

TOMPKINS COUNTY WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL

**September 15, 2008
Meeting Minutes**

Members Present (16): John Andersson (Associate), Ed Bugliosi, Barry Goodrich, Roxy Johnston, Joan Jurkowich, Dan Karig, Darby Kiley, Rick Manning, Frank Proto, Elaine Quaroni (Associate), Nick Schipanski, Cindy Schulte, Craig Schutt, Mary Shelley, Cathy Valentino (Associate), Roger Yonkin

Members Excused (6): Liz Cameron, Carol Chock, Dooley Kiefer (Associate), Todd Miller (Ex-Officio), Paul Tunison, Linda Wagenet

Members Absent (3): Patrick Barry (Ex-Officio), Dan Konowalow, Bud Shattuck

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

Guests Present (1): Donna Eschenbrenner

Chair Frank Proto called the meeting to order at 4:16 PM.

Agenda Review and Approval of Minutes – There were no changes to the agenda. Concerning the WRC/CU Monitoring Plan committee report on page one of the draft minutes, Dooley Kiefer had phoned Kathy Wilsea and asked that it be explained that she wrote up the analysis summarizing the Environmental Review Committee's work for EMC. The draft minutes of July 21st were moved by Craig Schutt, seconded by Roxy Johnston and amended to include Elaine Quaroni as being present. Passed by voice vote.

WRC/CU Monitoring Plan Committee Report -- Frank reminded members that a presentation on the monitoring plan will be made to the County Legislature on 9/16. Members are welcome to attend as a show of support. Joan Jurkowich will provide an overview of Cayuga Lake's southern basin and a little bit on the plan, trying to keep it to ten minutes. Legislature vote on their resolution is expected to take place 10/7. Roxy will be holding a few more informational meetings in the community – Town of Ithaca Conservation Board, Stormwater Coalition, Caroline Watersheds Committee, Town of Dryden Conservation Board. The Environmental Protection Agency sent a rep to the August joint committee meeting. This person provided some advice on quality control procedures, and was supportive of the collaborative work. Roxy heard at one point the Lake Source Cooling permit would be fast-tracked, but no information has been released yet. Joan said the PDEQ resolution was drafted by Pam Mackesey, with some language from EMC and some from WRC. Roxy characterized it as a more cautious approach than the language in the WRC resolution.

Draft Letter to DEC re Hang/DePaolo Letter – Roxy said the Hang/DePaolo letter to DEC (which was sent to WRC members by email several weeks ago) went out with 52 signatures. Roxy commented to the Fall Creek Watershed Committee (FCWC) when they were asked to sign the letter. Roxy then wrote her own letter to DEC, which was also signed by Darby Kiley, Craig Schutt and Frank Proto. She has mailed that because she felt a sense of urgency. Steve Penningroth provided comments to FCWC and wrote a letter to DEC. Roxy suggests others write to DEC individually. *Kathy Wilsea will send these documents to members again by email: Hang/DePaolo letter to DEC, DEC letter to CU referenced in Hang/DePaolo letter, Roxy's comments to FCWC, Steve's comments to FCWC, Roxy's letter to DEC, and Steve's letter to DEC.*

There was discussion on whether or not to send a letter from the WRC. Joan said we would have more time to prepare a response to the DEC public comment period on the LSC SPDES permit, so we should start getting organized for that. Roxy also encouraged individuals to write letters. Craig Schutt said he attended the FCWC committee where Walter Hang tried to get members to sign his letter. There was lots of variety in feelings about the letter. Only George Patte signed.

Chair's Report – Because Frank would not be able to stay for the whole meeting, he gave Craig Schutt a letter from the Ag & Farmland Protection Board that was written in response to our member recruiting letter. They suggest altering the time of WRC meetings. Discussion can be held at the October WRC meeting.

Resolution: Supporting County Funding for Stream Studies by Community Science Institute – Frank said Steve Penningroth attended a PDEQ meeting and gave a presentation on the proposed budget item for monitoring streams. It is not recommended by the County Administrator to add any new items, but no vote has been held at the County Legislature yet. Steve Penningroth gave a PowerPoint presentation on what the study program would involve. Steve said we need to understand streams in order to provide management of the lake. Data would be posted for public access. Newfield's new volunteer group just started monitoring four sites for the Cayuga Inlet. There are already eight other partner volunteer groups. CSI is a certified lab. The quantity of test results posted is approaching 10,000, so is similar in number to the postings of Lake Source Cooling data. Cayuga Inlet is a major determinant of lake water quality, and this proposal targets the Inlet. Stream monitoring would provide baseline quality data, identify pollutants, and be useful in estimating sediment and phosphorus. It would be relevant to DEC if they need to develop TMDLs. The stream monitoring program would work with volunteers to promote public education and understanding of water resources issues. [Frank left at 4:45 and Roxy assumed the duties of chairman.] It would be much more cost effective than hiring consultants. Nick Schipanski asked to be recused because he is an officer of CSI. Resolution moved by Cindy Schulte, seconded by Darby Kiley. Kathy Wilsea read two suggestions given to her by Dooley Kiefer, one of which was accepted. In Whereas clause 2, it was amended to read: "Whereas, the quality of water in Cayuga Lake is dependent *in large part* on the quality of waters . . ." Resolution passed by vote of 11 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention (Schipanski).

Committee Reports – Cayuga Lake Recreation: Dan Karig said they met as a committee and he met with Rick Ferrel from the City staff. The Canal Corporation is supposed to be posting the speed limit signs by the inlet. The launch site for people-powered boats is back to square one. They are looking at other sites on City property. A WRC resolution or letter of support for the launch site may be drafted in the future, when a site is determined. Mary Shelley wondered if there is interest in examining the extent of car-generated oil pollution washing off parking lots of the box stores adjacent to the Inlet canal. If such pollution is occurring, there was brief discussion of whether permeable pavement or plantings were an option. Nominating/Membership: Tomorrow is deadline for applications, so committee members will receive materials later this week and begin preparing a slate for council consideration. Water Quality Strategy Update: Joan reported they have been meeting. The WQS will change to include actions that should be undertaken by WRC and other agencies in the next three years.

Announcements/Other Business – Roxy Johnston said FLOWPA funds were used for a special analysis of LSC data. The final report was received this summer from the consultant, Upstate Freshwater Institute. Copy is in the FYI folder, or digital file can be provided. The report shows no relationship between total phosphorus and chlorophyll alpha, and only a weak relationship between soluble reactive phosphorus and chlorophyll alpha. It appears the shallow south shelf flushes every one to ten days with water from the main part of the lake. The Network is working on outreach to share the conclusions of the study, and the consultant will report at the FLOWPA conference this fall. Craig Schutt reported that DEC Stormwater Specialist contracts will expire soon. He suggested providing a letter of support to DEC to continue. A resolution was drafted in discussion. Moved by Cindy Schulte, seconded by Nick Schipanski, passed 11 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions. This will go out with a cover letter from the chairman. Mary Shelley asked if there is any new information on gas drilling. Ed Bugliosi said the DEC generic EIS is not out yet. Darby Kiley said Susan Riha spoke at the Town of Ithaca Conservation Board and provided background. Dan Karig said he has been in some conversations with executives of Fortuna, which will have a permanent office in Horseheads. Western states don't have much water, so companies are trying to find a way to recycle the water used in hydrofracing. They get about half of the water back out, but it is salty and contains an emulsifier and bacteria. He will try to provide contact information so we can arrange a presentation at WRC.

Adjournment -- The meeting was adjourned at 5:49 PM.
Respectfully submitted, Kathy Wilsea, Planning Dept. Secretary
Adopted by the Council on November 17, 2008.