

TOMPKINS COUNTY WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL

**July 19, 2010
Meeting Minutes**

Voting Members Present (13): Ed Bugliosi, Carol Chock, Barry Goodrich, Roxy Johnston, Dan Karig, Darby Kiley, Lynn Leopold, Gregg McConnell, Frank Proto, Elaine Quaroni, Cindy Schulte, Craig Schutt, Mary Shelley
Voting Members Excused (5): Sharon Anderson, Liz Cameron, Joan Jurkowich, Jim McGarry, Marjory Rinaldo-Lee

Voting Members Absent (1): Rick Manning

Non-Voting Members Present (3): John Andersson (Associate), Jose Lozano (Associate), Steve Penningroth (Associate)

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

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

Agenda Review and Approval of Minutes – Agenda items were taken out of order. The draft minutes of June 21, 2010 were moved by Craig Schutt, seconded by Elaine Quaroni and passed by voice vote with the correction of two typos.

Recommendation on Economic Development Seat – Nominating/Membership Committee Chair Cindy Schulte reported that the committee met and discussed comments received by email and at the June WRC meeting. The Committee still recommends changing this voting seat to at-large, and provided a draft resolution for consideration at today's meeting. Resolution moved by Cindy, seconded by Craig Schutt. Cindy noted the Committee will listen to member recommendations regarding skillset preferences and will seek discussion annually. Resolution passed unanimously by show of hands. It will be on the August 4th agenda for PDEQ.

Kathy Wilsea pointed out the Nomination Process document also needs action in order to accept changes proposed by the Committee. Dan Karig moved to amend the Nomination Process/Membership Seats document, which was seconded by Roxy Johnston. Due to differing "track changes" printouts of the digital document that was issued with the agenda, action was postponed until September. Kathy Wilsea will save the new proposed changes in an Adobe Acrobat document and send it with the September agenda.

The Stream Monitoring Program at Community Science Institute – Frank Proto reminded members that the County Legislature budgeted funds for stream studies over three years, and that funding is in the second year now. CSI President Steve Penningroth said CSI is monitoring with seven volunteer groups. Each stream gets tested up to five times per year. The seven groups cover Fall Creek, Sixmile Creek, Salmon Creek, Taughannock & Trumansburg Creeks, the SE corner of Cayuga Lake (by 4H2O), Cayuga Inlet, and a group that tests 4 agriculture sites with CAFOs near King Ferry in Cayuga County. Efforts are made for synoptic sampling, where all sites are tested within a two-hour period. These water quality risks are addressed: phosphorus, sediment, Ecoli, salt (na), and gas drilling. They do not screen for pesticides, pharmaceuticals, personal care products or drug-resistant bacteria. DEC sets upper limits for phosphorus, which is the limiting nutrient. Loads are estimates, using sample times flow, as used in USGS calculations. Regression analysis is used for storm events. Records indicate these percentages of contributions to the South Shelf of Cayuga Lake: Fall Creek 48% (30 tons), Cayuga Inlet 48% (30 tons), Cayuga Heights & Ithaca Area WWTPs 3.5% (2.2 tons), and Lake Source Cooling 0.5% (0.3 tons). Roxy Johnston pointed out contributions from LSC are redistributed from deep water to shallow water, not loading from the watershed. Steve concurred, but said LSC was included because it is a hot topic.

Total risk from sediment is roughly 60,000 tons (~ cubic yards) loaded to the lower Inlet and southern shelf per year, being 31,000 tons/year from Fall Creek, 18,000 tons/year from Sixmile Creek, and an estimated 10,000 tons/year from the rest of the Cayuga Inlet watershed. Sediment loading impacts policy considerations, in that the southern shelf is considered impaired and is on the 303(d) list, navigability of Cayuga Inlet is affected, and preservation of Stewart Park lakefront is also affected. The monitoring programs provide benefits through contributions of new information from volunteer groups for better water management, and new information on sediment and phosphorus loading from Cayuga Inlet into the lake, opportunities to identify sediment and phosphorus sources in the Inlet and its tributaries, health risks from pathogenic bacteria, and salt run-off from roads and parking lots. Preliminary results in Cayuga Inlet show phosphorus concentrations vary considerably, Ecoli is below EPA guidelines, salt (chloride) is above DEC guidelines, and most sediment comes from Sixmile Creek

Steve moved on to show the database available on the CSI website. Staff is working on integrating maps into the website to show test sites. Carol Chock said she appreciates the information that has been collected on a low budget. She encouraged members to visit the website and bring their questions to Steve. She asked if the spikes in test results by Davis Road are attributable to one source, and is there anything we can do to assist/require/encourage the owner to make changes. Steve said SWCD is involved with improving management practices at a farm in that area. Darby Kiley asked if volunteers test for anything that would show leaks in treated water. Roxy Johnston said presence of chlorine would be a marker for that. Elaine Quaroni asked if there is any possibility of streambank stabilization to reduce the sediment from the Monkey Run source. Lynn Leopold said the banks are too steep to vegetate. Dan Karig said the Sixmile Creek study showed most sediment to be from tributaries.

Committee Reports – Nominating: Cindy Schulte said they will meet in August with Kathy Wilsea. **Streams:** Dan Karig reported they finished constructing a template for where parameter measurements are made. They are compiling withdrawal regulations for Susquehanna & Great Lakes, with a goal of providing succinct information for municipalities. Gregg McConnell is focusing on Great Lakes, and said there are no current groundwater withdrawal regulations in place. Carol Chock said there is still time to provide comments to EPA on the scope of their hydrofracturing study. Frank Proto said, while WRC is not scheduled to meet in August, the Executive Committee can meet to finalize such comments if necessary. The Park Foundation has awarded a grant to Tompkins County Planning Department for \$50,000, and a resolution to accept that grant will go to the County Legislature tomorrow night. Carol suggested members could speak to the Legislature in support of the temporary position the grant would fund. **Monitoring Partnership:** Roxy Johnston said the Intermunicipal Organization has been trying to get a speaker on the topic of total maximum daily loads (TMDL). The Partnership has decided to take up that effort. IAWWTP has a weather station operating at the treatment plant, and will be posting data. The RUSS unit is operating in the lake, too. A 3D model of lake circulation patterns is being developed. **Aquifer:** John Andersson said work continues to plan a training event for municipal officers in August. Ed Bugliosi said Newfield is still a potential contract for a study. **Dredging:** Dan Karig said they have received no official information. Roxy Johnston said, according to the Ithaca Journal, the Southwest Park area was selected for a dewatering site and further negotiations are up to DEC and ACOE. It is possible the City will not be responsible for additional costs anticipated due to distance between dredging site and dewatering site. **Education:** Elaine Quaroni reported they continue to work on the website, and appreciated comments received from members. **Grants:** Craig Schutt reported that SWCD submitted four proposals in April to Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, and three were approved, for a total of about \$1 million. FLOWPA put in for \$1 million from NYS EPF for projects, \$75,000 would be in Tompkins County. He sees contracts and money starting to flow for Round 15.

Staff Report – Kathy Wilsea announced that members whose appointments expire at the end of 2010 will receive recruiting letters in early August.

Adjournment -- The meeting was adjourned at 6:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Wilsea, Planning Department Secretary
Adopted by the Council on September 20, 2010.