

# TOMPKINS COUNTY WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL

**September 21, 2015  
Meeting Minutes**

**Members Attending:**

Name		Representation
Sharon Anderson	P	Cooperative Extension
John Andersson	P	At-Large
Fay Benson	A	Agriculture
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	P	Municipal
Barry Goodrich	P	Watershed Organization
Joan Jurkowich	P	TC Planning
Dan Karig	A	Recreation
Dooley Kiefer	P	Legislature Liaison
Darby Kiley	P	Municipal

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

**Guests:** Marjory Rinaldo-Lee, former EMC member (Environment seat), Mara Alper, Ithaca College, Andrew Snell, Owasco Lake Watershed, Roxanne Razavi, Finger Lakes Institute

Chairman Frank Proto opened the meeting at approximately 4:25 PM.

**Agenda Review and Approval of Minutes** – The Water Quality Strategy, and Nominating Committee were added to the agenda under Committee Reports. **Moved** by Darby Kiley, seconded by Lynn Leopold, to approve the minutes from July 20, 2015, meeting minutes were approved by unanimous vote. Final WRC minutes are posted on the webpage: <http://tompkinscountyny.gov/planning> under Advisory Boards.

**Guest Introductions** – Introductions were made on behalf of the guests in attendance and the members of the Water Resources Council.

**Flood Management Update – USGS Proposal Discussion** – Michael Thorne, Superintendent of Public Works for the City of Ithaca, reported that the City has been working with a flooding taskforce to come up with a flood mapping initiative. Tompkins County, Tompkins County Soil & Water District, Town of Ithaca, Cornell University, and the USGS are involved in the scope of flood mapping under existing conditions. The scope will involve five different flood events that will include 2-, 10-, 50-, 100-, and 500-year flood events. The models will be based on three different lake level scenarios to include summer-level, winter-level and one hundred-year levels. Bill Coon, Hydrologist with USGS prepared proposal NY15-HH, for flood-inundation maps, NY15-DD, for water-surface profiles and discharges, and NY15-EE, for the bathymetry survey of the 30-ft-dam reservoir on Sixmile Creek.

30 The first proposal was discussed as involving options under consideration for the dam on Sixmile Creek  
31 that include updating to current dam safety standards, tearing down, or draining the dam to use for flood  
32 control. A final decision will be made after 100-year sediment calculations are made. The second  
33 proposal involves calibrating high water mark data and will involve USGS measuring the flow and water  
34 levels of streams after large storm events. The third proposal will be the flood mapping with LiDAR data,  
35 involving the three different lake level conditions and surveyed cross-sections every 200 ft. The project  
36 will result in three maps that represent flood boundaries under different lake levels.

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38 Members discussed the value of simultaneously conducting the water quality testing with the flow and  
39 water level analysis during major storm events. It was decided that water quality data are available  
40 through the Community Science Institute. Discussions centered on whether the models will be run under  
41 the dredged conditions, the possible effects on flood insurance, and funding for the proposals. Michael  
42 Thorne asked members to provide comments or feedback on the proposals.

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

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46 **Committee Reports** – Aquifer – Todd Miller reported that he is in the process of drafting a press release  
47 for their efforts with arsenic outreach. Cayuga Lake Monitoring Partnership – Linda Wagenet reported on  
48 the discussions with Jeff Myers, and Elaine Quaroni noted that there will be an end of year public meeting  
49 for the monitoring program that has not yet been set. Education – Lynn Leopold reported on their  
50 committees’ efforts at reordering the website. Their committee did not meet, but will be looking into the  
51 issues with micro-plastics. Updating the boating brochure was noted as another avenue for committee  
52 work. The Erie County legislation that prohibits the sale of personal cosmetic products containing  
53 microbeads was discussed. Dooley Kiefer reported that a resolution will be drafted by the county  
54 attorney, and noted the discussion that is planned for the PEEQ meeting in October. Wetlands – Darby  
55 Kiley reported that the Wetlands Committee did not meet. She went on to report that Nick Hollingshead  
56 has completed wetlands mapping for Caroline, Danby, Groton, Newfield, and Dryden, and expects the  
57 scope of work will be completed in two months. Michael Thorne announced that the City of Ithaca has  
58 formed a Water Recreation Committee, and recommended coordination with the Recreation Committee  
59 of the WRC. Nominating – Elaine Quaroni made the recommendation to approve Fay Benson into the  
60 Agriculture seat on the WRC. **Moved** by Joan Jurkowich, seconded by Sharon Anderson, Fay Benson’s  
61 application was approved by unanimous vote. Elaine went on to report on current members seats that will  
62 expire in 2015, and noted the process for reappointment. She went on to note the Environmental seat that  
63 is currently vacant set to expire in 2015, and the vacant At-Large seat that has a one-year term, and asked  
64 members for suggestions for new members. Water Quality Strategy Committee – Joan Jurkowich reported  
65 that their committee has been meeting twice a month and have identified between 8-10 high priority  
66 action items from the list of items compiled at the Water Resources Council meeting in July. The  
67 complete Water Quality Strategy will be circulated and presented at the Water Resource Council meeting  
68 October 19, for adoption in October or November.

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70 Dooley Kiefer reported on the presentation that took place at the PEEQ meeting by Professional  
71 Geologist, Mark Qualls, on the Cayuga Power Plant. This presentation focused on the concerns of  
72 potential contamination, and proposed steps Tompkins County may take. John Mawdsley reported that  
73 work was proceeding on the Cayuga Lake Restoration Protection Plan update.

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75 **Announcements** – Joan Jurkowich reported that the Tompkins County and the City of Ithaca have been  
76 working with a consultant in efforts at relocating the DOT. A public meeting is scheduled for October 5  
77 from 4-7 pm, at the Tompkins County Public Library, in the Borg Warner room. **Editor’s note:** The  
78 meeting on the DOT Relocation was rescheduled to October 15.

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80 **Adjournment** -- The meeting adjourned at 5:50 PM.

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82 Respectfully submitted,  
83 Jennifer Turner, Administrative Assistant  
84 Tompkins County Planning Department  
85 Approved by Council on October 19, 2015  
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91 WRC September 2015 Meeting  
92 Hydrilla Task Force Updates  
93 By James Balyszak  
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95 **Monitoring & Management Updates:**

- 96 ○ **Cayuga Inlet:** Treatment delayed due to lack of hydrilla growth/presence in early August. Initial  
97 contact herbicide application (endothall) in Inlet conducted by Allied Biological on 8/18/15. TC  
98 Sheriff and USCG AUX assisted in closing inlet to boat traffic in conjunction with treatment  
99 (similar to previous seasons). Treatment was completed in one day, and went very smoothly. Inlet  
100 reopened on 8/19/15 at 8am. Water flow through inlet system was low this year, and preliminary  
101 water sampling showed good retention time and herbicide concentrations. Expect an effective  
102 treatment this year. Will continue water quality monitoring and sampling post-treat (per TC  
103 Health Dept. and NYSDEC Permit requirements).
- 104 ○ **Fall Creek:** Initial contact herbicide treatment (endothall) was originally planned for week of  
105 August 3<sup>rd</sup>, but was delayed due to lack of hydrilla growth. Endothall injection in Fall Creek was  
106 initiated on 8/25/15 and continued for 36hrs (through 8/27/15). United Phosphorous, Inc.  
107 (endothall producer) and Allied Biological (herbicide applicator) were on site to help conduct the  
108 treatment. UPI led a pre-treatment dye study to determine mixing and best location to place  
109 injection line. Treatment went smoothly, less product used than anticipated due to low-flow  
110 through Fall Creek system (between 36cfs – 44cfs). Backwater endothall AND low-dose systemic  
111 herbicide application (Sonar One, pellets) conducted in conjunction w/ injection treatment on  
112 8/26/15 (in Fall Creek Cove, Stewart Park Pond, Golf Course, and wetland NW of golf course).  
113 Will continue water quality monitoring and sampling post-treat (per TC Health Dept. and  
114 NYSDEC Permit requirements). Planning a physical removal effort of hydrilla in Fall Creek (golf  
115 course lagoon) to address growing hydrilla/tubers that survived initial endothall application.  
116 Removal effort will be similar to September 2014 removal conducted in Fall Creek cove (which  
117 was very effective). Golf course hydrilla removal planned for 9/23/15.
- 118 ○ **SE Corner of Cayuga Lake:** Treatment in SE corner of Cayuga Lake began on 7/21/15. Low-  
119 dose, systemic herbicide (Sonar H4C, pellets) bump treatments conducted on 8/11, 8/26, 9/2, and  
120 9/16. Continued water quality monitoring in SE corner sites to determine concentration levels.  
121 HTF is observing low concentrations, generally around 1.0ppb. Will continue bump treatments  
122 and water monitoring through end of season (late-September/early October).
- 123 ● **WATER QUALITY MONITORING:** Water quality sampling and monitoring continues in  
124 conjunction w/ ongoing hydrilla treatments. Local analysis conducted by CSI labs. Results are  
125 reported on TC Health Department AND Stophydrilla.org websites.
- 126 ● **PLANT MONITORING (Bob Johnson):** Continuing to monitor plants in SE corner of the lake.  
127 Still have southern end of lake to finish sampling. Intensively looking at SE due to hydrilla presence  
128 in 2013 & 2014. Found two small hydrilla fragments in Sonar H4C treatment area this season. No  
129 other hydrilla found in last 1.5 months until 9/8/15. Found hydrilla fragments at mouth of Fall Creek  
130 on 9/8/15. Appears to be small amount of hydrilla in this area. Would not receive any impacts from

131 Sonar treatment in SE corner. Will continue monitoring this area, and will branch out to cover south  
132 end of the lake through the end of the 2015 season.

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135 **Education & Outreach:**

136 End-of-season Hydrilla Public meeting scheduled for November at CCE-Tompkins. Would be evening  
137 meeting (between 6-8pm). Pre-meeting “Thank You” event for Hydrilla Hunter volunteers. Full meeting  
138 directly following. Final date to be determined by HTF Outreach Committee in near future.