

TOMPKINS COUNTY WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL

**January 26, 2014
Meeting Minutes**

Members Attending:

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

Name		Representation
Jim McGarry	P	EMC Liaison
Jon Negley	P	Soil & Water
Frank Proto	P	At-Large
Elaine Quaroni	P	At-Large
<i>Michelle Henry</i>	P	<i>Associate Member</i>
<i>Roxy Johnston</i>	P	<i>Associate Member</i>
<i>Jose Lozano</i>	A	<i>Associate Member</i>
<i>Scott Carpenter</i>	A	<i>Associate Member</i>
<i>John Mawdsley</i>	A	<i>Associate Member</i>
<i>Todd Miller</i>	P	<i>Associate Member</i>
<i>Steve Penningroth</i>	P	<i>Associate Member</i>
<i>Tom Vawter</i>	P	<i>Associate Member</i>
<i>Linda Wagenet</i>	A	<i>Associate Member</i>
Jennifer Turner	P	<i>TC Planning</i>

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Guests: None

Chairman Frank Proto opened the meeting at approximately 4:22 PM.

Agenda Review and Approval of Minutes – An additional item on the Erie Canal was included on the agenda under Chair’s Report. **Moved** by John Andersson, seconded by Joan Jurkowich, to approve the minutes from December 15, 2014. The minutes were approved with friendly amendments. Final WRC minutes are posted on the webpage: <http://tomkinscountyny.gov/planning> under Advisory Boards.

Election of 2015 Officers – Moved by Joan Jurkowich, seconded by Sharon Anderson to nominate Frank Proto as Chair, Barry Goodrich as first Vice-Chair and Darby Kiley as second Vice-Chair. Moved by Jim McGarry, seconded by Chris Bordlemay to accept the slate the Nominating Committee presented for 2015. All were in favor with no opposition.

Hydrilla Update – See full report below.

Committee Reports – Frank Proto reported on the City of Ithaca Stormwater Taskforce that is being created by Mike Thorne. **Nominating** – Joan Jurkowich moved to recommend the re-appointment of Bill George to the Municipal seat on the Water Resources Council, seconded by Sharon Anderson. The recommendation was approved by the members of the Water Resources Council by unanimous vote. A recommendation to appoint Roxy Johnston to an Associate member was moved by Joan Jurkowich, seconded by Sharon Anderson. The recommendation to appoint Roxy Johnston to an associate member was approved by unanimous vote. **Grants** – Jon Negley reported on Governor Cuomo’s increased budget to the Environmental Protection Fund from \$162,000,000 to \$172,000,000. Jon went on to recommend that the members of the WRC draft a letter to the in support of the increase that will be voted on in March. Jon went on to report on

33 the agricultural non-point source pollution control grant funding under New York State Department of
34 Agriculture and Markets and FLOWPA funding that the Water Resources Council will need to approve.
35 The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative was noted as another opportunity for funding that provide agencies
36 the opportunity to apply for projects that focus on aquatic connectivity, streamline, shoreline and wetland
37 habitats and stream recurring habitat. The annual FLOWPA meeting in Albany will take place February
38 10th.

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40 **Water Quality Strategy Update** – Joan Jurkowich presented an interactive approach for members to
41 individually identify problems, issues, or concerns with water resources in Tompkins County. Members
42 went around the table identifying their concerns. The following list of water concerns in Tompkins County
43 will be used to help prepare the 2015 Water Quality Strategy:

- 44
- 45 • Flooding; increased flooding due to climate change
- 46 • Invasive species
- 47 • DEC/regulatory management
- 48 • Streambank erosion
- 49 • Excess use of water by industry
- 50 • CAFO pollution of tributaries
- 51 • Wetland loss
- 52 • Educational efforts on the byproducts of Stage II disinfectants used by water purveyors
- 53 • Emerging contaminants – microbeads/Cornell research on new technologies
- 54 • Channel maintenance in Ithaca
- 55 • Milliken Station ash pile drainage
- 56 • Characterize Nutrient loading in small watersheds
- 57 • Increasing landscape changes without pre-planning
- 58 • Riparian corridor protection
- 59 • Individual wells – oversight
- 60 • Individual septic systems – oversight
- 61 • Lake access
- 62 • Dredging Inlet
- 63 • Uncoordinated management of water resources
- 64 • Uncoordinated stormwater management
- 65 • Increase in impervious surfaces
- 66 • Impact status of TMDL
- 67 • Dredging reservoir
- 68 • Increased runoff of salt and pesticides
- 69 • Update floodplain maps
- 70 • Pharmacies accepting unused drugs for disposal
- 71 • Use of hydropower
- 72 • Watershed representatives from each municipality
- 73 • Health hazards of nutrient loading
- 74 • Use of science in watershed management
- 75 • Coordinating municipalities around Cayuga Lake (regional)
- 76 • Regional regulatory impacts on water purveyors and agreements
- 77 • Roadside ditches
- 78 • Lake sedimentation
- 79 • Water quality in rural wells
- 80 • Changes in land use, loss of hemlock and ash and others
- 81 • Status of health of stream biota

- 82 • SPDES permit violations – Cayuga Power Plant
- 83 • Public/private responsibility for water quality – education
- 84 • Review watershed rules
- 85 • Public understanding of aquatic plants
- 86 • Excessive use of water by households
- 87 • Aquifer studies completion
- 88 • Wetland delineation
- 89 • Cayuga Lake Watershed Management Plan
- 90 • Road brine
- 91 • Circulation patterns in lake
- 92 • Chronic turbidity
- 93 • Funding for water quality strategy items
- 94 • Cayuga Lake Intermunicipal Organization functioning?
- 95 • Well logs
- 96 • Risk of pipeline failure – sewer and petroleum
- 97 • Ice jams

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99 **Committee Signups** – Frank Proto went over the members of the Water Resources Council Committees and
100 Chairs of each committee in 2014. Frank noted that a new committee will be established to provide support
101 to the Water Quality Strategy. The Education and Outreach, Grants, Nominating, Aquifer, Cayuga Lake
102 Monitoring Partnership, Wetlands, and the Executive Committees were mentioned as the current committees
103 that members will need to consider whether to continue in 2015. Frank asked that members review the
104 committee’s of the WRC in preparation to selecting a committee to serve on at the meeting in February.
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106 **Chair & Staff Reports** – Frank Proto reminded the current Committee Chairs to submit an annual report by
107 by February 16th. He went on to announce that due to holiday on Presidents’s Day, the next Water Resources
108 Council meeting will be February 23rd.
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110 **Erie Canal Commission** - Frank Proto reported that the Erie Canal calendar that was distributed to members
111 relates to his federal appointment by the Department of the Interior to the Erie Canal Commission. He noted
112 the funding available for initiatives related to the promotion of events on the Erie Canal and that a majority
113 of the projects are required to be in close proximity to state land and the abundance of state parks that may fit
114 the requirement. Further discussion centered on the required distance of the project in relation to state land.
115 An Erie Canal display can be seen at the History Center and an Erie Canal Commission meeting will take
116 place at Coltivare in June.
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118 **Announcements/Other Business** – Dooley Kiefer asked the Water Resources Council to provide a
119 recommendation to the Planning Committee to ban plastic micro-beads. Questions centered on what the
120 appropriate approach for banning micro-beads would be as they were mentioned to be in certain cosmetics,
121 toothpaste, and soaps. Members decided that additional information is required in order to decide a course of
122 action and discussed having a presentation at an upcoming meeting.
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133 **WRC January 2015 Meeting**
134 **Hydrilla Task Force Updates**
135 **By James Balyszak**
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137 **Treatments:**

- 138 • Hydrilla Program Manager had preliminary discussions on 2015 peer review process with Scott
139 Kishbaugh (NYSDEC) and Project contractors at NEAPMS annual conference (January 20-22, 2015).
140 The peer review process helps provide basis for LTF treatment decisions in upcoming seasons. The LTF
141 will coordinate with NYSDEC, peer reviewers, and herbicide applicators/producers to determine optimal
142 protocol for 2015 peer review process. LTF wants to ensure that the original intent of the peer review
143 process remains intact; that it remains objective, unbiased, and transparent to the public. This will help to
144 maintain public support.
- 145 • LTF will provide peer reviewers with all pertinent data from 2014 treatment season. Project contractors
146 will provide preliminary treatment proposals for LTF and peer reviewers, for review and assessment
147 prior to peer review conference call. Peer reviewers and contractors will discuss any questions and
148 clarify prior to official peer review conference call.
- 149 • After review of proposals and supporting data, an official conference call will be convened involving the
150 LTF, NYSDEC, and peer reviewers.
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152 **Monitoring:**

- 153 • **BOB JOHNSON (Racine-Johnson Aquatic Ecologists):** 2014 Plant Community Monitoring Report is
154 being compiled by Bob Johnson. Preliminary data from 2014 has been provided. Overall, Project
155 progress and treatment results were very good, especially in Cayuga Inlet. Three locations (Cornell
156 University Boathouse Bay, Fall Creek, and SE corner of Cayuga Lake) will be areas of primary concern
157 for 2015 season. Annual Plant Community Report should be finalized in 1st Quarter.
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159 **Education/Outreach:**

- 160 • Monthly Hydrilla Task Force Outreach Committee meetings will resume in February. Preliminary
161 education/outreach planning will commence for 2015 season.
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163 **FUNDING:**

- 164 • Jon Negley (TCSWCD), James Balyszak (HTF), and Roxy Johnston (City of Ithaca) met with City of
165 Ithaca representatives (Mayor Myrick, Steve Thayer, Kevin Sutherland, and Mike Thorne) on January 7,
166 2015 to discuss Hydrilla Project funding and the possibility of localized funding support in order to
167 access NYSDEC grant funding. City was very receptive to the idea of providing localized funding
168 support (\$150,000, in the form of a “bridge-loan”) to cover up-front Project costs. This would finally
169 allow the HTF to access available NYSDEC grant funding (\$662,000), which requires “full-
170 reimbursement” process. A formal funding request proposal, cover letter, and draft resolution was
171 submitted to the City on January 22, 2015 from TCSWCD. HTF will follow up with City to finalize local
172 funding agreement prior to 2015 treatment season.
- 173 • Jon Negley (TCSWCD) and James Balyszak (HTF) met with Tompkins County representative Joe
174 Mareane on January 16, 2015 to discuss Hydrilla Project funding and the possibility of localized funding
175 support in order to access NYSDEC grant funding. The County was very receptive to the idea of
176 providing localized funding support (\$150,000, in the form of a “bridge-loan”) to cover up-front Project
177 costs. This would finally allow the HTF to access available NYSDEC grant funding (\$662,000), which
178 requires “full-reimbursement” process. A formal funding request proposal, cover letter, and draft
179 resolution was submitted to Tompkins County on January 16, 2015 from TCSWCD. HTF will follow up
180 with Tompkins County to finalize local funding agreement prior to 2015 treatment season. Additional
181 information and presentations to Tompkins County representatives will be conducted as needed.
182 Once localized funding support has been finalized, the HTF, TCSWCD, and FLOWPA will schedule a
183 meeting with NYSDEC to discuss extension of NYSDEC grant contract beyond current August 15, 2015

184 deadline. Contract extension will allow for optimized Project funding expenditure, and a more secured
185 Project timeline to 2017 and beyond.
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188 **Adjournment** -- The meeting adjourned at 5:50 PM.

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190 Respectfully submitted,

191 Jennifer Turner, Administrative Assistant

192 Tompkins County Planning Department

193 Approved by Council on March 16, 2015

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