

TOMPKINS COUNTY WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL

**June 15, 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	E	Water Purveyor
Ed Bugliosi	P	USGS <i>ex officio</i>
Liz Cameron	E	T C Environmental Health
Sarah Dwyer	P	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	P	Municipal
Jim McGarry	P	EMC Liaison
Jon Negley	E	Soil & Water
Frank Proto	P	At-Large
Elaine Quaroni	P	At-Large
<i>Michelle Henry</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>Associate Member</i>
<i>Roxy Johnston</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>Associate Member</i>
<i>Jose Lozano</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>Associate Member</i>
<i>John Mawdsley</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>Associate Member</i>
<i>Todd Miller</i>	<i>E</i>	<i>Associate Member</i>
<i>Steve Penningroth</i>	<i>A</i>	<i>Associate Member</i>
<i>Tom Vawter</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>Associate Member</i>
<i>Linda Wagenet</i>	<i>E</i>	<i>Associate Member</i>
Jennifer Turner	<i>P</i>	<i>TC Planning</i>

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Guests: Niamh O’Leary, Kyle Rogers, Mariah Mahaney, Miguel Castellanos, Angel Hinickle, Resource Conservation Specialist, Soil & Water Conservation District, Michael Thorne, Superintendent of Public Works, City of Ithaca

Chairman Frank Proto opened the Public Hearing at approximately 4:15 PM.

SPDES Permit Annual Report Public Hearing - Angel Hinickle, Resource Conservation Specialist for the Soil and Water Conservation District was present to provide information and answer questions related to the 2014-2015 Stormwater Annual Report. Hearing no questions or comments, the hearing was closed at 4:18 PM.

Agenda Review and Approval of Minutes – Moved by Jim McGarry, seconded by Chris Bordlemay, to approve the minutes from May 18, 2015. The minutes were approved with changes on line 89, removing “The partnership is testing the”, and replacing with, “Circulation models in Cayuga Lake are being tested”. Final WRC minutes are posted on the webpage: <http://tomkinscountyny.gov/planning> under Advisory Boards.

Summary of SPDES Permit Annual Reports – Angel Hinickle presented the annual report that includes joint reporting for all nine municipalities and is submitted yearly to the NYSDEC. She went on to highlight the yearly stormwater and sediment control training to TC3 construction students. The stormwater coalition website is updated regularly to the “What You Can Do, Ways to Help” page. A strong focus has been on public education and outreach, advertisements through media campaigns were noted as most recent efforts. Angel welcomed board member feedback or suggestions.

32 **Coal Ash Landfill Discussion Summary** – Brian Eden introduced himself as the Chair of the Hillview
33 Road Landfill Citizens Advisory Committee and participant of the Hillview Road closure process. He
34 went on to report on the contamination at the Cayuga Power Plant and his concerns with the 40 years’
35 worth of ash disposed in close proximity to Cayuga Lake. The landfill is not regulated as an ash monofill,
36 rather an industrial commercial waste landfill due to the industrial waste and sewage treatment sledge that
37 is receives. The original landfill was noted as having compressed native soil, and has since added the
38 leachate and groundwater suppression systems that direct to sedimentation ponds and are frequently
39 released untreated. Brian went on to express his concerns with the EPA Facility Report that indicates
40 there is currently no wastewater treatment technology in place. Last year 25 million gallons of leachate
41 leaked into Cayuga Lake. The NYSDEC’s intent at administratively pursuing the renewal of the SPDES
42 permit was challenged with the expectation of a full technical review per the Clean Water Act. The
43 DEC’s response was to continue the existing permit without a renewal. Reviews of the Environmental
44 Benefit Permit Strategy (EBPS) ranking score of 376 out of the 858 facilities in New York, because the
45 ranking was not completed, the status of the permit is currently unknown. John Dennis went on to voice
46 his concerns with the coal ash run-off basin that is located approximately 10 yards from the facility and
47 further commented on the geologist that was hired that has conducted tests on local creek water which
48 found a high level of metals that would make water undrinkable. Through meetings with the New York
49 State Department of Environmental Conservation regarding their groups concerns with the Cayuga Power
50 Plant’s proposed financial insurance fund decrease from \$6,200,000 to \$5,200,000, the fund was
51 increased to 7,500,000. Applying the drinking water standard to the entire landfill was discussed as a way
52 to avoid contamination issues. He went on to encourage that all area homes use Bolton Point’s water as he
53 explained that 20% of the Milliken Creek Delta is now on Bolton Point water leaving the remainder 60%
54 of the homes that are using shallow wells for water that are not protected. Brian Eden noted that he would
55 like to see increased and more up to date pollution patrol then the current that has not changed in many
56 decades.

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58 **A list of measures for continued advocacy includes the following:**

- 59 • Segregation of leachate from surface water run-off for separate treatment.
- 60 • Replace bottom ash wet handling treatment systems with dry ash treatments
- 61 • Reduce toxic metal discharges from the Flue Gas Desulfurization (FGD) treatment system,
- 62 • Expand the environmental monitoring network to pick the vertical and horizontal extent of
- 63 groundwater contamination.
- 64 • Employ corrective measures to restrict groundwater contamination to the facility.
- 65 • Request that the DEC require financial insurance funding to cover new monitoring wells or
- 66 remediation of the site.
- 67 • Advocate for the residents of Lake Ridge Point to be added to Bolton Point’s water system.
- 68 • Review the EPA adopted final rule on coal combustion residuals from electric utilities and its
- 69 impacts.
- 70 • Request that the DEC review the iteration of the part C360 regulations that governed the closure
- 71 of ash landfills.
- 72 • Encourage the studies to assess the environmental fate of pollutant discharges to Cayuga Lake
- 73 sediments.
- 74 • Ensure that the DEC provides the community the opportunity to participate in the public hearing
- 75 before there is a permit renewal.
- 76 • Undertake measures now that will limit the extent of remediation costs.
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79 To view the full report please visit: [http://www.tompkinscountyny.gov/files/planning/water-](http://www.tompkinscountyny.gov/files/planning/water-resources/Cayuga%20Coal%20Ash%20Disposal%20Facility%20Presentation.pdf)
80 [resources/Cayuga%20Coal%20Ash%20Disposal%20Facility%20Presentation.pdf](http://www.tompkinscountyny.gov/files/planning/water-resources/Cayuga%20Coal%20Ash%20Disposal%20Facility%20Presentation.pdf)
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83 **Status of Cayuga Lake Dredging Project** – Michael Thorne, Superintendent of Public Works for the
84 City of Ithaca, provided an overview of the previously distributed report on the Cayuga Inlet Dredging
85 project. Members discussed the estimated timeframe for de-watering which may be two years. One of the
86 largest components of the project was noted as the Department of Environmental Conservation building a
87 management center. Research into the rate of sedimentation after the dredging is completed was discussed
88 and will be looked into. Discussion centered on Hydrilla management and the final disposal options that
89 are being considered. See the full report below.

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91 Michael provided a brief update on the stormwater noting the scope for work is almost done. Details on
92 model calibration for flood elevation and extent of flooding are being worked on. Feedback on the draft
93 scope of work will sent to the WRC, DEC flood mapping, and FEMA to solicit feedback.

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95 **Committee Reports - Aquifer** –The Aquifer Committee did not meet. **Education**- Lynn Leopold reported
96 that their committee met today and decided their first task moving forward will be website organization.
97 Bill George will make suggestions for the website and follow up with Joan Jurkowich on the approval and
98 implementation. **Executive** – Frank Proto reported that the Executive Committee did not meet and noted
99 the letters to both Senators Gillibrand and Moses Chang have gone unanswered. **Grants** – Michael Thorne
100 asked for assistance with the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) Grant he is applying for
101 and will follow up Joan Jurkowich for support in those efforts. **Nominating** – Elaine Quaroni reported that
102 their committee did not meet. She went on to add the associate member resignation made on behalf of
103 Scott Carpenter. Frank Proto noted Carpenters’ professional affiliation to State Emergency Management
104 Organization (SEMO), and asked members for suggestions for future recruitment. **Recreation** – Lynn
105 Leopold reported that she has distributed the paddling brochures to Paddle N More, Puddle Dockers,
106 Eastern Mountain Sports, the Convention and Visitors Bureau, Myers Park and Dick’s Sporting Goods.
107 Dan Karig volunteered to distribute the brochure to additional locations in the area. **Streams** – Darby
108 Kiley reported that in the end of May, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Army Corp of
109 Engineers came out with the Clean Water Rule. She noted the webinar she took part in and the fact sheets
110 that she will send for distribution to members of the council. **Water Quality Strategy**- Joan Jurkowich
111 reported that their committee met and spent time identifying and fine tuning criteria for identifying the
112 issues and activities from the list created at a previous Water Resources Council meeting. Criteria and
113 proposed priorities for the strategy will be presented to the members at the Water Resources Council
114 meeting on July 20.

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116 **Hydrilla Update** – James Balyszak reported that the district has worked with both the City of Ithaca and
117 Tompkins County to secure contracts for local funding for the project. Both contracts have been
118 approved.

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120 **Chair & Staff Reports** – Frank Proto announced that the Erie Canalway Downtown Investment Forum
121 meeting was well attended. Budget requests are due to Jennifer Turner by June 29th, to follow with review
122 by the Executive Committee, and lastly to Joan Jurkowich no later than July 10th.

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124 **Announcements** - James Balyszak announced that next Friday is the 2nd annual Finger Lakes Issues
125 Briefing hosted by the Finger Lakes Regional Watershed Alliance. Discussions will cover environmental
126 health and economic well-being of the Finger Lakes region. To RSVP, email Hillary Lambert at:
127 steward@cayugalake.org. Elaine Quaroni announced the “What’s in Your Watershed” meeting that will
128 take place on June 25th at Ithaca Town Hall. Frank Proto commented on the presentation on the Cayuga
129 Power Plant and suggested the Water Resources Council lend support to their efforts.

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**Status of Cayuga Inlet Dredging Project
June 15, 2015**

The NYSDEC has recently finalized a 30% Basis of Design Report for the dredging project. The report summarizes the design and construction approach, which includes the following elements:

- Hydraulic dredging the entire width of the channel, from the lighthouse to the fish ladder, and including the Old Cayuga Inlet.
- Dredging depth will be 1 to 2 feet deep along the entire channel, depending on available funds. This represents approximately 200,000 of the 700,000 cubic yards of sediment identified by the Corps of Engineers for removal.
- Dredge spoils will be pumped into large geotubes for dewatering on the Southwest site, in a lined dewatering area of approximately 10 acres. The facility would be expandable to 18 acres if funding for additional dredging becomes available.

The geotubes were selected as a dewatering method for three reasons: 1) they reduce the area required for dewatering, 2) they allow greater production rates in dredging, and 3) they will contain hydrilla tubers and turions. O’Brian and Gere, the NYSDEC consultant, is proposing bench scale tests to confirm design assumptions for use of the geotubes on this project. At the end of the initial dredging activity, the City of Ithaca will be left with a large stockpile of geotubes filled with wet soil containing hydrilla. The City has approximately \$2 million in grant funding to address final disposal of the sediments, and has engaged TG Miller to start identifying final disposal options and estimated costs.

The design is expected to be complete by the end of 2016, and NYSDEC would like to start actual dredging work in 2017.

Adjournment -- The meeting adjourned at 5:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Turner, Administrative Assistant
Tompkins County Planning Department
Approved by Council on July 20, 2015