

**TOMPKINS COUNTY  
WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL**

Monday, January 23, 2012 4:15pm  
Ithaca Tompkins Transit Center, 737 Willow Avenue, Ithaca

**AGENDA**

*Please turn off your cell phones during the meeting.*

- |       |                                                                     |        |
|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| I.    | Oath of Office for New and Reappointed Members – <i>Frank Proto</i> | 4:15pm |
| II.   | Agenda Review and Approval of Minutes                               | 4:25   |
| III.  | Election of Officers – <i>Nominating Committee</i>                  | 4:30   |
| IV.   | 2011 Year End Committee Reports                                     | 4:35   |
|       | Aquifer                                                             |        |
|       | Dredging                                                            |        |
|       | Education                                                           |        |
|       | Executive                                                           |        |
|       | Grants                                                              |        |
|       | Nominating/Membership                                               |        |
|       | Streams                                                             |        |
|       | Cayuga Lake Monitoring Partnership                                  |        |
|       | Wetlands                                                            |        |
| V.    | 2012 Committee Signups                                              | 5:05   |
| VI.   | Chair & Staff Reports                                               | 5:15   |
| VII.  | Announcements/Other Business                                        | 5:25   |
| VIII. | Adjournment                                                         | 5:30pm |

*Upcoming Meeting Dates: February 27, March 19*

**Members: If you cannot attend a meeting,  
please contact the Planning Department:  
274-5560 or  
kwilsea@tompkins-co.org**

**TOMPKINS COUNTY  
WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL**

**November 21, 2011  
DRAFT Meeting Minutes**

**Voting Members Present (19):** Sharon Anderson, Ed Bugliosi, Liz Cameron, Bill Garthwaite, Barry Goodrich, Roxy Johnston, Joan Jurkowich, Dan Karig, Darby Kiley, Lynn Leopold, Rick Manning, Gregg McConnell, Jim McGarry, Frank Proto, Elaine Quaroni, Marjory Rinaldo-Lee, Cindy Schulte, Craig Schutt, Mary Shelley

**Voting Members Excused (1):** Carol Chock

**Non-Voting Members Present (2):** Dooley Kiefer, Todd Miller

**Guests Present (6):** Sue Beeners, Karen Edelstein, Tom Evans, Bill George, Kathy Halton, Anne Stone

Chairman Frank Proto called the meeting to order at 4:17 PM

**I Agenda Review and Approval of Minutes**

There were no changes to the agenda.

**MOTION** by Craig Schutt, seconded by Barry Goodrich, to approve the minutes of October 17, 2011 as written. The motion **passed** by the unanimous vote of the members present.

**II Faults in south-central NY that are not shown in the dSGEIS and their potential to convey methane-rich fluids to shallow aquifers and to land surface during fracking operations**

Todd Miller, associate member of the Water Resources Council, presented material on faults in the region. According to Todd, some of these faults can serve as conduits for gases and fluids during the fracking process and, thus, fracking should not be conducted where faults exist. The dSGEIS includes data only on faults that were identified prior to 1977. Todd was aware of other faults that were not shown in the dSGEIS and, with a little research, identified nine major missing faults and dozens of other smaller faults within the central New York region. Thus, not only did the dSGEIS not pay enough attention to the issue of faults and earthquakes (seismicity) it was also based on data over 30 years old.

Todd also mentioned that seismicity is associated with faults, and since the dSGEIS does not include most faults in central NY, then the discussion in the dSGEIS on seismicity risk is also inadequate. The use of injection wells to dispose of waste has also been shown to cause earthquakes, which can damage the integrity of gas wells, but it is uncertain earthquakes are caused during the fracking operations.

Liz Cameron and Mary Shelley raised questions about fracking under the Finger Lakes since it appeared that Marcellus Shale did not extend underneath the most of the northern and middle reaches of the lakes and was thinly covered by rock units in the southern portion. Todd thought that the sediment under the lakes would act to confine gases and fluids from escaping upwards into the lake waters, but that not enough information was available to be sure.

Gregg McConnell and Karen Edelstein asked Todd to speculate on how the DEC or the gas companies would respond to the concerns raised about fault lines. He thought they might respond that some drilling companies have 3D seismic surveys conducted that detect faults and therefore would be able to avoid fracking faults, however, it is uncertain how extensive these seismic surveys would be in NY.

---

---

Frank Proto noted Damon Rodnac, a member of the Water Resources Council, had passed away since the last meeting. The members of the Council observed a moment of silence to remember Damon.

---

---

### **III Revised Draft Comments to DEC on Gas Drilling dSGEIS**

Marjory Rinaldo-Lee led the discussion of the revisions of the comment letter to DEC on the dSGEIS. Changes to the letter were three-fold: (1) comment #5 on page 3, dealing with the prohibition on well pads in the New York City and Syracuse watersheds but not in watersheds of other public drinking water supplies; (2) comment #12 on page 6, relating to surface water monitoring; and (3) to comments #14 through 17 (pages 7, et seq.), related to fault lines, including much of the presentation material presented earlier in the meeting.

Several suggested changes were made to the letter:

- Amend comment #15 (page 8) to recommend that DEC require 3D modeling of underground conditions to detect fault lines prior to permitting drilling.
- Amend comment #14 (page 7) to recommend that DEC establish setbacks from the Finger Lakes for lateral drilling.
- Amend comment #14 (page 7) to recommend that DEC establish setbacks from salt mines for lateral drilling.

Marjory noted that comments on the proposed regulations will be required before the Water Resources Council's next meeting. There was a consensus that the Executive Committee be authorized to submit comments on behalf of the Water Resources Council.

**MOTION** by Craig Schutt, seconded by Cindy Schulte, to submit the comment letter to DEC on the dSGEIS, as amended. The motion **passed** by the unanimous vote of the members present.

Cindy Schulte noted that Damon Rodnac had been a member of the Executive Committee and that someone else should be appointed to fill her seat until the end of the year. Craig Schutt was **appointed** to the Executive Committee by the acclamation of the members present.

### **IV Next Steps for Model Wetlands Ordinances**

Darby Kiley noted that the draft model ordinance had been sent to the members earlier in the day. She requested that comments be submitted to her by **December 7** so the Water Resources Council can take action at their meeting in December.

### **V Vote on Slate of Proposed Membership Appointments**

Cindy Schulte presented the slate of appointments recommended by the Nominating/Membership Committee. She noted there would need to be a follow-up effort to fill Damon Rodnac's seat on the Council.

**MOTION** by Cindy Schulte, seconded by Roxy Johnston, to approved the slate as submitted by the Nominating/Membership Committee. The motion **passed** by the unanimous vote of the members present.

Cooperative Extension	Sharon Anderson	reappointment
Environmental Health	Liz Cameron	reappointment
EMC Liaison	Jim McGarry	reappointment
Municipal Government	William George	new (Ulysses)
Agriculture	A. Fay Benson	new
At-Large	Elaine Quaroni	reappointment
At-Large	Gregg McConnell	reappointment (formerly in Agriculture seat)
USGS	Todd Miller	reappointment

Cindy noted that the Committee intended to nominate the existing officers to serve an additional term. Additional nominations can be made at or prior to the December meeting or from the floor at the January meeting, when the election will be held.

**VI Committee Reports**

- Education Committee – Sharon Anderson reported that the Committee had been working with the Inlet Hydrilla Task Force to keep the public informed as to their activities.
- Executive Committee – no report
- Grants Committee – The State has found \$913,000 for FL-LOWPA, leaving the organization 12 to 18 months behind in funding.
- Nominating Committee – Cindy Schulte announced there would be a remembrance ceremony for Damon Rodnac in the Spring.
- Streams Committee – Dan Karig reported that the committee had met and worked on their comments on the dSGEIS. Frank Proto expressed appreciation to Dooley Kiefer for championing CSI’s budget request for stream monitoring through the legislative budget process.
- Wetlands Committee – no report
- Aquifer Committee – no report
- Cayuga Lake Monitoring Partnership- Roxy Johnston reported the committee had met, although the meeting was sparsely attended. She noted the committee was building relationships with DEC and may be able to further push the monitoring plan recommendations.
- Dredging Committee – no report

**VII Chair and Staff Reports**

Frank Proto noted the Council needed to establish meeting dates for January and February of 2012 due to conflicts with national holidays. The Council will meet on January 23 and on February 27 in 2012. Frank also noted that in 2011 the January meeting had been devoted to a meeting of the Executive Committee and the chairs of the other committees. He would like a discussion on whether to repeat this in 2012 at the December meeting.

**VIII Announcements/Other Business**

There were no announcements.

**IX Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Joan Jurkowich, Deputy Commissioner  
 Tompkins County Planning Department.

Adopted by the Council on \_\_\_\_, 2011.