

TOMPKINS COUNTY WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL

March 20, 2023 Zoom meeting

Final Minutes

Attendance

Member		Seat	Member		Seat
Annie Bastoni	P	At-Large	Brian Rahm	P	Environment
Shawn Bossard	P	Agriculture	Stephanie Redmond	E	At-Large
Cynthia Brock	P	Municipal	Steve Riddle	P	Water Purveyor
Liz Cameron	P	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	P	<i>Associate</i>
Kristen Hychka	P	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	E	At-Large	Tom Vawter	A	<i>Associate</i>
Frank Proto	P	At-Large			

Guests: Erin Norris, Kevin Sarmiento

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

Privilege of the Floor – No one spoke.

Presentation: Payment for Ecosystem Services: An Incentive-based Approach – Jenna DeRario, CCE
Tompkins

Jenna spoke to the group about a Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) program currently being undertaken as a pilot with six farms in Tompkins County. She talked about her professional background and how it led to her working on this project, shared a bit about the project’s history and timeline, and gave an overview of PES programs in general, which are voluntary and aim to incentivize and reward farmers and other land stewards in exchange for adapting ecologically sound and sustainable land management practices. The presentation and subsequent discussion covered various topics, including differences between pay-for-practice versus pay-for-performance programs, process for selecting which farms to approach about participating and desire to include BIPOC agricultural communities, barriers financial and otherwise to farms becoming involved and succeeding if they do, volunteer activities, committee-level work on funding strategies and more, public-private partnerships, carbon market opportunities, model state and municipal programs from Vermont and elsewhere, coordination with Soil & Water Conservation Districts and other partners, and brainstorming about ways to identify areas throughout County that would benefit from riparian buffers or other water quality improvement measures.

Update: Groundwater Monitoring Proposal – Darby Kiley

Darby, Doug, Liz, Jon, and Angel met to discuss next steps for the groundwater monitoring proposal presented by Stephanie Redmond and Bill Kappel at the February WRC meeting. They’ve also been

emailing with Bill, Stephanie, and Noah Mark from Community Science Institute to exchange ideas. Group will meet again this Wednesday via Zoom. Anyone interested in joining should reach out to Darby for the meeting link.

Action: Approval of Draft Minutes – February 2023 meeting minutes were approved (moved by Brian Rahm, seconded by Shawn Bossard) as submitted.

Committee Reports

No additional reports. Members were referred to agenda packet for submitted written reports.

Chair and Staff Report

No report from the chair. Committee chairs should keep in mind requests for 2024 County budget are due in June. Darby asked if there was interest in a tour of the Cornell Lake Source Cooling facility.

Member Announcements – Members shared news and asked questions regarding various items of interest. These included hydrilla and harmful algal bloom forecasting, draft Owasco Watershed Rules & Regulations, draft FEMA flood maps, and new NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS), and 1,4-dioxane (1,4-D) in public water systems. Details included discussion of FEMA's plans for community outreach on revised maps, increases and decreases in properties listed as located within floodplains and requiring flood insurance, water purveyors' concerns related to meeting new DEC and EPA water quality standards, Cayuga Lake Watershed Network's community conference on May 18 at Wells College, as well as an article on FEMA maps in the upcoming CLWN newsletter, and more. Members also discussed scheduling a possible update from CSI staff on HABs and hydrilla data collection and monitoring, Cayuga Inlet dredging, and possible building of six-foot flood walls along Cascadilla and Six Mile creeks, as proposed by City of Ithaca engineers to reduce number of properties included in floodplains.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 5:21pm.