

final

TOMPKINS COUNTY WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL

**April 16, 2012
Meeting Minutes**

Voting Members Present (12): Sharon Anderson, Liz Cameron, Bill George, Barry Goodrich, Joan Jurkowich, Dan Karig, Darby Kiley, Jim McGarry, Frank Proto, Elaine Quaroni, Marjory Rinaldo-Lee, Craig Schutt

Voting Members Excused (5): Ed Bugliosi, Kathy Luz Herrera, Roxy Johnston, Rick Manning, Mary Shelley

Voting Members Absent (3): Fay Benson, Lynn Leopold, Gregg McConnell

Non-Voting Members Present (4): John Andersson, Dooley Kiefer, Todd Miller, Linda Wagenet

Guests Present (2): Tom Evans (STERPDB), Martha Ferger (EMC)

Staff Present: Kathy Wilsea

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

Agenda Review and Approval of Minutes – There were no changes to the agenda. Minutes were moved by Barry Goodrich, seconded by Elaine Quaroni and accepted by voice vote with one change. Final minutes are available on the WRC website: <http://www.tompkins-co.org/planning/committees/WRC/WRCagendaminutes.htm>

Geohydrology, Water Quality, and Simulation of Groundwater Flow in the Stratified-drift Aquifer System in Virgil Creek and Dryden Lake Valleys, Town of Dryden – Todd Miller, WRC member and US Geological Survey hydrologist, provided a report on this aquifer study. His slide show is available on the WRC website: : <http://www.tompkins-co.org/planning/committees/WRC/WRCagendaminutes.htm>

Concerning water quality, about 10% of samples in Central NY have arsenic above the drinking water standard. Half of the Aquifer Committee will study arsenic this year, with Dan Karig spearheading that subcommittee. The other half of the committee will examine methane in groundwater, which is associated with black shales and indicative of deep groundwater. In response to questions, Todd said the phenomenon of deeper wells having lower quantities of dissolved solids is unexplained and counterintuitive, but also found in the Schenectady area. Dryden only treats drinking water with chlorination. This report data has been gathered over a period of about eight years, since the productive well was identified at Dryden Lake. The ModFlow modeling program can also be used in advanced studies to help identify contaminant sources.

Report on Hydrilla Community Meeting – Sharon Anderson reported the Hydrilla Task Force education committee worked on the Community Meeting presentation, will continue with the informal Hydrilla Happy Hours, and will be doing presentations in municipalities and public events like Earth Day. Trainings for volunteers will take place for identifying and reporting Hydrilla, and dates are on the

CCE website along with herbicide information. Craig Schutt reported the permit for Endothall use has been submitted to DEC, and he is working on Fluridone permits for use of liquid upstream and pellets in areas that don't have a lot of water interchange. Endothall timing is expected to be mid-May to mid-June, and Fluridone end of June and into July. Notification involves notice to neighbors, businesses, and users and requires 21-day wait unless all respond sooner than that. No objections have been received, and no response is considered assent. The Farmers Market information booth will continue in 2012. The Inlet will be closed only on the day of Endothall treatment. The grant of \$800,000 is still anticipated – Craig has not been informed of any problems. 2012 will be a critical year for treatment. Bob Johnson is planning identification of all plant species. DEC is coordinating herbicide and dredging. The lake level is low, but it is unknown if it will make treatment more effective. The lake level is rising slowly. Frank said Cornell provided followup reports on the dredging project at the sailing center, and copies were available in the mail folder.

Committees – Streams: Dan Karig reported Bill Coon (USGS) visited them and spoke of how flood zones are established. Dan noted streams are at extremely low flow right now – 50% of previous minimum records. **Water Quality Strategy:** Bill George reported they met and drafted updates for part of the document. After a couple more meetings they will bring the draft to the full council. **Wetlands:** Darby Kiley reported they reviewed the work plan and consider some goals unattainable. They request to be informed if Lidar is used anywhere in the county for wetlands mapping. They want to do a presentation on the model law at TCCOG and will consider presenting at individual municipalities. **Aquifer:** Todd Miller reported they are hearing of interest in Groton and Lansing on new studies. **Executive:** Frank reported they sent the follow up correspondence to Cornell on the sailing club. He will finish editing the cover letter for distribution of the model wetlands law. **Grants:** Craig Schutt reported FLOWPA funds have been released. The Conservation Fund is the source of the Hydrilla grant. Scott Doyle has information on a couple possible projects for Flood Hazard Mitigation. SWCD teamed with State Parks on a pre-application for Sustain Our Great Lakes money, which was denied.

Chair & Staff Reports – Kathy Wilsea reported the May meeting will begin with the public hearing on the joint SPDES annual report being prepared by SWCD. Frank requested anyone with additions for the WRC Annual Report to provide that information to Kathy by the end of the week. When finalized, the Annual Report will be presented to PDEQ by the 1st Vice Chair.

Announcements – Marjory Rinaldo-Lee requested information from anyone who becomes aware of wetlands restoration or mitigation projects, explaining sometimes developers are required to build separate wetlands when a project destroys some. Joan Jurkovich announced a public meeting to be held April 24 on the Regional Sustainability Plan, and will provide details by email. Frank announced a County Legislature budget retreat is coming up in the next couple weeks.

Adjournment -- The meeting was adjourned at 5:52 PM.

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

Adopted by the Council on May 21, 2012.