

# TOMPKINS COUNTY WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL

**May 18, 2015  
Meeting Minutes**

**Members Attending:**

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

Name		Representation
Lynn Leopold	E	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	P	Associate Member
Jose Lozano	A	Associate Member
Scott Carpenter	A	Associate Member
John Mawdsley	P	Associate Member
Todd Miller	P	Associate Member
Steve Penningroth	A	Associate Member
Tom Vawter	A	Associate Member
Linda Wagenet	A	Associate Member
Jennifer Turner	P	TC Planning

**Guests:** Rick Manning

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

**Agenda Review and Approval of Minutes – Moved** by Dan Karig, seconded by Chris Bordlemay, to approve the minutes from April 20, 2015. The minutes were approved. Final WRC minutes are posted on the webpage: <http://tompkinscountyny.gov/planning> under Advisory Boards.

**Stewart Park Revitalization** – Rick Manning opened his presentation by providing background on the Stewart Park revitalization plans to be carried out by the Friends of Stewart Park. This was noted as a partnership initiative between Friends of Stewart Park, City of Ithaca, and the Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce Foundation. Rick went on to provide background the park’s history, noting that Stewart Park opened July 4, 1921, with a donation of \$150,000 made on behalf of Mayor Stewart.

Three grants were awarded by the Tompkins County Tourism Program for a planning and feasibility study, and to prioritize implementation funding; completion of a building study is hopeful for the end of June 2015.

Noted projects include the Mayor Stewart Memorial Flagpole Garden 1st phase that completed in 2011 through fundraising and partnerships by the Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce and the Cayuga Waterfront Trail Initiative. The City of Ithaca was mentioned as playing a large role in the restoration of the tea pavilion. The picnic pavilion is undergoing a restoration and the bathrooms are currently being rebuilt. The Wharton Studio Museum is working with the city to get a license agreement for a 1-3 year

31 lease for a fundraising campaign. Proposed projects include the All Children’s Playground, both large and  
32 small pavilions, the Cascadilla Boathouse, the carousel, concessions building, and the maintenance  
33 building. Other proposed projects include a performance pier, lakefront band shell, and playground with  
34 spray area that would be handicap accessible. For more information visit: <http://friendsofstewartpark.org/>  
35

36 **Hydrilla Update** – James Balyszak reported that the peer review process is complete. Low Sonar  
37 treatments will be conducted in the southeast corner of the Cayuga Lake for the first time starting mid-  
38 July through September with treatments every 2-3 weeks. The Soil and Water Conservation District and  
39 Department Of Environmental Conservation permitting processes are underway; notification letters were  
40 sent out to 250 riparian owners. James noted the dye studies will be conducted in Fall Creek in July, prior  
41 to the Herbicide treatments to ensure flow dynamics in order to better adjust treatment protocol, followed  
42 by injections over a 36-hour period. The district is securing contracts with both Tompkins County and the  
43 City of Ithaca for the localized funding supplied for this project. The County will provide \$200,000 and  
44 the City will provide \$100,000. This local funding support will allow the Hydrilla Task Force to cover  
45 some of the project’s costs; a reimbursement request will be made to the NYSDEC hydrilla grant. Bob  
46 Johnson, of Racine-Johnson Aquatic Ecologists, is currently finishing the 2014 annual plant community  
47 report. The report will cover the monitoring and sampling data from the inlet, Fall Creek, and the entire  
48 southern portion of Cayuga Lake, and will reflect the progress made in decreasing the tuber population.  
49 Tuber monitoring and sampling will resume in June. The annual pre-treatment Hydrilla public meeting  
50 will take place June 25<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-8:00 p.m., in conjunction with the Community Science Institute and  
51 Cayuga Lake Watershed Network’s, “What’s in your watershed?” series.  
52

53 **Committee Reports - Water Quality Strategy**- Joan Jurkowich reported that their committee met twice  
54 since the last meeting and has been focusing on potential actions and issues to include in the Water  
55 Quality Strategy and noted that the existing strategy as well as the list of potential water issues compiled  
56 by members of the council were considered. Criteria and proposed priorities for the strategy will be  
57 presented to the members at the Water Resources Council meeting on June 15. The committee’s next  
58 meetings will take place May 28, and June 11, and 25<sup>th</sup>. **Education**- Bill George reported that the  
59 Education Committee went over the existing Water Quality Strategy and determined their committee will  
60 continue to keep municipal and county officials informed about wetland regulations and changes as  
61 updated information is made available. They will also conduct public outreach and education, including  
62 assisting with the distribution of paddling brochures, and continued collaboration with the Hydrilla Task  
63 Force and the Community Science Institute. Their committee plans to continue to support efforts in  
64 educating the public about invasive species. No actions are planned in raising awareness of watershed  
65 issues with youth groups and schools as it was noted that there are currently a number of programs  
66 available that focus on similar outreach. Potential future activities include potential outreach an education,  
67 pending regulations regarding boat waste discharge into Cayuga Lake, and micro-bead and micro-plastic  
68 research. Their committee will also focus on the reorganization of the Environmental Management  
69 Council website. **Executive** – Frank Proto reported that the Executive Committee focused primarily on the  
70 letter of support on behalf of the Water Resources Council of the No Discharge Zone (NDZ), sent to  
71 Moses Chang, of the Environmental Protection Agency. He went on to report that budget requests for  
72 2016 need to be made no later than July 10, 2015, and asked members of the council to review their work  
73 plans to determine whether a request is warranted. **Nominating** – Elaine Quaroni reported that their  
74 committee did not meet. She went on to say Michael Thorne’s At-large application is pending approval  
75 through the legislature and asked members to provide recommendations for new membership. **Recreation**  
76 – Dan Karig reported that their committee did not meet. Their committee is working on distributing the  
77 paddling brochures. **Streams** – Dan Karig reported on the meeting with George Fowler regarding the use  
78 of wood instead of rock for stream modifications and noted the presentation on the update of pipeline  
79 crossings by Scott Doyle, of Tompkins County Planning. Members discussed the Flood Hazard  
80 Mitigation Program and noted the large number of proposed project requests from stream-side owners and  
81 municipalities. **Wetlands** – Darby Kiley reported that their committee met via email and discussed the

82 Water Quality Strategy. The wetlands mapping program is underway; their committee is working on a  
83 process for ground truthing. Members suggested additional funding for focus on public outreach and  
84 education on the results of the wetland delineation. Aquifer – Todd Miller reported that their committee  
85 has prepared comments for the Water Quality Strategy, and has created a first draft of the press release for  
86 the arsenic brochure. He went on to note the meeting in Groton that focused on a proposed aquifer study.  
87 Joan further reported on the concerned reactions of town board members regarding the potential costs and  
88 impacts or regulations that could be put in place. Cayuga Lake Monitoring Partnership – Roxy Johnston  
89 announced there will nothing to publicly report until fall. Circulation models in Cayuga Lake are being  
90 tested for nutrient movements and the watershed input models are being fine-tuned. The Water Quality  
91 Strategy input from their group will be finalized by the end of the week. Roxy went on to note that the  
92 partnership’s main priority will be the TMDL study.

93  
94 **Chair & Staff Reports** – Frank Proto announced that the Erie Canalway Downtown Investment Forum  
95 meeting is taking place at Coltivare Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, from 8:30-4P.M. He went on to note that he has a  
96 list of events taking place along the canal that he will circulate to all members. A public hearing and vote  
97 on the Stormwater Annual Report that will take place at the meeting July 20<sup>th</sup>. Darby Kiley will be  
98 presenting the 2014 Water Resources Council Annual Report to the PEEQ meeting on May 20<sup>th</sup>.

99  
100 **Announcements** - James Balyszak suggested an item for a future agenda regarding the disposal of  
101 dredging spoils from the inlet. He went on to announce that discussions are underway between TG  
102 Miller, NYSDEC, and Michael Thorne, City of Ithaca. It was noted that a scope of work in the inlet will  
103 likely be presented by TG Miller in July. Members suggested contacting Michael Thorne to request a 1-  
104 paragraph update on work conducted related to these issues in order to circulate the update to all members  
105 and follow up at the WRC meeting in July.

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107 **Adjournment** -- The meeting adjourned at 5:57 PM.

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110 Respectfully submitted,  
111 Jennifer Turner, Administrative Assistant  
112 Tompkins County Planning Department  
113 Approved by Council on June 15, 2015

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