

**TOMPKINS COUNTY
WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL**

Monday, December 17, 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. | Aquifer Committee Report on 2012 Work - <i>Todd Miller</i> | 4:20 |
| III. | Finalizing Comments to DEC
- <i>ad hoc committee re LSC Permit and TMDLs</i> | 5:00 |
| IV. | Committee Reports
Cayuga Lake Monitoring Partnership
Education
Executive
Gas Drilling ad hoc Committee
Grants
Nominating/Membership
Streams
Wetlands | 5:20 |
| V. | Chair & Staff Reports | 5:40 |
| VI. | Announcements/Other Business | 5:45 |
| VII. | Adjournment | 6:00pm |

Upcoming Meeting Dates: January 28, February 25

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

**TOMPKINS COUNTY
WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL**

**November 19, 2012
Draft Meeting Minutes**

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

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

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

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

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

16 **Staff Present:** Kathy Wilsea

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

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

27
28 **Wetlands Delineation** – Jean Foley, Habitat Biologist for DEC’s Cortland office, provided a handout
29 on navigation aids for using the DEC website. She said wetlands are defined by the presence of
30 hydrophilic vegetation. Many aspects of wetlands are valuable, including flood control, pollution
31 control, and recreation. New York State has approximately one million acres of wetlands that are not on
32 hydrology maps. The original mapping of wetlands was done in the 1970s and 1980s. DEC-protected
33 wetlands have 100-foot buffers. Actual boundaries are established by field visits. DEC wetlands are
34 available on line at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/38801.html> (popups must be allowed, need to use
35 “refresh” at the bottom whenever changing layers). DEC is aware their maps are problematic and seek
36 ways to do updates. The Army Corps of Engineers regulates wetlands connected to bodies of water, but
37 does not provide on-line maps. Fish & Wildlife provides maps that include ACOE wetlands, at
38 <http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/datamapper.html>

39
40 Updates are typically begun when a municipality or landowner asks for review. Better technology
41 has become available, and reviews may include aerial photos, soil classification, infrared photos,
42 and comparison to the national wetlands inventory. The many aspects are combined into a GIS
43 program, subjective decisions are made, and staff conducts field visits when invited onto the
44 property. Amendments are ongoing. Major candidate areas are selected from many resources, and

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

57
58 For private property owners, staff could only do delineation. If the property owners wants that
59 finalized, they need to hire a surveyor and have the new survey added to the land records. If
60 unrecorded, the delineation lasts three years. Delineation work can also be submitted by private
61 contractors, and DEC staff would do spot checks.

62
63 **Approval of Membership Slate** – Barry Goodrich reported for the Nominating Committee. They met
64 today and prepared a recommended slate which included some movement among seats and changes
65 from associate to voting membership.

66 At-Large: vacant (<i>amended to Andersson</i>)	At-Large: Manning (from Business/Industry)
67 At-Large: Scott Carpenter (from associate)	At-Large: Proto (reappointment)
68 Municipal: Kiley (from at-large)	Watershed Org: Goodrich (reappointment)
69 Planning Dept: Jurkowich (reappointment)	Business/Industry: vacant (<i>amended to Dwyer</i>)
70 Environment: Rinaldo-Lee (reappointment)	USGS Ex-Officio: Bugliosi
71 Associates: Miller, Andersson, Kiefer, Lozano, Mawdsley, Shelley, Vawter, Dwyer	

72
73 Joan Jurkowich said she would vote no on this slate because qualified applicants could be appointed to
74 vacant voting seats. She suggested appointing Dwyer in the Business/Industry seat. John Andersson
75 was willing to move from associate to At-Large. Slate for voting seats moved with those amendments
76 by Marjory Rinaldo-Lee, seconded by Roxy Johnston and passed by unanimous show of hands. Slate
77 for remaining Associates (*Andersson and Dwyer removed*) moved by Jim McGarry, seconded by Craig
78 Schutt and passed by unanimous show of hands. Slate for voting seats will proceed to PDEQ and the
79 County Legislature. Today's action recommends filling all voting seats except the County Legislature
80 liaison.

81
82 **Water Quality Strategy Implementation** – WQS was finalized last month. Motion by Joan to have
83 WRC action items implemented per the recommendations in the WQS. Seconded by Liz Cameron and
84 passed unanimously by show of hands.

85
86 **Committee Reports** – Aquifer: Todd Miller reported he is preparing a PowerPoint presentation for the
87 next WRC meeting. Joan continues to interact with Enfield about the possibility of doing a study there,
88 and Enfield's interest in stretching expenses over five years is being discussed. Groton is not ready, but
89 discussing. Irene Weiser, visiting for Caroline Watersheds Committee, said Caroline might be
90 interested in adding to their previous studies to include study aspects that were not included when the
91 studies were conducted. Danby and Newfield might partner on a study of the Cayuga Inlet area.

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

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

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

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

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

120
121 **Chair and Staff Reports** – No reports. Meeting dates for January and February 2013 were each
122 postponed one week due to holidays.

123
124 **Announcements** – Tom Evans reported he has attended some training conferences on stormwater and
125 green infrastructure, and met with the Stormwater Coalition of Tompkins County. He welcomes
126 workshop ideas suitable for private and public entities. Jose Lozano announced local weather data are
127 now available at www.ithacawaters.org

128
129 **Adjournment** -- The meeting was adjourned at 6:29 PM.

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131 Respectfully submitted,
132 Kathy Wilsea, Secretary
133 Tompkins County Planning Department.

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136 Adopted by the Council on _____, 2012.