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## TOMPKINS COUNTY WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL

**January 23, 2012  
Meeting Minutes**

**Voting Members Present (14):** Sharon Anderson, Fay Benson, Ed Bugliosi, Liz Cameron, Bill George, Roxy Johnston, Dan Karig, Darby Kiley, Jim McGarry, Frank Proto, Elaine Quaroni, Marjory Rinaldo-Lee, Craig Schutt, Mary Shelley

**Voting Members Excused (5):** Carol Chock, Barry Goodrich, Joan Jurkowich, Lynn Leopold, Rick Manning

**Voting Members Absent (1):** Gregg McConnell

**Non-Voting Members Present (4):** John Andersson, Dooley Kiefer, Jose Lozano, Todd Miller

**Staff Present:** Kathy Wilsea

Chairman Frank Proto called the meeting to order at 4:20 PM. Introductions were made around the room. Oath of Office was administered by Frank Proto to Fay Benson and Elaine Quaroni.

**Agenda Review and Approval of Minutes** – There were no changes to the agenda. Draft minutes from November, 2011 were moved by Liz Cameron, seconded by Craig and accepted without change. Member lists and meeting dates for 2012 were distributed.

**Election of Officers** – Craig Schutt presented the slate for the Nominating/Membership Committee: Frank Proto (Chair), Marjory Rinaldo-Lee (1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair), and Barry Goodrich (2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair). There were no nominations from the Floor. Motion to close the nominations was made by Craig, seconded by Liz, and passed by show of hands. Slate moved by Craig, seconded by Dan Karig and passed by show of hands.

**2011 Year End Committee Reports** – Frank reminded committee chairs to submit written reports for the WRC Annual Report, and deadline of 2/13 was established. Aquifer: Todd Miller reported and there was discussion on working with municipalities to find new partners for aquifer studies while the cost-sharing agreement is still in effect. Dredging: Dan Karig reported the committee has not met, but many members of WRC attended City meetings. During 2011, the scoping document and DEIS meetings were open to the public. The City portion of the project only involves Cascadilla Creek and designation of a disposal site. Hydrilla now impacts the timeline. Canal Corp. can start when the dewatering site is established, as funding is in place and they are ready to schedule the work. Roxy Johnston provided an update on Hydrilla, saying the management group is gathering proposals for herbicide options, then will forward them to experts for guidance. There was a sample period of having professionals pull plants, but fragments break off easily and that spreads the plant. So the only option is herbicide, which is available for contact or systemic options. Examination will be made of costs, and the task force is applying for grants. This is a 5 to 7 year commitment. They hoped the winter's lower lake level would allow freezing to a point that would kill plants, but they still found plants growing until Christmas. Just last week they found out the Army Corps of Engineers has an aquatics section, and Schumer and Leahy got 75% of the funding restored, which will help with research. Dredging could proceed and leave only part of the Hydrilla to be treated. They will learn in the spring if it has spread into Cayuga Lake or the Great Lakes. State Parks are informing all slip renters of the status of treatment, and info is on the Cooperative Extension website. Brochures are being distributed by outreach group. A contingent will be going to Albany to discuss the need for funding at budget discussions

at 2/7 legislator meetings. Frank is willing to attend, and also suggested contact with local tourism programs (Tim Joseph for Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance and Gary Stewart for the Chamber of Commerce). Roxy welcomes any contact information on small marinas. State Parks are getting permanent cleaning stations. Craig Schutt is submitting funding request to EPF with Barbara Lifton's support. Frank requested a summary of funding needs and possible sources. Education: Elaine Quaroni reported they helped distribute Hydrilla information. Executive: Frank Proto extended compliments to Marjory Rinaldo-Lee and the Gas Drilling Committee for their comments to DEC on gas drilling dsGEIS and draft regulations. Marjory in turn acknowledged the large contributions of Liz Cameron and Todd Miller. The Executive Committee wrapped up those letters to meet deadlines. Grants: Craig Schutt distributed the EPF budget for 2012-13. A group from FLOWPA plans to go to Albany to request \$2.3 million restoration for FLOWPA. Environmental groups are pushing for reinstatement of more funds to EPF, which is the best bet for Hydrilla funds. WQIP funds are available for WRC administration for 2011-12. Caroline is getting some road repair money following the heavy fall storms. SEMO informed Craig they are forming a debris strike team, which will include NRCS, ACOE, DEC being involved in site visits. There was some storm damage to gaging stations, and suggestions were made to ask the Town of Lansing to take over the one on Salmon Creek. Nominating/Membership: We currently have one at-large vacancy, and Kathy Wilsea was authorized to publicize it. Streams: Dan Karig said this new 2011 committee started with noble goals, but is not proceeding quickly. They are retooling to find levels they can accomplish. The monitoring group sponsored a public meeting on 1/11 about Sixmile Creek monitorins. Community Science Institute is getting County funding in 2012 (also had prior three years), and also funding from the Park Foundation. Cayuga lake Monitoring: Roxy Johnston reported there has been no movement from DEC on Cornell's Lake Source Cooling permit, but relations seem to be thawing. The committee wants to prepare a PowerPoint document for all public office candidates, but Hydrilla paused that idea. On the plus side, Hydrilla allowed us to gather more contact information for public officials. The City will be having weather monitoring equipment in the Inlet with real-time computer postings. Wetlands: Darby Kiley reported the committee's draft local law was distributed and some excellent comments have been received. A final draft will be on the WRC February agenda for signoff and distribution to municipalities.

**2012 Committee Signups** – These committees were formed: Executive (includes Bylaws update), Nominating/Membership, Wetlands, Water Quality Strategy Update, Cayuga Lake Monitoring, education, Aquifer, Streams, and Grants.

**Chair & Staff Reports** – Kathy Wilsea reported full agendas (excluding confidential materials) will now be posted on the WRC website to comply with a new public information law. Ideas for speakers or meeting topics can be submitted to Kathy.

**Announcements/Other Business** – Darby Kiley announced the TCCOG task force on gas drilling will probably not be examining new topics, but will be doing presentations for elected officials.

**Adjournment -- The meeting was adjourned at 6:02 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathy Wilsea, Secretary  
Tompkins County Planning Department.

Adopted by the Council on February 27, 2012.