

**TOMPKINS COUNTY WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL**

Oct. 17, 2022 Zoom meeting

Final Minutes

**Attendance**

Member		Seat	Member		Seat
Annie Bastoni	P	At-Large	Jon Negley	P	Soil & Water Cons. District
Shawn Bossard	P	Agriculture	Holly Payne	E	At-Large
Cynthia Brock	P	Municipal	Frank Proto	P	At-Large
Liz Cameron	E	Co. Environmental Health	Brian Rahm	P	Environment
Amanda Champion	P	County Government	Stephanie Redmond	P	At-Large
Jenna DeRario	P	Cooperative Extension	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	Elaine Quaroni	P	Associate
Liz Kreitinger	P	Watershed Organization	Grascen Shidemantle	P	Associate
Lynn Leopold	P	Municipal Government	Tom Vawter	P	Associate

**Guests:** Doug Barnes, Rebecca Minas, Erin Norris, Wendy Walsh

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

**Privilege of the Floor** – None

**Presentation: Proposed NYS Legislation to Include Watershed Health and Coordination in Soil Health and Climate Resiliency Act** – Megan Brosterman

Megan, who is a corporate lawyer by training, spoke about proposed legislation she and other volunteers interested in soil health initiatives are drafting in support of watershed health and farming justice in New York State. This new legislation aims to reintroduce and build upon ideas that were not included in the NYS Soil Health & Climate Resiliency Act. Megan’s presentation and the subsequent Q&A discussion covered various topics. These included prioritizing assistance to disadvantaged communities and underserved farmers, ranchers, and foresters; building a broad and diverse stakeholder group; incorporating findings from the NYS Agriculture & Markets Diversity and Racial Equity Working Group; designing regional watershed-pilot programs for payment for ecosystem services; identifying metrics for quantifying soil health, encouraging direct farmer to farmer training initiatives such as the “Champions” program; and more.

**Action: Approval of Draft Minutes** – The September 2022 meeting minutes were approved (moved by Amanda Champion, seconded by Lynn Leopold) with the following edit (page 2): “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.” Motion carried.

**Committee and Liaison Reports**

Darby Kiley gave an update on the Streams 101 workshop hosted by the Municipal Training Committee on October 24. Angel Hinickle of the Tompkins County Soil & Water Conservation District provided valuable input and coordination by leading one of the three classroom session and organizing the two field sites, Enfield Creek and Fish Creek. Attendees included municipal highway employees.

Liz Thomas reported that the Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization (CWIO) polled stakeholders to see where group should focus its efforts – agriculture was the top pick, with wetlands protection, land use, roadside ditches, and water contamination also garnering mentions. She also updated group on website re-launch and education and training projects. Last, members briefly discussed the draft Great Lakes Action Agenda 2022-2030, which might be a topic for the Regional Watershed Coordination Committee to explore.

Michelle Henry shared that the EMC is holding its fall outreach event “Flooding in Tompkins County: Are you Ready?” on Oct. 18 at the Tompkins County Public Library. There will also be a remote attendance option.

#### **Chair and Staff Reports**

Cynthia welcomed agriculture representative Shawn Bossard and associate member Grascen Shidemantle to the WRC. Darby reported that there are two vacant voting seats (at-large and municipal government), and that the Nominating Committee will need to recommend officers for the 2023 Executive Committee.

#### **Member Announcements**

News was shared regarding proposed NYS Department of Health regulations for PFAS in drinking water systems.

**Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 5:20pm.