

**TOMPKINS COUNTY
WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL**

Monday, March 19, 2012 4:15pm
Ithaca Tompkins Transit Center, 737 Willow Avenue, Ithaca

AGENDA

Please turn off your cell phones during the meeting.

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|-------|--|--------|
| I. | Agenda Review and Approval of Minutes | 4:15pm |
| II. | Recommendations for EPA Clean Watershed Needs Survey | 4:20 |
| III. | WRC Work Plan
http://www.tompkins-co.org/planning/committees/WRC/documents/WRCWorkPlanfinal20112012.doc | 4:40 |
| IV. | Hydrilla Task Force Update | 5:00 |
| V. | Committee Reports
Education
Executive
Grants
Nominating/Membership
Streams
Water Quality Strategy Update
Wetlands
Aquifer
Cayuga Lake Monitoring Partnership | 5:10 |
| VI. | Chair & Staff Reports | 5:25 |
| VII. | Announcements/Other Business | 5:30 |
| VIII. | Adjournment | 5:35pm |

Upcoming Meeting Dates: April 16, May 21

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

**TOMPKINS COUNTY
WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL**

2
3 **February 27, 2012**
4 **Meeting Minutes**
5

6 **Voting Members Present (18):** Sharon Anderson, Fay Benson, Ed Bugliosi, Liz Cameron, Bill
7 George, Barry Goodrich, Roxy Johnston, Joan Jurkowich, Dan Karig, Darby Kiley, Lynn Leopold,
8 Gregg McConnell, Jim McGarry, Frank Proto, Elaine Quaroni, Marjory Rinaldo-Lee, Craig Schutt,
9 Mary Shelley

10 **Voting Members Absent (1):** Rick Manning,

11 **Non-Voting Members Present (4):** John Andersson, Dooley Kiefer, Jose Lozano, Todd Miller

12 **Guests Present (4):** Peggy Merrill, Tom Evans, Brian Breaker, Lynn Szabo
13

14 Chairman Frank Proto called the meeting to order at 4:18 PM
15

16 **Agenda Review and Approval of Minutes** – Frank added some items to the agenda: Share information on the
17 copy we received of a letter from EMC concerning a dredging project at the Cornell sailing center, an update from
18 the Hydrilla Task Force, and a letter from the Planning Department forwarding the Clean Water Needs Survey.
19 The draft minutes of 1/23/2012 were approved with no changes. Guest Peggy Merrill, a Groton resident, was
20 welcomed.
21

22 **USGS's New Applications for Mapping Bathymetry and Velocity with Applications for Flood Inundation,**
23 **Habitat, and Reservoir Capacity** -- Ed Bugliosi introduced USGS staff members Brian Breaker, Hydrologic
24 Technician, and Lynn Szabo, Data Section Chief. They are working on a project at USGS with goals of sharing
25 information and working toward flood management. Brian used a PowerPoint slide show and spoke of his work
26 with the SonTek M9 equipment on bathymetry, velocity and LIDAR data capabilities and techniques. This is
27 ADP technology obtained for mapping, and data can be collected from boats, bridges, or the “clothesline method”
28 of having two people work on the opposite banks of a water body. The data is then imported to a spreadsheet.
29 Data is linked to LIDAR for digital terrain, and the combination then shows underwater depths. The dataset can
30 be used from a couple feet below known low water levels and a couple feet above flood evaluation to show
31 potential flood patterns. Lynn is working on cost estimates. The slides showed data collected in Cayuga Inlet,
32 with field work completed in two days, then another day spent in the office to organize the data. Timeline would
33 depend on extend of detail requested. If done before and after a dredging project, it could exhibit changes and
34 then be used to track needs as they develop. Roxy Johnston pointed out the City's drinking water reservoir could
35 have effective management with this information. Currently they do bathymetry about every ten years. The
36 technology could be used to show channels that require alterations of herbicide application for Hydrilla and/or the
37 proposed drip method of releasing herbicide upstream of problem spots. Roxy shared that Todd Cowan is also
38 working on 3D circulation patterns for the lake, and expects that to be available next year. Craig Schutt said DEC
39 provided an estimate of \$600,000 to map the Inlet, and Joan Jurkowich said this M9 method might be better if it
40 would satisfy FEMA requirements for new flood mapping. Roxy concurred, saying this seems more detailed than
41 the maps from Army Corps of Engineers. Ed thought this could be covered by the capital program agreement for
42 aquifer studies. Dan Karig said no old bathymetric surveys are available for comparison in the dredging planning.
43

44 **Final Draft Wetlands Model Local Law** – Darby Kiley explained the history of this model, which started in
45 2008 with Nick Schipanski. The model law suggests a permitting system with mitigation plans, with review of
46 permit applications by the municipality's planning board. Action requested today is approval to send the model to
47 municipalities for their possible use. The committee did some field work and found many wetlands that are not

48 mapped. A municipality could pass a wetlands law to provide another line of protection. She is willing to visit
49 any municipality that has questions. Frank asked if we are suggesting or providing a way for municipalities to
50 intrude on landowners' rights, and Darby said it would be up to any municipality, but the model suggests
51 exempting agriculture land. The model originally went to council members in October to draw comments. With
52 three towns considering enacting Critical Environmental Areas, there was discussion on if this would have impact
53 on those intentions. Darby felt it would strengthen CEA laws, and Jim McGarry pointed out a CEA does not
54 necessarily include a wetland. Darby moved to approve the final draft and distribute it to municipalities, which
55 was seconded by Craig Schutt and passed by vote of 16 yes and 2 no (Proto and Benson). The draft letter will be
56 put on letterhead for Frank's signature. Frank expressed thanks to the committee for their work.
57

58 **Committee Reports –Executive:** Frank said he will discuss the letter from Ed Marx about the Clean Water Needs
59 Assessment with the Executive Committee. Joan Jurkovich said the response needs to be as complete as possible,
60 since the Planning Department cannot provide priorities and research. The WRC Annual Report will be completed
61 when the final committee report is submitted. **Grants:** Craig had passed around FLOWPA narratives from all
62 counties in the region, pointing out there are big cuts from the state, from \$85 million to \$34 million. Finger
63 Lakes State Parks has applied for a Hydrilla eradication grant of more than \$2 million. The County Administrator
64 and Chair of the Legislature did some lobbying at the NYS Association of Counties annual meeting, and Craig
65 spoke in Albany the next week on Hydrilla (text available in the mail folder). He felt legislators are informed and
66 supportive. \$380,000 has been committed from the Great Lakes Initiative, which is federal money that will pass
67 through NYS. Fay Benson suggesting checking on Sea Grant, too. In addition to all the contacts with NYS
68 legislators, letters are going out to federal representatives. Roxy pointed out if Inlet dredging is stretched out to a
69 ten-year project, it will decrease the herbicide effectiveness. One big dredge would be more useful, although more
70 expensive. The bulk of the work could be one effort. She has prepared a proposal, and the City is fact-checking
71 her document for accuracy of the dredging details right now. Craig reported he and Liz Cameron attended a
72 Hydrilla Task Force meeting today. Experts are now recommending dual treatment with two herbicides, but DEC
73 is not sure. Liz pointed out the second pesticide is not registered right now for use in our type of need. It would
74 be used for metered doses upstream of infestation. Roxy said a palletized form is also available for spots missed
75 upstream of the main treatment area. Difficulties exist in coordinating the multitude of permits, too. Public notice
76 must be displayed for each phase. Roxy will be talking regularly with Cayuga and Seneca counties about invasive
77 species. A public meeting is planned in a month or two, and the Cooperative Extension website keeps current
78 (<http://ccetompkins.org/environment/invasive-species/hydrilla>). **Nominating/ Membership:** Craig reported one
79 application has been received for the vacant at-large seat. **Water Quality Strategy Update:** Bill George offered to
80 coordinate the first meeting, and will contact members. **Wetlands:** Darby reported on an article she read in "Talk
81 of the Towns", which states NYS is remapping freshwater wetlands, but requires a local initiative to start the
82 contact with residents. She suggested having a guest speaker on this from DEC. **Aquifers:** Todd Miller reported
83 he can still provide a report on the Dryden study for a future WRC meeting, and USGS staff will be visiting
84 Groton about the possibility of starting a study. Ed said an aquifer study is just a resource analysis and would not
85 have any repercussions for landowners.
86

87 **Chair & Staff Reports** – Frank asked Jim McGarry to discuss the EMC letter on Cornell Sailing Center dredging,
88 which was copied to WRC. Jim said this is a project around their docks, which they submitted to the Town of
89 Ithaca as a SEQR Type II action. DEC permits do not allow spot dredging updates. Hydrilla presence is
90 unknown, and not mentioned in materials provided by the applicant. Location for disposal of spoils was also not
91 mentioned. Frank read the points from the EMC letter, and there was consensus that the Executive Committee is
92 authorized to send a letter to Pat McNally, Cornell's compliance officer.
93

94 **IX Adjournment**

95 The meeting was adjourned at 6:04 PM.

96
97 Respectfully submitted,
98 Kathy Wilsea, Secretary, Tompkins County Planning Department.
99 Adopted by the Council on ____, 2012.

2012 USEPA Clean Watersheds Needs Survey

Fact Sheet

The **Clean Watersheds Needs Survey (CWNS)** is required per Section 516 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and is conducted every four years by the States and USEPA. Its purpose is to assess water quality infrastructure costs for Point Source and Non-Point Source (NPS) water pollution abatement or protection projects. The CWNS is a cooperative effort between Federal, State and Local Stakeholders.

Eligible Participants:

- All municipalities,
- Local Health Departments, Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Municipal Planning Departments,
- State and Federal Agencies,
- Not-for-Profit organization with water quality issues, and
- Engineering firms, technical assistance organizations and professional organizations.

Deadline: April 2, 2012

Please send all needs and cost documentation to the CWNS State Coordinator, 625 Broadway – 7th Floor, Albany, New York 12207-2997. Electronic submittals may be sent to the following e-mail address: Jason.Denno@efc.ny.gov.

Contact Information:

The CWNS State Coordinator will provide assistance upon request. Please e-mail Jason Denno at Jason.Denno@efc.ny.gov or (518) 623-1200. Further assistance can be provided at (518) 402 - 7396.

Additional Information:

To learn more about the 2012 CWNS, please visit the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation website at: www.efc.ny.gov, or go to the USEPA website at: <http://water.epa.gov/scitech/datait/databases/cwns/index.cfm>

	Types of Projects		
	Eligible Borrower		
	Public	Private/ Not for Profit	Unofficial Needs
Secondary Treatment	X		
Advanced Treatment (i.e. nutrients)	X		
Infiltration/Inflow (I/I) Correction	X		
Sewer Replacement/Rehabilitation	X		
New Collectors Sewers and Appurtenances	X		
New Interceptors Sewers and Appurtenances	X		
Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Correction	X		
Stormwater Management Program	X		
Stormwater Conveyance Infrastructure	X		
Stormwater Treatment Systems	X		
Green Infrastructure	X	X	
General Stormwater Management	X		
Agriculture (Cropland)	X	X	
Agriculture (Animals)	X	X	
Silviculture	X	X	
Ground Water Protection	X	X	
Marinas	X	X	
Resource Extraction	X	X	
Brownfields	X	X	
Storage Tanks	X	X	
Sanitary Landfills	X	X	
Hydromodification	X	X	
Other Estuary Management Activities	X	X	
Confined Animals Point Source			X
Mining Point Source			X
Recycled Water Distribution	X		
Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems	X	X	
Planning:			X
For additional detail of the allowable types of projects please see the document “Needs Categories” on EFC’s website.			

USEPA Documentation Requirements

To be eligible for CWNS 2012, each facility and project must provide the following seven elements of information:

1. **A description of the current or potential water quality impairment and information on its potential source.** The problem description should include specific pollutant source information and/or specific threats to the waterbody. A general statement about water quality impairment or threat does not meet this criterion.
2. **The location of the problem.** Must be identified as a single latitude/longitude point, a polygon, or a county, watershed or town.
3. **The solution to the problem.** One or more specific pollution control measure(s) or best management practices (BMPs) to address the identified problem or threat.
4. **The cost for each solution.** The cost to implement each pollution control measure or specified BMP must be provided. General estimates for the problem area are not permitted; only site-specific data is acceptable to generate costs.
5. **The source of the cost.** (e.g., engineer's estimates, costs from comparable practices, estimates from equipment suppliers) for each solution must be identified.
6. **The total cost.** The total cost of all pollution control measures and BMPs documented for the facility or project must be provided.
7. **Current documentation.** For needs greater than \$30 million (January 2012 dollar base), the documentation date must be January 1, 2006, or more current. For all other needs, the documentation date must be January 1, 2002, or more current.