



**Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization (CWIO)**

Wednesday, January 24, 2024 7-9PM

Held by zoom

**Minutes**

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

Roxy Johnston, CWIO Chair, Town of Catherine Rep (City of Ithaca Alt)	Ben Darfler, Village of Trumansburg Trustee
Darby Kiley, Tompkins County Department of Planning and Sustainability	Stephanie Redmond, Town of Enfield Supervisor and CLEAN (Cayuga Lake Environmental Action Now) Program Manager
Lauren Townley, NY DEC	Emma Moore, City of Ithaca Water Treatment Operator and Assistant to the CWIO Chair
Sarah Rickard, NY DEC	Christine Montague, Town of Lansing Board Member
Nancy Hart, Town of Scipio	Doug Barnes, Division of Environmental Health for Tompkins County (Whole Health)
Isaac Walker, CWIO Watershed Manager	Dave Sprout, Town of Dryden Stormwater Management Officer
Anthony Prestigiacomo, NY DEC	Michelle Henry, Town of Newfield Alternate
Grascen Shidemantle, CSI	Lisa Cleckner, FLI (Finger Lakes Institute)
Michael Murphy, Village of Dryden Mayor	Mary Jump, Seneca County Health Department Director of Environmental Services
Liz Kreitinger, Cayuga Lake Watershed Network Steward	Shawn Murphy, Cortland County Soil and Water
Tee-Ann Hunter, Village of Aurora Representative	Tony Del Plato, Village of Interlaken Trustee
Tom Vawter, Town of Lansing Alternate	Jackie Cassiniti, Town of Caroline
Emily Royce, Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council, planner	Melinda Pitman, Town of Scipio
Becky Sims, Town of Enfield	Michele Wunderlich, Cayuga County Planning Dept. and WQMA

**Agenda Item 1:** Call to order.

**Agenda Item 2:** Consider approval of Minutes, Financial Report, and Bills.

**Resolution to approve finance report.**

**RESOLVED** that the CWIO approves and accepts the financial report ending 12/31/23 with a balance of \$238,369.76.

Moved by Dave Sprout and seconded by Tee-Ann Hunter. Vote: All in favor except for one abstention Abstain: Nancy Hart

**Resolution to approve payment of bills**

**Resolved** that CWIO approves reimbursement to Elizabeth Thomas for the costs already incurred to pay for the website domain (Siteground for \$21.99) and the annual zoom license used for CWIO

(\$149.90).

Moved by Dave Sprout and seconded by Tee-Ann Hunter. Vote: Unanimous in favor

**Agenda Item 3:** Organizational Document for 2024 (Link: <https://cwio.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/2024-CWIO-organizational.pdf>)

Vote on resolutions presented in the *Work Plan, Budget, Officers and Committees for 2024* document included in the agenda

RESOLVED that the Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization membership appoints Mary Jump to be on the executive committee for 2024.

Moved by Tee-Ann Hunter and seconded by Dave Sprout. Vote: Unanimous in favor

RESOLVED that the Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization membership appoints Isaac Walker and Joe Kreitinger to be on the Technical Advisory Committee for 2024.

Moved by Darby Kiley and seconded by Tee-Ann Hunter. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

RESOLVED that CWIO appoints the following to be the Education and Outreach Committee for 2024: Michele Wunderlich, Roxanne Marino, Peter Penniman, Grace Hayes, Liz Thomas, Ryan Staychock, and Tom Vawter.

Moved by Dave Sprout and seconded by Michael Murphy. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

RESOLVED that CWIO appoints the following to be the Finance Committee for 2024: Liz Thomas, Dave Sprout, Mike Allinger

Moved by Tee-Ann Hunter and seconded by Darby Kiley. Vote Unanimous in favor.

RESOLVED that the CWIO appoints the following to be the Membership and Nominating Committee for 2024: Liz Thomas, Roxy Johnston, Mary Jump, Tee-Ann Hunter, Darby Kiley, Ann Balloni.

Moved by Dave Sprout seconded by Tony Del Plato. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

RESOLVED, the Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization accepts the slate of Associate and Ex officio Members. Ex officio: Mary Jump, Shawn Murphy. Associates: Peter Penniman, Eileen O'Connor, Robert Meek

Discussion: Michelle Wunderlich is an alternate for Cayuga County so will not be an Ex officio. Mary Jump is not an official representative for Seneca County, but will be following up to confirm if she is or not.

Moved by Tee-Ann Hunter and seconded by Michael Murphy. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

**Agenda Item 4:** Projects

**Resolution in support of the FLX PFAS Project: targeted water sampling to identify sources of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs) in the Finger Lake**

Resolved that CWIO supports the grant being submitted to the Water Resources Institute titled FLX PFAS Project: targeted water sampling to identify sources of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs) in the Finger Lake by Dr. Damian E. Helbling (PI), Associate Professor, School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Cornell University. The project proposes sites at multiple sites and then adding the data to a GIS system and presented when complete.

Discussion: Grammar error at the end. "Sites at multiple sites" should be "Sampling at multiple sites".

Moved by Darby Kiley and seconded by Tony Del Plato. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

**Resolution in support of Covert Rain Garden**

Resolved that CWIO supports their Watershed Manager assisting with the Covert rain garden demonstration project proposed and led by Ryan Staychock with Cornell Cooperative Extension

Moved By Dave Sprout and seconded by Darby Kiley. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

**Agenda Item 5:** Owasco WRRs – for discussion

Draft letter of support for the City of Auburn and Town of Owasco's effort to update their watershed rules and regulations (WRRs) under Public Health Law Section 1100, Title 10 of the New York Codes, Rules, and Regulations, which empowers water purveyors to develop and update WRRs.

Will talk about it more in the February meeting.

**Agenda Item 6:** Presentation: 303(d) list and TMDL/Nine Element Plans - Lauren Townley Chief, Water Assessment and Implementation Section Bureau of Water Assessment and Management, Division of Water of the DEC. The presentation with the Q&A session will be posted on the CWIO website.

Some of the questions asked and DEC responses (in bold) are as follows:

CWIO and other watershed groups made comments on the Draft 2020-2022 303(d) list. What is the status of that or a 2024 303(d) list? (CWIO comments are available here: <https://cwio.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/2022-02-CWIO-comments-re-303d.pdf>)

**DEC said that the response to comments on the 303(d) is coming soon.**

The CALM was updated as of May 2023. What updates were made? Was the update subject to public comment?

**The document includes a summary of changes. There was nothing significant in the last update. The process is continuous in every version. Release with draft 303d list**

As noted in the CWIO comments on the draft 2020/2022 303(d) list, the geography of the waterbody segment (Six Mile Creek included with the Cayuga Inlet) or the designated use (Fall Creek downstream of the Cornell intake is part of the drinking water source segment). In the case of a drinking water source, why is the same criteria applied downstream of the intake?

**The waterbody best use is for the whole water body, but assessment is meant to be protective as a source. Classification is not their bailiwick.**

Waterbody Fact sheets: when those are updated, is there a comment period? If not, could there be one?

**There's a public process for 303d list; assessment not on 303d list, not approved by EPA, all are welcome to make comments but not required.**

**Integrated reporting (IR) categories are based on EPA guidance; The IR cycle from EPA comes out every two years.**

The HABs action plans were released in 2018 and stated that they may require updates based on research, conservation practice implementation, or priority areas. The Cayuga Lake HABs action plan states that it would be updated when the TMDL is completed. Is there a plan for updating any of the HABs Action Plans?

**Plans would be updated when there is clearly a reason to update.**

The Community Science Institute has an extensive network of volunteers monitoring on streams in the Cayuga Lake (and other) watershed. When monitoring indicates there are areas of concern, or high levels of nutrients, what is the best method to share those concerns with DEC?

**DEC responded that they have to stick to the IR schedule, and can direct a concern to the region if it is alarming. You can reach out to DEC for Class B waters; need WQ standards for enforcement.**

**Roxy asked why Cayuga Lake was getting a TMDL since they are designed for point sources, when 95% of TP is from nonpoint sources in Cayuga Lake.**

Tony P said that the South End - has 6-7 point sources, did acknowledge that knowledge of nonpoint sources has become clearer since the TMDL designation was made. 9E plans, better for nonpoint source pollution issues, can't move a waterbody off the IR- designation. The data collection and modeling for TMDLs and 9Es are essentially the same. 9E plans require implementation plans, TMDLs do not.

#### **Agenda Item 7:** Watershed Manager

Covert rain garden project. Looking for grant opportunities.

FLI - Manuscript in review for detection trends for American Eelgrass and Starry Stonewort.

PRISM - Launched Hemlock survey program with events and workshops coming up. Hiring for summer field work.

Finger Lakes Research Conference on 1/31/2024.

#### **Agenda Item 8:** Chair Report

Roxy Johnston's first meeting as Chair.

#### **Agenda Item 9:** Committee Reports

- a. Executive Committee
- b. Education, Public Participation and Outreach Committee (EPPOC)
- c. Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
- d. State Outreach

The committee met with Kristy LaManche of FL-LOWPA. To discuss ways to approach the state for funding and to understand how FL-LOWPA secures funding. A lobby day will not be pursued this spring due to a lack of capacity, instead we will focus on Finger Lakes education and build capacity for a lobby day in 2025.

**Agenda Item 10:** Reports from Partners (Partner organizations are encouraged to give a short report of activities pertaining to water quality. For a significant time on the CWIO agenda, please contact CWIOchair@gmail.com in advance)

- a. County Water Quality Advisory Committees (WQCC in Seneca, WRC in Tompkins, WQMA in Cayuga)
- b. County Planning Departments
- c. County Highway Departments
- d. County Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- e. County Health Departments

Catching up on administration.

Tompkins county updates to sanitation code.

- f. County Cornell Cooperative Extensions
- g. County Legislators or Board of Supervisor Representatives
- h. Individual Municipalities (elected or staff)

FEMA grant team had first meeting week prior.

HABs on north end of Farmer's Market.

Bolton Point adding to Client Committee.

- i. Cayuga Lake Watershed Network (CLWN)
- j. Community Science Institute (CSI)

Grant from Legacy Foundation of Tompkins County to purchase precipitation gauges.

- k. Finger Lakes Land Trust
- l. Cayuga Lake Environmental Action Now (CLEAN)

There is concern about the permit modification request for the Cargill salt mine on Cayuga. Water is leaking into the mine shafts and may compromise the integrity of the shafts. Information remains limited because Cargill maintains that much of the data includes proprietary information.

- m. Discover Cayuga Lake
- n. Other Finger Lakes Intermunicipal Organizations or Associations
- o. Finger Lakes Institute (FLI)
- p. Finger Lakes PRISM (Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management)
- q. NYS Water Resource Institute
- r. Finger Lakes Water Hub
- s. The Nature Conservancy

t. Finger Lakes Action Agenda

**Agenda Item 11: adjourn.**

Submitted by Emma Moore and Jackie Cassiniti