

TOMPKINS COUNTY WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL

Nov. 21, 2022 Zoom meeting

Final Minutes

Attendance

Member		Seat	Member		Seat
Annie Bastoni	P	At-Large	Jon Negley	E	Soil & Water Cons. District
Shawn Bossard	E	Agriculture	Holly Payne	P	At-Large
Cynthia Brock	P	Municipal	Frank Proto	E	At-Large
Liz Cameron	P	Co. Environmental Health	Brian Rahm	E	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	P	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	E	Municipal Government	Tom Vawter	P	Associate

Guests: Doug Barnes, Paul Fouts, Rebecca Minas, Molly Newman

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: Update on NYS Wetlands Policy – Roy "JR" Jacobson, NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation His presentation provided an overview of long-term efforts by the DEC to update New York's Wetlands Policy. Starting with his professional background, which includes 30 years working at the DEC, JR detailed the historical challenges of revising the state's wetlands maps and provided a timeline of efforts undertaken over the past several decades. By 2025, regulatory maps will not be used; there will be informational maps and those need to be developed. In 2028 the regulated wetlands threshold drops from 12.4 acres to 7.4 acres. The wetlands classification system will be revised. His talk and Q&A discussion touched on various subjects, including unmapped wetlands versus inaccurately mapped ones, changes to Freshwater Wetland Act, technological limitations, financial constraints, proposed criteria for inclusion in wetlands and other major provisions, transition from regulatory maps to informational maps, Tompkins County Unique Natural Areas, and the 2012 Tompkins County Wetlands Maps, which municipalities such as Town of Ulysses have adopted.

Action: Comments on Proposed Maximum Contaminant Load for PFAs – Watershed Rules & Regulations Committee & Rassil Sayess, NYS Water Resources Institute

Rassil Sayess provided an overview of New York State's proposed rulemaking for PFAs. Her presentation and the subsequent Q&A discussion with Rassil and members of the WRC's Watershed Rules & Regulations Committee, who have been collaborating on writing and submitting draft comments to NYS Department of Health, covered multiple topics. These included established versus proposed maximum contaminant levels, monitoring timelines, the need to simplify language of regulations, comparison of costs for testing, concerns regarding financial burden these regulations and others, such as lead and copper rule requirements, could pose for smaller public water systems like manufactured housing parks, potential for unwarranted alarm among general public caused by notifications regarding emerging contaminants that have not been demonstrated to be a health concern, among other issues.

Action: Michelle Henry made a motion, which Linda Wagenet seconded, to authorize the Executive Committee to send comments on the NYS Department of Health’s draft proposed regulations for PFAS6 MCLs and regulations for additional emerging contaminants on behalf of the Tompkins County Water Resources Council. Motion carried.

Action: Approval of Draft Minutes – The October 2022 meeting minutes were approved (moved by Amanda Champion, seconded by Linda Wagenet) as submitted.

Action: Comments on draft Great Lakes Action Agenda – Regional Watershed Coordination Committee Darby Kiley provided overview of the committee’s written comments on the draft NYS Great Lakes Action Agenda. In their draft comment letter, which Darby shared on-screen and had been included in a revised meeting agenda packet, committee members expressed their concerns regarding implementation and outreach to Soil & Water Conservation Districts and local governments around New York State. Discussion also covered monitoring and funding. Once approved, the draft comments letter would be submitted on behalf of the Water Resources Council to NYSDEC. The deadline is Friday, Nov. 25, so any additional feedback from WRC members needs to be emailed to Darby as soon as possible.

Action: Amanda Champion moved, with a second by Annie Bastoni, to approve the Tompkins County Water Resources Council’s draft comments letter on the draft New York Great Lakes Action Agenda 2030, with it noted that minor edits including text highlighting importance of grant funding may be added before submission deadline of Nov. 25. Motion carried.

Action: Consider applications for voting and associate members – Nominating/Membership Committee Emelia “Mia” Jumbo presented the roster of new and returning voting and associate members recommended by the Nominating/Membership Committee for seats on the Water Resources Council and shared highlights from the committee’s decision-making process.

Action: A motion by Emelia Jumbo, which was seconded by Amanda Champion, was made to recommend Annie Bastoni (At-Large), Jon Negley (TC Soil & Water Conservation District), and Steve Riddle (Water Purveyor) for reappointment to the Water Resources Council. Motion carried.

Action: Emelia Jumbo made a motion, which was seconded by Darby Kiley, to appoint Rebecca Minas and Lynn Leopold and reappoint Roxy Johnston and Tom Vawter associate members to the Water Resources Council. Motion carried.

Committee and Liaison Reports

Cynthia thanked Liz Thomas and Roxy Johnston for their detailed reports on behalf of Cayuga Lake Intermunicipal Watershed Organization, Monitoring Partnership and other committees. Members shared updates regarding Streams 101 workshop hosted by Municipal Training Committee, which was held on 10/24, the proposal to monitor rural groundwater supply during drought conditions put forth by Water Withdrawals Committee, which no one submitted questions, and Oct. 18 flooding awareness event hosted by the TC Environmental Management Council. The latter yielded discussion of public interest, education, grant funding and other issues related to the pending release of revised FEMA flood insurance rate maps.

Chair and Staff Reports

No report from the chair. Members should complete annual NYS sexual harassment prevention training as required for County advisory boards by Dec. 5.

Member Announcements

Members shared announcements regarding Community Science Institute and Dec. 7 presentation on Owasco Lake 9 Element Plan.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 6:07pm.