

# TOMPKINS COUNTY WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL

**July 18, 2011  
Meeting Minutes**

**Voting Members Present (15):** Liz Cameron, Carol Chock, Barry Goodrich, Roxy Johnston, Joan Jurkowich, Dan Karig, Darby Kiley, Lynn Leopold, Jim McGarry, Frank Proto, Elaine Quaroni, Marjory Rinaldo-Lee, Cindy Schulte, Craig Schutt, Mary Shelley

**Voting Members Excused (5):** Sharon Anderson, Ed Bugliosi, Bill Garthwaite, Rick Manning, Damon Rodnac

**Voting Member Absent (1):** Gregg McConnell

**Non-Voting Member Present (4):** John Andersson (Associate), Dooley Kiefer (Associate), Todd Miller (Ex-Officio), John Mawdsley (Associate)

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

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Frank Proto, at 4:23 PM. .

**Agenda Review and Approval of Minutes** – Addition to agenda: Draft letter to DEC Commissioner on High-Volume Hydraulic Fracturing Advisory Panel will be discussed under committee business. The draft minutes of June 20, 2011 were accepted with one change and three typos corrected.

**Barrile II Project Inspection Report** – Barry Goodrich said this phase 2 project was funded by DEC and Army Corps of Engineers. This was an aquifer protection and natural stream channel restoration project, and work was done from June to September of 2010. ACOE did a walk-through inspection on 6/29 with Jon Nagley (SWCD), Craig Schutt (SWCD), and Barry (Town of Caroline). Barry drew a map of the stages along Sixmile Creek and described them. Furthest downstream are cross vanes built of stones constructed in steps. The stones range in weight from 3 to 9 tons and form a cascade effect that prevents formation of a plunge pool. Since the aquifer is only down 12 to 16 feet below the streambed in some areas, they are trying to keep the stream from eroding. They are not controlling the water, but controlling the grade. Upstream is a normal stream channel, which was raised up to 4 feet, and riprap was placed on the banks, with willows at the top in a band up to 100 feet wide. Next upstream is a 50-60 feet long ripple area formed by placing stones in a fish-scale pattern to reduce the water speed. Further upstream are a pool and more vanes. This area of Sixmile Creek has 25 feet of drop in 2,500 feet length of stream, being located upstream from Creamery Road bridge. The banks were hydroseeded by SWCD. Integrated River Solutions did the original basic design. Most design changes were done by John Nagley of SWCD, based on experience with the Barrile I project.

Barrile I work stopped a lot of erosion upstream that was caused by sinuosity. The stream had been incising a foot a year at the Barrile I site, getting closer to houses and septic systems. No easements were created in the Barrile II project, but SWCD has the right to access properties to survey and report back to ACOE in the monitoring phase. Twenty-two easements were obtained for the construction and three-year monitoring phases. Frank noted this benefits the City of Ithaca, too, by keeping debris out of their drinking water source. Barry said the City participated in Barrile I. The Buffalo Road bridge was rebuilt in the 1990s, and during the construction phase the aquifer was punctured and residents lost well water for about a year. Lots of rocks and fill were required to bring the level of the aquifer back up, and the County had to provide a temporary water source for affected residents.

**Addition to Agenda: High-Volume Hydraulic Fracturing Advisory Panel** – Because Carol Chock could not stay for the entire meeting, the letter to DEC was discussed at this time. Carol was concerned about whether this panel will only address social and economic aspects, and whether or not the letter should be expanded. Marjory Rinaldo-Lee and Liz Cameron had checked on the charge of the Advisory Panel and confirmed it is limited to

interaction of agencies, the permitting process, and non-environmental issues. Members felt the letter was appropriate as drafted. Joan Jurkovich moved to authorize Frank Proto to sign the letter with minor language edits, which was seconded by Cindy and passed by show of hands.

**WRC 2011-2012 Work Plan** – Discussion on goals and objectives yielded some edits, which Marjory Rinaldo-Lee will incorporate into a final document. Cindy moved to accept the document with today's edits, which was seconded by Dan Karig and passed unanimously. Thanks were expressed to Marjory for her work in bringing this to completion.

**Committee Reports** – Grants: Craig Schutt had placed information in the FYI folder on grants from NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee for Chesapeake Bay Watershed TMDL compliance (Caroline) and Pine Ridge Farm CAFO compliance (Ulysses). Nominating Committee: Cindy Schulte listed expiring seats and said members will get letters about applying for reappointment. Applications will be due early in September. Streams: Dan Karig reported they met and discussed how to communicate with DEC and how to contribute to the work of the Gas Drilling Committee in responding to the revised dsGEIS. Gas Drilling: Marjory Rinaldo-Lee reported they met last week and set their due dates for committee tasks, which she will share with Council members by email. The next two meetings are planned for review of previous comments with the Streams Committee (7/21) and review of changes in the document based on our previous comments (7/25 and perhaps another date). They intend to concentrate on issues they think are most important. Marjory requests all member comments by 8/15 so the committee can have a draft response ready for the WRC meeting on 9/19. Wetlands: Darby Kiley reported they met last week to review items in the Work Plan. They chose not to comment on the draft Waters of the USA by EPA, and considered the draft a good job. Aquifer: Todd Miller reported they began their review of their previous contribution to dsGEIS gas drilling comments. The Newfield aquifer study of Pony Hollow has begun. Frank said West Danby has expressed some interest in an aquifer study in the Hillview landfill area. Monitoring: Roxy Johnston reported they met. Cornell now expects the Lake Source Cooling permit to be reissued without changes. CU feels like DEC wants to wrap it up by the end of summer. CU may be required to “investigate” the outfall area. The Monitoring Committee is working on two ways to do outreach to candidates for public office, one being to organize a meeting to provide info and answer questions, and the other being to provide fact sheets to all. Dredging: Dan Karig said there has been some talk about an existing levee and drop dam in Cayuga Inlet. Roxy said she has found out there is a structure, but no equipment or instructions. Darby said she was in the area for a field visit with EMC and could see the area, but is not clear on the function. Roxy said she has no idea who would mobilize a response team or how that would function. Frank noted the Southwest Park area has been in the news concerning its lack of suitability for housing development. Education: Elaine Quaroni said she sees assignments in the Work Plan, and they will plan a meeting. Executive: Frank said they did not meet. They will be finalizing the Advisory Panel letter to DEC.

**Chair and Staff Reports** – Chair: No report. Staff: Kathy Wilsea said recruiting materials will be going out soon, and asked members to let her know of any ideas for agencies or individuals that might share our recruiting information.

**Announcements/Other Business** – Barry Goodrich said at the end of the Barrile II inspection, which he previously reported on, ACOE staff asked if they can use the site as a showcase project. Craig Schutt added they said it is the best example of such a complex restoration and protection project in our region. Frank Proto reminded members there will be no August meeting of WRC.

**Adjournment** -- The meeting was adjourned at 6:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathy Wilsea, Planning Department Secretary  
Adopted by the Council on September 19, 2011.