

# TOMPKINS COUNTY WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL

**February 22, 2010  
Meeting Minutes**

**Voting Members Present (17):** Sharon Anderson, Liz Cameron, Donna Eschenbrenner, Barry Goodrich, Roxy Johnston, Joan Jurkowich, Dan Karig, Darby Kiley, Lynn Leopold, Gregg McConnell, Jim McGarry, Frank Proto, Elaine Quaroni, Marjory Rinaldo-Lee, Cindy Schulte, Craig Schutt, Mary Shelley

**Voting Members Excused (2):** Ed Bugliosi, Rick Manning

**Non-Voting Members Present (5):** John Andersson (Associate), Dooley Kiefer (Associate), John Mawdsley (Associate), Todd Miller (Ex-Officio), Linda Wagenet

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

**Guests Present (1):** Hilary Lambert

Chair Frank Proto called the meeting to order at 4:17 PM. New members were welcomed.

**Agenda Review and Approval of Minutes** – There were no changes to the agenda. The draft minutes of December 19, 2009 were moved by Craig Schutt, seconded by Barry Goodrich and passed by show of hands.

**Placing lake data and reports, including LSC data, on eCommons for public and research access** – Dr. Hilary Lambert, Steward of the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network, said the Network is moving forward with Sharon Anderson's concept for making data available. ECommons is a service of Cornell University libraries for storing data on community home pages. Many small and large documents and studies exist. This is a place to collect them and share them. The process was begun by Jade Cassalia (a Wells College intern), Sharon Anderson and Gail Steinhart. Hilary provided a handout showing what is currently available and how it is arranged. It is a long-term process to post the things they have already prioritized. They are discussing with Steve Penningroth the best way to make information from Community Science Institute available. The posted documents cannot be edited by the public. Roxy Johnston noted that an abstract can be posted with information on how to contact the author for full information.

**Should WRC have its own website??** – Frank said discussion at the Executive Committee meeting last month included whether or not more information should be accessible from the WRC webpage. Elaine Quaroni, Education Committee chair, said the WRC webpage has council minutes, agendas, some PowerPoint presentations that were made at meetings, and WRC letters to DEC and the Governor on gas drilling. She wondered if eCommons would be a better place to post our documents, because of its search capability. Joan Jurkowich reviewed the County policy, which is that only County employees can post documents to the County website. Posting is OK. Redesigning the webpage is a problem, as it is expensive. Redesign could be contracted with the County's ITS department, but the WRC budget will not cover it. The current procedure is that WRC postings can be sent to Kathy Wilsea. Frank asked if a redesign could be done by volunteers, which is possible. Kathy Wilsea pointed out the EMC website was designed by member volunteers, who are no longer members. Information on the EMC website is becoming outdated due to lack of volunteers to keep it groomed. Hilary Lambert suggested an intern might work on this. Frank issued a homework assignment to members: check the existing webpage and provide comments to Elaine Quaroni. Linda Wagenet will contact Gail Steinhart for advice about WRC use of eCommons. Gail used to be a member of WRC.

**Committee Signups** – Frank said the Work Program will be blended into committee goals. Last month all committee chairs were invited to the Executive Committee meeting that took place on 1/25, where the Work Program was reviewed. The Aquifer Committee will contact Groton about a study. Frank has had contact from an Enfield town board member, who was put in touch with the Planning Department. Dredging will be retained as an

ad hoc committee. Gas Drilling was disbanded, and can be revived if necessary when DEC acts. This year, the monitoring plan committee will be known as the Cayuga Lake Monitoring Partnership, and Darby Kiley and Roxy Johnston will interact with the larger partnership. There was discussion on the need to address the Work Program items that concern streams, so a committee was formed and tentatively named Streams. Dan Karig was willing to chair, but would not also be able to chair Cayuga Lake Recreation, so that was disbanded for 2010. Committee signup sheets were passed around.

**Committee Reports** – Aquifer: Todd Miller reported there were no member comments received following distribution by email of the draft chart which would be used for organizing data. The committee met last week. Cayuga Lake Recreation: Dan Karig reported he is plugging away on the Stewart Park paddlers dock with the City. Dredging: Dan Karig reported the Technical Advisory Committee will meet 3/1. Also, tomorrow (2/23) the City Common Council and Board of Public Works will get a presentation on a new proposal for disposing of spoils. Executive: In addition to the information previously reported on the January meeting, Frank said he signed the letter to the Governor on gas drilling following committee review. He credited Liz Cameron and the committee members for drafting an excellent letter. Exec also sent comments to NYS on proposed changes to MS4 laws. Grants: Craig Schutt reported he worked with Roxy Johnston on a Great Lakes Initiative application to get funds for the gaging stations, and they also put in a macrophytes study, as macrophytes info was identified as a gap in monitoring data. NYS Ag & Markets issued an RFP today, and he may apply for a couple things. The Real Estate Transfer Tax and the Bigger Better Bottle Bill are being used to fund the Environmental Protection Fund. Cayuga Lake Monitoring Partnership: Roxy Johnston said Lake Source Cooling issued a report, and LSC pipes went through a recent inspection by divers. LSC staff met with DEC about LSC permit renewal, and were happy that DEC came to Ithaca and allowed exchange of ideas. A grant application was submitted to make the website interactive for subwatershed information and a coliform library. Some monitoring by volunteers has begun in Seneca County. Wetlands: Darby Kiley reported they did not meet, but speakers are being arranged for a wetlands conference that will take place on April 10, sponsored by the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network.

**Chair Report** – Frank announced that Carol Chock will serve as the liaison from the County Legislature for 2010. He reminded committee chairs to send articles to Kathy Wilsea for the Annual Report. Carol Chock has circulated the WRC letter to the Governor on gas drilling to other groups to seek similar support. Upon hearing that Newman Golf Course is leeching fertilizer into the lake, Frank has reminded the City that the site used to be a dump, and there should be concern about buried materials. There was recently a spill from the Cornell Veterinary College's acid digester, which is not on line yet. The material was not infectious or hazardous, and the ph was in the proper range. The spill went to the IAWWTP. Cornell is working with the contractor on valves. Linda Wagenet said Ed Gottlieb of IAWWTP said it was not a big deal. Roxy Johnston said IAWWTP gets 7 to 9 million gallons per day to treat, so this event was a very small percentage. It is likely the waste will be treated in the future at IAWWTP, but the permit is not in place yet. Frank asked members to send suggestions for speakers to Kathy Wilsea. He asked to hear from members who might have information on expected effects of the Governor's Executive Budget. NYS Association of Counties has examined it for hits to the Environmental Protection Fund. An updated membership list was distributed.

**Announcements/Other Business** – Linda Wagenet sought more volunteers for the pharmaceuticals collection event on 3/6. She applauded the efforts of Ed Gottlieb and the team that has put this event together. Darby Kiley announced the Intermunicipal Organization is funding a Fall Creek subwatershed assessment, and a meeting will take place on this at 10 AM on 2/25 in Dryden Town Hall. Joan Jurkowich announced the Planning Department has preliminary information that funding has been awarded for a tri-county blueway trail, with Seneca County leading the project. Sharon Anderson announced a public meeting on health risks from fracking chemicals 2/23 and how to organize a coalition for gas leasing on 3/13. Info will be distributed by email.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathy Wilsea, Planning Department Secretary

Adopted by the Council on May 15, 2010.