

USDA Invests \$17 Million in Partnerships to Restore Wetlands, Support Underserved Producers

The United States Department of Agriculture is investing \$17 million in five Wetland Reserve Enhancement Partnership (WREP) projects, bringing together partners and landowners in a joint effort to return critical wetland functions to agricultural landscapes. Conservation partners and agricultural producers will work with NRCS to mitigate climate change while also prioritizing assistance to underserved communities. [Learn more about the new wetland projects](#).

Climate Smart Communities Grant Program

The [Climate Smart Communities Grant Program](#) provides competitive, 50/50 matching grants to municipalities to conduct climate change mitigation and adaptation projects.

Success Story: Land Acquisition Project

The City of Watervliet was awarded a **\$480,000 WQIP Land Acquisition grant** to acquire a 58-acre parcel of land adjacent to their drinking water source, the Watervliet Reservoir. Acquiring this parcel will protect the reservoir from potential pollution associated with development or certain land use activities. The land will remain as undeveloped forest, acting as a natural riparian buffer for the City's drinking water source in perpetuity.

- Land will be owned, maintained, and monitored by Watervliet along with their other land surrounding the reservoir, expanding the number of riparian buffer acres.

¹¹ Funding for this WQIP project type is contingent upon DEC's allocation of funding from the Clean Water, Clean Air and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act.

¹² <https://dos.ny.gov/2022-2023-local-waterfront-revitalization-program>

- Watervliet is an Environmental Justice community; this project will provide a water quality benefit to the drinking water serving this community.
- The purchase of this parcel is an implementation action of the City of Watervliet's [Drinking Water Source Protection Program \(DWSP2\) Plan](#).

Other communities looking to protect their sources of public drinking water can complete a [DWSP2 interest form](#) and follow in the footsteps of Watervliet. DWSP2 provides your community an actionable plan to protect your drinking water source(s) which includes a step-by-step process to implement your selected methods using available funding sources, like those provided in this newsletter.

TRAINING, RESOURCES, and WATERSHED PLANNING

Best Practices websites and additional resources

Even though these resources were developed for the Hudson River Estuary, they are applicable to the Finger Lakes as well:

- [Best Practices for Adopting Conservation Inventories and Plans: A Guide for Communities in the Hudson River Estuary Watershed](#)
- [Creating a Natural Resources Inventory: A Guide for Communities in the Hudson River Estuary Watershed](#)
- [NYS Local Open Space Planning Guide](#)
- [Conservation Planning in the Hudson River Estuary Watershed](#)

MONITORING and RESEARCH

Bloom: The Toxic Threat to the Finger Lakes

Since 2017, all eleven of New York state's Finger Lakes have been affected by harmful algal blooms. These outbreaks threaten the region's tourism and drinking water supply. The video *Bloom* breaks down the potential culprits that may be playing a part in this environmental disruption. But, more importantly, the film highlights a region's call to action to solve this growing problem. [Watch the video](#)¹³.

7/10 at 6:30 to 7:30 - Finger Lakes Water Quality - How Climate & Invasive Mussels may play a role in HABs

Research is beginning to reveal a possible association between the increase in the occurrence of Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) and invasive mussels. Dr. Kim Schulz, Associate Professor of Environmental and Forest Biology, at SUNY ESF has been surveying Owasco Lake and other Finger Lakes for invasive species - including Quagga Mussels. Learn more about the results of Dr. Schulz's research and how this invasive species and other factors associated with climate change may be impacting our lakes.

¹³ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DshiuWQNZyw>

Where: Vince's Park, Route 318 and 5 & 20, Seneca Falls, NY 13148

Cost: Free, but Registration required by July 9, 2023

[Register](#)¹⁴ by 7/9 or contact Judy Wright at Seneca CCE at 315-539-9251. See [flyer](#)¹⁵

Salt Mine Under the Lake: What Are the Risks and Options

[Watch this video](#)¹⁶ about the risks to Cayuga Lake from the salt mine under the lake. The talk was given in April this year presented by Dr. Raymond Vaughan and sponsored by Cayuga Lake Environmental Action Now (CLEAN).

INVASIVE SPECIES

6/7 10:00-11:15 – Hydrilla Task Force Address Management Strategies for Hydrilla in Cayuga Lake

Join the [Cayuga Lake Watershed Network](#) and the Cayuga Lake Hydrilla Task Force on June 7th for a public online/Zoom session with presentations by aquatic invasive species managers at the [Finger Lakes PRISM](#), [NYS Department of Environmental Conservation](#) and US Army Corps of Engineers. Learn and ask questions about Hydrilla, the challenges it presents to Cayuga Lake, and current management strategies. This session will be recorded and uploaded to our YouTube channel.

Presenters:

Sam Beck-Andersen, Associate Director of Invasive Species Programs and Coordinator of Finger Lakes PRISM

Richard Ruby , Biologist at US Army Corps of Engineers

Michael Robinson, Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator - NYS DEC Region 7.

[Register in advance for this meeting](#)¹⁷

6/8 at 10:00 - iMapInvasives App Training and Invasive Species Walk

iMapInvasives provides an online database and mapping system designed to enable rapid sharing and efficient management of invasive species data. Natural resource managers use iMapInvasives to track monitoring and treatment efforts and to stay informed of new invaders. This event will show participants how to use the iMapInvasives App to monitor invasive species and report their distributions to iMapInvasives. Participants will also do a short hike of the Owasco Flats Nature Reserve to identify existing invasive species and report them to the app.

Address: Owasco Flats Nature Reserve, 2799 Firelane (End of Firelane 1), Moravia, NY 13118

Registration: Registration is required and class size is limited. Please email Michele Wunderlich at mwunderlich@cayugacounty.us to register and get pre-training homework and instructions.

¹⁴ https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/flxwaterquality2023_245

¹⁵

https://s3.amazonaws.com/assets.cce.cornell.edu/attachments/61969/Finger_Lakes_Water_Quality_Workshop_July_2023_flyer_01.pdf?1683643283

¹⁶ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eooiq_Az1Cg

¹⁷ https://us02web.zoom.us/joining/register/tZwkf-Gvrz4uHdTsh6l1LUQ_zjrLvTzdZieg

Invasive Species Awareness Week

NYS Invasive Species Awareness week is June 5th through June 11th. Events are listed at <https://fingerlakesinvasives.org/nyisaw23/>.

NEWS AND SUCCESS STORIES

Cayuga Lake Watershed:

The Cayuga Lake Watershed Network (CLWN)

In their [May newsletter](#)¹⁸ were topics:

- The Annual CLWN Community Conference
- Lake Friendly Living Awareness program
- Embrace the Lake – More than 150 people joined litter clean-ups around the lake and collected over 100 bags of trash from alongside roads, creeks, in parks and parking lots around Cayuga Lake.
- Volunteer opportunities (see section *For your Residents* below)
- And more!

Follow Up from the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network (CLWN) Community Conference

If you missed the CLWN Community Conference, the slides from each presenter are available:

- [Water Quality Patterns in Cayuga Lake: Looking Backward, Forward, and Upstream](#) – Dr. Dave Matthews from the Upstate Freshwater Institute presented research and monitoring results regarding HABs.
- [Harmful Algal Blooms \(HABs\) on Cayuga Lake: 5 Years of Monitoring](#) – Grace Haynes from the Community Science Institute presented the patterns of HABs over the 5 years of the monitoring program and what they have learned.
- [Cayuga Lake Protection Plan](#) – A plan to bring water and sewer service to a large area of the lakeshore in Cayuga County. Talk given by Karl Rindfleisch of the Cayuga County Water and Sewer Authority.
- CLWN [James C. White Memorial Prize](#) (pg 16).

CSI Monthly bulletin.

The Community Science Institute has monthly updates on Cayuga Lake's condition. [See their 2023 monthly news](#)¹⁹. With the most recent giving an excellent explanation of the nitrogen cycle and its interaction with water.

Summer 2023: Septic System and Private Water Well Maintenance Workshops

Workshops will focus on homeowner septic system management. Topics will include how a septic system functions, current system standards, maintenance requirements and schedules, trouble shooting, and system failures. Private water well components, maintenance, and recommended testing schedules will also be discussed.

- June 14, Lansing Town Hall

¹⁸ <https://mailchi.mp/41f9dec94b81/may-e-news-community-conference-tomorrow?e=69e4d22cca>

¹⁹ <http://www.communityscience.org/outreach-and-education/csinews/>

- August 17, Danby Town Hall
- September 21, Ulysses Town Hall

ALL DATES 6:30-8:00 PM. Max 15 spaces per date. Call Doug Barnes to register, 607-274-6688. Registration required. [Click here for a PDF](#) with more info.

Tompkins County homeowners can receive a \$200 rebate coupon good for septic system maintenance by attending this free workshop.

Tompkins County SWCD 2023 plan of work.

See the TC [SWCD Work Plan](#)²⁰ for 2023.

6/21 8:00-4:30 - Installation of Residential Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems

The Onsite Wastewater Treatment Training Network (OTN) is offering an installation course for onsite wastewater professionals. This 1- day course will show professional techniques for installing a properly functioning septic system:

- Understand the elements of pre-construction planning and site preparation
- Incorporate an understanding of soil types and conditions in your installation strategy
- Setting tanks and distribution boxes; installing pumps and dosing units; correct construction of absorption systems
- Alternative treatment units and absorption techniques
- Enhance your skills and reputation for properly installing residential onsite systems.

Space is limited and held in person at the Cortland County SWCD office, 100 Grange Place, Room 202, Cortland, NY. [Register here](#). This course is organized by OTN and RCAP Solutions. Funded through the US EPA. 7 hours of credit offered for Code Enforcement and Building Inspectors. Questions? Contact [Becky Sims](#) at RCAP Solutions or call 607-233-3824.

6/22 8:00-4:30 - Installation of Residential Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems

The Onsite Wastewater Treatment Training Network (OTN) is offering a course for onsite wastewater professionals to learn how to evaluate soils for a properly functioning septic system and includes:

- An array of soil evaluation techniques used by professionals in the field.
- Explore soil types, textures and conditions through hands-on exercises and field evaluation.
- Learn to read and understand soil survey reports.
- Enhance your skills and reputation for evaluating soil and site conditions for proper septic system design and installation.

Space is limited and held in person at the Cortland County SWCD office, 100 Grange Place, Room 202, Cortland, NY. [Register here](#). This course is organized by OTN and RCAP Solutions. Funded through the US EPA. **7 hours of credit offered for Code Enforcement, Building Inspectors, and Professional Engineers.** Questions? Contact [Becky Sims](#) at RCAP Solutions or call 607-233-3824.

Owasco

Topics in Recent Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council (OLWMC) Minutes

- Watershed Rules and Regulations (WRRs) talks still underway with state

- Drinking Water Source Protection Plans (DWSP₂) are underway in City of Auburn and Town of Owasco
- Annual Watershed Inspection and Protection Division [report is available](#)²¹
- Grant funding will allow new gE plan to be incorporated into the local waterfront revitalization plan.
- OLWMC endorsed, NYS environmental conservation bill (A6652/S4162) https://www.owascoinspection.org/_files/ugd/1d3f5b_df7d48eff77143769542e7044dbfb349.pdf that would protect up to 41,000 miles of New York streams.
- Participation in lake friendly living
- *Clean Drain, Dry* billboard for boat launches
- Updates on monitoring efforts
- New plan adopted by Village of Moravia: *Sediment and Erosion Control Plan*
- HAB monitoring and reporting 2022-2023
- Land Holdings: OWLMC closed on Fillmore Nature Preserve property, following up on several other parcels identified by the Nature Conservancy.
- Maintaining water level sensing system
- Grants
 - Waiting to hear about grant the OLWMC submitted to Sustain Our Great Lakes (SOGL) 2023. The project pre-proposal targets funding stream restoration and improvement projects along stream reaches of the Owasco Inlet in the southern municipalities of Moravia and Locke. Amount requested \$299,640
 - The Tributary Assessment and Identification Pilot Project (TAIPP) “pilot” project, which led to the installation of tributary signage in the northern portion of the watershed, provided a starting point to engage the public for tributary protection and education.

Skaneateles

Cayuga County Receives Funding to Address High Priority Water Quality Recommendation

Cayuga County received a New York State Department of State grant to implement a high priority recommendation from the 2016 Owasco Lake Watershed Management and Waterfront Revitalization Plan, which was to incorporate the EPA Nine Key Elements into the Plan. This project was led by the Cayuga County Department of Planning and Economic Development and the consultant on the project was Ecologic, LLC.

The [Owasco Lake Watershed Nine Element Plan for Phosphorus Reduction](#)²² (gEP) was approved by the New York State Department of State and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. This Clean Water Plan advances efforts to restore and protect the water quality of Owasco Lake and its watershed. This collaborative effort identified strategies to ensure the lake water supply, aquatic habitat, and recreational uses are protected.

Skaneateles Lake Association Announces Private Road Drainage Improvement Fund

The Skaneateles Lake Association (SLA) is pleased to announce a matching grant program for residents who share with neighbors a privately owned access road that has drainage problems

²¹ https://www.owascoinspection.org/_files/ugd/1d3f5b_df7d48eff77143769542e7044dbfb349.pdf

²² https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/water_pdf/owasco9e.pdf

resulting in sediment erosion reaching the lake. The total 2023 program budget, provided by SLA's Legacy Fund is \$50,000. It will be dispersed in up to \$10,000 max awards to help solve or substantially reduce drainage issues associated with shared access roads.

6/30 4:00-7:00 - Skaneateles Lake Association Newsletter

Topics included:

- The SLA 2023 Annual Meeting, 1150 Ten Mile Point, Skaneateles, Friday, June 30th at 4-7:00PM (social from 4-5:30) at Lourdes Camp. Click [HERE](#) to register.
- Milfoil Monitoring
- Lake Levels
- 6/21 at 7:00 - Shorelines Matter – How Neighbors Influence Shoreline Type [Registration](#)²³. This session will provide context on human behavior related to shorelines. This presentation will share research-based information on predictors of shoreline type, or what influences a property owner's shoreline type. This event will also explore research about peoples' willingness to participate in different hypothetical shoreline programs.

New York

Water Well Completion Reports Available on DECinfo Locator

DEC's [Water Well Contractor Program](#) requires that New York State-registered water well drillers submit completion reports documenting where wells have been drilled and the specifications of those wells. DEC has updated the [DECinfo Locator](#) to include water well locations and downloadable water well completion reports for over 80,000 water wells across New York State that have been installed since 2017 as well as numerous historical wells, excluding public water supply wells. Additional data and reports will be added as they become available. To access the mapping application and learn how to use it, visit the [DECinfo Locator webpage](#).

9/29 - Data Solicitation for the 2024 Integrated Report on New York State Water Quality

DEC is seeking water quality data and information for any New York State waterbody. Water quality data and information received may be used to update waterbody assessments in the state's [305\(b\) Water Quality Report](#) or the [Clean Water Act Section 303\(d\) List of Impaired Waters](#). Waterbody assessments are conducted following the methodology described in the [Consolidated Assessment Listing Methodology](#) (CALM).

To be considered for the 2024 Integrated Report, data and information must be received by **September 29, 2023**. Find more information about this data solicitation in the May 10th [Environmental Notice Bulletin](#).

Great Lakes and Federal News

Lakewide Action and Management Plan 2022 Reports Available

The Lake Partnerships, which are led by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Environment and Climate Change Canada, recently announced the availability of 2022 Lakewide Action and Management Plan (LAMP) Reports, including reports for Lake Erie and Lake Ontario. The [LAMPs](#) are binational ecosystem-based strategies for protecting and restoring the water quality of the Great Lakes, and these annual reports highlight accomplishments and progress during the past year for

²³ https://cornell.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_IgtJYogQqWfKLgvbazMNQ

each Great Lake, including protection and restoration actions, science and monitoring, and outreach activities. To access the reports, visit: <https://binational.net/category/lamp-annual-reports/>

Many wetlands will lose federal protections after U.S. Supreme Court ruling

Many wetlands across the country will lose federal protections following a U.S. Supreme Court decision on Thursday. [Read the full story by the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel²⁴](#).

We're salting more than just our roads. Why winter maintenance is hurting Canada's ecosystems

A number of Canadian cities have exceeded acceptable chloride levels in watersheds in recent years, raising concerns about the impact on freshwater wildlife and other species. The problem largely stems from road salt and saline solutions, which have a chemical compound of chloride to keep roadways safe during winter weather. Chloride has both long- and short-term impacts on wildlife, and some experts believe it is adversely affecting fish, frogs and aquatic ecosystems across Canada. [Read the full story by CTV News-TV²⁵](#)

FOR RESIDENTS— Public Service Announcements to Share with Your Residents

Volunteers Needed to Help Monitor Cayuga Lake for Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED! Help monitor for HABs this summer. It's easy and really important to have many eyes on the lake. Join the Community Science Institute (CSI), the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network (CLWN) and Discover Cayuga Lake (DCL) who organize the monitoring and train volunteers. [Fill out the form to volunteer](#) or contact [Grace Haynes](#) or [Molly Newman](#) for more information.

'Clean. Drain. Dry.' Watercraft to Protect Waters from Aquatic Invasive Species

[DEC reminded boaters](#) to clean, drain, and dry their boats and trailers and disinfect their fishing gear before recreating in New York's waters to prevent the spread of harmful aquatic invasive species (AIS). Watercraft inspection stewards (boat stewards) are deploying across the state to educate and assist the public in cleaning equipment this season to prevent the introduction and spread of non-native plants and animals in New York waterbodies.

Last year, DEC's boat stewards inspected more than 220,000 boats and intercepted more than 8,000 AIS, including hydrilla. Efforts are currently underway to control the invasive plant and prevent it from negatively impacting the native ecosystem, as well as water recreation. DEC is collaborating with local stakeholders and Federal partners to keep the infestation contained and prevent further spread.

All water recreationists should follow these steps to make sure their equipment isn't harboring AIS:

1. **Clean** mud, plants, and animals off boating and fishing equipment (trailer bunks, axles, rollers, lights, transducers, license plates, motor props, tackle, waders, etc.) and discard the material in a trash can or at a disposal station;

²⁴ <https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/2023/05/25/supreme-court-ruling-could-impact-lake-michigan-mississippi-river/70089681007/>

²⁵ <https://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/we-re-salting-more-than-just-our-roads-why-winter-maintenance-is-hurting-canada-s-ecosystems-1.6393950>

2. **Drain** all water-holding compartments, including ballast tanks, live wells, and bilge areas, before leaving an access site; and
3. **Dry** everything thoroughly before using boats or equipment in another waterbody. Drying times can vary but a minimum of five to seven days in dry, warm conditions is recommended. Note: When there's no time to dry between uses, disinfect things with hot water that is at least 140 degrees Fahrenheit, or [visit a decontamination site](#).

All New York residents and visitors have a role to play in protecting state waters from invasive species. Visit DEC's website for [more tips on how to clean, drain, and dry](#) watercraft, fishing gear, and other equipment and for more information about [New York's Watercraft Inspection Steward Program](#).