



Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization (CWIO)
 Wednesday, September 27, 2023
 Held by zoom
Minutes

Members, Associate Members, and Ex-Officio Members Present:

VOTING MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS	Margaret Johnson – Town of Ithaca
Susan Ainsley – Village of Lansing	Darby Kiley – Tompkins County
Jackie Cassaniti – Town of Caroline	Stephanie Redmond – Town of Enfield
Tony DelPlato – Village of Interlaken	Becky Sims – Town of Enfield
Laurie Ervay-City of Ithaca	Don Slocum – Town of Genoa
Kent Hubbell – Village of Cayuga Heights	Dave Sprout – Town of Dryden
Tee-Ann Hunter – Village of Aurora	Liz Thomas – Town of Ulysses
Roxy Johnston – Town of Catharine	Michele Wunderlich – Cayuga County
PARTNERS	
Doug Barnes – Tompkins Health	Liz Kreitinger - CLWN
Liz Cameron – Tompkins Health	Peter Penniman – Tompkins EMC

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 8/23/23 meeting and accepts the financial report ending 8/31/23 with a balance of \$258,094.77.

RESOLVED that CWIO approves the reimbursement of \$59.88 to Elizabeth Thomas for payment to SiteGround—a website scanning services for the CWIO website.

Moved by Tee-Ann Hunter and seconded by Susan Ainslie. Vote: unanimous in favor.

Agenda item 3: Getting your Project to Flow Smoothly - Planning and Implementation - Becky Sims from RCAP Solutions (Rural Community Assistance Partnership)

Becky’s area is the Northeast portion of the USA, specifically NYS. She gave information about their no-cost planning, process steps, challenges, and overall strategies for success for small communities seeking grant funding for water quality concerns. Becky reviewed steps in the process: planning, design and construction, citizen involvement (local knowledge, public participation is very important), how to get technical assistance, engineering services, funding eligibility, the need for planning and documentation.

Becky gave an example of Jasper, NY in Steuben County, of how a small community can get funding to preserve their water. Funding program examples are Environmental Facilities Corporation, DEC, USDA, NYS Office of Community Renewal, WEP, WIIA, WQIP among others. RCAP Solutions will have an in-person meeting explaining their technical services on November 15th 2023 in Odessa, NY from 8am to 12:30. There are also online webinars. Contact Becky at bsims@rcapsolutions.org and rcapsolutions.org. [See slides of the presentation.](#)

Agenda item 4: Cargill Salt Mine – resolution to request an environmental impact statement before potential sale of property – Stephanie Redmond and Liz Thomas

Liz Thomas read the proposed resolution which contains background information on the mine and its potential threats to the lake.

After some discussion, CWIO voted on the resolution:

Moved by Kent Hubbell, Seconded by Stephanie Redmond. Vote: 14 aye, 1 abstention. Passed.

[See the resolution.](#)

Agenda item 5: Environmental Bond Act – Suggestions for use of funds

In November 2022, NYS voters approved the \$4.2 billion Clean Air, Clean Water and Green Jobs Environmental Bond. The state is now looking for input on how to spend those funds and has extended the deadline until 9/30. CWIO members discussed and made

A motion to approve CWIO recommendations regarding the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Green Jobs Environmental Bond funding target areas.

Moved by Tee-Ann Hunter and seconded by Susan Ainslie. Vote: unanimous in favor. [See the CWIO requests.](#)

Agenda item 6: Chair Report – Liz Thomas

- Budget request letters to municipalities for 2024 CWIO dues. The bills will go out in January.
- The CWIO Watershed Manager interview team of 12 from throughout the watershed interviewed 5 excellent candidates on 9/26. A subset of 3 will be interviewed on October 11 and 17, 2023. CWIO may want to consider increasing the \$59,000 salary for the position.
- Annual Report: Liz would like to put out an annual report even without a watershed manager. She requested that any municipality or partnering entity contact her about on-going or completed projects within the watershed. She is aiming for a focus on 3 projects per county. Also please contact Liz with any suggestions for speakers in 2024.
- Liz reminded CWIO members that her term as chair expires at the end of 2023. Anyone interested in becoming chair or assisting, please contact Liz.

Agenda item 7: Committees

- a. Executive Committee – see chair report
- b. Education, Public Participation and Outreach Committee (EPPOC) – will meet October 2, 2023
- c. Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) - will meet October 2, 2023.
- d. State Outreach -

Tee-Ann reported she is working with state representatives and their staff on potential legislation called the PFAS Disclosure Act. The cost of treating for PFAS at wastewater treatment facilities is not entirely known until the state understands how much is in the water, where, and how to treat it.

Agenda item 8: Reports from Partners

Cayuga County – Michele Wunderlich

Michele Wunderlich reported on the NYS response to the proposed Owasco Watershed Rules and Regulations (WRR). The state cut out all references to pesticides and agriculture stating that they are regulated adequately by state entities, specifically the DEC for pesticides and the Department of Agriculture for the ag sections. The WRRs being considered would have less regulatory authority than the WRRs Owasco is currently using. Owasco cannot appeal to continue using their existing WRRs. The state estimates the review process will take until 2025 to complete. The new WRRs would not adequately address all the nutrient inputs into Owasco Lake. Owasco tried to be added to the list of waterbodies requiring a TMDL (total maximum daily load) for phosphorus but were denied. Liz Thomas noted that this should be a topic for a future agenda.

Liz Kreitinger will bring up this topic at the Finger Lakes Regional Watershed Association (FLRWA) on 10/28 and at her next Cayuga Lake Watershed Network (CLWN) meeting. Tee-Ann Hunter added that Senator May and her staff recommended talking to others within the Finger Lakes Region on topics like this to address the state with a more unified and regional voice. Tee-Ann will contact Anna Kelle's office.

Agenda Item 9: adjourn.

Submitted by Jackie Cassaniti and Liz Thomas