

# TOMPKINS COUNTY WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL

**April 21, 2008  
Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present (17):** John Andersson (Associate), Ed Bugliosi, Carol Chock, Barry Goodrich, Roxy Johnston, Joan Jurkowich, Dan Karig, Dooley Kiefer (Associate), Darby Kiley, Frank Proto, Nick Schipanski, Cindy Schulte, Craig Schutt, Bud Shattuck, Mary Shelley, Cathy Valentino (Associate), Linda Wagenet

**Members Excused (2):** Liz Cameron, Todd Miller (Ex-Officio)

**Members Absent (6):** Patrick Barry (Ex-Officio), Dan Konowalow, Rick Manning, Tania Schusler, Paul Tunison, Roger Yonkin

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

**Guests Present (11):** Jim Adams, Sharon Anderson, Brian Buchanan, Jillian Cohen, Willie Fetzer, Amanda LaBelle, Pam Mackesey, Ed Mills, Elaine Quaroni, Seth Schweitzer, Jim Watkins

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

**Agenda Review and Approval of Minutes** – There were no changes to the agenda. The draft minutes were amended to spell out an acronym. The amended minutes of March 17th were moved by Linda Wagenet, seconded by Craig Schutt and passed by voice vote.

**A Cayuga Lake Report Card: Progress and Opportunities** – Linda Wagenet introduced the guests. Ed Mills said the graduate study Natural Resources class is a student-run program. The class has about a dozen students, and Jillian Cohen, Amanda LaBelle, Willie Fetzer, and Jim Watkins were doing the presentation to WRC. Jill said the students have varied backgrounds, and are partnering with CLWN on this project because they wanted to interact with the community and use their skills to benefit the community. Amanda said the report card theme would provide periodic updates to help us find out if Cayuga Lake is getting better in terms of environmental and social health. Willie spoke of the environmental monitoring that would go into the report card. Jim addressed their interest in land use and need for more data. Future steps would be to continue identifying indicators for quality, suitability, and needed additional categories; designing a survey; updating the Network's Restoration and Protection Plan; finding out what citizens want; and planning remediation. Some members of the class plan to continue this project as volunteers after the semester ends.

As a participatory segment, WRC members and guests were each provided with six stickers and invited to place their stickers on sheets representing 11 topics in order to show what participants regard as most important issues affecting Cayuga Lake. The sheets were: Population Trends, Sources of Nutrients/Sediment, Economic Structure, Water Quality of Lake, Demographic Characteristics, Media Coverage, Biological Indicators, Water Quality

of Tributaries, Recreation Use/ Visits, Land Use/Cover, and Money Spent on Management. There was then discussion on criteria used by participants in their selections, what might be missing, and how public education can be incorporated.

Comments are welcome and may be directed to Jill at [jsc74@cornell.edu](mailto:jsc74@cornell.edu)

**WRC Endorsement of the Draft Monitoring Plan for the Southern Basin of Cayuga Lake** -- Working with the materials presented last month by Roxy Johnston, Joan Jurkowich asked if there were any technical questions. There was discussion on precision of sampling locations; different entities use different methods. This is field work and follows accepted statistical models. Cayuga Lake is well mixed, and multiple samples are taken over the season. It was agreed methodology could be specified. Although funding is certain for some aspects of the plan, once the plan is established, more funding can be sought for the rest. Dan Karig moved to endorse and approve the draft monitoring plan (including the joint statement on the green sheet) as tweaked at today's meeting. Seconded by Cindy Schulte and passed by unanimous voice vote. Linda praised the unique collaboration that has led to this plan, and Kate Hackett's role. Frank voiced thanks for the committee's work. Final document will be distributed to members. The committee will draft a resolution for the Legislature's Planning, Development & Environmental Quality Committee.

**Committee Reports** – Cayuga Lake Recreation: Dan Karig reported that Inlet cleanups were conducted 3/22 and 3/29. Speed limit signs are not up yet along the Inlet. Dredging: Dan Karig said he and Roxy Johnston are participating on the City's committee. They expect to meet about four times a year, but only if there is new information to discuss. Assemblywoman Lifton has secured \$2 million for implementation. The current design phase is covered by a grant. At the recent meeting they started talking about sediment from the tributaries, and part of the money secured by Ms. Lifton might be used for that. The biggest problem is finding a dewatering site. DEC opposes putting spoils into the lake. Sediment will all be tested for contaminants. The silt dam and drinking water reservoir also need to be cleaned out. Grants: Craig Schutt said he has received the 2008 FLOWPA contract. Water Quality Strategy Update: They have not met yet. Cindy Schulte volunteered to participate on this committee. Wetlands: Hard copies of the final Wetlands Report are available by signing up in the FYI folder. Nick Schipanski will be making presentations to municipalities.

**Chair and Staff Reports** – Frank reported that PDEQ approved the proposed changes to WRC membership by a vote of 3-2. Copies of the final Work Plan were distributed.

**Announcement / Other Business** – Cindy Schulte said Water Week will be celebrated May 3<sup>rd</sup>, and posters were available.

**Adjournment** -- The meeting was adjourned at 5:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathy Wilsea, Planning Department Secretary

Adopted by the Council on May 19, 2008.