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TOMPKINS COUNTY WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL

**March 19, 2012
Meeting Minutes**

Voting Members Present (10): Fay Benson, Bill George, Barry Goodrich, Darby Kiley, Rick Manning, Jim McGarry, Frank Proto, Elaine Quaroni, Craig Schutt, Mary Shelley

Voting Members Excused (9): Sharon Anderson, Ed Bugliosi, Liz Cameron, Kathy Luz Herrera, Roxy Johnston, Joan Jurkowich, Dan Karig, Lynn Leopold, Marjory Rinaldo-Lee

Voting Member Absent (1): Gregg McConnell

Non-Voting Members Present (2): Dooley Kiefer, Linda Wagenet

Guests Present (5): Dave Bouldin, Tom Evans, Jacob Langenbacher, Steve Maybee, James Palmer

Staff Present: Kathy Wilsea

Chairman Frank Proto called the meeting to order at 4:18 PM

Agenda Review and Approval of Minutes – There were no changes to the agenda. Minutes of 2/27/2012 were accepted without change.

Recommendations for EPA Clean Watershed Needs Survey – There was discussion on which topics are appropriate for submission and what information is necessary. It's unclear if Hydrilla eradication will fit, and Darby Kiley suggested contacting the EFC staff person listed on the form. Steve Maybee, visiting from T C Environmental Health, said they see a need for replacement of unsafe wastewater systems, and some landowners can't afford the costs. Tom Evans said Southern Tier East Regional Planning & Development Board has worked with community systems, but not individual. Maybe they could approach that. As a new staff member, he is still learning about some opportunities. Steve said there are two concerns about lakefront homes/cottages: tanks at lake level and households that pump uphill to sewer systems. Caroline Watershed Committee will meet 3/20, and if they have anything to contribute Barry Goodrich will share. Rick Manning will touch base with Dan Karig to find out if there are issues from the Streams Committee. Darby noted the Town of Ulysses did not receive this form, and Kathy Wilsea will forward it to municipal clerks. Mary Shelley will contact Roxy Johnston to see if this is a place to mention dredging by the drinking water plant on Sixmile Creek. Comments need to be submitted to the Executive Committee by Wednesday morning, and they will report to Ed Marx.

WRC Work Plan – No changes were proposed at the meeting, but Dan Karig might have ideas for the Streams Committee.

Hydrilla Task Force Update – Craig Schutt reported that permit applications are almost ready to submit to DEC. DEC is also requiring a monitoring plan and a vegetation management plan this year. The second product proposed for use, Fluridone, must be relabeled to show EPA approval for use in flowing water. Concerning funding, many letters of support have been requested. Craig does not anticipate any additional EPF money becoming available. He shared a map of proposed treatment sites, showing targets for Aquathol and Fluridone. Aquathol will be used when plants are 8 to 10" tall, followed by releases of Fluridone upstream. The Task Force must notify all riparian property owners and allow 21 days for response. Floating Classroom will help look for infestation in Cayuga Lake, and Bob Johnson feels we would need to send

divers in to verify and treat. Sharon Anderson is chair of the Task Force outreach committee, and Elaine Quaroni is also serving on that committee. EMC is organizing a public meeting on Hydrilla on 4/12 at Cornell Plantations. State Parks are pretty well engaged, interacting with the public, providing wash stations, and sending letters to boat owners. People from other lakes are learning and concerned, and information is being provided regionally so early identification can occur if it has spread. Craig said federal money is passing through NYS to cover the first 2012 treatment. Craig did a radio interview with a Rochester station. Treatment uses chemical levels that are way below drinking water concerns, and the chemicals have a short half-life.

Committees – Education: Right now they are only dealing with Hydrilla. **Executive:** Correspondence is in the mail folder between WRC and Cornell counsel Shirley Egan. Dooley Kiefer and Frank both spoke at the last County Legislature meeting of concerns raised by EMC's Environmental Review Committee about a dredging project at Cornell Sailing Center. The next day he received email from Ms. Egan. After consulting with other members of the Executive Committee, Frank replied with the concerns of WRC Exec. He will keep members informed. Frank is editing the cover letter for the model wetlands law approved at WRC last month. **Grants:** Craig reported it appears the EPF will be reduced even further under the new state budget. The City obtained a special permit and dredged Linderman Creek by Cass Park and the dredged material will be examined for Hydrilla. **Nominating/ Membership:** They have not interviewed the at-large applicant yet. **Streams:** With the chair excused, other members said they reviewed the Work Plan and goals attributed to Streams were considered unrealistic. They will examine how to promote updates of flood maps. They don't expect to do much with riparian buffers. **Water Quality Strategy Update:** Bill George previously volunteered to convene the first meeting, and will continue to look for meeting dates. **Aquifer:** Ed Bugliosi and the Town of Groton Supervisor plan to meet about a possible study in Groton. Frank asked to be kept informed if there is any interest (commitment is not necessary) as it may help keep the capital program alive. **Monitoring Partnership:** Kathy Wilsea reported Roxy Johnston informed her that, due to the need to address Hydrilla, this group will not meet for about six months unless someone else is willing to serve as interim chair. **Legislature Liaison:** Frank announced the Liaison to WRC this year is Kathy Luz Herrera.

Chair and Staff Reports – No Chair Report. Kathy Wilsea reported work at the Planning Department continues on digitizing permanent records from the storage space. Craig suggested members might like to have a chance to keep the old hard copies after items are scanned.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:38 PM.

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

Adopted by the Council on April 16, 2012.