

## TOMPKINS COUNTY WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL

November 17, 2025 Final Minutes

Via Zoom

Member		Seat	Member		Seat
Annie Bastoni	P	At-Large	Elaine Quaroni	P	Municipal Government
Shawn Bossard	P	Agriculture	Stephanie Redmond	A	At-Large
Cynthia Brock	P	Recreation	Steve Riddle	A	Water Purveyor
Amanda Champion	P	County Government	Graham Savio	P	Cooperative Extension
Brett Hayhurst	A	At-Large	Becky Sims	P	Municipal Government
Kristen Hychka	A	Municipal Government	Douglas Barnes	P	<i>Associate</i>
Darby Kiley	P	County Planning & Sustain.	Roxy Johnston	P	<i>Associate</i>
Liz Kreitinger	P	Watershed Organization	Patrick King	A	<i>Associate</i>
Andrew Murphy	P	At-Large	Lynn Leopold	P	<i>Associate</i>
Jon Negley	P	Soil & Water Cons. District	Rebecca Minas	A	<i>Associate</i>
Eileen O'Connor	P	Environment	Grascen Shidemantle	P	<i>Associate</i>
Holly Payne	E	At-Large	Tom Vawter	E	<i>Associate</i>
Frank Proto	P	At-Large			

**Guests:** Isaac Walker, Kathleen Yen

**Call to Order/Agenda Review** – Chair Cynthia Brock called meeting to order at 4:15pm. No changes to agenda.

**Privilege of the Floor** – There were no requests for privilege of the floor.

**Discussion/Review: TMDL Factsheet for Municipalities** – The Education Committee presented for the group's review a draft total daily maximum load (TMDL) factsheet aimed at municipal officials, planning boards, and town representatives, outlining pollution reduction targets to protect water quality and suggesting best management practices (BMPs) like road ditch seeding and rain gardens. Key suggested revisions included softening enforcement language to frame the TMDL as setting targets, changing the septic system target to "less than 1%," and spelling out CAFO (concentrated animal feeding operations). Distribution and outreach will involve municipal clerks, the County Legislature, and a presentation at a future Tompkins County Council of Governments meeting, with possible follow-up training sessions and plans to review the document every two to three years. The accompanying discussion focused on balancing regulatory tone with encouragement given the TMDL's non-enforceable nature, along with exploring funding sources, technical assistance availability from resources like NRCS, the Stormwater Coalition, and the DEC's Trees for Tribes program, and the extent to which municipalities are implementing BMPs and updating local codes. Municipalities are encouraged to use the listed organizations for project planning, technical support, and identifying funding. The group also discussed creating audience-specific versions of the factsheet, including for residents and homeowners.

**Action: Approval of draft minutes** – The October draft meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

### **Committee Reports**

**Education:** See discussion above regarding the TMDL factsheet.

**Drinking Water Protection:** The committee did not meet.

**Monitoring Partnership:** The committee did not meet.

**Municipal Training:** A site visit training is scheduled with Angel Hinickle from Tompkins County Soil and Water, who will show participants the Shelter Valley Stream project.

### **Chair and Staff Reports**

**Chair Report** – Cynthia updated the group on the biosolids resolution, including her presence and that of EMC chair Cait Darfler at the last PEEQ meeting, and reiterated past WRC concerns about the proposed moratorium including landfill capacity and potential unintended consequences. She reported that PEEQ adopted a resolution supporting state-level moratorium legislation and creating a County task force to examine PFAS in biosolids. Amanda noted the resolution is on the full Legislature agenda. Regarding the proposed data center, no official design or proposal has been submitted by TeraWulf, so the WRC is not commenting at this time.

**Staff Report** – Darby reported on numerous topics, beginning with Brett Hayhurst's upcoming PhD defense and his December presentation to the WRC on his research. She shared information about presentations by Deborah Aller from New York CORE (formerly the Waste Management Institute at Cornell), including one at the Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization meeting on November 19, and provided updates on the Six Mile Creek Stream Corridor Study, noting that Barton and Loguidice is conducting modeling and preparing for fieldwork while an online survey was sent to residents along Six Mile Creek in Dryden, Danby, and Caroline. She requested suggestions for presentation topics for upcoming WRC meetings.

**Member Announcements** – There were no member announcements.

**Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 5:27pm.