

# TOMPKINS COUNTY WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL

**October 20, 2014  
Meeting Minutes**

**Members Attending:**

Name		Representation
Sharon Anderson	P	Cooperative Extension
John Andersson	P	At-Large
James Balyszak	P	At-Large
Fay Benson	A	Agriculture
Chris Bordlemay	P	Water Purveyor
Ed Bugliosi	E	USGS <i>ex officio</i>
Liz Cameron	E	T C Environmental Health
Sarah Dwyer	E	Business/Industry
Bill George	P	Municipal
Barry Goodrich	P	Watershed Organization
Roxy Johnston	P	At-Large
Joan Jurkowich	P	<i>TC Planning</i>
Dan Karig	P	Recreation
Dooley Kiefer	P	Legislature Liaison
Darby Kiley	P	Municipal

Name		Representation
Lynn Leopold	P	Municipal
Jim McGarry	P	EMC Liaison
Jon Negley	E	Soil & Water
Frank Proto	P	At-Large
Elaine Quaroni	P	At-Large
Marjory Rinaldo-Lee	E	Environment
<i>Jose Lozano</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>Associate Member</i>
<i>Scott Carpenter</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>Associate Member</i>
<i>John Mawdsley</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>Associate Member</i>
<i>Todd Miller</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>Associate Member</i>
<i>Steve Penningroth</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>Associate Member</i>
<i>Mary Shelley</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>Associate Member</i>
<i>Tom Vawter</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>Associate Member</i>
<i>Linda Wagenet</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>Associate Member</i>
Jennifer Turner	P	<i>TC Planning</i>

**Guests:** Eve Rosekrans

Chairman Frank Proto opened the meeting at approximately 4:19 PM.

**Announcement** – Frank Proto asked members opinions about changing the location to the next meeting on November 17, 2014 to accommodate TCAT’s request to use the meeting room.

**Agenda Review and Approval of Minutes** – There were no changes made to the agenda. **Moved** by Barry Goodrich, seconded by Lynn Leopold, to approve the minutes from September 15, 2014. The minutes were approved with the following changes: line 33, added “and Health”, line 55 adding “they work over time”, line 138 removing “Sharon Anderson made a motion to move the letter of support of encouragement for Tompkins County for funding to the Stream Corridor Restoration & Flood Hazard Mitigation program for multi-year funding” and replacing with “Sharon Anderson moved to have the WRC send a letter to the Tompkins County legislature supporting multi-year funding for the Stream Corridor Restoration and Flood Hazard Mitigation program.”, line 142 removing “Bill George moved to have the WRC send a letter to the Tompkins County legislature supporting multi-year funding for the Stream Corridor Restoration and Flood Hazard Mitigation program”, to replace with “Bill George moved to have the WRC recommend the Tompkins County legislature support target funding for the Stream Corridor Restoration and Flood Hazard Mitigation program;”. Final WRC minutes are posted on the webpage: <http://tompkinscountyny.gov/planning> under Advisory Boards.

**Tompkins County Comprehensive Plan Update** – Joan Jurkowich reported on the Tompkins County Comprehensive Plan update. Public meetings are being held with the deadline for comments on October 31<sup>st</sup>. A public hearing before the Legislature is likely to occur in January as the target adoption of the plan will

32 take place in February of 2015. Noted differences in the updated Comprehensive Plan are the 3 overarching  
33 principles of sustainability, regional cooperation, and fiscal responsibility. There are 9 different chapters and  
34 principles in the Tompkins County Comprehensive Plan that include:

35  
36 **The Economy – Tompkins County should be a place where economic prosperity is accessible to all.**

37 This chapter addresses the following issues: diversify our economy, protect quality of life as the area grows,  
38 protect working lands, and consider living wage and the promotion of local businesses and the economy as  
39 part of the county’s economic development efforts.

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41 **Housing – Tompkins County should be a place where housing is affordable, safe and appealing.** One of  
42 the largest issues within the county is the supply of housing. Affordable housing and housing for the aging  
43 population are key objectives within this chapter.

44  
45 **Transportation – Tompkins County should be a place where transportation choices are efficient,  
46 affordable and healthy for people and the environment.** Different concepts included in this chapter were  
47 to focus investments on key pieces of the county’s transportation infrastructure to maintain for the long term.  
48 Utilizing transit, walking, biking or sharing rides were noted alternatives to driving alone. A reduction of  
49 greenhouse gas emissions from transportation systems is another priority in the plan.

50  
51 **Natural Resources – Tompkins County should be a place where natural features and working rural  
52 landscapes are preserved and enhanced.** Key issues identified are the ongoing fragmentation of the natural  
53 open spaces and access to public spaces. Other focuses included the protection of valuable farmlands and  
54 eradication of invasive species.

55  
56 **Water Resources – Tompkins County should be a place where water resources are clean, safe, and  
57 protected.** The quality of Cayuga Lake and the establishment of a TMDL by the Department of  
58 Environmental Conservation were noted as an issue of a large scale. The importance of the interface  
59 between land and water was noted to emphasize how land use affects water quality. The protection of stream  
60 corridors, wetlands and aquifer recharge areas will be focus areas in protection efforts.

61  
62 **Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emission – Tompkins County should be a place where the energy system  
63 is climate neutral.** The plan focuses on our businesses, individuals and government using energy more  
64 efficiently. Renewable energy sources will be a major component and reduced waste will play big parts in  
65 the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

66  
67 **Adaptation - Tompkins County should be a place where the entire community is prepared for the  
68 economic, environmental, and social impacts of climate change.** Identifying the risks to the community  
69 and planning for the needs of vulnerable populations was noted as target issues; this would include the  
70 elderly and people with compromised health systems. Making sure the natural and physical infrastructure is  
71 prepared for climate change is also a priority; efforts in keeping the public informed will be made.

72  
73 **Healthy Communities – Tompkins County should be a place where the built environment promotes  
74 healthy, safe and active lifestyles.** This chapter focuses on development of parks, trails, and recreation  
75 facilities throughout the community. Continued efforts will be made to keep streets and roads safe for  
76 drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists. Neighborhood and housing development should be health conscious. The  
77 chapter also promotes the availability of healthy food to all members of the community

78  
79 **Development Patterns – Tompkins County should be a place where new development is concentrated  
80 in compact, walkable, mixed-use communities.** Promoting development in the development focus areas  
81 identified by Tompkins County; those areas will have mixed-use, infrastructure, and infill within those areas.

82

83 Joan noted the public meetings are in the form of an open house; the next meetings will be on Wednesday at  
84 Lansing Town Hall and Thursday at the Tompkins County Public Library. Joan noted that specific actions  
85 will not be included in the Tompkins County Comprehensive Plan but that an action document will be  
86 created and made available sometime early next year. To view the Tompkins County Comprehensive Plan  
87 please visit:

88 <http://tompkinscountyny.gov/files/compplan/documents/1Full%20Draft%20for%20Public%20Review.pdf>  
89

90 John Andersson mentioned the reference in the plan that promotes the use of wetlands for stormwater control  
91 and noted that regulations prohibit new construction from using existing wetlands for stormwater control. He  
92 also asked about the mention of SPDES permits for the waste water treatment disposal. Dooley Kiefer  
93 suggested including the cooperative efforts on behalf of Tompkins County, United States Geological Survey,  
94 and the municipalities relating to the aquifer identification studies that began in 2003. Frank Proto asked  
95 members if they were interested in forming a sub-committee to discuss the Comprehensive Plan and submit  
96 comments on behalf of the Water Resources Council. It was decided that members will make comments on  
97 the Tompkins County Comprehensive Plan on an individual basis.  
98

99 **Hydrilla Update** – James Balyszak reported on the low-dose herbicide treatments that continued through  
100 September and were finalized October 8<sup>th</sup>, which ended the treatments for the 2014 season. The treatments  
101 were noted as very effective in the Cayuga Inlet as target concentrations were maintained throughout the  
102 season. Due to the issues with maintaining the herbicide concentration in the Fall Creek cove area, members  
103 from the Hydrilla Task Force, New York State Parks, and Bob Johnson’s team physically removed patches  
104 of Hydrilla by hand on September 23 and 24<sup>th</sup>. A huge impact was made to the Hydrilla biomass, and  
105 waterfowl grazing was noted. Future herbicide treatments in Fall Creek will focus on maintaining more  
106 effective levels of herbicide with higher concentrations or longer durations.  
107

108 40 benthic barriers were purchased from the Town of Cazenovia with funding from the City of Ithaca with  
109 the intention of being reimbursed by the Department of Environmental Conservation. 6 benthic barriers were  
110 placed on Hydrilla patches on the south-east corner of Cayuga Lake. Recent monitoring of benthic barriers  
111 that were placed on patches of Hydrilla in 2013 showed that the treatments have been notably successful as  
112 no new patches were found; monitoring will continue as long as the weather permits. Post-treatment water  
113 quality monitoring will continue until all sites have 1 part per billion or less of detection. An agreement was  
114 made between Don Nelson, of the Department of Environmental Conservation and the Hydrilla Task Force  
115 that will allow them to take down individual warning signs/sections when the water quality is 1 part per  
116 billion or less in adjacent areas. Bob Johnson has continued to deeper areas in the southern shelf and has not  
117 observed any new Hydrilla growth outside of the southeast corner.  
118

119 Sparse Hydrilla growth was noted in the treatment areas at Cornell Boat House Bay and Stewart Park Pond  
120 in which 2 small stems were observed in both areas and were found to be unhealthy and unviable. Continued  
121 education and outreach will include an end-of-season public meeting and volunteer thank-you event at the  
122 Tompkins County Public Library on November 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30-8:30pm pm. The meeting will include a recap of  
123 the 2014 season, projections for 2015, review of monitoring and sampling, education and outreach, and water  
124 quality monitoring results. Floating Classroom, Tompkins County Health Department, Bob Johnson, and the  
125 Watershed Network will be presenting at the meeting.  
126

127 Funding is at the end of the third quarter, a bulk of reimbursement requests have come in so payments will be  
128 going out. Funding from the following sources after this quarter is as follows: Fish and Wildlife Service  
129 Funding \$39,000, New York State Parks \$59,000, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation \$60,000, and New  
130 York State Department of Environmental Conservation funding of between \$600-650,000, depending on the  
131 project. James noted that the benthic barriers will be the first request for reimbursement from the Department  
132 of Environmental Conservation as the previous stipulation of accessing the funds was that all federal funds  
133 would need to be exhausted; this stipulation has since been retracted with the understanding that localized  
134 funding will cover all upfront costs prior to any reimbursement requests from the Department of

135 Environmental Conservation. Due to the challenges with upfront funding for these projects, the Hydrilla  
136 Task Force is planning to set meetings with the Soil and Water Conservation District, Tompkins County, and  
137 the City of Ithaca to request upfront funding to cover the cost of projects. Another noted challenge will be  
138 accessing the funding of the Department of Environmental Conservation prior to the contract expiring in  
139 August of 2015. Requests of the Department of Environmental Conservation to re-allocate or extend the  
140 grant will be made. Members discussed further outreach to State officials. For more information please visit:  
141 [www.stophydrilla.org](http://www.stophydrilla.org) and [www.tompkinscountyny.gov/health](http://www.tompkinscountyny.gov/health)  
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143 **Committee Reports – Grants** – Jose Lozano reported on the Sea Grant for Great Lakes basin funding. An  
144 email will be sent to James Balyszak for further follow up on the criteria for qualifying for the grant.  
145 **Recreation** – Lynn Leopold reported that the Recreation Committee met and finalized the questions for the  
146 paddling brochure. Their committee plans to print 500 copies over the winter to be distributed in the spring.  
147 The final document will be sent to Joan Jurkowich. **Streams** – Dan Karig reported on the meeting that took  
148 place last month with Mike Thorne, the City Superintendent of Public Works. Interaction between geology  
149 and stream behavior was discussed. The City of Ithaca will hire a consultant to survey the streams and  
150 channels in the City of Ithaca, primarily 6Mile, Cascadilla, and Fall Creeks. Members discussed the proposed  
151 1 mile remediation of Inlet Creek at Brown Road. This effort was noted by Roxy Johnston as a previous  
152 effort of the Department of Environmental Conservation that dates back to 1998 or 1999 that had been  
153 shelved. Roxy Johnston proposed inviting Gian Dodici of US Fish and Wildlife to the next Streams  
154 Committee meeting. **Wetlands** – Darby Kiley reported that the draft mapping of the wetlands pilot project is  
155 complete and will be made available to Wetlands Committee members. Funding from the Parks Foundation  
156 was approved at \$25,000 of the \$32,000 requested. Dooley Kiefer announced the request for funding to the  
157 County Legislature passed with a vote of 8-4. **Aquifers** – Todd Miller reported on the arsenic brochure that  
158 went out for review to Water Resource Council members last week. He noted the comments received by  
159 members. Members discussed formatting the paddling brochure similarly to the arsenic brochure to reflect  
160 both publications as being of the Water Resources Council. The deadline for comments on the arsenic  
161 brochure is next Friday; a final copy will be available to members at the next meeting on November 17<sup>th</sup>.  
162 **Cayuga Lake Monitoring Partnership** – Roxy Johnston reported that their committee did not meet. She noted  
163 that the next Technical Advisory Committee meeting is November 5<sup>th</sup> and will include updates on Steve  
164 Effler and Todd Walters modeling work. The meeting is closed but members are welcome to email Roxy  
165 Johnston in order to attend. **Education** – Elaine Quaroni reported that their committee did not meet but will  
166 be meeting on Thursday. The Education committee will be focusing on proofing the arsenic brochure as well  
167 as working to organize the Water Resources Council webpage. **Executive** - Frank Proto reported that their  
168 committee did not meet. Joan Jurkowich noted the brief presentation made to the Planning Committee on the  
169 Water Resource Council’s annual report. No requests for funding have been made on behalf of the members  
170 of the Water Resources Council. **Nominating** – Joan Jurkowich reported that their committee met and  
171 discussed the member’s terms that expire this year. All members with terms that are due to expire this year  
172 have been contacted. Efforts to nominate new recruits are ongoing.  
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174 **Chair’s Report** – Frank Proto reported on the letter that was mailed to Thomas Shelley of Sustainable  
175 Tompkins on behalf of the Water Resources Council. He noted that the response letter regarding the award  
176 for anti-fracking comments from Sustainable Tompkins was politely declined as members previously  
177 expressed the WRC’s neutrality on the fracking issue. The letter to Sustainable Tompkins was sent to the  
178 Executive Committee for comments and has since been mailed. Members were encouraged to start  
179 considering officers for the Water Resources Council.  
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181 **Announcements** – Steve Penningroth announced the free consumer education class at 4-H Acres on October  
182 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 pm. The class is sponsored by the Tompkins County Health Department and the Community  
183 Science Institute. The class will focus on educating homeowners on water quality testing and will offer \$5.00  
184 discounts to homeowners for water testing conducted at the Community Science Institute. ▪ Dooley Kiefer  
185 announced that the EPA and Corps of Engineers proposed revised definitions of the Waters of the United  
186 States. The New York State Association of Counties and Farm Bureau have submitted resolutions in

187 opposition to the changes. She encouraged members of the Water Resources Council to form a committee to  
188 discuss the proposed revisions and submit comments before the deadline on November 14<sup>th</sup>. Darby Kiley  
189 suggested the Wetlands Committee schedule a meeting that will focus on the revised definitions of the  
190 Waters of the United States. ▪ Water Resources Council members agreed that the meeting on November 17<sup>th</sup>  
191 will remain at the Ithaca Tompkins Transit Center.  
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193 **Adjournment** -- The meeting adjourned at 5:58 PM.  
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195 Respectfully submitted,  
196 Jennifer Turner, Administrative Assistant  
197 Tompkins County Planning Department  
198 Approved by Council on November 17, 2014  
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