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TOMPKINS COUNTY WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL

**May 19, 2008
Meeting Minutes**

Members Present (14): John Andersson (Associate), Liz Cameron, Carol Chock, Barry Goodrich, Roxy Johnston, Joan Jurkowich, Dooley Kiefer (Associate), Darby Kiley, Todd Miller (Ex-Officio), Frank Proto, Nick Schipanski, Craig Schutt, Mary Shelley, Linda Wagenet

Members Excused (4): Rick Manning, Cindy Schulte, Paul Tunison, Cathy Valentino (Associate)

Members Absent (6): Patrick Barry (Ex-Officio), Ed Bugliosi, Dan Karig, Dan Konowalow, Bud Shattuck, Roger Yonkin

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

Guests Present (4): Jose Lozano, Elaine Quaroni, Leslie Schill, Ed Wilson

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

Agenda Review and Approval of Minutes – There were no changes to the agenda. The draft minutes of April 21st were moved by Linda Wagenet, seconded by Craig Schutt and passed by voice vote. Dooley Kiefer suggested one change, which was accepted.

Final monitoring plan for the southern basin of Cayuga Lake – Roxy Johnston thanked Joan Jurkowich for taking the components approved last month and putting them into a readable format. Frank suggested adding a glossary of terms. There was discussion on the schedule to present the plan at the Environmental Management Council on 6/11, and whether or not EMC has any role in the matter going to the County Legislature. Joan said the resolution adopts the joint statement, and she still expects some changes from the partners. The resolution also proposes annual review of the monitoring plan. John Andersson asked about the scope of the partnership, and Roxy responded that the partnership will be reviewed in six months or so. When the plan is adopted, the partners can then seek funding for new projects in the plan. The Network and IO are mentioned because they are working toward monitoring for the whole watershed, so we want this plan to be “nested within” that larger intent.

Jose Lozano, Director of Ithaca Area Wastewater Treatment Plant, said much of their testing was conducted for a before and after study that was part of the recent update of IAWWTP. IAWWTP is a partnership of the City, Town of Ithaca, and Town of Dryden. He cannot endorse the monitoring plan until he discusses it with all three partners. His personal opinion is that the plan is magnificent. Joan said we will have to describe the plan to all testing entities and agree on need for additional resources.

Resolution “Adopting the WRC-Cornell University Lake Monitoring Partnership’s Joint Statement and Supporting the Referenced Monitoring Plan” was moved by Joan and seconded by Roxy. Frank suggested researching the history, since he recalled that a meeting with Steve Golding preceded the letter. Also, in the second Resolved clause, he suggested mentioning reporting to the community, too. There was discussion on data analysis interpretation, storage, and availability to the public. It was agreed these aspects can’t be established yet; the plan would allow us to show coordination and collaboration, and seek funding to set up a clearing house. Darby Kiley suggested setting up annual meetings to provide updates. Roxy said the public datasharing meeting organized

by Steve Penningroth this year was well received, but it is hard for us to be specific right now. Carol said nothing being presented today precludes those future steps. She wondered how we can ask for input and support from other entities, as well as seek feedback. Joan proposed adding another Resolved clause to the resolution, that WRC will seek input and comment. All amendments were accepted as friendly. Resolution passed by unanimous voice vote.

Discussion on Economic Development seat – Frank Proto reported that the County Legislature did not pass the change of the Economic Development seat to Planning. There was discussion at the Legislature meeting about changing it to at-large, but no motion. Frank has contacted Herb Dwyer, of Ithaca Forward, again. Herb had indicated interest before, and told Frank he would apply.

Committee Reports – Aquifer: Todd Miller said they met recently and are working on tables for data being collected. He took part in a presentation to the Town of Groton about participating in a new study. Cayuga Lake Recreation: Mary Shelley reported that Dan Karig is still working on the signage for the Inlet and a canoe/kayak boat launch at Stewart Park. Dredging: Roxy Johnston said they will meet May 29th. Education: Chair Tania Schusler has resigned from WRC, so this group is looking for a new chair. Roxy (who is not willing to serve as chair) said Tania helped coordinate the Water Week Celebration. Bolton Point won the drinking water taste test. Compostable cups made of cornstarch were used this year. Marian Brown of Ithaca College conducted a taste test of tap water versus bottled water, and City water won by 2 to 1 margin. Water Week displays are still up at the mall. Grants: Craig Schutt placed a NY Environmental Protection Fund program budget in the FYI folder. He highlighted types we could apply for, and mentioned some new categories. Wetlands: Nick Schipanski said they are discussing watershed-based guidelines, and examining the proposed ordinance of the Town of Dryden and draft comprehensive plan of the Town of Ithaca. Monitoring Plan: Roxy said the testing site known as LSC #7, near the Youth Bureau, is in the plan for follow up. City staff has tested this one time, and CU also will be taking extra samples.

Chair & Staff Report – Frank reported that welcome letters were sent to new members Rick Manning and Patrick Barry, and a thank you letter was sent to Tania Schusler. The NYS Board of Health is still reviewing the proposed Tompkins County Health Dept. water well program. Kathy Wilsea distributed new member contact sheets.

Comments on Tompkins County's Stormwater Permit Annual Report – Leslie Schill, Senior Planner of Tompkins County Planning Department, was present to provide information. She said most components are in their ongoing maintenance phases, and a few components have tasks to complete before moving to that phase. This report is based on the annual cycle of April to March. It does not include recent updates on the DEC's 303(d) impaired waterbodies list, since DEC is still responding to public comments. Comments are welcome and may be sent to Leslie at lschill@tompkins-co.org. Frank reminded members that they may comment individually, but not for WRC. There were no members of the public present for this publicized comment period.

Announcements/Other Business – Elaine Quaroni asked if spiny fleas should be mentioned as an invasive species in the monitoring plan. Roxy said spiny fleas are better known now than they were when the monitoring plan group started. She will add it to the Q&A list.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Wilsea, Planning Department Secretary
Adopted by the Council on June 16, 2008.