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## TOMPKINS COUNTY WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL

**November 19, 2012  
Draft Meeting Minutes**

**Voting Members Present (13):** Sharon Anderson, Fay Benson, Liz Cameron, Bill George, Barry Goodrich, Roxy Johnston, Joan Jurkowich, Dan Karig, Darby Kiley, Lynn Leopold, Jim McGarry, Frank Proto, Elaine Quaroni, Marjory Rinaldo-Lee, Craig Schutt, Mary Shelley

**Voting Members Excused (5):** Rick Manning, Gregg McConnell

**Voting Members Absent (1):** Ed Bugliosi

**Non-Voting Members Present (#):** John Andersson, Dooley Kiefer, Jose Lozano, Todd Miller, Linda Wagenet

**Guests Present:** Linda Aarismaa (Cornell), Tom Evans (STERPDB), Jean Foley (DEC), Nick Hollinghead, Ajay Raghowa (Cornell), Irene Weiser, Wade Wykstra

**Staff Present:** Kathy Wilsea

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

**Agenda Review and Approval of Minutes** – The SPDES permit for Lake Source cooling will be part of the Cayuga Lake Monitoring Plan committee report. Tom Evans of Southern Tier East Regional Planning & Development Board asked for a couple minutes, and that will be address under Announcements/Other Business. Draft minutes were accepted with corrections of typos. Final minutes are available on the WRC website: <http://www.tompkins-co.org/planning/committees/WRC/WRCagendaminutes.htm> Guests were introduced.

**Wetlands Delineation** – Jean Foley, Habitat Biologist for DEC’s Cortland office, provided a handout on navigation aids for using the DEC website. She said wetlands are defined by the presence of hydrophilic vegetation. Many aspects of wetlands are valuable, including flood control, pollution control, and recreation. New York State has approximately one million acres of wetlands that are not on hydrology maps. The original mapping of wetlands was done in the 1970s and 1980s. DEC-protected wetlands have 100-foot buffers. Actual boundaries are established by field visits. DEC wetlands are available on line at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/38801.html> (popups must be allowed, need to use “refresh” at the bottom whenever changing layers). DEC is aware their maps are problematic and seek ways to do updates. The Army Corps of Engineers regulates wetlands connected to bodies of water, but does not provide on-line maps. Fish & Wildlife provides maps that include ACOE wetlands, at <http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/datamapper.html>

Updates are typically begun when a municipality or landowner asks for review. Better technology has become available, and reviews may include aerial photos, soil classification, infrared photos, and comparison to the national wetlands inventory. The many aspects are combined into a GIS program, subjective decisions are made, and staff conducts field visits when invited onto the property. Amendments are ongoing. Major candidate areas are selected from many resources, and

change categories can be add/subtract, substantial boundary revisions, extension of the 100 foot boundary, and change in Unusual Local Importance status. Minor candidates include small boundary revisions, wetland identification changes, and other technical map errors. Classification changes are based on benefits and quality, and whether the wetland qualifies for protection under four classes: (1) pristine, or rare in urban setting, (2) typical), (3) and (4) levels of invasive species and degradation. The amendment procedure states it is preferable to do the whole USGS quadrangle at one time. The local office prepares revisions and provides documentation to the State office, which completes the classification. The overall process includes notice to landowners, public meetings, notice to the public, notice to local governments and providing maps to municipal clerks. A public hearing is possible. Field work will examine boundaries if staff is invited onto the property. Next phases are summary reports, Decision & Order (published in Environmental Notice Bulletin), reprint maps and class sheets, and distribution of final maps.

For private property owners, staff could only do delineation. If the property owners wants that finalized, they need to hire a surveyor and have the new survey added to the land records. If unrecorded, the delineation lasts three years. Delineation work can also be submitted by private contractors, and DEC staff would do spot checks.

**Approval of Membership Slate** – Barry Goodrich reported for the Nominating Committee. They met today and prepared a recommended slate which included some movement among seats and changes from associate to voting membership.

At-Large: vacant (*amended to Andersson*)

At-Large: Manning (from Business/Industry)

At-Large: Scott Carpenter (from associate)

At-Large: Proto (reappointment)

Municipal: Kiley (from at-large)

Watershed Org: Goodrich (reappointment)

Planning Dept: Jurkowich (reappointment)

Business/Industry: vacant (*amended to Dwyer*)

Environment: Rinaldo-Lee (reappointment)

USGS Ex-Officio: Bugliosi

Associates: Miller, Andersson, Kiefer, Lozano, Mawdsley, Shelley, Vawter, Dwyer

Joan Jurkowich said she would vote no on this slate because qualified applicants could be appointed to vacant voting seats. She suggested appointing Dwyer in the Business/Industry seat. John Andersson was willing to move from associate to At-Large. Slate for voting seats moved with those amendments by Marjory Rinaldo-Lee, seconded by Roxy Johnston and passed by unanimous show of hands. Slate for remaining Associates (*Andersson and Dwyer removed*) moved by Jim McGarry, seconded by Craig Schutt and passed by unanimous show of hands. Slate for voting seats will proceed to PDEQ and the County Legislature. Today's action recommends filling all voting seats except the County Legislature liaison.

**Water Quality Strategy Implementation** – WQS was finalized last month. Motion by Joan to have WRC action items implemented per the recommendations in the WQS. Seconded by Liz Cameron and passed unanimously by show of hands.

**Committee Reports** – Aquifer: Todd Miller reported he is preparing a PowerPoint presentation for the next WRC meeting. Joan continues to interact with Enfield about the possibility of doing a study there, and Enfield's interest in stretching expenses over five years is being discussed. Groton is not ready, but discussing. Irene Weiser, visiting for Caroline Watersheds Committee, said Caroline might be interested in adding to their previous studies to include study aspects that were not included when the studies were conducted. Danby and Newfield might partner on a study of the Cayuga Inlet area.

Education: Sharon Anderson said they continue working with the Hydrilla Task Force on outreach materials. Bob Johnson's data will be studied over the winter. Roxy warned that DEC signs can't come down yet.

Grants: Craig reports WQMA funds for admin were received last week. There was discussion about using part for Hydrilla outreach, as that is not funded by other grants. The \$775,000 Hydrilla grant is signed and executed, and Craig submitted the first voucher today for 25%. Funds go to FLOWPA and SWCD is a subcontractor. Part of the grant will be used to create a program manager job at SWCD, to help with permits and coordinate other aspects of Hydrilla control over a three-year period.

Streams: Dan Karig reported the draft letter discussed at WRC in September is moot. Other sources of funding will pay for the Salmon Creek gaging station.

Wetlands: Darby reported the committee is discussing with Nick Hollingshead the possibility of remapping wetlands in Tompkins County.

Cayuga Lake Monitoring Partnership: Roxy said the DEC permit is being revisited, so the partnership met. The permit has been under administrative extension to 12/19/2012. Total Maximum Daily Loads are not required in all instances, but DEC is moving in that direction. TMDL are meant to target non-point source pollution. The existing permit conditions include no limit on phosphorus. But now that the southern end of Cayuga Lake is on the 303D Impaired Water bodies list, a phosphorus limit must be established. Roxy expects 4.8 pounds per day will be the limit within five years. The monitoring program will end in 2013 and in its place will be a watershed modeling project, with community engagement as part of the process. Following study, DEC would establish TMDLs. An entrainment study at the intake point would check if best technology is in use. Consideration is being given to moving the outfall to a deeper part of the lake. Most of the phosphorus is coming from tributaries. The Town of Ithaca had concerns about the proposed permit, and part of those concerns could have been prevented with understanding of the difference between monthly averages and weekly reporting values. There was discussion about the meeting at the Town of Ithaca and the role of DEC in keeping the community informed. It was agreed to form an ad hoc committee to draft comment(s) or resolution(s) on TMDL and the LSC permit. Document(s) will be circulated to WRC members by 11/29, comments will be due to Roxy by 12/6, and Executive Committee will wrap it up the week of 12/10.

**Chair and Staff Reports** – No reports. Meeting dates for January and February 2013 were each postponed one week due to holidays.

**Announcements** – Tom Evans reported he has attended some training conferences on stormwater and green infrastructure, and met with the Stormwater Coalition of Tompkins County. He welcomes workshop ideas suitable for private and public entities. Jose Lozano announced local weather data are now available at [www.ithacawaters.org](http://www.ithacawaters.org)

**Adjournment** -- The meeting was adjourned at 6:29 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathy Wilsea, Secretary  
Tompkins County Planning Department.

Adopted by the Council on December 17, 2012.