

TOMPKINS COUNTY WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL

**January 26, 2009
Meeting Minutes**

Voting Members Present (14): Sharon Anderson, Liz Cameron, Donna Eschenbrenner, Barry Goodrich, Roxy Johnston, Joan Jurkowich, Dan Karig, Darby Kiley, Frank Proto, Elaine Quaroni, Cindy Schulte, Bud Shattuck, Mary Shelley, Linda Wagenet

Voting Members Excused (2): Carol Chock, Craig Schutt

Voting Members Absent (3): Ed Bugliosi, Rick Manning, Roger Yonkin

Non-Voting Members Present (5): John Andersson (Associate), Dooley Kiefer (Associate), John Mawdsley (Associate), Marjory Rinaldo-Lee (Associate), Nick Schipanski (Associate)

Staff Present (1): Kathy Wilsea (T C Planning Dept.)

Guests Present (1): Lyle Raymond

Chair Frank Proto called the meeting to order at 4:25 PM.

Oath of Office for New and Reappointed Members – Frank Proto administered the oath to Sharon Anderson, Cindy Schulte and Liz Cameron.

Introductions – Introductions were made around the room.

Agenda Review and Approval of Minutes – There were no changes to the agenda. The draft minutes of 12/15/08 were moved by Joan Jurkowich, seconded by Liz Cameron, amended and passed by voice vote.

Retiree Environmental Stewardship Program – Linda Wagenet gave a presentation on a program to develop environmental civic engagement for older adults. This is an effort to get newly retired adults engaged, and produce a corps of volunteers to work on local issues. Collaborators are Cornell University, Cooperative Extension, NYS Office for the Aging, and local environmental agencies. Elements include increased social integration, improved physical and psychological wellbeing, and growth of knowledge and leadership. Phases of program development included contacting environmental agencies around NYS, finding out how older adults are used as volunteers, recruiting older adults, adapting activities for older volunteers (i.e., arranging daytime meetings, providing transportation) and assessing differences in how agencies work with older and younger volunteers. Volunteers fell into four categories: scientists, sportsmen, generative environmentalists, and socializers. Generally, volunteers have money, time, college degree, and satisfaction with their lives.

All this background went into the Retiree Environmental Stewards Program, a pilot program conducted in Tompkins County. The 17 members met in weekly sessions that each had components on environmental content and skills for leadership and action. This RESP “class” chose as a project the proper disposal of medications. They are speaking with pharmacy managers on disposal of unused/expired pharmaceuticals at stores, producing posters and public service announcements. In 2009 groups will form in the Southern Tier and the Capital Region. An all-day seminar with speakers will be held next Tuesday, 2/3. Persons interested in the seminar are welcome to contact Linda.

In response to questions, Linda said the group might begin interacting with schools. The pilot was so successful that the program is likely to continue. Grant funds were used for food, van transportation, and a trip on the Floating Classroom. Most speakers declined honorarium. Liz Cameron said the Health Department Director is interested in disposal of pharmaceuticals. Frank suggested distributing information through the senior housing projects, and also pointed out need for a needle disposal program.

Election of Officers – Reappointment of Frank Proto as Chair, Roxy Johnston as First Vice Chair, and Barry Goodrich as Second Vice Chair was moved by Joan Jurkovich, seconded by Cindy Schulte, and passed by unanimous voice vote.

Recommendation for Membership Appointment – Linda Wagenet reported for the Nominating Committee that a majority of the committee recommends the appointment of Gregg McConnell to the Agriculture seat. Appointment moved by Linda, seconded by Roxy Johnston. In response to a question, Dooley Kiefer said she serves on the Nominating Committee, and had hoped they would approach the Agriculture & Farmland Protection Board for feedback. Linda said the rest of the committee members did not want to do that. Appointment passed by unanimous voice vote, and will be forwarded to PDEQ and the County Legislature.

Committee Reports – Cayuga Lake Recreation: Dan Karig said the Chair's letter to Wegmans will go out tomorrow, seeking permission to plant trees on their property. Elaine Quaroni contacted Nate's Floral Estates and obtained verbal permission for their property. A representative of the Canal Corporation informed Dan that the City of Ithaca is supposed to get the speed limit signage approved by State Parks. Dredging: Dan Karig said the technical committee met 1/12. Liz Moran of Ecologic made a presentation. Most of the core samples are class A spoils. One sample showed PAH (petroleum), but does not require hazardous waste disposal. Spoils are silt to fine sand consistency. Total organic carbon is fairly high, at 1.5 to 3%. Friends of Newman suggested the possibility of use of booster pumps to move the spoils further away from the dredging site. Carmello Montello, Director of the Canal Corporation, says they can only be responsible for dredging of the navigation channel to width of 100', but can do that portion in 2009, so now there is talk of doing the project in two phases. The expected quantity of spoils in 2009 will be examined in terms of finding a dewatering site, and a memorandum of understanding will be negotiated concerning phases and agency responsibilities. Grants: Craig Schutt is in Albany working to keep the Environmental Protection Fund. Roxy Johnston reminded members that Craig had suggested WRC send a letter of support to FLOWPA. Kathy Wilsea will get a draft from Craig. Members supported having the Executive Committee write to FLOWPA before the February WRC meeting. WRC/CU Monitoring Plan: Roxy said they are preparing an application for a CARE grant. EPA encourages applications from monitoring groups. Water Quality Strategy Update: Joan Jurkovich pointed out WRC work items are highlighted in gray in the draft distributed last month. Comments should be sent to Joan. Wetlands: Nick Schipanski said comments on the Ithaca College Wetlands Mitigation Plan are due 2/13. Kathy Wilsea will send the link to members so they can examine the Plan.

Workplan Review and Update – Using the old Workplan for review, members should send comments to Joan. She will check them against the WQS draft.

Establishing Committees for 2009 – Members should send their committee selections to Kathy Wilsea. Joan Jurkovich commented the WQS seems to have lots of tasks for Education, so that committee needs volunteers.

Chair Report – Frank reminded 2008 committee chairs to submit materials to Kathy Wilsea for the Annual Report. Frank was the guest speaker at the volunteer stream monitoring symposium held by Community Science Institute last week, and it was well attended.

Staff Report – New member contact lists were distributed.

Announcements/Other Business – Dooley Kiefer attended a meeting on development of a management plan for Stewart Park last week. She understands the presentation will be given again. Liz Cameron also attended, and said she saw lots of good ideas.

Adjournment -- The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Wilsea, Planning Department Secretary
Adopted by the Council on February 23, 2009.