

TOMPKINS COUNTY WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL

**October 17, 2011
Meeting Minutes**

Voting Members Present (13): Sharon Anderson, Liz Cameron, Carol Chock, Barry Goodrich, Roxy Johnston, Dan Karig, Darby Kiley, Lynn Leopold, Jim McGarry, Frank Proto, Elaine Quaroni, Marjory Rinaldo-Lee, Mary Shelley

Voting Members Excused (6): Bill Garthwaite, Joan Jurkowich, Rick Manning, Gregg McConnell, Cindy Schulte, Craig Schutt

Voting Member Absent (1): Ed Bugliosi

Non-Voting Members Present (7): John Andersson (Associate), Dooley Kiefer (Associate), Jose Lozano (Associate), John Mawdsley (Associate), Todd Miller (Ex-Officio), Steve Penningroth (Associate), Linda Wagenet (Associate)

Guests Present (2): Tom Evans, William George

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

Chairman 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 September 19, 2011 were moved by Lynn Leopold, seconded by Barry Goodrich and passed by voice vote with one change. Frank thanked Barry Goodrich for leading meetings when Frank had to attend County Legislature budget meetings. He and other Legislators will need to leave early today to attend another budget meeting. Tompkins County passed partial funding for the treatment of the invasive species Hydrilla in Cayuga Inlet. Bill George, who has applied for a seat on WRC, was introduced and he spoke briefly of his background and interests in water resources.

Hydrilla Update – Roxy Johnston reported the treatment was completed in 95 acres of the Inlet, but the plant has also been found from the Rt 79 bridge to the fish ladder, and up Sixmile Creek and Linderman Creek. DEC would not allow change to the acreage in the permit, so they proceeded with the original plan for treatment. Bob Johnson is now collecting plant samples, but it is difficult to determine whether having Hydrilla die off is a result of the weather or is herbicide-induced. Holly Menninger and Bob Johnson are checking the flood control channel south of the Rt 79 bridge, and working with Ithaca College crew on their ability to practice. There are no plans yet for 2012, and no funding mechanism. Fisheries staff will do training in Watkins Glen so people would identify Hydrilla if it is found in Seneca Lake. DEC staff was only here the day of the herbicide application and today for a check. The task force is working with NYS and Inlet users to form a plan for the future.

Liz Cameron and Jose Lozano spoke of water quality monitoring. All test results are in expected ranges, and the herbicide was detected in the lake immediately outside the application area. Liz said they cannot be sure if recent rains had a diluting effect or a pushing effect. Roxy pointed out the herbicide should dissipate in seven days, and in two to three weeks we should see plants turn black and degrade on site. The task force is trying to get information from Maine and Minnesota on turions in northern climates. They hope the treatment prevented turion production here. The governor is the only one who can authorize treatment this year south of the Rt 79 bridge. Roxy stressed we need to get NYS on board for next spring. There is no rapid-response way for NYS to act right now. Maurice Hinchey and some other legislators are trying to set up a meeting with Governor Cuomo.

Presentation of Recommended Slate for Appointments – Marjory Rinaldo-Lee reported for the Nominating/Membership Committee. The committee met and agreed on a slate, and Marjory reviewed recommendations.

Applications, committee tools and copies of recruiting materials were passed around. There were no applicants other than those recommended for appointment. Vote of council to approve the slate is scheduled for the November meeting. Carol Chock discussed the Legislature's goals of diversity and inclusion, and stressed we should do as much as possible to make the public aware of our recruiting rounds.

Chair's Report – Because Frank will need to leave early, he gave his report at this time. He mentioned an article in the FYI folder on Dominion beefing up pipes in Ellis Hollow for transport of natural gas. When members asked if WRC should provide comments, he said it is not a situation that we can impact, as Dominion has the right to make these changes under their existing permit.

Comments to DEC on Gas Drilling dSGEIS – Marjory Rinaldo-Lee led discussion for the committee. She pointed out there are two documents out right now, the updated draft supplemental GEIS, and the draft regulations. DEC requests electronic submission of comments, and we are not allowed to repeat our previous comments. This updated document addressed some of our prior comments. She invited suggestions from members today, but pointed out the committee requests that any suggestions include specific proposed language. She also noted that edits can be submitted separately. Three new documents may be referenced and included as attachments: (1) a map provided by Todd Miller showing geologic faults in NYS (Jacobi, 2002), (2) a water source setback map recently prepared by the GIS Analyst at Tompkins County Planning Dept., and (3) a resolution before PDEQ and the County Legislature requesting as much protection for Tompkins County and Finger Lakes watersheds as DEC intends for those of New York City and Syracuse.

Frank, Dooley Kiefer and Carol Chock had to leave at 5:40 PM. Frank took a moment to mention an email received from the Village of Groton that the Village received their WQIP payment from New York State for their wastewater treatment plant. Chuck Rankin had reported on that project early in 2011 at a WRC meeting and promised to let us know when the funding arrived. Frank then turned the meeting over to Barry Goodrich.

Discussion returned to the draft comments to DEC. Barry said TetraTech is developing a treatment for backflow water to remove impurities and return the cleansed water for reuse in the drilling industry. Solids would be disposed of. One plant in Pennsylvania will be up and running in about four months, and they plan a plant in NYS also. Marjory ended discussion by reminding members that the committee wants specific language included in suggestions that members submit.

Adjournment – Committees will report at the November meeting. There were no announcements. The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Wilsea, Planning Department Secretary
Adopted by the Council on November 21, 2011