

TOMPKINS COUNTY WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL

October 15, 2012
Draft Meeting Minutes

Voting Members Present (13): Liz Cameron, Bill George, Barry Goodrich, Roxy Johnston, Dan Karig, Darby Kiley, Lynn Leopold, Rick Manning, Gregg McConnell, Jim McGarry, Frank Proto, Elaine Quaroni, Marjory Rinaldo-Lee

Voting Members Excused (5): Sharon Anderson, Ed Bugliosi, Joan Jurkowich, Craig Schutt, Mary Shelley

Voting Members Excused (1): Fay Benson

Non-Voting Members Present (#): John Andersson, Scott Carpenter, Dooley Kiefer, John Mawdsley, Todd Miller, Tom Vawter

Staff Present: Kathy Wilsea

Chairman Frank Proto called the meeting to order at 4:17 PM

Agenda Review and Approval of Minutes – There were no changes to the agenda. Draft minutes were accepted without change. Final minutes are available on the WRC website: <http://www.tompkins-co.org/planning/committees/WRC/WRCagendaminutes.htm>

Nominating Committee Update – Barry Goodrich reviewed the seats that need to be filled. We received no applications from new people this year. Marcia Lynch, County Information Officer, will be contacted for help drafting a news release to seek more applicants, especially people with concern about Hydrilla and/or a skillset for aquatic plants/invasive species. Frank pointed out the Council will also need a slate of officers for 2013.

Finalization of Water Quality Strategy Update – Comments gathered last month were incorporated into the revised draft by Bill George. More changes were suggested today, which Bill will include. Motion to adopt the 2012 Update of the WQS with today's changes was made by Lynn Leopold, seconded by Liz Cameron and passed by unanimous show of hands.

Frank Proto left for a County Legislature budget meeting, and Marjory Rinaldo-Lee assumed the chair at 5:10 PM.

Committee Reports – Aquifer: Todd Miller reported the committee met to work on data. They will report at the December WRC meeting. Enfield is going forward with an aquifer study.

Cayuga Lake Recreation: Rick Manning reviewed the tasks they face concerning the blue Way Trail and the Waterfront Trail. They are working on language for interpretive panels for the Waterfront Trail and will participate in a tour of lakeshore from the water. Most work on the Blue Way Trail will happen in the spring.

Education: No new actions to report.

Grants: Craig Schutt is excused today. He had sent Kathy Wilsea an email that the WQIP grant application for administration funding has been submitted to DEC and nothing else has changed.

Streams: Dan Karig reported that because Enfield will have an aquifer study, Lansing is not a candidate for an aquifer study for several years. So that link to the purpose of keeping the gaging station on Salmon Creek disappears and there is no timeliness for the gaging station funding for next year. But many defensible reasons still exist for keeping the gaging station and building history, such as anticipated TMDLs. The draft letter discussed last month at WRC will be revisited by the committee.

Wetlands: Darby Kiley reported that, as mentioned in task #31 of the WQS, they are disseminating information on wetlands by posting links on the WRC webpage for the Wetlands Committee. They are making some headway on making a wetlands map with Lidar data. Some areas were walked when the committee did gap analysis in 2007, and that field work could be used for verification of consultant work. It was noted that Jon Nagly of SWCD is certified for wetland delineation. There are no advances in protection for smaller wetlands. Jean Foley of DEC will visit WRC next month.

Report from the Hydrilla Task Force – Roxy Johnston reported that four pellet Floridone treatments have occurred in the area near the lighthouse where Bob Johnson found Hydrilla, and the rate of release for the liquid was increased. This needs to be repeated at intervals of 2 to 3 weeks. Milfoil also shows effects of Floridone, so reduced presence of Milfoil would mean the herbicide is reaching the appropriate area. Other areas are under control and 10/31 will be the end of the treatment season. Sampling needs to be done a half-mile past the treatment area to check for herbicide presence. In September Floridone appeared in the tests at the half-mile mark, so notice to landowners was extended and signs were moved. Someone from the Task Force will attend TCCOG 10/25 to inform them of the need for outreach funds, which are not covered by grants. Outreach is critical to the success of the effort to control Hydrilla. The Outreach Group will review their work and decide which steps are most important and how much funding is needed. Public meetings will be held 11/7 at the Tompkins County Public Library and 11/8 in Seneca Falls. They hope to hire a coordinator for 2013, and that person would work out of SWCD. Bob Johnson will continue sampling into the fall. Payment has not been received yet. A teleconference will be held Wednesday with State and Federal partners, and Roxy hopes to learn more from that event about the Hydrilla in Tonowanda Creek. Tonowanda Creek is getting better response from DEC, which shows Hydrilla is being taken seriously.

Chair and Staff Reports – No reports.

Announcements – Jim McGarry announced EMC will hold a public meeting tomorrow night, 7PM at the Public Library concerning proposed updates to the Unique Natural Areas Inventory.

Adjournment -- The meeting was adjourned at 5:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Wilsea, Secretary
Tompkins County Planning Department.

Adopted by the Council on November 19, 2012.