



Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization (CWIO)

Wednesday, May 24, 2023

Held VIA ZOOM

Minutes

Members, Associate Members, and Ex-Officio Members Present: Susan Ainslie, Jackie Cassaniti, Tony DelPlato, Laurie Ervay, Kent Hubble, Margaret Johnson, Roxy Johnston, Darby Kiley, Robert Meek, Gary Mutchler, Kelly O'Hara, Stephanie Redmond, Mitch Rowe, Don Slocum, Dave Sprout, Liz Thomas, Michele Wunderlich.

Staff: Erin Norris

Stakeholders, Partners, and Committee Members Present: Doug Barnes, Michael Boggs, Grascen Shidemantle, Liz Kreitinger, Rebecca Minas, Bud Shattuck,

Agenda Item 1: call to order

Agenda Item 2: Resolution to approve minutes and monthly financial report

RESOLVED that the CWIO approves the minutes of their 4/26/23 meeting and accepts the financial report ending 4/30/23 with a balance of \$253,339.83.

Moved by: Don Slocum, Seconded by: Susan Ainslie Vote: unanimous in favor.

Agenda item 3: Presentation: Cayuga Lake Watershed Network -Liz Kreitinger, Lake Steward and Executive Director of the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network

Liz K had a presentation including their Mission Statement, information on their robust distribution list of ~1000 because "it takes a network to protect a watershed." There are 14 members on the CWLN board with 4 open seats which they are looking for those interested in water quality to fill. CLWN sees good opportunities to work together with CWIO. CLWN education and outreach efforts include frequent emails to their list, their newsletter titled "Network News", articles in news outlets, a comprehensive website, and community conferences and public events. Their James C. While Memorial Prize" went to Tom Casella this year for his volunteer work on the lake. Their "Dave Morehouse Award" will be announced soon.

Some of the CLWN programs include "Lake Friendly Living", "Embrace the Lake" cleanups, the HABs Monitoring Program, and Hydrilla Outreach and Education. They will soon celebrate CLWN's 25th Anniversary.

See more about CLWN at their website: cayugalake.org.

Agenda item 4: Appointment of Representative to Cayuga County WQMA

Resolution Recommending an Appointment to the Cayuga County WQMA from Watershed-Wide Organizations

RESOLVED that both the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network and the CWIO recommend the appointment of Keith Batman to the Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency.

Moved by: Dave Sprout, Seconded by: Roxy Johnston Vote: unanimous in favor.

Agenda item 5: Risks from Salt Mining Under the Lake – Stephanie Redmond, Town Supervisor for Enfield, and member of CLEAN (Cayuga Lake Environmental Action Now).

Stephanie gave an overview of the CLEAN presentation given in April about their concerns and data illustrating potential risks to Cayuga Lake from the salt mine under the lake. The talk was presented by Dr. Raymond Vaughan and sponsored by Cayuga Lake Environmental Action Now (CLEAN). The video is available here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eooiq_Az1Cg. Much more information is available at the CLEAN website: <https://cleancayugalake.org>

Agenda item 6: Watershed Manager Report – Erin Norris

Erin’s May report is available online here: <https://cwio.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Watershed-Manager-Executive-Summary-May-2023.pdf>

Agenda Item 7 – Chair Report

- The CWIO Project Submission page is now open. Submitted project ideas are due by October 1. Proposed projects will then be ranked by either the CWIO Technical Advisory Committee or the Education, Public Participation, and Outreach Committee in the fall/winter. ANYONE can submit a project idea—munis, ngos, individuals, hoping strong participation by county depts such as SWCDs, Planning, health, and WQCCs.
- The letter approved by CWIO requesting completion of the TMDL was mailed to state contacts and representatives. CWIO and CLWN will be meeting in June with State Senator Lea Webb to discuss the TMDL more details.
- Liz is increasing direct outreach to County Legislators.
- Dues reminder letters were sent out in May. As of mid-May the dues income for 2023 was had \$30, 689 with a target of \$67,500 if 100% of the municipalities contributed.
- Liz reminded the membership that her 3-year term as Chair expires in 2023.
- Drafting of a Finger Lakes Action Agenda is proposed for the Finger Lakes Region. We don’t have much information yet, but will be able to comment once a draft is available.

Agenda Item 8 - Committee Reports

Executive Committee –

Executive Committee – They have decided to have the August CWIO meeting in person in the Village of Cayuga and possibly meet at a winery afterwards. The bylaws say CWIO should have 3 in-person meeting a year. The October meeting will be in-person in the Seneca County Community Room on 10/25 from 9am-12, including lunch. (More information to come.)

Agenda Item 9: Reports from Partners

- Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency (WQMA): Michele Wunderlich – The legislation to have a monitoring buoy in Owasco Lake passed.
- CSI: Grascen said CSI also sent a letter to NYS about the TMDL for Cayuga Lake. They want to monitor 75% of Cayuga Lake for HAB’s, so they need more volunteers at the top of the lake.
- Tompkins County Health Department - Doug Barnes said the septic system and well sessions trainings filled up in 3 days, so they will try to expand that later.
- Darby said Rebecca Snyder shared a brochure her students developed about lead in drinking water. Darby will send the link.

Submitted by Jackie Cassaniti and Liz Thomas