

TOMPKINS COUNTY WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL

**November 15, 2010
Meeting Minutes**

Voting Members Present (17): Ed Bugliosi, Carol Chock, Barry Goodrich, Roxy Johnston, Joan Jurkowich, Dan Karig, Darby Kiley, Lynn Leopold, Rick Manning, Gregg McConnell, Jim McGarry, Frank Proto, Elaine Quaroni, Marjory Rinaldo-Lee, Cindy Schulte, Craig Schutt, Mary Shelley

Voting Members Excused (2): Sharon Anderson, Liz Cameron

Non-Voting Members Present (2): Todd Miller (Ex Officio), Linda Wagenet (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 – Kathy Wilsea was unable to schedule a guest speaker for today’s meeting. The draft minutes of October 18, 2010 were moved by Roxy Johnston and seconded by Lynn Leopold. Dan Karig provided correct spelling of a contact mentioned in the Streams Committee report, which was changed from Roth to Roof. The amended minutes passed by voice vote.

Vote re Slate for Appointments – Cindy Schulte reported members of the Nominating/Membership Committee received no comments on their proposed slate. Cindy reviewed the recommendations of the committee, and the nomination materials were available for review. The committee recommends reappointment of members who applied for new terms, appointment of Damon Rodnac and Bill Garthwaite to voting seats, appointment of Helen Slottje and Tom Vawter as new associate members, and reappointment of Dooley Kiefer and John Andersson as associate members. Slate moved by Cindy, seconded by Craig Schutt, and passed by unanimous show of hands. Appointment of voting members will proceed to the Legislature’s PDEQ Committee on 12/1.

Committee Reports – Cayuga Lake Monitoring Partnership: Roxy Johnston reported they tried to do a whirlwind discussion on the proposed Chesapeake TMDLs. As a group, they did not reach consensus. She provided a summary to the Executive Committee. The monitoring group then discussed it further at their monthly meeting and may come up with some general suggestions for the entire County, such as stream setbacks and improved ditching practices. These might also be cost savers. EPA will have a listening session on the Chesapeake TMDLs tomorrow from 1-3 online. The IO is working on a grant application to update the Restoration and Protection Plan, and the update might put the Monitoring Plan into the RPP. This would help when applying for grants. Todd Miller said he has a point person at USGS that he can put Roxy in touch with concerning TMDLs. Frank Proto said the Executive Committee approved the short version of the TMDL resolution, as edited by Dooley Kiefer, and sent it to EPA as WRC comment. The County Legislature was split, and did not approve comments. This issue has multiple facets and multiple opinions, and the Monitoring Plan Committee can choose to follow up if they want to. Roxy said the committee will probably continue to examine this, as TMDLs may be coming to the Great Lakes watershed.

Wetlands: Darby Kiley reported the draft local law has gone to Helen Slottje for review. Frank asked that the whole council get a chance to see it, too.

Aquifers: Todd Miller said they are still working on new contracts. Frank said it remains as a County capital program.

Dredging: Dan Karig said he has heard nothing new. Roxy, Darby, and Linda Wagenet attended a meeting on water topics over the weekend, and said Liz Moran provided a bit of update. Linda said issues between ACOE and DEC remain to be resolved.

Recreation: This committee has not been active in 2010. Dan Karig said he still has an interest in providing a paddlers' dock. Mary Shelley is still in touch with the Farmers Market on this. The Farmers Market is willing to have the dock there, but can't handle the liability. Dan spoke with Cynthia Brock of the City Board of Public Works, and Cynthia says they are now willing to handle the liability, but want a purchased dock instead of a handbuilt one. Dan will contact Ed Marx about possible ways for the County to contribute to the cost. Dan prefers a different site by the golf course, since he realized the amount of traffic for the Farmers Market would prevent paddlers from having good access to a dock on weekends.

Gas Drilling: This committee has not needed to meet lately, but Dan Karig asked if any WRC members had information on gelled LPG in addition to the Chevron article he sent around by email. A geology student in CU's Dept of Natural Resources contacted someone in the industry, who said Marcellus is within the parameters of gel LPG use, but they wouldn't use it here for environmental reasons. He found the product of interest because it can be reused. Craig Schutt said the TC Council of Government's task force on gas drilling discussed LPG a while ago, and someone had reasons it wouldn't be used here. Darby said she would welcome any other information on LPG.

Education: Elaine Quaroni said they are looking for suggestions for 2011 goals.

Executive: Frank Proto said they sent the resolution to EPA, as mentioned earlier.

Grants: Craig Schutt said WQIP grants have been announced, and Tompkins County got \$35,000. Some of that can be used for WRC projects. SWCD applied for a grant to replace the hydroseeder and received \$200,000 for equipment, supplies and staff time.

Streams: Dan Karig said the last meeting only had four members present. They talked about synopsis of the Susquehanna basin withdrawal regulations. One is "low flow pass by", when withdrawals cease or have further requirements for obtaining permits. The Great Lakes watershed covers much of Tompkins County, and is not in the Susquehanna regulations. If Great Lakes adopts withdrawal regulations, Dan has pointed out to Roxy that the City drinking water plant would fall under these regs. Also, RPM EcoSystems has a permit, but is not using much water right now. There is a possibility that streams will be sucked dry when hydrofracturing starts. Roxy said Susan Riha spoke of that at the meeting over the weekend. Susan feels there is plenty of water, but timing withdrawals is important. Frank asked Darby if anything in the model wetlands regulations would affect streams. Darby said yes, it is written for both but she expects municipalities to be more interested in wetlands. Frank said when Landstrom Landfill on Hillview Road constructed a wetland as part of the closing project, there was money available for the wetland because it provides filtration.

Waterfront Trail: Frank asked Rick Manning to provide a status report. Rick said this is a City of Ithaca project, paved by a contractor. Phase III connects the Farmers Market to the Chamber of Commerce by passing IAWWTP, Newman golf course, Stewart Park and the Youth Bureau. It is 12 feet wide. A bioswale is being constructed by Cascadilla Creek, and a nice boardwalk will run between the pedestrian bridges. The worst drainage is near the Transit Center. Concerning Phase II, NYSDOT has taken over the easement acquisition process, and it looks like it will be two more years before Phase II is constructed. Part of the path is through Canal Corporation land, and transfer will need to go through the State Legislature. Crossings of Rte 13/34 at Dey and Third streets have been enhanced with use of grant funds. Phase II has been time consuming because of the railroad. Also, Bob Andre owns a very small piece of land and is opposed to the trail. Overall, this is a multi-use trail with no unauthorized motorized vehicles. A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held for Phase III on 11/29 at the Chamber of Commerce.

Chair Report – Frank Proto reminded committee chairs they will need to submit articles for the Annual Report. Copies of the Chesapeake TMDL resolution are available in the mail folder. Vote on the County budget will take place tomorrow night. Carol Chock acknowledged this has been a very difficult process. Frank announced the council will be electing officers for 2011 at the January meeting, and any members who are interested in serving should contact Cindy Schulte. There are also two other seats on the Executive Committee. Roxy encouraged members to volunteer.

Announcements/Other Business – Darby Kiley said she visited with Kate Hackett recently. Kate is doing well and says hi to all.

Adjournment -- The meeting was adjourned at 5:43 PM.

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