

Tompkins County Water Resources Council

Monday, April 20, 2026 4:15 – 5:45 PM

ZOOM Meeting ID: 952 3768 7310 Passcode: 826238

<https://tompkinscountyny-gov.zoom.us/j/95237687310?pwd=ZDBMVStUUUIMa3FYbVBMZjllNFp2Zz09>

One tap mobile: +16465588656,,95237687310# US (New York)

Agenda

1.	Call to order	4:15
2.	Privilege of the floor	4:15
3.	Changes to agenda	4:20
4.	Presentation: Forever Chemicals are Everywhere Except in our Drinking Water - <i>Susan Allen and Lily Hui, Ithaca College</i>	4:20
5.	Action: Approval of March draft minutes	5:00
6.	Action: Consider a resolution recognizing the Cayuga-Seneca Canal as part of the Cayuga Lake Watershed - <i>Isaac Walker, watershed manager, Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization</i>	5:05
7.	Action: Consider approval of Environmental Protection Fund letter	5:20
8.	Action: Recommend candidates for appointment – <i>Jon Negley, Membership & Nominating Committee</i>	5:25
9.	Committee reports - Education/Outreach - Monitoring Partnership - Municipal Training - Drinking Water Protection	5:30
10.	Chair and staff reports	5:35
11.	Member announcements	5:40
12.	Adjourn	5:45

Committee reporting form: <https://forms.gle/8EJRNFpP34sW5Fxq9>

Reminder to members: If you are unable to attend, please contact Kristin McCarthy, Administrative Assistant at kmmccarthy@tompkins-co.org or 607-274-5560

2026 meeting dates (third Monday for remainder of year):

May 18, June 15, July 20, August 18,
September 21, October 19, November 16, December 21

**WRC RESOLUTION 2026-01: RECOGNIZING
THE CAYUGA–SENECA CANAL AS PART OF
THE CAYUGA LAKE WATERSHED**

WHEREAS, the Cayuga Lake Watershed spans multiple municipalities and counties within the Finger Lakes region and includes tributaries and connected waterways that influence the hydrology and water quality of Cayuga Lake; and

WHEREAS, the Cayuga–Seneca Canal connects Cayuga Lake to Seneca Lake as well as the Seneca River to the Great Lakes and functions as a managed waterway within the regional hydrologic system; and

WHEREAS, the canal flows through and directly influences water quality of Cayuga Lake impacting community character, recreation, and economic vitality; and

WHEREAS, research conducted by the Finger Lakes Institute at Hobart and William Smith has documented the hydrologic connectivity of the canal to Cayuga Lake and the role of canal infrastructure in influencing water movement and nutrient transport among connected water bodies; and

WHEREAS, nutrient transport within connected waterways can contribute to water quality challenges, including the occurrence of Harmful Algal Blooms, which have occurred in Cayuga Lake and throughout the Finger Lakes region and pose concerns for drinking water, recreation, and ecosystem health; and

WHEREAS, Cayuga Lake and its connected waterways support significant regional tourism and recreation activities including boating, fishing, waterfront visitation, and other outdoor uses that contribute to the economy of Tompkins County and the Finger Lakes region; and

WHEREAS, the Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization has recognized the Cayuga–Seneca Canal as part of the Cayuga Lake Watershed as part of its regional watershed management framework; and

WHEREAS, the Seneca County Board of Supervisors recognized the Cayuga–Seneca Canal as a hydrologically connected component of the Cayuga Lake Watershed and passed an equivalent resolution at their meeting on April 14, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Tompkins County Water Resources Council reviewed and approved this resolution on April 20, 2026; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Planning, Energy, and Environmental Quality Committee, the Tompkins County Legislature hereby recognizes the Cayuga–Seneca Canal as a hydrologically connected component of the Cayuga Lake Watershed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislature acknowledges the research conducted by the Finger Lakes Institute and the importance of watershed-scale management of connected waterways; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislature supports continued regional collaboration to protect Cayuga Lake water quality, protect the tourism and recreation economy of the region, and address watershed challenges including Harmful Algal Blooms; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Legislature shall transmit copies of this resolution to the Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization, the Finger Lakes Institute, the New York State Canal Corporation, as well as New York State Senators Lea Webb, Thomas O’Mara, Pamela Helming, Rachel May and Assemblymembers Anna Kelles, Jeff Gallahan and Philip Palmesano.

Cayuga-Seneca Canal Water Quality



Isaac Walker, Lisa Cleckner



FINGER LAKES
INSTITUTE



Cayuga-Seneca Canal
Working Group



HOBART AND WILLIAM SMITH COLLEGES

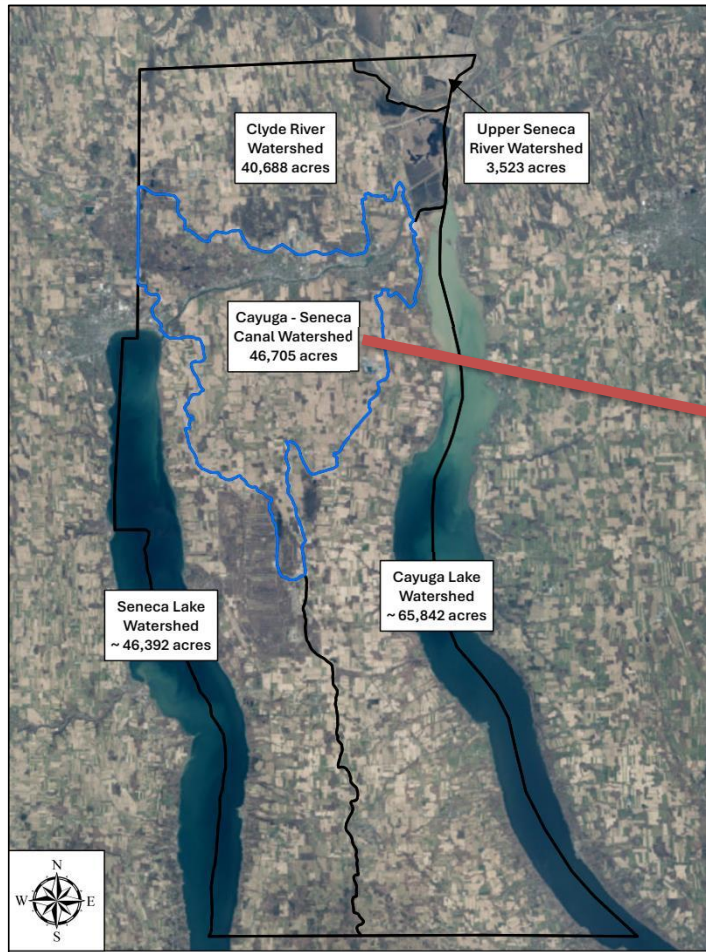
Informal Working Group – Cayuga-Seneca Canal

- Jenna Smith, HWS Student/Summer Research Intern
- Tom Casella, Bill Ebert (CLWN volunteer samplers)
- Charlie Cappellino (CLWN board member)
- Erin Peruzzini, Curtis Davis (Seneca County Soil and Water)
- CWIO
- FLI and its certified water quality lab

THANK YOU!!

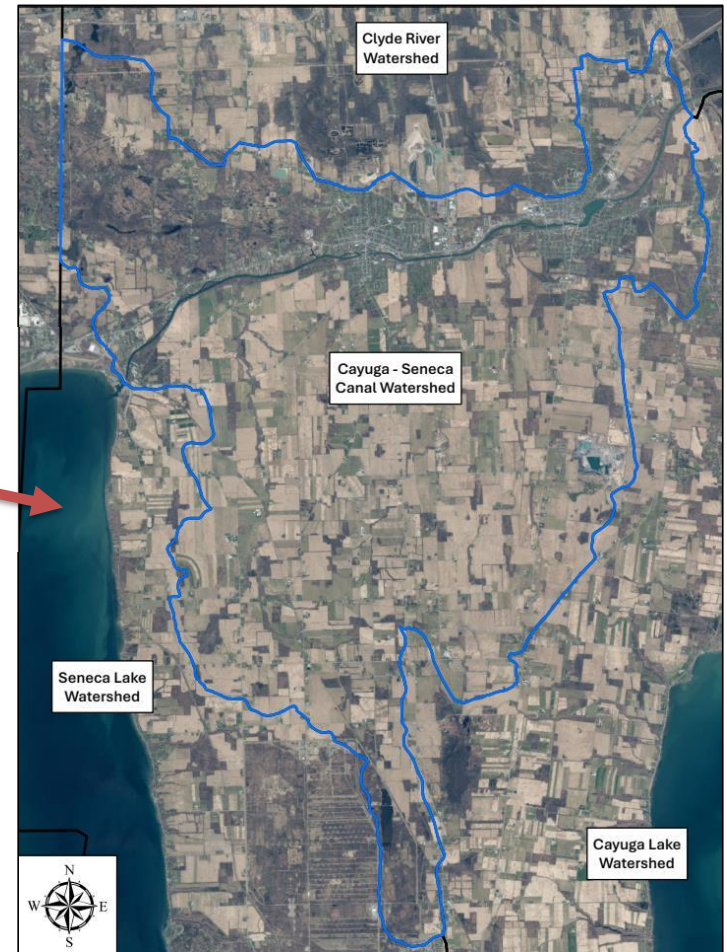


Seneca County and the Canal Watershed



Thanks to Seneca Co. Soil and Water for the maps!

Canal is ~23% of Seneca County Watershed Area



Canal Sampling Sites – West to East

- Barrett Marine (BAR)
 - Seneca Lake water...
- Oak Island (OAK)
 - After Kendig Creek enters
- Route 414 Bridge (RT414)
 - Downstream of Waterloo WWTP
- Seneca Falls Municipal Dock (SFD)
 - Downstream of Balsey Road (stormwater)
- Johnson Street (JON)
 - Downstream of Seneca Falls and near WWTP
- Demont Road, near Route 89 (DEM)
 - Downstream of Seneca Falls WWTP and close to Cayuga Lake



8/15/25 Specific Conductance Survey Shows Canal Water Entering the Northern Part of Cayuga Lake

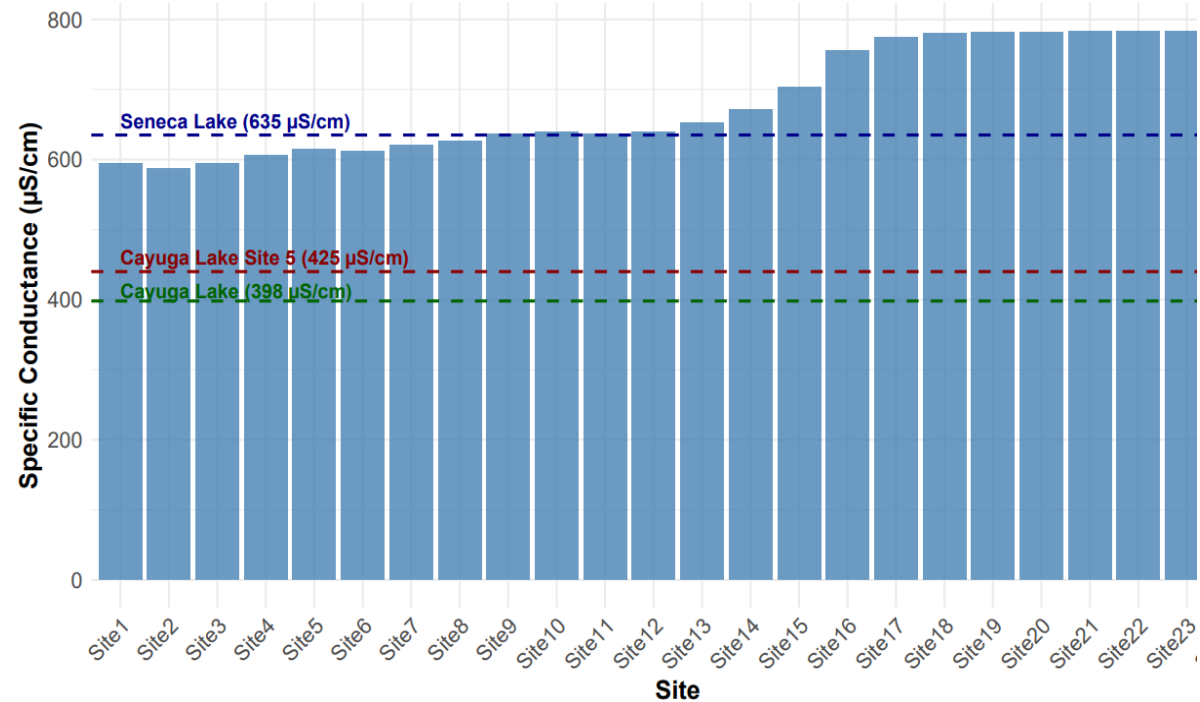


Specific conductance - measure of the ability of water to pass an electrical current.

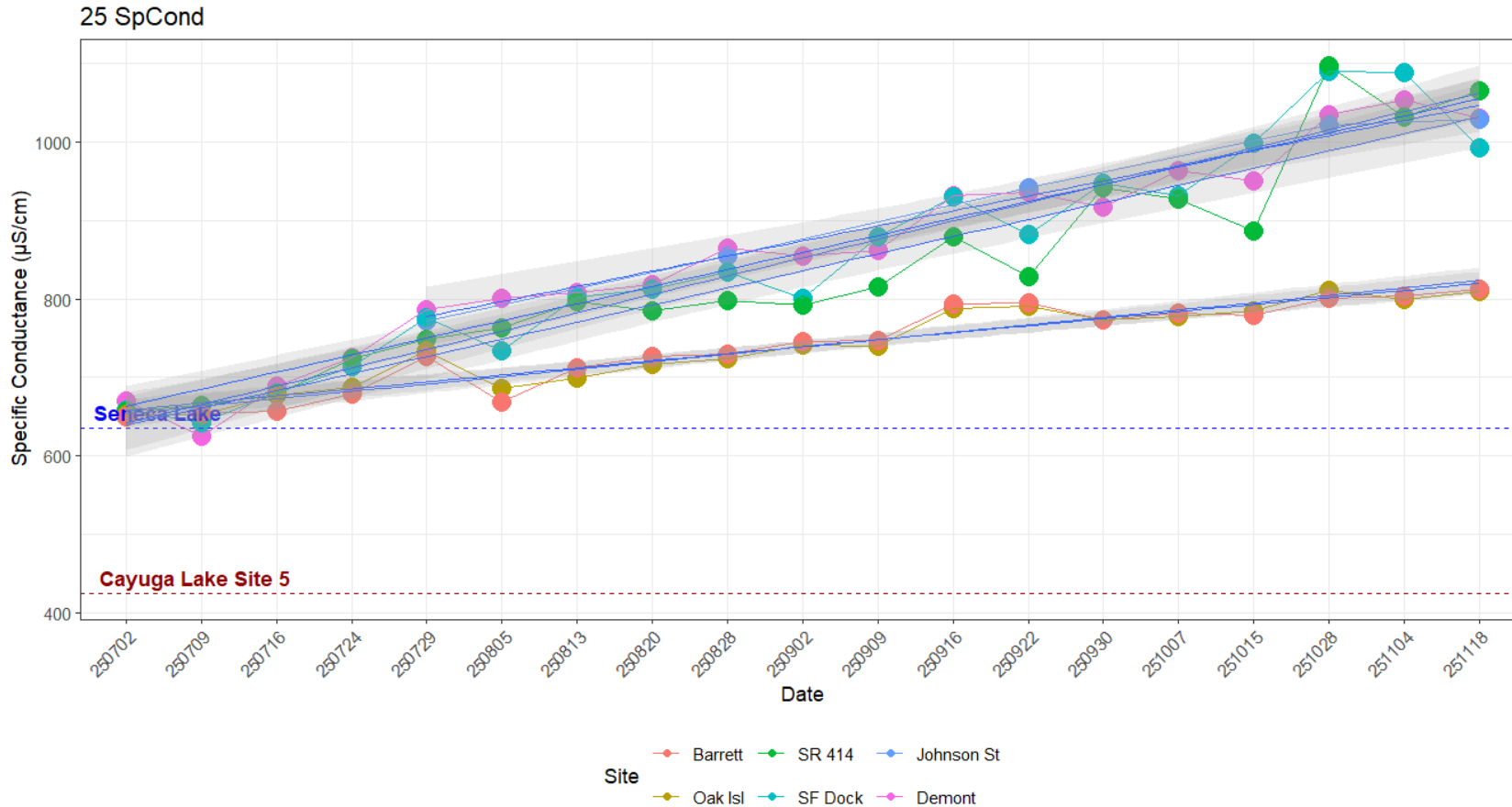
- Dissolved salts and other inorganic chemicals conduct electrical current -> specific conductance increases
- Generally, human disturbance tends to increase the amount of dissolved solids entering waters, which results in increased conductivity.

North Cayuga Lake Specific Conductance

Data Collected on August 15, 2025



Specific Conductance over the Seasons



- Specific conductance has steady increase in 2025 from July to November
- Sites from SR 414 to Demont show a steeper increase
- Concentrations are higher than both Seneca Lake and Cayuga Lake
- Impact on Cayuga Lake potentially impacted by lake levels



**Water
Resources
Council**

ADVISORY BOARD CHAIR
Cynthia Brock

ADVISORY BOARD VICE CHAIR
Frank Proto

Advisory Board

121 E. Court St, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850 | Phone: (607) 274-5560 | tcgov.co/wrc

25 March 2026

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
NY State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul,

Re: Environmental Protection Fund Funding and Finger Lakes Watershed Grants

Thank you for securing historic funding for the Clean Water Infrastructure Act and Environmental Protection Fund in the last state budget. Prioritizing environmental funding ensures investment in the health of our environment, our communities, and our economy.

The demand for environmental programs and clean water projects has long outpaced available funds. We are grateful for your commitment to addressing these needs, and to the Senate and Assembly for proposing \$500 million each for the Environmental Protection Fund and the Clean Water Infrastructure Act in the FY 26-27 budget. The Senate's budget proposal includes a \$500,000 funding line to resume the Finger Lakes Watershed Grants Program. The renewal of the Finger Lakes Watershed Grants Program will provide high impact grants to address the threat of Harmful Algal Blooms that can be leveraged by municipalities, lake associations, and non-profit conservation programs. Additionally, the Senate's budget proposes \$18.65 million for Soil & Water Conservation Districts. We rely on the Tompkins County Soil & Water Conservation District for grant writing, project implementation, leadership of the Tompkins County Stormwater Coalition, and training for our municipal staff. These roles are increasingly important with the roll out of the Environmental Bond Act funding.

We urge your support and adoption of \$500 million for the Clean Water Infrastructure Act, \$500 million for the Environmental Protection Fund, and the Assembly's proposed budget of \$22 million for Soil & Water Conservation Districts. These programs provide funding that our communities need now.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Brock, Chair
Tompkins County Water Resources Council

cc: Senator Lea Webb
Senator Rachel May
Assemblywoman Anna Kelles



ID#

ADVISORY BOARD APPLICATION

Please type or print in black ink (Revised July 2021)

TOMPKINS COUNTY LEGISLATURE
Governor Daniel D. Tompkins Building
121 E Court Street, Ithaca NY 14850
www.tompkinscountynv.gov/legislature
607-274-5434 (phone)/607-274-5430 (fax)
E-mail: legislature@tompskins-co.org

Name of advisory group

Name of seat

If you are interested in serving as a member of an advisory group, please complete this form and submit it to the County Legislature's office. Additional information may be attached as necessary. You may be called for an interview and you may also wish to attend a meeting of the advisory group if you have not yet done so.

Name Date of application

Address (residence) Street City Zip Code

Telephone (home) (work) (mobile) (fax)

E-mail address Length of residence in Tompkins County

*If not a T.C. resident, please stop here and contact the Legislature Office

Occupation, experience, community affiliations

Education schools (degrees) and specialties

Explain why you are you interested in this position or what strengths would you bring to this position?

Diversity Factors (voluntary)

Please list any characteristics about yourself or relevant experience around diversity and inclusion that may enhance the County's efforts to appoint people of diverse backgrounds to its Advisory Boards.

Recommended by If organization or municipality, include name of entity, contact person, and telephone number; if another individual(s), give name(s) and telephone number(s).

References: (1) name, address, and telephone number (2) name, address, and telephone number

Office use only

Type of appointment: new or reappointment [Replacing: (if new)] Term expiration date

Seat Title (area or constituency represented):

Municipal Recommendation on File Nominating Committee Recommendation Received

Copied to Comm.: Legislative Committee recommendation Date

Legislature appointment date Appointment letter mailed date



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Tompkins County Water Resources Council

Name of advisory group

EMC

Name of seat

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Name Kathleen Yen Date of application 4/2/26

Address (residence) [redacted], Ithaca NY 14850
Landline Telephone (home) [redacted] (work) (mobile) (fax)
Street City Zip Code

E-mail address KYen@twcny.org Length of residence in Tompkins County 37 years

Occupation, experience, community affiliations Currently - Village of Lansing Trustee, CWIO municipal representative,
TE EMC At-large representative; Experience: research associate, pediatric nursing, public school education

Education B.S., BSN, MS ED
schools (degrees) and specialties

Explain why you are interested in this position or what strengths would you bring to this position? My interest is on the
interconnection and long-term impact of environmental, economic and social systems on community
health and well-being, especially on embryonic/fetal growth and development during critical stages
of development and impact on child health. Watershed protection and water quality are examples.

Diversity Factors (voluntary)

Please list any characteristics about yourself or relevant experience around diversity and inclusion that may enhance the County's
efforts to appoint people of diverse backgrounds to its Advisory Boards.

Recommended by Darby Kiley, 274-5560
If organization or municipality, include name of entity, contact person, and telephone number; if another individual(s), give
name(s) and telephone number(s).

References: (1) Kristen McCarty, 274-5500
name, address, and telephone number
(2) Cynthia Brock, WRC chair
name, address, and telephone number

Office use only

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