



Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization (CWIO)

Wednesday, August 23, 2023

Held in person at Harris Park in the Village of Cayuga.

Minutes

Members, Associate Members, and Ex-Officio Members Present: Ann Balloni, Michael Boggs, Jackie Cassaniti, Tee-Ann Hunter, Roxy Johnston, Darby Kiley, Sean Murphy, James Orman, Bud Shattuck, Don Slocum, Liz Thomas, Don Wilson, Michele Wunderlich.

Staff: none

Stakeholders, Partners, and Committee Members Present: Doug Barnes, Lauren Darcy, Dereth Glance, Liz Kreitinger, Kari Terwilliger, Maureen Riester, Grascen Shidemantle, Ryan Staychock.

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 7/26/23 meeting and accepts the financial report ending 6/30/23 with a balance of \$256,186.07.

Moved by: Ann Balloni, Seconded by: Tee-Ann Hunter. Vote: unanimous in favor.

The finance report makes it seem like none of the Seneca County municipalities have paid their dues, but in fact, the dues for all municipalities within Seneca County are paid by Seneca County.

Agenda item 3:

About 20 people attended including representatives from the villages of Cayuga, Union Springs and Aurora who gave reports on their respective village waterfront revitalization plans. Kari Terwilliger from the Cayuga County Planning Department and Don Wilson, Mayor of Cayuga spoke about the loss of stones protecting the boardwalk by the town hall and the crumbling concrete pier owned by NYS close by.

Agenda item 4: Chair Report

- There are 9 applicants who have applied for the CWIO Watershed Manager position. Interviews will be in September.
- The Owasco Watershed Rules and Regulations were returned from NYS with all the parts that would have helped with runoff from agricultural fields removed.
- NYS is asking for comments on how the environmental bond act money should be spent.
- The group CLEAN (Cayuga Lake Environmental Action Now) is concerned about the sale of the Cargill salt mine especially if it is to a company without salt mining experience especially since the mine never had to conduct an environmental impact assessment (EIS). CLEAN is particularly concerned over a collapse of the mine that would result in the salinization of the lake and also that the bond amount the state requires is way too low to cover the impacts of a connection between the mine and the lake bottom.
- Hydrilla has shown up in a new location at Myer's Point in Lansing.

Agenda item 5: Committees

- a. Executive Committee – see chair report
- b. Education, Public Participation and Outreach Committee (EPPOC)—Did not meet in August
- c. Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) - Did not meet in August
- d. State Outreach

The committee met with Senator May on 8/2 and Assemblywoman Kelles on 8/15 to review CWIO requests. Senator May's staff encouraged CWIO to take [the requests](#) regionally since many of them apply to the Finger Lakes as a whole.

Agenda item 6: Reports from Partners

NYS DEC – Dereth Glance is the new Director of DEC Region 7 introduced herself. She was clearly knowledgeable about water quality issues throughout the Finger Lakes. She is interested in the CWIO recommendations for the state and also encouraged CWIO to work with other lakes in the region on these issues. She noted that the DEC has an Open Space Plan that CWIO may want to refer to.

Cornell Cooperative Extension – Ryan Staychock serves Seneca, Cayuga, and Schuyler counties especially regarding water quality issues. He is available to assist municipalities and invites those interested to contact him.

Community Science Institute (CSI) – Grascen Shidemantle said CSI is working on their first strategic plan. CSI is launching a new effort to collect rain gauge information to better understand local precipitation and how it might influence the data CSI collects. CSI will present 3 years of integrated reports from certified labs about NY water quality to NYS. The HABs season is still active.

Cayuga Lake Watershed Network (CLWN) – Liz Kreitinger, Director of CLWN said they applied for some of the new Finger Lakes grant funding. She submitted the grant to visualize data in collaboration with CSI, and CWIO with the assistance of the Central NY Regional Planning and Development Board. HABs monitoring coordination is still active.

Cortland County SWCD – Shawn Murphy works in the Cayuga watershed on the western side of Cortland County. He's been very busy applying for funding for water quality projects and has 13 applications in the works.

Seneca County Health Department – Mary Jump reported they are in the second year of their septic tank inspection program and are finding plenty of systems out of compliance, but most property owners have agreed to the required fixes. Hunt Engineers are helping to determine the feasibility of a sewer district on Canoga Island.

Agenda Item 7: adjourn - networking at the Aurora Brewing Company

Submitted by Jackie Cassaniti and Liz Thomas