

TOMPKINS COUNTY WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL

Dec. 19, 2022 Zoom meeting

Final Minutes

Attendance

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

Guests: Doug Barnes, Molly Newman, Erin Norris

Call to Order/Agenda Review – Chair Cynthia Brock called meeting to order at 4:16pm. No changes to agenda.

Privilege of the Floor – No one spoke.

Presentation: Phosphorus Offset Tool for Cornell University – Kara Bugis, Cornell University

Kara Bugis, a senior water compliance specialist in Cornell’s Environment, Health, and Safety Department, spoke about the university’s efforts to measure and regulate phosphorous in compliance with the Clean Water Act as part of its Lake Source Cooling State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) permit. Kara covered an evaluation of best management practices, offered a timeline of compliance requirements and their impacts, and demonstrated a phosphorus offset tool provided by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. Her talk did not delve into the permitting process or cooling load calculations. Additional topics addressed in her presentation and the subsequent discussion included an overview of the Cornell District Cooling System, ways to obtain phosphorus offsets, Cornell Standard for Stormwater Structures, grant opportunities, holistic watershed planning and improved networking with colleagues on campus, watershed offset choices (i.e., through large focused projects such as streambank restoration or small stormwater upgrades), and the pros and cons offered by both options, outreach to neighboring municipalities and other community partners, and more.

Action: Approval of Draft Minutes – The November 2022 meeting minutes were approved (moved by Michelle Henry, seconded by Shawn Bossard) as submitted.

Action: Approval of 2023 meeting dates – Members reviewed proposed meeting dates for 2023, which include moving the meeting to the fourth Monday in January, February, and June in observance of federal holidays. In addition, group shared their thoughts about whether to resume meeting in person, and if so, whether to offer a hybrid option, or to alternate fully in person meetings with ones conducted purely via Zoom. Discussion covered potential meeting sites, including fieldtrip locations, carbon footprint impact, concerns about prevalence of COVID-19 and other viruses post-holidays, parking availability, logistical challenges (e.g. childcare), and more.

Action: Darby Kiley made a motion, which Jon Negley seconded, to accept the 2023 Tompkins County Water Resources Council meeting dates. Motion carried.

Members agreed to table discussion of in person versus hybrid versus 100% virtual meetings until spring.

Committee and Liaison Reports

Executive Committee -- Cynthia drew members' attention to the two comment letters (re: draft NYS Great Lakes Action Agenda 2030 and NYS Department of Health's proposed PFAs regulations) in the December agenda packet. She also thanked Mia Jumbo and Liz Thomas, both of whom are stepping down from the Council, as well as Lynn Leopold, who is transitioning to associate membership, for their service.

Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization (CWIO) – Liz. T reported that the 2022 annual report will be out soon and new website was launched. In other CWIO news, municipal participation increased by 60 percent and the amount of collected dues doubled in 2022. Either she or Erin Norris, CWIO's watershed manager, will be involved in the WRC's Regional Watershed Coordination Committee in 2023.

Watershed Rules and Regulations - Roxy gave a brief update on the City of Ithaca's Drinking Water Source Protection Program.

Environmental Management Council – Michelle Henry shared news from the Environmental Management Council.

Chair and Staff Reports

No chair's report. Darby reminded everyone that January is the organizational meeting and to come prepared to discuss potential committees and activities for 2023. Members are encouraged to share ideas for guest presentations as well. She also reported that the NYS Climate Action Council finalized the scoping plan for the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

Member Announcements

Cayuga Lake Watershed Network uploaded recordings of their Community Conference Sessions to their YouTube channel and website.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 5:35pm.