

TOMPKINS COUNTY WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL

**July 21, 2014
Meeting Minutes**

Members Attending:

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

Name		Representation
Lynn Leopold	P	Municipal
Jim McGarry	P	EMC Liaison
Jon Negley	P	Soil & Water
Frank Proto	P	At-Large
Elaine Quaroni	P	At-Large
Marjory Rinaldo-Lee	E	Environment
Jose Lozano	A	Associate Member
Scott Carpenter	A	Associate Member
John Mawdsley	P	Associate Member
Todd Miller	P	Associate Member
Steve Penningroth	P	Associate Member
Mary Shelley	A	Associate Member
Tom Vawter	A	Associate Member
Linda Wagenet	P	Associate Member
Jennifer Turner	P	TC Planning

Guests: Nicholas Hollingshead, GIS Consultant, Michelle Henry, guest

Chairman Frank Proto opened the public hearing at approximately 4:25 PM.

Agenda Review and Approval of Minutes – Jim Adams was mentioned as a possible addition to the agenda as a short presentation on Stormwater under item 7, Announcements/Other Business. **Moved** by Liz Cameron, seconded by Barry Goodrich, to approve the minutes from June 16, 2014. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote. Final WRC minutes are posted on the webpage: <http://tompkinscountyny.gov/planning> under Advisory Boards.

Wetlands Mapping Presentation – Nicholas Hollingshead credited Darby Kiley and John Mawdsley on their efforts with the wetlands mapping. He went on to note the objective for the mapping is to develop more accurate wetlands mapping for Tompkins County. The information provided in the presentation was derived from the current pilot project for wetlands mapping that is being completed for Dryden. The 2 existing wetlands data-sets are the National Wetlands Inventory and NYS Freshwater Wetlands Maps. The issues with these data-sets are the spatial inaccuracies from the high resolution aerial imagery that was done in the 1980's and that the maps are limited to jurisdictional wetlands, which will only include data for wetlands of 12.4 acres or more. In the past decade introductions to 3 new data-sets have been made available. The 1st data-set is the NYS Orthoimagery program, which features a high resolution and high spatial accuracy imagery. Another important data set is LiDAR elevation data, which can be used to derive a topographic map of the landscape. The 3rd data set is the oblique aerial images that have the capability of capturing land at a 45 degree angle. The wetlands of Dryden were mapped using all 3 data sets as well as the field survey work of 2008, which was used to compare the data as an accuracy assessment. The Cowardin classification that was used for the mapping of Dryden breaks the wetlands into fairly detailed general classifications that are easily

32 compared to the National Wetlands Inventory. All 3 of the data-sets of information were compared to the
33 information from the National Wetlands Inventory and the DEC with findings that showed wetland areas
34 either overshot or undershot. The inaccuracies of wetland boundaries derived by the DEC and NWI in
35 comparison to the information mapped by Nick Hollingshead showed a large amount of inconsistencies. By
36 completing the wetland mapping of Tompkins County, resources such as GIS data, Meta data, digital maps,
37 final reports and accuracy assessments will be made available. A proposal was submitted to the Park
38 Foundation to complete mapping efforts for the rest of Tompkins County. Additional efforts of an accuracy
39 assessment may include a comparison to the Cornell Natural Area's comprehensive survey of wetlands.
40 Members questioned whether or not the wetlands mapping will improve the regulatory process.

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42 **Hydrilla Update** – James Balyszak reported that the initial Hydrilla treatments took place on Thursday July
43 17th in Fall Creek, the golf course lagoon backwater area and Stewart Park back water area. Bob Johnson
44 worked with the City of Ithaca to install heavy-duty barriers at the mouth of both the golf course and Stewart
45 Park in order to prevent fragments of Hydrilla moving in and out and to prevent boat traffic from going into
46 the infested areas. The Taskforce will review the sampling and monitoring that was done to make certain the
47 concentration level and residency time was maintained. The Task Force will monitor the maximum
48 contaminate levels for the Health Department and NYSDEC. The week of July 28th will begin Hydrilla
49 treatments in the inlet coordinated by Allied Biological, NYSDEC, and local taskforce and stakeholders.
50 Preparations for the treatment will entail 12 to 14 miles of shoreline and a half mile beyond the treatment
51 area being posted with signage; the inlet will be closed down by the Tompkins County Sheriff for 24 hours
52 for the treatment. Outreach activities included the pre-season Hydrilla Update Meeting, publications in the
53 Ithaca Journal, Tompkins Weekly and local news and radio stations. The results of the water quality
54 monitoring and sampling will be posted on the following websites: www.stophydrilla.org and
55 www.tompkinscountyny.gov/health

56
57 **Committee Reports – Grants** – The Grants Committee did not meet. Jon Negley reported that the EPA is
58 releasing \$27.5 million through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Fund for invasive species watershed
59 and habitat improvements that will include funding for up to 30 projects to include the great lakes watershed.
60 FLOPA is looking at regional projects with other organizations including conservation districts. The district
61 is applying for a soil health grant through the Environmental Protection Fund for a mini-grant for \$25,000.
62 **Recreation** – Lynn Leopold reported that the paddling brochure is in the process of being updated with the
63 current businesses that offer paddling services and will include stand up paddling. **Wetlands** – Darby Kiley
64 reported that John Mawdsley, Hillary Lambert and Nick Hollingshead have been working on the proposal
65 and budget for the grant for wetlands. The Wetlands Committee will be updated with the final report for
66 review. **Aquifer** – Todd Miller reported that the arsenic brochure is on target for review in November and
67 will plans to have it posted to the website in December followed by a press release. Fieldwork will continue
68 in Enfield this summer. Ed Bugliosi reported that the Pony Hollow report has been published and is available
69 online at: <http://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/sir20145059>. **Cayuga Lake Monitoring Partnership** – Elaine
70 Quaroni reported that Jeff Myers of NYSDEC made a presentation that involved the transition from the
71 research process to the development of an effective TMDL. The process will begin with data collection, the
72 development of a model, the evaluation and testing of the model in 2015-2016, followed by using the model
73 to develop the TMDL in 2016-2017. The goal of the modeling project is to provide a better understanding of
74 Cayuga Lake quality under varying conditions in regards to developing an effective TMDL. The objective in
75 improving the water quality of Cayuga Lake would include understanding the dynamics, focusing on the
76 right pollutant, identifying and quantifying the sources and setting the right targets for reduction and
77 effective implementation. Steve Effler gave a presentation on the development of estimated bio-available
78 phosphorus. His definition of bio-available was what will allow algae to grow. It was determined that the
79 only change when looking at past history and recent measurements is the amount of bio-available
80 phosphorus coming from IAWWTF and point sources which indicates that the lake source cooling has gone
81 up. The tributary monitoring was conducted using the July 1st run-off storm data that concluded that point
82 sources contributed 5% of bio-available phosphorus as 95% is coming from the tributaries. In closing, the
83 conclusion was that the shelf particular phosphorus post run-off event is unavailable to support algae growth

84 and is uncoupled from metopic state. Todd Walters spoke about the modeling around the watershed. Linda
85 Wagenet noted the difference in technique for analysis between UFI and CSI. Education - Sharon Anderson
86 thanked Joan Jurkowich for the opportunity to present the overview process of TMDL's at the PEEQ
87 meeting. Streams – Dan Karig expressed concerns with the pipeline crossing at Six Mile Creek by German
88 Crossroad. Dominion Pipeline has confirmed the continued construction this summer. An attempt at
89 arranging a meeting with Jon Negley and Jean Foley of the NYSDEC to inspect the construction site prior to
90 completion has been unsuccessful.

91
92 **Sixmile Creek Support Letter Discussion** - Dan Karig reported that the City of Ithaca had requested to
93 remove sediment form Six Mile Creek at Plain Street. The permit approved the removal of sediment on
94 6”from stream level. At present capacity, Six Mile Creek is insufficient to carry a design flood of anything
95 over 50 years which causes a concern for flooding. The Streams Committee would like to write a letter to the
96 Department of Public Works to have them further evaluate the sediment removal amount in order to resolve
97 any future flooding issues prior to contacting the NYSDEC. Joan Jurkowich made the motion to move the
98 authorization of the draft letter to the City of Ithaca and report back next meeting with the response,
99 seconded by John Mawdsley. Support of the Sixmile Creek draft letter by the Water Resources Council was
100 approved by unanimous vote.

101
102 **Chair & Staff Reports** – Frank Proto reminded members that there will be no meeting in August. Joan
103 Jurkowich reported that the Tompkins County Planning Department submitted their budget. The budget
104 submitted included level funding for Water Resources Council civil work, continued CSI monitoring funding
105 in Tompkins County, and permanent funding for the Stream Corridor Preservation Program of \$25,000 a
106 year.

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109 Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:10PM.
110 Respectfully submitted,
111 Jennifer Turner, Administrative Assistant
112 Tompkins County Planning Department

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114 Adopted by the Council on September 15, 2014
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