

TOMPKINS COUNTY WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL

April 20, 2015
Meeting Minutes

Members Attending:

Name		Representation
Sharon Anderson	P	Cooperative Extension
John Andersson	P	At-Large
Fay Benson	P	Agriculture
James Balyszak	P	At-Large
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	A	Municipal
Barry Goodrich	E	Watershed Organization
Joan Jurkowich	P	TC Planning
Dan Karig	P	Recreation
Dooley Kiefer	P	Legislature Liaison
Darby Kiley	E	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
Michelle Henry	P	Associate Member
Roxy Johnston	E	Associate Member
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
Tom Vawter	P	Associate Member
Linda Wagenet	A	Associate Member
Jennifer Turner	P	TC Planning

Guests: Christian Shaw, Plastic Tides, Mike Thorne, City of Ithaca, Dave Bouldin

Chairman Frank Proto opened the meeting at approximately 4:21 PM.

Agenda Review and Approval of Minutes – Moved by Jim McGarry, seconded by Lynn Leopold, to approve the minutes from March 16, 2015. The minutes were approved. Final WRC minutes are posted on the webpage: <http://tompkinscountyny.gov/planning> under Advisory Boards.

Microbeads Presentation – Christian Shaw introduced himself as a resident of Lansing and noted that he is a recent Cornell University graduate with a degree in sustainability and business. He went on to report that he founded Plastic Tides as way to combine adventure and science through stand-up paddleboard expeditions. Research is conducted by paddleboard, made available to the public through a professional media strategy to raise awareness of any issues that are found. Christian noted that his team launched their 2nd expedition with relevance to upstate New York on November 9th that covered 180 miles, from Myers Point to Little Falls. This expedition aimed at raising awareness of microbeads entering waterways through the use of cosmetic products. Through collaboration with Dr. Sam Mason of Great Lakes Plastic Pollutions Lab, the samples were researched and it was found that 70% of the samples contained microbeads. From samples taken from Cayuga Lake an average of 16,000-68,000 microbeads were found per kilometer square. Christian went on to note that the vast majority of plastic found in the samples were not microbeads, but other forms of plastic pollution. His organization has been working with the Attorney General’s office, Citizens Campaign for the Environment, the Environmental Protection Agency and Trash-free Waters Taskforce. Christian noted the bill that was considered by the Assembly last year, Microbead-Free Waters Act (S. 3932 / A. 5896) that would prohibit the sale of personal products that

31 contain polyethylene microbeads. Christian noted his concerns with a secondary bill that has passed in
32 both New Jersey and Illinois that will allow the sale of personal products containing bio-plastic micro-
33 beads passed in both New Jersey, and Illinois.

34
35 Members questioned whether there has been research conducted proving the harms that micro-beads can
36 cause to fish and other aquatic animals. It was explained that the micro-beads act as a sponge for methyl
37 mercury and other toxins which can bio-accumulate in the food chain. It was suggested that the secondary
38 bill was created in order to make it easier for companies to transition from the use of polyethylene to the
39 bio-plastics as well as being more cost effective than using alternative exfoliators. Concerns centered on
40 the risks associated with greater intensity and the need for research on other lakes. Members discussed
41 more outreach and the possibility of getting the DEC and EPA involved. Plastic Tides will partner with
42 the Community Science Institute in order to continue research in Cayuga Lake this summer. For more
43 information please visit: www.plasticides.org

44
45 Additional information on microbeads can be found at:

46 http://conbio.org/images/content_policy/03.24.15_Microbead_Brief_Statement.pdf

47 <https://www.change.org/p/cornell-university-remove-microplastics-from-campus-stores>

48 https://actionnetwork.org/letters/say-no-to-plastic-microbeads-and-support-new-yorks-microbead-free-waters-act?source=direct_link&referrer=nynj-baykeeper

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51 **Hydrilla Update** – James Balyszak provided a brief update on Hydrilla. See full report attached below.

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53 **Cornell Boathouse Dredging Project** – James Balyszak reported that his effort in contacting Jean Foley
54 of the Department of Environmental Conservation, prior to the dredging at Cornell's Boathouse was
55 unsuccessful as the 1st phase of the project has been completed. Spoils from the Cornell Boathouse
56 dredging project were taken to the German Cross Road disposal site. Jean Foley noted that she would
57 visit the German Cross Road dump site at the end of March. James contacted Jean regarding this, but no
58 confirmation or correspondence has been received.

59

60 The Cayuga Waterfront Trailer Project-Phase 2 will include dredging of Cayuga Inlet in northeast corner
61 of Cornell Boathouse bay for installation of new drainage swale and culvert. Additional bank work and
62 drainage pipe installation will occur along the Inlet in back of the Department of Transportation facilities.
63 Dredging spoils from this project will be taken to the Wood Road disposal site where a 12 ft. pit will be
64 dug and materials will be buried. Discussions centered on provisions with permits and safe protocols.
65 Jean Foley did conduct a site visit and inspection of the Wood Road disposal site in March, and approval
66 was given to this site for disposal."

67

68 **Committee Reports** – Nominating – Elaine Quaroni moved to recommend Michael Thorne to an At-
69 Large seat on the Water Resources Council that will expire in 2017, seconded by Joan Jurkowich.

70 Members of the Water Resources Council approved the recommendation by unanimous vote. Education –
71 Lynn Leopold reported that the Education Committee will have a tentative meeting date on the 2nd

72 Tuesday of the month at 2:30 at Cornell Cooperative Extension. The committee will discuss outreach and
73 education on the issues with microbeads. Updating the Water Resources Council webpage will be another
74 focus of the committee. Streams- Dan Karig reported on the meeting with the Northeast Geological

75 Survey where discussion centered on channel management, and the use of wood in streams. He noted that
76 Scott Doyle of the Tompkins County Planning Department plans to give a presentation to the committee
77 on pipeline crossings in Tompkins County. Members expressed concerns with planned construction of the

78 3.2 million gallon manure pit near Mclean that will involve piping under Fall Creek and perhaps through
79 wetlands. Wetlands – Tom Vawter reported that the 2012 Water Quality Strategy for Wetlands has been

80 reviewed. Members of the committee have discussed collecting more data on local wetlands and which

81 efforts within the strategy they will focus on. Development of framework that will utilize the
82 municipalities and common goals in order to prioritize the restoration and protection of wetlands will be
83 based on ecosystem functions. Funding has been made available for ground truthing on previously
84 delineated wetlands. Public outreach, education and funding are additional efforts their committee will
85 focus on. Aquifer – Todd Miller reported that the Aquifer Committee will focus on distributing the
86 arsenic factsheet and will follow up with a press release. Their committee plans to explore another
87 factsheet on methane in groundwater. He went on to report on the Department of Environmental
88 Conservation’s involvement in funding groundwater studies in the Owasco Inlet. Water Quality Strategy
89 – Joan Jurkowich reported that the Water Quality Committee meets approximately every two weeks on
90 Thursday mornings from 9:30-11:00. The next meetings are scheduled April 23rd, and May 7th, and 28th.
91 Their committee would like give a presentation to the Water Resources Council in June and to present
92 their recommendations at the meeting in September for adoption by the Council in October.

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94 **Chair & Staff Reports** – Frank Proto reported that Rick Manning will give a presentation on the update
95 of the Stewart Park Revitalization at the WRC meeting on May 18.

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97 **Announcements/Other Business** – Frank Proto announced that Mike Thorne has been in discussion with
98 Tompkins County Council of Governments regarding a meeting on efforts involving local streams and
99 stormwater management; a meeting will likely take place at the end of May. Members expressed their
100 concerns with Beck Farm’s proposed plan construct a manure pit lagoon; future discussions on CAFO’s
101 and the specifics of the plan will follow. Jose Lozano reported that the Water Resources Institute has
102 awarded a grant to work on public education for endocrine disrupters and persistent organics in the Ithaca
103 watershed; Cornell University, USGS, Ithaca College, and the IAWWTF will work together on this
104 project. The Floating Classroom and Sharon Anderson will be working together on public outreach and
105 education. Jose went on to voice his concerns with micro-plastics.

132 **Hydrilla Task Force Updates**

133 By James Balyszak

134

135 **Monitoring/Management:**

136 • Local Task Force (HTF), NYSDEC, and national peer reviewers conducted annual peer review
137 conference call on Friday March 27, 2015. Conversation focused on Cayuga Lake Watershed,
138 Tonawanda (Buffalo, NY), and Croton River System (Hudson River tributary) hydrilla Projects. Peer
139 reviewers provided input on available 2015 treatment options. A Local Task Force Management
140 Committee meeting was convened on Monday 3/30/15 to further discuss the conference call and peer
141 reviewer recommendations/input. The Management Committee made final decisions regarding 2015
142 treatments in the Cayuga Lake Watershed:

- 143 ○ **Cayuga Inlet:** Similar to 2014 and previous seasons, a combination endothall/fluridone
144 treatment will be utilized in the Cayuga Inlet and connecting tributaries. Initial endothall
145 treatment will occur in July, followed by fluridone injection/pellet treatments. Sonar
146 injection units will be used again. Sonar treatments will continue through late
147 September/early October.
- 148 ○ **Fall Creek:** Will conduct preliminary endothall treatment in backwater/shallow areas
149 (Stewart Park pond and feeder stream, golf course lagoon, Fall Creek cove, and small
150 wetland adjacent to golf course), followed by primary endothall treatment to the main
151 channel of Fall Creek via injection units over a 36 hour period. Follow-up treatment will
152 consist of Sonar pellet applications in shallow/backwater areas through end of season (late
153 September/early October).
- 154 ○ **SE Corner of Cayuga Lake:** Sonar pellet treatments (Sonar H4C or Sonar One) will be
155 applied to 30 acre treatment area in SE corner of lake (in area encompassing isolated patches
156 that were discovered in 2013 and 2014). Treatments will begin in early July, with pellet
157 bump treatments every 2-3 weeks through the end of September. A consensus from the peer
158 reviewers was that a more aggressive stance needed to be taken on the isolated hydrilla
159 patches in the SE corner of the lake. This area poses the greatest threat to hydrilla spread
160 beyond our current Cayuga Inlet and Fall Creek treatment zones.

161 • TCSWCD is currently conducting official procurement process for Project contractors. A formal RFP
162 for treatment bids was advertised. Two bids were received (Allied Biological and A-Tip Control,
163 Inc.). Bids were reviewed and award given to Allied Biological for 2015 hydrilla treatments and
164 technical support. District and LTF will work with Allied Biological to draft and finalize
165 contracts/permits.

166 Local funding support for the Hydrilla Project is being provided by Tompkins County and the City of
167 Ithaca in 2015. Working closely with the Hydrilla Task Force and TCSWCD, Tompkins County and the
168 City of Ithaca passed resolutions in February 2015 to provide local funding support in the form of bridge
169 loans to help cover up-front Project costs (treatments, monitoring/sampling, supporting activities). The
170 County will provide \$200,000 and the City will provide \$100,000. This local funding support will allow
171 the Hydrilla Task Force to cover the more expensive up-front Project costs, and then request
172 reimbursement from the NYSDEC hydrilla grant. These funds will then be used to reimburse the
173 County/City funds. Up until this year, the NYSDEC grant has been inaccessible due to the “full
174 reimbursement” requirement (i.e. all costs/invoices must be covered up-front BEFORE reimbursement
175 can be requested from grant)

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177 **Adjournment** -- The meeting adjourned at 6:16 PM.

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179 Respectfully submitted,
180 Jennifer Turner, Administrative Assistant
181 Tompkins County Planning Department
182 Approved by Council on May 18, 2015

