

TOMPKINS COUNTY WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL

**March 16, 2015
Meeting Minutes**

Members Attending:

Name		Representation
Sharon Anderson	E	Cooperative Extension
John Andersson	P	At-Large
James Balyszak	P	At-Large
Fay Benson	P	Agriculture
Chris Bordlemay	P	Water Purveyor
Ed Bugliosi	A	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
Joan Jurkowich	P	<i>TC Planning</i>
Dan Karig	P	Recreation
Dooley Kiefer	P	Legislature Liaison
Darby Kiley	P	Municipal

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

Guests: George Fowler, Mike Thorne

Chairman Frank Proto opened the meeting at approximately 4:17 PM.

Agenda Review and Approval of Minutes – Moved by Jon Negley, seconded by Barry Goodrich, to approve the minutes from January 26, 2015. The minutes were approved. Final WRC minutes are posted on the webpage: <http://tompkinscountyny.gov/planning> under Advisory Boards.

Stormwater Management Update – Michael Thorne, Superintendent of Public Works with the City of Ithaca reported on the City of Ithaca’s plan for stormwater management. A taskforce has been organized to conduct a stormwater study for the City of Ithaca with the goal of updating flood mapping. Tompkins County, the Town and City of Ithaca, United States Geological Survey, Cornell University, and Tompkins County Soil and Water Conservation District are agencies involved in the efforts. Modeling the current conditions and identifying two year, five year, and ten year storm events are planned to identify weak spots in the system. By creating water surface profiles and calibrating that information into possible solutions, a cost benefit analysis can be created and prioritized. The Stormwater Taskforce is using the Town of Olive’s request for proposal (RFP) as a template, and will consider any additional steps as well as steps to be eliminated when creating the model for the City of Ithaca. Plans to start the first phase of the study will involve the community rating system and cost benefit analysis that FEMA uses. Phase two and three of the study will likely focus more on sedimentation problems and solutions to further analyze the costs associated with these efforts.

Questions centered on whether the proposed modeling of existing conditions will identify mitigation opportunities and if the updating of the flood maps will include new and improved FEMA flood maps within

32 the City of Ithaca. Through conversations with the Department of Environmental Conservation, it was noted
33 that FEMA is also looking to update their flood maps, which may open the door for opportunities for funding
34 if the flood mapping is done within their standards. An intermunicipal collaboration may also increase the
35 probability for additional support. ▪ Members expressed concerns that the updated flood maps prior to
36 mitigation poses the threat that homeowners flood insurance will be affected. ▪Michael noted the possibility
37 of modeling storm conditions for the duration of 50 years using a 10% increase using the current (IDF)
38 intensity, duration and frequency curves. ▪ It was noted that the Village of Dryden is going through similar
39 steps as the City of Ithaca. ▪ Members discussed the possibility of a presenting these plans to the Tompkins
40 County Council of Governments. ▪ Discussions centered on grant funding at the state level through the
41 Environmental Protection Fund, Finger Lakes-Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance, Tompkins
42 County Flood Hazard Mitigation Fund and the Intermunicipal Organization. ▪ Members expressed concerns
43 of identifying development that has occurred after FEMA’s flood mapping that was last updated in 1982.
44 LiDAR maps and stream flow estimation tools were noted as resources for that may serve as support to these
45 efforts. To access the stream flow estimation tool please visit: <http://ny.water.usgs.gov/projects/nyset/>
46

47 **Committee Assignment Discussions** – Frank Proto reported that there are currently vacancies on the
48 Executive, Water Quality Strategy, and Nominating Committees. It was recommended that Elaine Quaroni
49 and Sharon Anderson remain on the Executive Committee. Elaine Quaroni will serve as chair the
50 Nominating Committee – the other members are Roxy Johnston, Linda Wagenet, Jon Negley, and Chris
51 Bordlemay. The members serving on the Water Quality Strategy Committee are Joan Jurkowich, Roxy
52 Johnston, Chris Bordlemay, Bill George, Jon Negley, and Dooley Kiefer. Frank Proto encouraged members
53 to confirm the committees they will serve on by Wednesday
54

55 **Hydrilla Update** – James Balyszak reported that preliminary planning and coordination between the
56 Hydrilla Taskforce, stakeholders, statewide agencies, and national peer reviewers is underway. The peer
57 review process will be put together at the end of the month to look at available options and past protocols.
58 Bob Johnson is completing the work on the 2014 plant community report and will be made available to the
59 public by the end of the month.
60

61 James went on to report that he and Jon Negley have met with both the Town and City of Ithaca for support
62 in accessing localized funding in the form of a bridge loans to cover up-front Project costs. This would
63 finally allow the Hydrilla Taskforce Force to access available NYSDEC grant funding (\$662,000), which
64 requires “full-reimbursement” process. Both the City and County of Ithaca have passed resolutions for local
65 funding support for the combined amount of \$300,000 for the project for this coming season.
66

67 **Cornell Boathouse Dredging Project** – James Balyszak reported on the planned dredging project by
68 Cornell’s Boathouse bay around the dock areas. The work will be taking place in an area that is within the
69 Hydrilla treatment area and that has had the densest population of Hydrilla plants and tubers in the past. As a
70 result, the Hydrilla Taskforce created protocols and solutions for preventative measures for the contractor.
71 James Balyszak has agreed to contact Jene Foley regarding the inspection of the disposal site.
72

73 James went on to report that the Cayuga Waterfront Trail’s 2nd phase will start soon. He noted that the
74 activity involves similar concerns with the sediment and Hydrilla tubers.
75

76 **Committee Reports – Wetlands** – Darby Kiley reported, for the wetlands mapping project accuracy
77 assessments will be conducted on Cornell University lands and other volunteer owners of land. Darby asked
78 members to provide her ideas for volunteers that would be willing to conduct wetland delineations.

79 **Monitoring Partnership** – Roxy Johnston reported that the Cayuga Lake Monitoring Partnership plans to
80 meet every other month. Reviews of the work plan are underway. The TMDL study will continue to be
81 tracked by their committee; the next public meeting will likely take place in the fall. Committee discussions
82 centered on the gap in protection for groundwater resources that have not been done in conjunction with the
83 priority water bodies list. Jeff Myers of the Department of Environmental Conservation announced the

84 official delisting of the south end of Cayuga Lake for pathogens. Efforts of the Water Resources Council,
85 Town of Ithaca, Ithaca Area Wastewater Treatment Facility, Community Science Institute, and individuals
86 for and against the delisting were all mentioned as taking part in the efforts that brought about the delisting.
87

88 **Chair & Staff Reports** – Frank Proto asked members of the Water Resources Council for suggestions on
89 possible speakers at upcoming meetings. He noted that there will be a presentation on Micro-beads at the
90 meeting in April and that Rick Manning plans to provide an update on the Stewart Park Revitalization at a
91 later date. Members suggested reaching out to Drew Snell of the Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection
92 Program. Members discussed having presentations on the wetlands delineation study and an update on the
93 lamprey work done last year. Joan Jurkowich announced that the 4th annual “Jump on Board” event will take
94 place March 23rd from 5:00-8:00 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn. This event is being held by to provide young
95 professionals with information on volunteer work within the community including advisory boards.
96

97 **Announcements/Other Business** – On April 16th a Stormwater Resiliency Workshop will take place from
98 8:30a.m.-1:00p.m. at The Space at GreenStar. On Thursday, March 19th, Rebecca Schneider will give a
99 presentation on Improving Roadside Ditch Management. The presentation will take place at the
100 Brooktondale Fire Station located at 786 Valley Road. The League of Women Voters is hosting a
101 presentation by Liz Cameron and Adam Law on Healthy Water-Healthy People on March 23rd from 7-8:30
102 p.m. in the Borg Warner Room at the Public Library.
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105 **Adjournment** -- The meeting adjourned at 5:56 PM.
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107 Respectfully submitted,
108 Jennifer Turner, Administrative Assistant
109 Tompkins County Planning Department
110 Approved by Council on April 20, 2015
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