



Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization (CWIO)

Wednesday February, 28 2024 7-9pm

Via Zoom

Meeting Minutes

[Meeting recording](#)

Passcode: Tw#75P5S

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

Roxy Johnston – City of Ithaca, Town of Catharine	Darby Kiley – Tompkins County
Susan Ainslie	Jon Patterson – Town of Aurelius
Michael Allinger – Town of Newfield	Stephanie Redmond – Town of Enfield
Michael Boggs – Town of Ulysses	Becky Sims – Town of Enfield
Jackie Cassaniti – Town of Caroline	Liz Thomas – Town of Ulysses
Laurie Ervay – City of Ithaca	Tom Vawter – Town of Lansing
Tony Del Plato – Village of Interlaken	Michele Wunderlich – Cayuga County
Nancy Hart – Town of Scipio	
Associate and ExOfficio: Eileen O’Conner, Mary Jump, Peter Penniman	
Partners attending: Rebecca Minas, Max Heitner, John Dennis, Doug Barnes	
Staff: Isaac Walker	

Agenda Item 1: Call to Order

Agenda Item 2: Approval of the November 2023 and January 2024 Minutes

Corrections to the minutes: add Michele Wunderlich to the January 2024 attendance, and in the November minutes, the Cayuga County report is changed to “Cayuga County is funding the HAB’s monitoring program on Cayuga Lake, the Cayuga Lake tributary monitoring program and the Owasco Lake buoy using County funding. They are funding the Owasco Lake tributary monitoring program and the Owasco Lake buoy database using FLOWPA (Finger Lakes Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance) funds.”

RESOLVED that the CWIO approves meeting minutes from 11/15/23 and 1/28/24.

Moved: Liz Thomas

Seconded: Tom Vawter

Vote: Unanimous

RESOLVED that the CWIO accepts the financial report ending 1/31/24 with a balance of \$ 254,305.32

Submitted by Jackie Cassaniti & Emma Moore

Agenda Item 3: Presentation

Max Heitner, the Director of Conservation from the Finger Lakes Land Trust

Link to Presentation and Q&A Section: [CWIO Meeting Feb. 28, 2024 FLLT Presentation](#)

Powerpoint slides link: [CWIO-FLLT-Feb-Ppt](#)

Agenda Item 4: Owasco Lake Rules and Regulations Comment Letter

In January, a letter regarding the Owasco Watershed Rules and Regulations was included in the CWIO agenda for review and possible discussion. At the February meeting, the meeting was introduced with several small edits.

RESOLUTION Regarding Watershed Rules and Regulations

RESOLVED that the CWIO approves sending the letter regarding Watershed Rules and Regulations as presented and amended at the 2/28/24 CWIO meeting.

Moved: Darby Kiley

Seconded: Nancy Hart

Vote: Unanimous

Agenda Item 5 : Isaac Walker, the CWIO watershed manager

- Covert rain garden - working through potential sites. Site visit anticipated before next general CWIO meeting.
- Applied for a participatory science grant to do volunteer-based research on forest service land (will know more in early April).
- Restart a ditch management project in the town of Ulysses. Will be meeting in mid-March.
- Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency (WQMA) monthly meeting and the WQMA Nutrient and Sediment Working Group meeting
- Attended the FLT Research Conference.
- Attended Nutrient Sediment Working Group.
- Attended Town of Catharine meeting with Roxy to introduce CWIO.

Agenda Item 6: Chair Report- Roxy Johnston

- The Organization Meeting document including CWIO work plans, 2024 budget, and committee members is posted on the website: <https://cwio.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/2024-CWIO-organizational.pdf>.
- January meeting minutes and the DEC PowerPoint by Lauren Townley addressing 303(d) listings and TMDL/ Nine Element plans are posted on the website (ppt) (video).
- Fundraiser “Wild About the Waterfront” for splash pad at Stewart Park at Cinemapolis on 2/29/2024, tickets are \$20-30.
- Bob Brower Scientific Symposium will be March 9th 9am-12pm, at the Auburn Public Theater, “Our Lake, Our Legacy”. Go to OWLA.org to register.

Vice Chair, Liz Thomas:

- Dues invoices were sent in January 2024, and are due June 30, 2024.
- Funding opportunities are opening up, keep your eyes on [CWIO newsletters](#). Lots of funding for grants is available. There is more about the drinking water protection plan (DWSP2) on the website.

Submitted by Jackie Cassaniti & Emma Moore

- We will be updating our project list. Please [submit your project ideas](#).
- The Finger Lakes Land Trust is presenting a discussion with Dan Egan titled Phosphorus and the Health of our Lakes will be on 3/5/2024.
- There will be a link to the recorded CWIO meetings sent out in the newsletter from now [on](#).

Agenda Item 7: Committee Reports

Executive Committee: Roxy Johnston

- Working on getting future speakers lined up.
 - May meeting will be in person, at the Seneca County Health Department from 3-5 pm, with a social hour to follow.
 - Tentative in-person July meeting, featuring highway/DPW departments focusing on ditch management.
 - June - Looking for a geologist to speak about the ongoing salt mine situation.

EPPOC Committee: Liz Thomas

- Check the website for [news aggregation of water quality information](#). They will meet on 3/4. Please give feedback on the CWIO website - what is useful, what would be helpful.
- Liz joined the Cayuga WQMA Communications group to see where the groups can benefit from working together.

TAC Committee: Darby Kiley

- They didn't meet in February. They will be meeting in March to discuss the project prioritization.

State and Federal Outreach Committee: Liz Thomas

- Finger Lakes representatives recently went to Albany to advocate for continued funding from the Environmental Bond for water quality work.
- Jake Welch, the new Chair of the Finger Lakes Regional Watershed Association (FLRWA) presented the CWIO recommendations that are being used when speaking to state representatives. FLRWA backed the [CWIO recommendations](#).

Agenda item 8: Partner's Reports

Michele Wunderlich from Cayuga County:

- The County will continue its funding of HABs monitoring through CSI.
- Steve Lynch has been nominated to be the county manager
- WQMA finished the work plan for this year, and it will go to vote next Thursday (3/7/2024). More news will be in the March newsletter.
- \$10 million grant to Cayuga, Aurora, and Union Springs.

Darby Kiley, Tompkins County

- [Water Resource Council \(WRC\)](#): At the recent WRC meeting members of the Seneca Lake and Owasco Watershed Lake Associations presented on their funding sources for water quality projects.
- [Tompkins County Planning](#) - Partnership with the City of Ithaca, Roxy and the DWSP2. Tompkins County applied for a DEC Nonpoint source planning grant to do a 6 mile creek assessment for \$75,000. There is also a Six Mile Creek erosion check natural infrastructure fund which the county puts in about \$250,000 a year, which can only apply if there is permanent easement or ownership.

Submitted by Jackie Cassaniti & Emma Moore

Mary Jump from the Seneca County Health Dep't:

- Seneca County is continuing to inspect septic systems within 250 feet of the lake or canal. Two more towns will be inspected in 2024.

Stephanie Redmond – Town of Enfield:

- Submitted their DWSP2 and are waiting for state comments.
- The town is working with CSI to more closely monitor areas of concern.
- With WQIP funding, they are working on stream stabilization and culvert replacement.
- Becky Sims from RCAP is helping the town look into the feasibility of municipal water.

Michael Allinger from the Town of Newfield:

- Michelle Henry continuing her monitoring work on the Cayuga Inlet study.

Nancy Hart from the Town of Scipio:

- Owasco Watershed has a 25% match with OWLA (Owasco Watershed Lake Association) paying soil and water to do ditch stabilization, and they voted to join CWIO again.

Tony Del Plato from the Village of Interlaken:

- They are getting closer to “Water Tower Park;” they are getting a sign and some benches, but no gazebo yet. The stream that runs through the park did some damage that is being repaired.

Stephanie Redmond for CLEAN:

- OGS consent order is for mining, not for brine storage. They are looking for a hydrologist to assess via model what would happen if a vortex were to occur. They are working with State Senator Kelles and Lea Webb.

ISSAC gave the report from FLI and PRISM:

- 3/5/24, the Dan Eagan meeting, also there is a Hemlock Woolly Adelgid training; fieldwork, they are hiring 4 summer interns. Check fingerlakesinvasives.org to apply.

Roxy and Jon: July 17th and 18th there will be a National Manure Expo in Auburn at Jon Patterson's farm where they will demonstrate safety practices and other things. There will be tours to 2 or 3 other farms. Google National Manure Expo to register.

Agenda Item 9: Motion to Adjourn

Moved: Tony Del Plato

Seconded: Nancy Hart



REGULAR MEETING
CAYUGA LAKE WATERSHED INTERMUNICIPAL ORGANIZATION
Wednesday March 27, 2024 at 7:00 by zoom
AGENDA

1. **Call to order.**
2. **Consider approval of Minutes, Financial Report, and Bills.** (10 minutes)
[Resolution to approve minutes and finance report.](#)
[RESOLVED](#) that the CWIO approves meeting minutes from 2/28/24.
[RESOLVED](#) that the CWIO accepts the financial report ending 2/29/24 with a balance of \$288,267.54
3. **Presentation:** - Nicholas Demitraszek, NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation (30 minutes)
4. **Watershed Manager** – Isaac Walker (10 minutes)
5. **Chair Report** - Roxy Johnston (10 minutes)
6. **Committee Reports** (up to 5 minutes each)
 - Executive Committee – Roxy Johnston
 - Education, Public Participation and Outreach Committee (EPPOC) - Liz Thomas
[Resolution to appoint member to EPPOC](#)
[RESOLVED](#) that the CWIO appoints Liz Kreitinger, the Director of the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network, to the CWIO Educations, public participation, and outreach committee (EPPOC) for 2024.
 - Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) – Darby Kiley
 - State and Federal Outreach - Tee-Ann Hunter
7. **Reports from Partners** (Partner organizations are encouraged to give up to 5-minute reports of activities pertaining to water quality. For a significant time on the CWIO agenda, please contact CWIOchair@gmail.com in advance) (30 minutes)
 - a. County Water Quality Advisory Committees (WQCC in Seneca and Schuyler, 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
 - f. County Cornell Cooperative Extensions
 - g. County Legislators or Board of Supervisor Representatives
 - h. Individual Municipalities (elected or staff)
 - i. Cayuga Lake Watershed Network (CLWN)
 - j. Community Science Institute (CSI)
 - k. Finger Lakes Land Trust
 - l. Cayuga Lake Environmental Action Now (CLEAN)
 - m. Discover Cayuga Lake (DCL)
 - n. Other Finger Lakes Intermunicipal Organizations or Associations