

**TOMPKINS COUNTY WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL**

Feb. 28, 2022 Zoom meeting

Final Minutes

**Attendance**

Member		Seat	Member		Seat
Annie Bastoni	P	At-Large	Holly Payne	P	At-Large
Fay Benson	E	Agriculture	Frank Proto	P	At-Large
Cynthia Brock	P	Municipal	Brian Rahm	P	Environment
Liz Cameron	A	Co. Environmental Health	Stephanie Redmond	P	At-Large
Amanda Champion	P	County Government	Steve Riddle	A	Water Purveyor
Michelle Henry	P	EMC Representative	Elizabeth Thomas	P	Recreation
Kristen Hychka	P	Municipal Government	Linda Wagenet	P	At-Large
Emelia "Mia" Jumbo	A	At-Large	Chris Bordlemay Padilla	A	Associate
Darby Kiley	P	County Planning & Sustain.	Roxy Johnston	P	Associate
Patrick King	P	Business & Industry	Cedric Mason	A	Associate
Liz Kreitinger	E	Watershed Organization	Steve Penningroth	P	Associate
Lynn Leopold	P	Municipal Government	Elaine Quaroni	P	Associate
Jon Negley	A	Soil & Water Cons. District	Tom Vawter	E	Associate

**Guests:** Mara Alper, Jenna DeRario, Lucy Gagliardo, Grascen Shidemantle

**Call to Order/Agenda Review or Changes** – Chair Cynthia Brock called the meeting to order at 4:17pm.

**Privilege of the Floor** – Mara Alper, former WRC associate member, greeted everyone and expressed her support for the Water Withdrawals Committee agenda item.

**Member Introductions** – Members participated in a round robin of introductions, sharing their professional backgrounds, water quality and resources issues they're concerned about, the expertise they contribute to the Council, and a few personal anecdotes. Guests and staff introduced themselves as well.

**Action: Approve Executive Committee Comment Letter to NYSDEC on Draft 2020-2022 Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List of Impaired Waters**

Members were brought up to speed on developments since the January meeting when the WRC voted to approve the Executive Committee drafting and submitting a comment letter to the NYSDEC on the draft 2020-2022 Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List of Impaired Waters. This action was taken to meet the comment period deadline, which at that time was set for February 11. Along with substantial contributions from the Executive Committee members, the letter reflected a high level of input from County staff and members of the Cayuga Lake Monitoring Partnership. Several attendees expressed their appreciation to everyone who worked on the letter for their efforts. The WRC was asked to vote to accept the action taken by the Executive Committee and to approve the final letter submitted to the NYSDEC.

**Action:** Frank Proto made a motion, which was seconded by Lynn Leopold, to accept the action taken by the Executive Committee on behalf of the full Tompkins County Water Resources Council to write and submit to the NYSDEC a comment letter on the Draft 2020-2022 Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List of Impaired Waters and to approve the letter that was sent. Motion carried by members present.

**Action: Approve Comment Letter to NYSDEC on SPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from MS4s**

Darby Kiley summarized the SPDES general permit process and highlighted the various factors considered when submitting comments on behalf of the WRC to NYSDEC. Comments included suggestion that DEC create templates or provide funding to municipalities for consultants to develop them to meet some of the new programmatic requirements. Letter also asked if DEC will adjust the proposed MS4 general permit requirements to remove silt/sediment listings if they are removed from the 2020-2022 303(d) list.

**Action:** Annie Bastoni made a motion, which was seconded by Kristen Hychka, to approve the Water Resources Council Comment Letter to NYSDEC on the SPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from MS4s. Motion carried by members present.

**Report: Water Withdrawals Committee Proposal to Monitor and Provide Long-term Groundwater Level and Water Quality Data for Aquifer Systems in Tompkins County**

Stephanie Redmond updated the group on the Water Withdrawals Committee' proposal for long-term monitoring of groundwater levels and water quality data collection regarding aquifers in Tompkins County. Her report and the subsequent discussion touched on various topics, including funding, testing parameters, location of sentinel wells throughout county, possible interest and participation of municipalities, scalability concerns, aquifer recharging and contamination post-drought, and partnership opportunities.

The group put a motion on the floor to approve the committee's request. However, it was later decided to withdraw that motion and continue exploring this issue and refining the contents of the proposal.

**Action:** Stephanie Redmond made a motion, which was seconded by Lynn Leopold, to approve a proposal to monitor and provide long-term groundwater level and water quality data for aquifer systems in Tompkins County. The motion was withdrawn by Stephanie Redmond, with a second by Lynn Leopold.

**Action: Approval of Draft Minutes** – The draft Jan. 24, 2022, meeting minutes were approved as submitted by the members present (moved by Frank Proto and seconded by Linda Wagenet).

**Committee Reports (as needed)**

Cynthia reminded committee chairs to submit monthly written reports whenever possible via the online form. She will update the form for 2022 and email the link to everyone when it's ready.

**Chair and Staff Reports** – Cynthia shared highlights from a recent FEMA webinar on the draft Flood Insurance Rate Map database for Tompkins County. Darby reported that the Planning and Sustainability Department is tracking federal grant and other funding opportunities and encouraged WRC members to contact her regarding applicable community projects.

**Member Announcements** – Students in the College of Engineering at Cornell have developed a forecasting tool to predict concentrations of manganese in the City of Ithaca reservoir and are collaborating with Roxy's team at the Ithaca Water Treatment Plant.

**Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 6:02pm.