

TOMPKINS COUNTY WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL

Feb. 27, 2023 Zoom meeting

Final Minutes

Attendance

Member		Seat	Member		Seat
Annie Bastoni	E	At-Large	Frank Proto	P	At-Large
Shawn Bossard	P	Agriculture	Brian Rahm	E	Environment
Cynthia Brock	P	Municipal	Stephanie Redmond	P	At-Large
Liz Cameron	P	Co. Environmental Health	Steve Riddle	P	Water Purveyor
Susan Currie	P	County Government	Linda Wagenet	E	At-Large
Jenna DeRario	P	Cooperative Extension	David Wolfe	E	Environmental Management Council
Kristen Hychka	E	Municipal Government	Roxy Johnston	P	<i>Associate</i>
Darby Kiley	P	County Planning & Sustain.	Lynn Leopold	P	<i>Associate</i>
Patrick King	P	Business & Industry	Rebecca Minas	P	<i>Associate</i>
Liz Kreitinger	P	Watershed Organization	Elaine Quaroni	P	<i>Associate</i>
Jon Negley	E	Soil & Water Cons. District	Grascen Shidemantle	E	<i>Associate</i>
Holly Payne	P	At-Large	Tom Vawter	E	<i>Associate</i>

Guests: Doug Barnes, Noah Mark, Erin Norris, Liz Thomas

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

Privilege of the Floor – New member Susan Currie, who represents District 3 on the County Legislature, introduced herself. Everyone welcomed her, and Cynthia gave an overview of the WRC.

Presentation: Proposal to monitor and provide long-term groundwater level and water quality data for aquifer systems in Tompkins County - *Stephanie Redmond and Bill Kappel*

Stephanie and Bill gave an overview and update on a proposal to provide long-term groundwater monitoring for aquifers in the county. The proposal includes developing a system to track current water usage and proposed development to estimate future water demand and anticipate and availability of public water supply during drought conditions. Their presentation and subsequent Q&A discussion covered multiple topics. These included water scarcity, recharging capability of wells, USGS aquifer studies, contamination, water level fluctuations, mapping of abandoned wells, coordinating with public works departments to access wells on private land, drilling issues, different types of aquifers, municipal coordination, public outreach, and more. Group discussed role of the county Environmental Health Division in overseeing public water drinking supply wells, ways such data could help with municipal site plan reviews, possible role for Community Science Institute, potential grant funding streams, and better defining scope of proposal. Possible next steps include staff from County Planning, Environmental Health, and Soil & Water meeting to discuss in more detail and report back to WRC in March.

Action: Approval of Draft Minutes – January 2023 meeting minutes were approved (moved by Darby Kiley, seconded by Liz Cameron) as submitted.

Action: Approve Application for Associate Membership – Holly Payne, Membership & Nominating Committee On behalf of the Membership & Nominating Committee, Holly Payne recommended Doug Barnes be appointed an associate member.

Action: Holly Payne moved, with a second by Susan Currie, to appoint Doug Barnes an associate member to the Tompkins County Water Resources Council. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Shawn Bossard will serve as preliminary chair of the Education & Outreach Committee. Possible 2023 tasks for that committee include writing articles and conducting other types of media outreach on topics like harmful algal blooms and agriculture best management practices. Watershed Rules & Regulations Committee met recently and heard updates on plans for drinking water source protection programs. Regional Watershed Coordination Committee has a meeting scheduled for March 10. Members discussed mention in Monitoring Partnership minutes of a draft letter to Gov. Hochul regarding delays with state review process for items like the draft TMDL.

Chair and Staff Report

No chair or staff report.

Member Announcements – Frank Proto shared warm regards from former County legislator Dooley Kiefer. Cayuga Lake Environmental Action Now is hosting an event regarding Cargill salt mine on April 27 at TC Public Library. Cayuga Lake Watershed Network is organizing a spring community conference and their newsletter is coming out soon. Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization (CWIO) is collaborating with area partners on state outreach and grant funding ideas. WRC members should contact Liz Thomas if they'd like to be added to the CWIO email list. FEMA released preliminary flood maps and a municipal official and staff meeting will be held on March 8.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 5:41pm.