

# TOMPKINS COUNTY WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL

**December 21, 2009  
Meeting Minutes**

**Voting Members Present (13):** Sharon Anderson, Liz Cameron, Joan Jurkowich, Dan Karig, Darby Kiley, Gregg McConnell, Jim McGarry, Frank Proto, Elaine Quaroni, Cindy Schulte, Craig Schutt, Mary Shelley, Linda Wagenet

**Voting Members Excused (6):** Will Burbank, Ed Bugliosi, Donna Eschenbrenner, Barry Goodrich, Roxy Johnston, Rick Manning

**Voting Members Absent (1):** Bud Shattuck

**Non-Voting Members Present (4):** John Andersson (Associate), Dooley Kiefer (Associate), Todd Miller (Ex-Officio), Marjory Rinaldo-Lee (Associate)

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

**Guests Present (1):** Hilary Lambert

Chairman Frank Proto called the meeting of the Water Resources Council to order at 4:21 PM.

**Agenda Review and Approval of Minutes** – Linda Wagenet asked to include information on the medications return event, which will be addressed in Other Business. The draft minutes of November 16, 2009 were moved by Craig Schutt, seconded by Cindy Schulte and passed by voice vote without change.

**Announcement of Election of Officers** – Craig Schutt reported for the Nominating/ Membership Committee that Frank Proto is willing to continue as Chairman and Joan Jurkowich is willing (although reluctant) to serve as a vice chair. Darby Kiley announced Roxy Johnston is willing to continue as a vice chair. Barry Goodrich had not responded to inquiries. There were no nominations from the floor. It was the sense of the body to approve this slate: Frank Proto for Chairman, Roxy Johnston for First Vice Chair, and Barry Goodrich for Second Vice Chair. If Barry is unwilling to serve, Joan will serve as Second Vice Chair.

**Establish Meeting Dates for January & February, 2010** – It was agreed to hold the January meeting on 1/25 and the February meeting on 2/22. As suggested in the recommendations on administrative support, the January meeting will be for the Executive Committee and committee chairs only. Frank announced that TCAT is instituting security measures, as they are concerned about occasions when the door has been propped open. The parameters will be distributed to WRC members by email.

**Recommendations on Administrative Support** – A resolution was tabled at the November meeting. Craig Schutt moved to consider the resolution, which was seconded by Cindy Schulte and passed by voice vote. Since the WRC November meeting, funding was restored to the Planning Department budget, and administrative support will continue. The recommendations attached to the resolution will be discussed further by the Executive Committee and committee chairs at the January meeting. Elaine Quaroni moved to withdraw the resolution, which was seconded by Joan and passed by unanimous voice vote.

**Committee Reports -- MS4 *ad hoc*:** Frank announced the committee re-convened with Leslie Schill of the Planning Department, and they have sent comments to DEC. The letter was signed and mailed, then we received notice from DEC that the comment period was extended. Craig Schutt said the letter included requests for clarification on MS4 boundaries being expanded, as it is unclear if villages now must comply, and they asked some questions concerning Groton, which is in the Owasco watershed. Cindy Schulte said she found the inclusion of stormwater regulations for logging interesting. Frank said the letter was copied to MS4 municipalities and the Village and Town of Groton, and requested copies of correspondence between DEC and the municipalities. Frank also extended special thanks to the Gas Drilling ad hoc committee. Their comments were finalized by the Executive Committee and signed. A staff member of Senator Thompson, chair of the Environmental Conservation Committee, commented it is the most comprehensive document (received as draft) they received to date. Linda Wagenet noted that Liz Cameron kept them on track for making only technical comments.

**Aquifer:** Todd Miller reported the committee has continued to work on how the data can be posted on the web. He will

send Kathy Wilsea some charts next week so they can be emailed and reviewed by all WRC members. He gave a status report on the Caroline, Dryden and Danby studies, and said the Pony Hollow study is ready to begin. Frank said there were questions during the County budget process on the capital program to fund the County portion of the study expenses. We need to protect this program, and Frank suggested Todd visit the County Legislature in a few months to speak of its importance.

Cayuga Lake Recreation: Dan Karig reported he and Rick Manning looked at possible sites 12/8. The original site at the Farmers Market still looks OK and is being tweaked. Dan went to a meeting of the Farmers Market where he answered questions and shared in the discussion. They seemed OK with the original site. Mary Shelley will contact to confirm that. The City's Board of Public Works needs to pass a resolution, then funding can proceed. This will entail posts and framework for 16' x 6' float with a ramp connecting it to the shore. The Recreation Committee met to discuss possible committee agenda items. Rick Manning updated them on plans for Stewart Park. The committee will interact with the Friends of Stewart Park on public boating, and maybe look for a vendor for rentals. They may interact with the Waterfront Trail.

Dredging: Dan Karig said he has heard a rumor that the City's Southwest Park area was chosen for spoils dewatering. If this is the case, spoils will need to be pumped over the railroad tracks, and the distance is beyond optimal range. While the area is called Southwest Park, it is not officially designated as a park. It is planned for a mixed housing development. Spoils cannot be placed anywhere that is officially parkland.

Education: Elaine Quaroni reported she is collecting the guest editorials by members of the WRC/CU Monitoring Plan Committee that are being published in the Ithaca Journal.

Executive: Frank Proto reported the comments to DEC on the gas drilling dSCEIS were finalized.

Gas Drilling *ad hoc*: Liz Cameron reported they finalized the comments to DEC and are now working on out-of-scope comments. Frank suggested having the County Attorney review the out-of-scope comments. Dan Karig asked if committee members read the IJ Viewpoint by Richard Allmendinger. Several had, and a copy was in the mail folder. Linda Wagenet said she attended a meeting in Ellis Hollow on gas drilling, which included two people from the industry. She said comments were respectful and discussion was interesting. Frank commented he also attended the Ellis Hollow meeting, and feels that sites near existing pipelines will be drilled first. Linda said Tompkins is not a prime target, and it is probably down the list of priorities.

Grants: Craig Schutt reported SWCD has been awarded two HUD grants, which total almost \$760,000, for Fall Creek and Salmon Creek projects. They finally received some stormwater grant funds. Great Lakes Initiative RFPs are starting to be released. He expects first round of grants to go to areas nearer the lakes, but eventually the whole watershed will be reached. County LIDAR data is proceeding to usable datasets. More partners are signing up to share expenses.

WRC/CU Monitoring Plan: Darby Kiley reported that they met to work on goals and objectives. A grant application to EPA is being organized for environmental education. Hilary Lambert, Network Steward, commented that this projects has shown how the members can work together and what roles they can play.

Wetlands: Darby Kiley reported they are finalizing the model municipal ordinance and would like the County Attorney to review the draft.

**Chair Report** – Frank Proto reminded committee chairs we need their articles for the Annual Report. He said a gas well is being drilled in the Town of Dryden at Ferguson and Irish Settlement Roads. The Town was never notified. DEC says it was posted on their website. There was discussion among members on road and powerline activity in the area. Hilary Lambert said she saw the planning document, and the well is within 500' of two houses. Part of the discussion was whether the company can do a vertical drill to the deeper Trenton level and then come back and frack in the shallower Marcellus level. Cindy said they would need a new permit, and Marjory said they would need leases for more acreage.

**Other Business** – Linda Wagenet reported a group has organized to conduct a pharmaceutical return day 3/6 at the Transit Center. They expect to accept prescription drugs and sharps. Ed Gottleib of the Ithaca Area Wastewater Treatment Plant is the force behind this event. Rx materials will be sorted and carried by law enforcement officials to Oswego for incineration. Sharps will be incinerated at Cornell. Permits are in place. The group, the Coalition for Safe Medication Returns, seeks a letter of support concerning their goals of keeping pharmaceuticals out of the waste stream and the lake, and keeping drugs out of the hands of drug users. The consensus of members was to provide a letter of support, which Linda will draft. Craig Schutt reported a Presidential Proclamation has been signed to establish TMDL for the Chesapeake Bay watershed. He will attend a workshop in Binghamton on benchmarks being established by EPA. Compliance plans are due to EPA in the summer.

**Adjournment** -- The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Wilsea, Planning Department Secretary  
Adopted by the Council on February 22, 2010.