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TOMPKINS COUNTY WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL

**February 25, 2013
Meeting Minutes**

Members Attending:

Name		Representation
Sharon Anderson	E	Cooperative Extension
John Andersson	P	At-Large
Fay Benson	A	Agriculture
Ed Bugliosi	P	USGS
Liz Cameron	E	T C Environmental Health
Scott Carpenter	P	At-Large
Sarah Dwyer	P	Business/Industry
Bill George	P	Municipal
Barry Goodrich	P	Watershed Organization
Roxy Johnston	P	Water Purveyor
Joan Jurkowich	E	T C Planning
Dan Karig	E	Recreation
Darby Kiley	P	Municipal
Lynn Leopold	A	Municipal
Rick Manning	exc	At-Large

Name		Representation
Gregg McConnell	E	At-Large
Jim McGarry	P	EMC Liaison
Frank Proto	P	At-Large
Elaine Quaroni	P	At-Large
Marjory Rinaldo-Lee	P	Environment
Craig Schutt	P	SWCD
<i>Dooley Kiefer</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>Associate Member</i>
<i>Jose Lozano</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>Associate Member</i>
<i>John Mawdsley</i>		<i>Associate Member</i>
<i>Todd Miller</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>Associate Member</i>
<i>Steve Penningroth</i>		<i>Associate Member</i>
<i>Mary Shelley</i>	<i>E</i>	<i>Associate Member</i>
<i>Tom Vawter</i>		<i>Associate Member</i>
<i>Linda Wagenet</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>Associate Member</i>
Kathy Wilsea	P	Staff

Guests: Linda Aarismaa, George Fowler, Kathy Halton

Chairman Frank Proto called the meeting to order at 4:20 PM and welcomed visitors.

Agenda Review and Approval of Minutes – Elaine Quaroni asked to discuss an OpEd article on stream gages from the Ithaca Journal. Draft minutes were accepted without change. Final minutes are available on the WRC website: <http://www.tompkins-co.org/planning/committees/WRC/WRCagendaminutes.htm>

Report on 1/30/13 QAPP Workshop – Roxy Johnson said the meeting concerning the monitoring/modeling project was well attended, with representatives from DEC, Upstate Freshwater Institute, Cornell, and the Monitoring Partnership. Herb Engman attended from the Town of Ithaca, and Brian Eden also attended for EMC. DEC had also just received the QAPP document. Until DEC approves a new permit for Lake Source Cooling, all of these actions are “just in case”. Roxy stressed the sense of officials that monitoring is separate from TMDL at this stage. Steve Effler (UFI) spoke on what they expect the monitoring project to look like. Todd Walters of Cornell will be contributing to the monitoring project.

Roxy and Steve Penningroth asked most of the questions in the workshop’s discussion period. Steve asked if a little extra monitoring could be done to show pathogen levels. Effler supported this as a scientist, but couldn’t offer to do more samples because the UFI contract is in place. Steve Penningroth volunteered to conduct some extra pathogen sampling. In feedback from Jeff Myers (DEC), he thought not much data went into the 303(d) listing, and new data might get it delisted. Dan Karig told them at the meeting they are ignoring geology and history. Roxy felt the meeting had productive and open discussion. Aaron Ristow (SWCD) expressed concern for local agriculture if this leads to TMDL. Liz Cameron restated for the Health Department that swimming was never an appropriate use at Stewart Park.

DEC will be doing some rewrites. During the monitoring season, participants won’t have much time to meet, but may send designees. But they will have an effort to gather all historical research, which the Monitoring Partnership can

work on, along with a timeline. The Monitoring Partnership will broaden to have more partners for the public process. The next meeting will be 3/12, 4PM at Cooperative Extension. Roxy hopes to know the DEC action on the Lake Source Cooling permit application by then. Comments and data are welcome.

Jose Lozano wanted to point out a distinction, as he got a strong impression at the meeting that the main UFI focus will be on soluble reactive phosphorus instead of total phosphorus. Myers (DEC) didn't seem as supportive, but really didn't comment. Another item that had lots of focus, was that phosphorus is not unhealthy. UFI will be taking some extra P data. Roxy said it is important for modeling to have all the data gathered in the same year. They will consider all pre-existing data, but can't use it to build the model. Jim McGarry said he also felt they were supportive, and impressed by the number of people interested and involved. Elaine asked about the study area, and Roxy replied UFI is studying the whole lake, with intense study at the southern end. They have acknowledged it is difficult to separate the southern shelf data, as the water exchanges sometimes as frequently as every two to three days. The UFI work differs from what Todd Walters will do, and some parameters are not documented well. The Generalized Watershed Loading Function Geospatial Database (Haith/ Anderson/Hollingshead, 2008) done for Cayuga Lake Watershed Network was larger scale, and the UFI work will not be duplicating that.

Committee Reports – Aquifer: In Dan Karig's absence, Todd Miller reported he spoke in Danby last week on the Danby Aquifer Study results to a large crowd. Concerning the OpEd article on stream gage funding (from the 2/14 Ithaca Journal), Ed Bugliosi said the letter refers to stream gages in the Susquehanna River watershed that were funded by congressional "earmarks". All the gages in Pennsylvania are now funded by the State of Pennsylvania, but the gages in New York are in jeopardy for continuation. Ed said probably none of the gages in Tompkins County would be impacted because only a small area of the County is in the Susquehanna River watershed, and he is not familiar with any gages in the specified area. Frank asked if this would be relevant to TMDLs for the Chesapeake Bay, and because that is the case, the consensus of the council was for Frank to send a letter to members of Congress.

Education: Elaine reported they will continue participating in Hydrilla outreach in 2013. They can also disseminate arsenic information in someone else prepares it. Frank asked if an OpEd directed at boaters would be useful, and Roxy will work with Sharon Anderson on this.

Executive: Frank reminded members that this committee still has one seat for a voting member. Elaine volunteered to join them. One of their tasks this year is review of Bylaws.

Nominating/Membership: Barry Goodrich reported their work is complete and a report was submitted for the WRC annual report. Frank said the Legislature Liaison seat is still vacant, and Dooley said she expects to be appointed by the PEEQ chair at their next meeting.

Streams: In Dan Karig's absence, Todd Miller reported Jon Nagley attended and they discussed storm damage. Roxy said the City has an intern finding out about water monitoring for the presence of salt. Barry pointed out there is natural salt output by the Caroline Highway barn. Others suggested contacting Steve Penningroth.

Chair & Staff Reports – Chair: Frank reminded committee chairs to get articles in for the annual report, and that committee goals should be drawn from the Water Quality Strategy. He asked members to send ideas for speakers and meeting topics to Kathy Wilsea. For March, Roxy will arrange a Hydrilla update and ask Bob Johnson to visit. Frank asked Craig about the Hydrilla Coordinator position, and Craig said James Balyszek begins next week. He is coming from Monroe County SWCD, and has work experience in Florida with Hydrilla. **Staff:** Kathy Wilsea announced DEC is auditing the County Highway Department for stormwater procedures. She is gathering data for the newest stormwater annual report.

Announcements – Todd Miller announced he and Ed Bugliosi are giving the arsenic presentation in Albany on Thursday.

Adjournment -- The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Wilsea, Secretary, Tompkins County Planning Department.
Adopted by the Council on March 18, 2013.