

TOMPKINS COUNTY WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL

**December 15, 2014
Meeting Minutes**

Members Attending:

Name		Representation
Sharon Anderson	E	Cooperative Extension
John Andersson	P	At-Large
James Balyszak	E	At-Large
Fay Benson	A	Agriculture
Chris Bordlemay	P	Water Purveyor
Ed Bugliosi	A	USGS <i>ex officio</i>
Liz Cameron	P	T C Environmental Health
Sarah Dwyer	P	Business/Industry
Bill George	P	Municipal
Barry Goodrich	E	Watershed Organization
Roxy Johnston	E	At-Large
Joan Jurkowich	P	TC Planning
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	P	Soil & Water
Frank Proto	P	At-Large
Elaine Quaroni	P	At-Large
Marjory Rinaldo-Lee	P	Environment
Jose Lozano	P	Associate Member
Scott Carpenter	A	Associate Member
John Mawdsley	A	Associate Member
Todd Miller	P	Associate Member
Steve Penningroth	P	Associate Member
Mary Shelley	A	Associate Member
Tom Vawter	P	Associate Member
Linda Wagenet	P	Associate Member
Jennifer Turner	P	TC Planning

Guests: Michelle Henry, WRC At-Large applicant

Chairman Frank Proto opened the meeting at approximately 4:18 PM.

Introduction –Michelle Henry introduced herself as Newfield resident and graduate of Indiana University with a bachelors degree in environmental geography.

Agenda Review and Approval of Minutes – Hydrilla Update was removed from the agenda. **Moved** by Darby Kiley, seconded by Lynn Leopold, to approve the minutes from November 17, 2014. The minutes were approved with the following changes: line 29, replaced “Bob Johnson” with” Bill Foster”. line 30, added “Bob Johnson of Racine-Johnson Aquatic Ecologists and Hilary Lambert of the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network also made presentations. Bob Johnson presented information on the monitoring of the plant species and the status of Hydrilla. Hillary talked about hemlock woolly adelgid”. Final WRC minutes are posted on the webpage: <http://tompkinscountyny.gov/planning> under Advisory Boards.

Committee Accomplishments of 2014 – Nominating – Joan Jurkowich reported that the Nominating Committee met and reviewed applications and recommended officers earlier in the year. Recommendations for re-appointment to their existing seats were Elaine Quaroni, Sharon Anderson, and Jim McGarry. Recommendations were made on behalf of Tom Vawter and Jose Lozano, and new applicant, Michelle Henry for Associate member seat. **Moved** by Joan Jurkowich, and seconded Jim McGarry; Frank Proto made the motion that 1 vote would move the slate, seconded by Chris Bordlemay; the slate passed with no opposition. Pending applications will be brought forward at the meeting on January 26th.

31 Recreation – Lynn Leopold reported that the paddling brochure is in the final editing phase. It is understood
32 that the Recreation Committee will need to provide Joan Jurkovich quotes on printing costs for approval
33 prior to printing the brochures. The Recreation Committee will remain an ad-hoc committee and may provide
34 future support to the efforts of the Cayuga Lake Blueway Trail.
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36 Streams – Dan Karig reported that the Streams Committee spent a fair amount of time investigating issues
37 related to the growing amount of sodium and chloride in many of the streams in Tompkins County.
38 Discussions centered on a report being compiled to summarize the findings and the possibility of additional
39 member support in creating the report. The danger of flooding in lower portion of Six Mile Creek has been
40 another focus over the past year. The Streams Committee has been proactive in supporting the removal of
41 sediment in Six Mile Creek and plans to support additional sediment removal in the future. Dan added that
42 their committee plans to attend a scoping meeting on Six Mile Creek that will take place in January. The City
43 of Ithaca plans to hire a consultant after the meeting in order to model the lower stream area. Discussions
44 centered on whether the Department of Environmental Conservation has created a model of Six Mile Creek.
45 Future investigation into whether there is a model available will occur after the City of Ithaca has hired a
46 consultant.
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48 Wetlands – Darby Kiley reported on committee efforts in wetlands mapping which is in accordance with the
49 strategies of the water quality strategy. She noted the 2013 pilot project mapping of the Dryden wetlands as
50 completed in 2014. Over the summer their committee worked with the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network to
51 submit a grant to the Park Foundation that resulted in funding of \$25,000 to be used to map the remaining
52 Tompkins County wetlands. The remaining \$6,800 is in the Tompkins County budget.
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54 Aquifers – Todd Miller reported that the Aquifer Committee completed the arsenic pamphlet and would like
55 it made available on the Water Resources Council website and to town clerks to be posted on their website.
56 Dan Karig made the motion to endorse the Arsenic pamphlet on behalf of the Water Resources Council,
57 seconded by Marjory Rinaldo-Lee and accepted by unanimous vote. Discussions on distribution of the
58 pamphlet will happen in 2015. Todd Miller went on to report on the aquifer studies, noting that the 2nd part of
59 the Pony Hollow study has been published and posted. The 2nd aquifer study in Newfield has started and
60 Enfield studies have been ongoing for a year.
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62 Cayuga Lake Monitoring Partnership – James McGarry reported that the Cayuga Lake Monitoring
63 Partnership has been working with the Department of Environmental Conservation and Upstate
64 Freshwater Institute on the Cayuga Lake phosphorous study. James noted the presence of the Department of
65 Environmental Conservation at many of the meetings throughout the year, including the 3 Technical
66 Advisory Committee meetings. Presentations were given by both Dave Bouldin on the the scalability of
67 phosphorous data from Fall Creek to Cayuga Lake and Steve Penningroth's presentation on the strength of
68 the volunteer monitoring data. The Partnership also provided comments to the Department of Environmental
69 Conservation questioning the merits of the pathogens listing under the 303d list. This led to the Department
70 of Environmental Conservation's final determination to remove pathogens from the 303d list at the south
71 end of Cayuga Lake; final approval of this update is pending. ▪ Steve Penningroth discussed the sediment
72 presentation he gave on sediment transport at Cayuga Lake. He went on to report that sediment load
73 calculations are taken from the water samples of total suspended solids from the head waters to the mouth of
74 the streams and are summarized in a report. USGS results are used for Bethel Grove to calibrate the sediment
75 loading and on average the results to two thirds of the USGS loads at the site at Bethel Grove. Steve noted
76 the sediment sampling being under valued due to the fact that his sampling is done near the surface of the
77 water instead of deep in the water column leaving room for sediment to be missed. The results are from a
78 number of locations including Cascadilla Creek, the Farmers Market, Plain Street, Cass Park, Blakesly Hill
79 Road at upper inlet, and Buttermilk Creek at the inlet.
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81 Education – Elaine Quaroni reported that the Education Outreach Committee worked on a number of
82 different projects including Hydrilla outreach which included the canvassing of the southeast corner of

83 Cayuga Lake. Their committee also assisted with the the arsenic fact sheet in providing comments as well as
84 the organization of the Water Resources Council website. She noted Sharon Anderson’s efforts in discussing
85 the TMDL project that Cornell University and the Department of Environmental Conservation is currently
86 working on to the Stormwater Coalition and to Tompkins County Planning, Energy, and Environmental
87 Quality Committee.

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89 Executive – Frank Proto reported the Executive Committee wrote a few letters in support of various projects
90 and initiatives on behalf of a number of Water Resources Council Committees.

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92 Grants – Jon Negley reported that the Grants Committee met on an as-needed basis throughout the year.
93 Applications were submitted for grants from the Cleaner Greener Initiative through the Environmental
94 Protection Agency as well as an application for stream restoration in Enfield Creek that was funded by the
95 Department of Environmental Conservation for the Soil and Water District. Jon also noted the committee’s
96 work on Finger Lakes-Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance budget through the Environmental
97 Protection Fund. Jon went on to further note the increase from \$150,000,000 to \$162,000,000 in the
98 Governor’s budget. A recommendation on behalf of the Grants Committee was made for the FLOWPA
99 budget in the amount of \$57,600 that includes an extra line item for \$2,315.18 that the Water Resources
100 Council will need to vote on in January.

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102 Chair’s Report – Frank asked members of the Water Resources Council to contact Joan Jurkovich if they are
103 interested in being appointed an officer. Frank went on to discuss the Town and Gown Award received by
104 Roxy Johnston for the Cayuga Lake Monitoring Partnership and the Town and Gown Award he received on
105 behalf of the Water Resources Council. A statement of gratitude was made to Marjory Rinaldo-Lee for her
106 efforts on the Water Resources Council. Marjory will be absent from Ithaca this year and therefore will be
107 resigning from the Water Resources Council.

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109 **Announcements** – Joan Jurkovich announced the upcoming meeting dates for the Water Resources Council
110 will be January 26th and February 23rd. Bill George commented on the report he gave on behalf of the Water
111 Resources Council for the months of January through October to the Town of Ulysses. He noted that the
112 Town Council expressed thanks to the Water Resources Council for their submission of SGEIS comments.

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115 **Adjournment** -- The meeting adjourned at 5:38 PM.

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117 Respectfully submitted,
118 Jennifer Turner, Administrative Assistant
119 Tompkins County Planning Department
120 Approved by Council on January 26, 2015

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