

**TOMPKINS COUNTY  
WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL**

Monday, September 24, 2012 4:15pm  
Ithaca Tompkins Transit Center, 737 Willow Avenue, Ithaca

**AGENDA**

*Please turn off your cell phones during the meeting.*

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|------|--|--------|
| I.   | Agenda Review and Approval of Minutes                            | 4:15pm |
| II.  | Draft Water Quality Strategy – <i>WQS Update Committee</i>       | 4:20   |
| III. | Proposal to Establish Recreation Committee – <i>Rick Manning</i> | 4:50   |
| IV.  | Committee Reports  | 5:00   |
|      | Aquifer  |        |
|      | Education  |        |
|      | Executive  |        |
|      | Grants   |        |
|      | Nominating/Membership  |        |
|      | Streams  |        |
|      | Wetlands   |        |
| V.   | Chair & Staff Reports  | 5:20   |
| VI.  | Announcements/Other Business                                     | 5:25   |
| VII. | Adjournment  | 5:30pm |

*Upcoming Meeting Dates: October 15, November 19*

**Members: If you cannot attend a meeting,  
please contact the Planning Department:  
274-5560 or  
kwilsea@tompkins-co.org**

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WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL**

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3 **July 16, 2012**  
4 **Draft Meeting Minutes**  
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7 **Voting Members Present (15):** Fay Benson, Liz Cameron, Bill George, Barry Goodrich, Roxy  
8 Johnston, Dan Karig, Darby Kiley, Lynn Leopold, Rick Manning, Gregg McConnell, Jim McGarry,  
9 Frank Proto, Marjory Rinaldo-Lee, Craig Schutt, Mary Shelley

10 **Voting Members Excused (4):** Sharon Anderson, Ed Bugliosi, Joan Jurkowich, Elaine Quaroni

11 **Non-Voting Members Present (4):** John Andersson, Scott Carpenter, Dooley Kiefer, Linda  
12 Wagenet

13 **Guests Present (3):** John Adamski, Tom Knipe (TCPD, Tourism Coordinator), Jon Reis (STPB)

14 **Staff Present:** Kathy Wilsea  
15

16 Chairman Frank Proto called the meeting to order at 4:20 PM  
17

18 **I. Agenda Review and Approval of Minutes** – Several members, who are legislators and department  
19 heads, will need to leave early for a budget meeting. Rick Manning has a request to revive the Recreation  
20 Committee, and that will be discussed today under Other Business, or at the next meeting. Due to  
21 projector/sound problems, the agenda will be taken out of order. Draft minutes of the June meeting were  
22 moved by Craig Schutt, seconded by Barry Goodrich, and passed without change by voice vote. Final  
23 minutes are available on the WRC website: [http://www.tompkins-](http://www.tompkins-co.org/planning/committees/WRC/WRCagendaminutes.htm)  
24 [co.org/planning/committees/WRC/WRCagendaminutes.htm](http://www.tompkins-co.org/planning/committees/WRC/WRCagendaminutes.htm)  
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26 **III. Fall Recruiting Round Planning** – It had been agreed in 2010 that the Nominating/Membership  
27 Committee would gather ideas from the full Council on desired skillsets for new members before the  
28 recruiting round begins each year. Frank directed Kathy Wilsea to conduct this survey by email, and include  
29 a list of which appointments expire at the end of 2012.  
30

31 **II. Finger Lakes Museum** – John Adamski, President of the Finger Lakes Museum, was present. He said  
32 the concept bloomed from an article in Life in the Finger Lakes magazine about four years ago. It intends to  
33 encompass cultural and wildlife programs, combining the concepts of the Adirondack Museum at Blue Lake  
34 and the Wild Center at Tupper Lake. The Museum site is approximately 50 acres, acquired from Keuka  
35 Lake State Park. Exhibits will include a fresh water aquarium, how the lakes were formed by glaciers, info  
36 on each lake individually, a 19<sup>th</sup> century winery built with donated equipment, Native Americans, pioneers,  
37 and some live species exhibits. The former Branchport Elementary School was purchased last year, to  
38 become a research and education center. The museum was awarded a grant from the Regional Economic  
39 Development Council, and expects to create 50 jobs and have over 10 million visitors per year. The video  
40 shown by John is available on the museum's website at [www.fingerlakesmuseum.org](http://www.fingerlakesmuseum.org). The video recently  
41 won a national award for best short documentary. Rick Manning asked for the rationale for starting the  
42 research & education center before the museum is established. John said the site was an absolute bargain,  
43 with a large building and lakefront, located less than a mile from the museum.  
44

45 **IV. Committee Reports – Streams:** Dan Karig reported the Salmon Creek gage situation is being  
46 investigated and the committee is drafting a letter of support from WRC to the Town of Lansing for  
47 continuing use of the gage. There are five gages in Tompkins County, but they are used for different  
48 purposes. Water Quality Strategy: Bill George reported the committee met and continued with their review.  
49 They expect to bring an interim report to the September or October WRC meeting. Aquifer: Dan Karig  
50 reported they are focusing on the arsenic fact sheet for the rest of this year. It is something they hope to  
51 make available to all County residents. He noted almost 10% of tested wells in the County exceed the  
52 recommended maximum level. Fay Benson pointed out they need more than how to identify it, they need to  
53 have ideas for treating it or getting rid of it. Dan said reverse osmosis does not work on A3, and it is difficult  
54 to get labs to separate A3 and A5. The committee will bring a draft document to a fall meeting of WRC.  
55 Grants: Craig Schutt reported NYS is counting prior funding as part of the new contract, so there are  
56 difficulties getting FLOWPA projects done.

57  
58 **V. Hydrilla Task Force Update –** Roxy Johnston reported the Endothal treatment was applied 6/26, in one  
59 day. Signage has met DEC regulations. Bob Johnson reported 100% die back at 200 sites checked, except at  
60 the fish ladder. The fish ladder has had further examination, and is now free of hydrilla. The timing for  
61 herbicide application was probably perfect. With the Inlet remaining open, Flurodone was applied last  
62 Thursday in pellets and a liquid release form. The Task Force had a hydrilla table at the Dragonboat Festival  
63 last weekend. Treman Marina staff reports customers are developing good habits, and check with the boat  
64 steward upon arrival. Other information is being prepared for distribution at State Parks. Hydrilla Happy  
65 Hours are being suspended, as there were no attendees last time. The table at the Farmers Market will  
66 continue through July. Concerning funding, a call is scheduled tomorrow with DEC about accessing funds.  
67 The Task Force expects a letter from the Senate Finance Committee releasing invasives funding solely for  
68 hydrilla treatment. They are working with others, too, to develop gatekeeper financial systems. Education  
69 partners will be getting funds from Aid to Localities. The State Parks funding is OK, and the contract with  
70 SWCD is almost complete. Total funding is \$1.2 million, but that includes contingency funds that will be  
71 needed if hydrilla is found in Cayuga Lake. Frank said there has been some discussion about making money  
72 available through the County tourism program, and Task Force members should contact Tom Knipe (TCPD)  
73 and Fred Bonn (CVB). Roxy said all staff and interns are tracking their hours and hard costs now, as  
74 reimbursement may become available. Craig said DEC has started their GLRI process for next year's  
75 funding, so already have committed the same amount as this year for hydrilla. DEC can prioritize which  
76 invasive species are targeted for treatment. Roxy said the Task Force met with Senator Schumer in Watkins  
77 Glen on 7/3, which she characterized as a big political show with Army Corps of Engineers, EPA, and Fish  
78 & Wildlife being present. Neighboring counties need funds to help with education and identification  
79 programs. We might get some support from other agencies concerning release of funding. Craig appeared  
80 on Channel 10 News, speaking on hydrilla, in a segment taped the day of herbicide application. Frank  
81 pointed out the lead-in was about hydrilla in Cayuga Lake and asked if that can be corrected to the Inlet.

82  
83 **VI. Chair's Report --** Frank said the County Legislature requests a Hydrilla status report, which should be  
84 arranged with Cathy Covert. The draft local law is on the Legislature's agenda 7/17 with public hearing at  
85 5:30. Roxy said discussion on penalties has been one thing that is holding it up, and the Task Force wants  
86 this law on the books, then the Legislature can come back and set fines. Dooley Kiefer pointed out they also  
87 need to define law enforcement agencies.

88  
89 **VII. Announcements/Other Business –** Frank asked Rick Manning to write up his request concerning the  
90 Recreation Committee for discussion at the September meeting.

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92 **VIII. Adjournment –** The meeting was adjourned at 5:42.

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94 Respectfully submitted,  
95 Kathy Wilsea, Secretary, Tompkins County Planning Department.  
96 Adopted by the Council on \_\_\_\_\_, 2012.