

TOMPKINS COUNTY WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL

Sept. 19, 2022 Zoom meeting

Final Minutes

Attendance

Member		Seat	Member		Seat
Annie Bastoni	P	At-Large	Jon Negley	P	Soil & Water Cons. District
Vacant		Agriculture	Holly Payne	P	At-Large
Cynthia Brock	P	Municipal	Frank Proto	P	At-Large
Liz Cameron	E	Co. Environmental Health	Brian Rahm	E	Environment
Amanda Champion	P	County Government	Stephanie Redmond	A	At-Large
Jenna DeRario	P	Cooperative Extension	Steve Riddle	P	Water Purveyor
Michelle Henry	P	EMC Representative	Elizabeth Thomas	E	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	Elaine Quaroni	P	Associate
Liz Kreitinger	P	Watershed Organization	Tom Vawter	P	Associate
Lynn Leopold	P	Municipal Government			

Guests: Doug Barnes, Shawn Bossard, Rebecca Minas, Donde Harner, Erin Norris, Grascen Shidemantle

Call to Order/Agenda Review – Chair Cynthia Brock called meeting to order at 4:17pm. No changes to agenda.

Privilege of the Floor – None

Presentation: 2020 Water & Sewer Evaluation Update – Dave Herrick, T.G. Miller, and Kurt Anderson, IAED
 Dave and Kurt gave an overview of the 2020 Water and Sewer Evaluation Update, which brings current data in the 2010 Countywide Intermunicipal Water and Sewer Feasibility Study, tracks infrastructure progress related to housing development and how it supports planned growth, identifies priorities for facilities, and integrates infrastructure development with County Resiliency and Recovery Plan. Their presentation covered collaborations with county’s large water purveyors, with an eye to understanding ramifications of 2016 drought and methods for building redundancy and resiliency into the water and sewer systems, development focus areas and capacity in municipal drinking water and wastewater treatment facilities, intermunicipal and interagency planning priorities, the Environmental Protection Agency’s Lead and Copper Rule Revision, and more. Q&A discussion included: planning for severe drought, municipal upgrades to wells and other systems, educational outreach related to water usage and demand side, number of wastewater facilities in county, capacity and connectivity in times of emergencies, aquifer health and viability, rural water systems, impacts of business, industrial, and tourism development, legacy effects of proposed development, and more.

Discussion/Update: Seneca Lake Guardian Campaign Regarding Cayuta Transfer Facility Permit and Local Response – Cynthia Brock

Cynthia updated group on the Seneca Lake Guardians’ (SLG) campaign to stop the development of the Cayuta Waste Transfer Facility in Schuyler County. As part of this action, SLG is engaged in an Article 78 lawsuit that claims the leachate from this facility would contain PFAs/PFOAs and be processed by the Ithaca Area Wastewater Treatment Facility (IAWWTF), potentially contaminating the waters of Cayuga Lake. In support of their Article 78 proceeding with the DEC, SLG issued a call to action to Cayuga Lake residents asking them to support the campaign. As chair of the IAWWTF, Cynthia sent a letter in response that corrected misinformation in the SLG statement; both documents were included in the agenda packet. She updated WRC members on

subsequent conversations between herself, again on behalf of the IAWWTF, and the Seneca Lake Guardians (SLG), and explained commercial waste processing protocols at the IAWWTF and removal of PFAs/PFOAs. She also shared that based on data gathered, the PFA/PFOA concentrations in the IAWWTF's effluent discharge is lower than EPA standards for PFAs/PFOAs in drinking water. Members thanked Cynthia for her efforts and asked about SLG reaction. Cynthia also thanked Roxy and Darby for their work in helping to correct the message.

Action: Consider Applications for Agriculture Seat and Associate Membership – Linda Wagenet

On behalf of the Membership & Nominating Committee, Linda recommended Shawn Bossard be appointed to the Agriculture seat and Grascen Shidemantle be appointed an associate member. She presented their applications for consideration by the full WRC.

Action: Darby Kiley moved, with a second by Frank Proto, to recommend Shawn Bossard as Agriculture representative and to appoint Grascen Shidemantle as associate member to the Tompkins County Water Resources Council. Motion carried.

Action: Approval of Draft Minutes – The June 2022 meeting minutes were approved (moved by Frank Proto, seconded by Lynn Leopold) as submitted. Motion carried.

Committee and Liaison Reports

Reports covered Streams 101 municipal training workshop, which is scheduled to take place Oct. 24 with a back-up date of Oct. 31, as well as the Environmental Management Council's fall community outreach event, which will focus on flooding and take place Oct. 18.

Chair and Staff Reports

Cynthia reported on development of the City of Ithaca's Drinking Water Source Protection Plan, praising Roxy and her staff for their efforts. City officials aim to approve plan later this fall. Darby updated group on County code administration and broadband access studies and hiring of Eliot Benman as housing and community development planner. Members asked about County draft budget process for 2023.

Member Announcements

Members shared news on Monitoring Partnership activities and Owasco 9E plan, which was finalized by NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. In addition, Annie shared link to New England Stormwater Retrofit Manual and guest Erin Norris, Cayuga Watershed Intermunicipal Organization's watershed manager, introduced herself.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 5:40pm.