

TOMPKINS COUNTY WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL

June 26, 2023 Via Zoom

Final Minutes

Attendance

| Member | | Seat | Member | | Seat |
|----------------|---|-----------------------------|---------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| Annie Bastoni | P | At-Large | Brian Rahm | P | Environment |
| Shawn Bossard | P | Agriculture | Stephanie Redmond | A | At-Large |
| Cynthia Brock | P | Municipal | Steve Riddle | A | Water Purveyor |
| Liz Cameron | E | Co. Environmental Health | Linda Wagenet | P | At-Large |
| Susan Currie | P | County Government | David Wolfe | P | Environmental Management Council |
| Jenna DeRario | P | Cooperative Extension | Douglas Barnes | E | <i>Associate</i> |
| 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 | P | <i>Associate</i> |
| Holly Payne | A | At-Large | Tom Vawter | E | <i>Associate</i> |
| Frank Proto | P | At-Large | | | |

Guests: Nicholas Demitraszek (EFC), Ashley Inzerillo (NYSDOH), Andrew Murphy

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

Privilege of the Floor – Brian Rahm made a quick announcement that he is on the Finger Lakes Action Agenda Steering Committee (similar to plans for the Hudson, Mohawk, and others). Brian can be a communication route with that committee and the WRC.

Presentation: State Revolving Funds and Funding Opportunities for Water Infrastructure Projects

– *Nicholas Demitraszek, Program Coordinator, NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation; and Ashley Inzerillo, NYS Department of Health Bureau of Water Supply Protection*

Nick and Ashley provided overviews of a number of financing and grant programs available for clean water and drinking water projects (Engineering Planning Grant, Water Infrastructure Improvement, Intermunicipal Grants, Green Innovation Grant Program, State Revolving Fund Grants, and Bipartisan Infrastructure Grants). Many of the grant programs are open now through the Consolidated Funding Application. The governor created community assistance teams, which provide technical assistance virtually and in-person (contacts: CWSRFinfo@efc.ny.gov; design@health.ny.gov).

During the discussion, Roxy Johnston noted that the WRC will be considering a comment letter today regarding biosolids in the state’s waste management plan because there’s no plan with PFAS in biosolids. She noted that it sounds like there are programs for emerging contaminants, and Nick remarked that it’s a new program with funds from the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, focused first on drinking water projects, and next year clean water projects will also be included. The Water Infrastructure Improvement program can be used for drinking water emerging contaminants.

Elaine asked what the lead pipe replacement covers, and Nick responded that it covers the pipes on both the homeowner and municipality sides. All communities are eligible.

Cynthia asked about funding for inflow and infiltration. Based on competitiveness, those are generally ranked lower. Funding for aging drinking and wastewater treatment facilities is allowed as long as not related to growth and expansion. Portions of some munis in Tompkins County are considered disadvantaged communities.

Action: Consider approving a comment letter on the draft NYS Solid Waste Management Plan regarding biosolids and the Interim Strategy for the Control of PFAS Compounds

Roxy Johnston discussed the comment letter draft under consideration. She noted that there is a reference to when the plan would be implemented, and the language should be changed from the 2030s to the 2050s. New monitoring demands are reasonable but support is needed for small systems. Based on the information learned at the meeting today, financial assistance may be available so the language will be changed to take that into account. David Wolfe asked about heavy metals in biosolids, and Roxy responded that there is a permitting process that accounts for heavy metals and land spreading.

Shawn Bossard made a motion to send the letter with the edits mentioned during the discussion, seconded by David Wolfe. All in favor.

Action: Review and consider 2024 budget requests

The Education Committee has been talking about updating the Clean Boating Map/Brochure. Because 2024 looks to be a tight budget year, the Department of Planning and Sustainability is recommending that the map/brochure be updated this year with existing/unallocated County funds. The design rough estimate is \$300-500. The printing quote for 3,000 pieces is \$,3460.

Frank Proto made a motion that WRC supports the DPS action on behalf of the education committee to spend up to \$5,000 to accommodate design and printing cost of the clean boating map, seconded by Linda Wagenet. All in favor, motion passed.

The Paddling guide was also discussed, but it does not include information about water quality so the WRC will not be doing any updates of that and will defer to the new Blueway Trail information.

Action: Approval of draft minutes – April 2023 meeting minutes were approved (moved by Frank Proto, seconded by Patrick King) as submitted.

Committee Reports

Roxy gave a report on the Monitoring Partnership.

Chair and Staff Reports

None provided

Member Announcements

Frank asked about hydrilla and HABs. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will be start treating hydrilla soon. HABs monitoring program starts soon.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 5:45pm.