

TOMPKINS COUNTY WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL

May 20, 2013
Meeting Minutes

Members Attending:

Name		Representation
Sharon Anderson	E	Cooperative Extension
John Andersson	E	At-Large
Fay Benson	P	Agriculture
Ed Bugliosi	E	USGS <i>ex officio</i>
Liz Cameron	P	T C Environmental Health
Scott Carpenter	E	At-Large
Sarah Dwyer	P	Business/Industry
Bill George	P	Municipal
Barry Goodrich	P	Watershed Organization
Roxy Johnston	P	Water Purveyor
Joan Jurkowich	P	T C Planning
Dan Karig	P	Recreation
Dooley Kiefer	P	Legislature Liaison
Darby Kiley	P	Municipal
Lynn Leopold	P	Municipal

Name		Representation
Rick Manning	P	At-Large
Gregg McConnell	A	At-Large
Jim McGarry	P	EMC Liaison
Frank Proto	P	At-Large
Elaine Quaroni	P	At-Large
Marjory Rinaldo-Lee	P	Environment
Craig Schutt	A	SWCD
<i>Jose Lozano</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>Associate Member</i>
<i>John Mawdsley</i>		<i>Associate Member</i>
<i>Todd Miller</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>Associate Member</i>
<i>Steve Penningroth</i>		<i>Associate Member</i>
<i>Mary Shelley</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>Associate Member</i>
<i>Tom Vawter</i>		<i>Associate Member</i>
<i>Linda Wagenet</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>Associate Member</i>
Kathy Wilsea	P	Staff

Guests: James Balyszak, Kathy Halton (Danby Town Board), Angel Hinickle

SPDES Permit Annual Report Public Hearing -- WRC Chairman Frank Proto called the public meeting to order at 4:20 PM. Angel Hinickle, Resource Conservation Specialist for Tompkins County Soil & Water Conservation District, was present to provide information and answer questions. She reported the MS4 municipalities are required to submit an annual report to DEC, and she reviewed the six minimum control measures. Highlights of MCM1 and 2 included contact with 893 adults and over 1,500 students through public outreach efforts, volunteer stream monitoring events coordinated by Community Science Institute, and SWCD-sponsored training for contractors on topics in green infrastructure.

Questions/Comments: Lynn Leopold asked for clarification of the volunteer monitoring events. Angel said the numbers from CSI and the Floating Classroom are separate. These are stormwater-related, not hydrilla programs.

Elaine Quaroni commented she doesn't think any municipalities have pet waste laws, and Angel will check that. It will be a recommendation from the Coalition through media and education outreach.

Jose Lozano asked about availability of monitoring data, and Angel said the report refers to data posted by CSI on their website. The Coalition does not conduct any separate monitoring.

Lynn Leopold thanked Angel on behalf of the Stormwater Coalition of Tompkins County, the organization that contracts with SWCD for services in report preparation. Lynn asked if forms are changing for next year.

Angel confirmed that DEC proposes changing to tracking forms with entries throughout the year, but that change may not be ready for next year.

31 With no further questions, the public hearing was closed at 4:28PM, and Chairman Frank Proto then called
32 the WRC meeting to order.

33
34 **Agenda Review and Approval of Minutes from 3/18/2013** – There were no changes to the agenda. March
35 minutes were moved by Darby Kiley, seconded by Bill George and passed with one change by vote of 11
36 yes, 2 no (Jurkovich, Benson), and 2 abstentions (Rinaldo-Lee and Leopold, both of whom were not present
37 in March). Final WRC minutes are posted on their webpage: <http://tompkinscountyny.gov/planning> under
38 Advisory Boards.

39
40 **Summary of SPDES Permit Annual Report** – Marjory Rinaldo-Lee moved to accept the annual report,
41 which was seconded by Barry Goodrich. Dooley Kiefer asked if there were any trends of concern, and
42 Angel Hinickle said there were none. Vote 13 yes, 0 no, 2 abstentions (Dwyer, Karig).

43
44 **Hydrilla Update** – James Balyszak, Hydrilla Program Manager, was present. He reported the
45 Environmental Management Council sponsored a public meeting on hydrilla on 4/11, with Roxy Johnston,
46 Bob Johnson and himself reporting on history, plants and the management plans. This event led to two news
47 interviews.

48
49 Permit applications have been submitted to DEC by Angel Hinickle. Letters have gone out to property
50 owners with some response, but no opposition. June 15 is the earliest possible start date for herbicide
51 application, and Bob Johnson will determine the best time to start. The second, systemic herbicide will begin
52 by August 1. In terms of grants, the contract is being finalized with Fish & Wildlife Service; some funding
53 remains and some new funding is available from State Parks, some of which can be used for education and
54 outreach; the DEC contract is finalized and 25% has been advanced; the Task Force has requested \$75,000
55 from National Fish & Wildlife which would be for treatment, monitoring and education, with matching funds
56 for that coming from DEC. Bob Johnson is seeing low numbers of tubers, but they are present.

57
58 Concerning outreach, Dave Henderson wrote about hydrilla in his column in the Ithaca Journal, which had
59 some errors and he will follow up with clarification. There will be a boating article published by Memorial
60 Day. Task Force members met with Senator Nozzolio at a Finger Lakes Institute conference. They also
61 hosted a meeting with Congressman Reed on 4/19, which James described as a good conversation. And
62 Senator Schumer is suggesting a rapid response team for infestation. Roxy dropped off educational materials
63 for participants of a fishing derby and Hilary Lambert dropped off educational materials at the Finger Lakes
64 National Forest. James met with the manufacturer's representative concerning the systemic herbicide when
65 he was in town to check equipment in the Inlet.

66
67 For the Tonowanda infestation, James said a lead agency is needed for that. Roxy said she hasn't heard yet if
68 one has been identified, but that site needs separate funding and permits. She has asked during
69 teleconferencing. We are at risk from reintroduction from the canal if the Tonowanda infestation is not
70 treated. James reported the Task Force received an email suggestion re bacterial used for sludge control in
71 Florida that also kills hydrilla. The Tonowanda site remains open to boat traffic.

72
73 24-hour notice is required to property owners (not tenants) prior to herbicide treatment. This year interns
74 will hand-deliver notices, so tenants will be contacted. James is willing to retain a list of contact information,
75 and Frank Proto suggested having the Chamber of Commerce email their members. Roxy has had contact
76 with Steve Flash, who said the West End Business Alliance is not active right now.

77
78 **Cayuga Lake Modeling Project Update** – Roxy Johnston reported a public meeting is planned for June 12,
79 at 7 PM, probably at Boynton Middle School. DEC will do a presentation. Monitoring has started, with
80 three events occurring before the last Monitoring Partnership meeting. Information is posted on DEC and
81 Cornell websites. Data is going to Ecologic for processing. Jeff Myers of DEC is dialoging with Steve

82 Penningroth of Community Science Institute regarding un-listing the southern end of Cayuga Lake from the
83 303(d) impaired waterbodies list due to pathogens. That analysis will occur in 2014.

84
85 **Committees – Education:** Elaine reported they have only been doing hydrilla outreach, but will respond to
86 request from WRC committees.

87 **Executive:** Frank reported Exec finalized comments on the draft Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazard Mitigation
88 Plan. He asked if anyone knew if stream gages were funded, and Sarah Dwyer thought they are operating.
89 The committee began Bylaws updates today, and Frank said he is discovering we are not doing all we are
90 charged with. When the Committee finishes proposed updates, members will receive two weeks written
91 notice before vote occurs.

92 **Grants:** Frank said hydrilla funding is flowing now, and he hopes to get an update on FLOWPA.

93 **Recreation:** Rick Manning reported partners and public participants met on the Blueway Trail. They are
94 trying to identify launch/landing sites, and he asked interested members to contact him. He expects the draft
95 plan to be released at Celebrate the Lake in July. Rick is the new part-time director of Friends of Stewart
96 Park, which received a Strategic Tourism Planning Board grant. The City received a grant to build a
97 staircase to the second floor of the boathouse, which will be used as a classroom. Jose Lozano asked if any
98 waterfront revitalization projects are ongoing, and Joan Jurkowich said a Waterfront Revitalization Plan was
99 prepared, but not adopted by municipalities. NYS is aware, and the draft plan can be referenced in grant
100 applications. Some of the funds received by New York State Parks will be used for completion of the Black
101 Diamond Trail. Linda Wagenet reported Women Swimmin' will occur 8/10, and Fay Benson reported the
102 Dragonboat Festival will take place 7/12.

103 **Streams:** Dan Karig said they did not meet, but continue gathering chloride data.

104 **Wetlands:** Darby Kiley reported they did not meet. Funding for possible work by the mapping consultant has
105 hit a hiccup. Sarah Dwyer put their mapper in touch with an appropriate staff member at Cornell.

106
107 Rick Manning asked if there is any information on dredging of Cayuga Inlet. Linda Wagenet said dredging
108 will not occur this year, and Frank agreed with her that cost estimates were very high.

109
110 **Chair and Staff Reports –** No reports.

111
112 **Announcements – Darby** asked if anyone knew of a DEC contact concerning sea lamprey. Roxy suggested
113 Emily at Region 7. Dooley pointed out our lamprey are native.

114 **Rick** said Friends of Stewart Park are weighing the strengths of tidying the shore vs leaving it natural.

115 **Roxy** reported Bolton Point won (but she stressed it was *only by a few votes* over the City) the drinking water
116 taste test at the County level, and will proceed to the regional competition. Frank asked for an update on the
117 City's drinking water plant. Common Council approved final funding, and all phases of watershed work are
118 progressing. The building restructure will occur next year. The Acting Chief of Police says the Gorge Police
119 are becoming part of IPD.

120 **Sarah** attended the public meeting on the Lansing Sewer District, where they mentioned failed septic systems
121 along the lake. Liz Cameron said the Health Department doesn't have any actual numbers, and couldn't ever
122 find discharge into Cayuga Lake. Jose concurred, saying there are a few along Fall Creek and Cayuga Inlet,
123 but very few problems along the lake. Lynn said Myers Point sometimes has lots of water over the tanks
124 during periods of high lake levels. Liz said no one at the Health Department was aware of the meeting, and
125 staff is willing to talk to people on this issue.

126
127 **Adjournment --** The meeting was adjourned at 5:46 PM.

128
129 Respectfully submitted,
130 Kathy Wilsea, Secretary
131 Tompkins County Planning Department.

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133 Adopted by the Council on June 17, 2013.