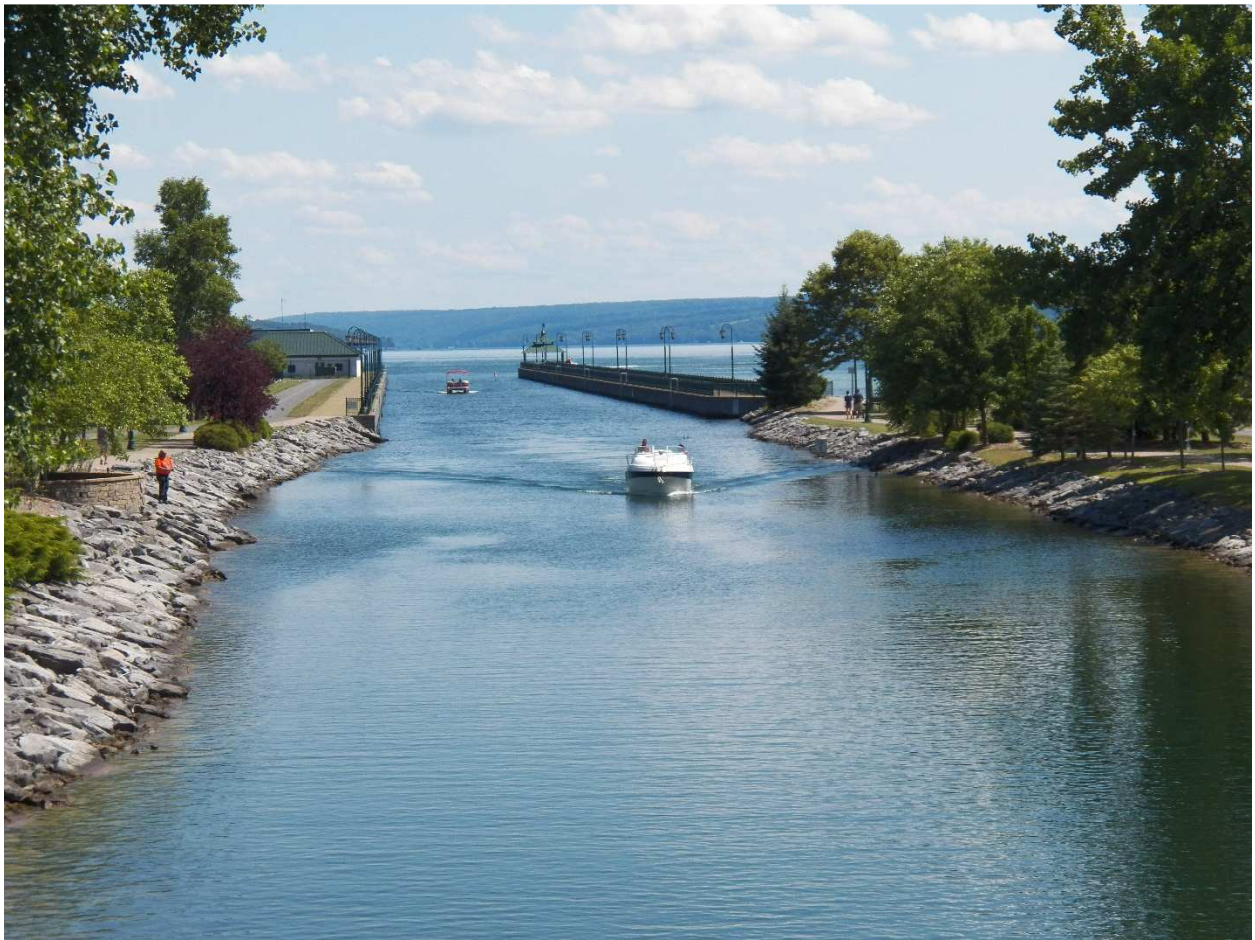


Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency



2015 Work Plan
Approved 3/5/2015

The Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency's Mission

The Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency (WQMA) was created by County Legislative Resolution #445-90 to serve the Cayuga County Legislature in meeting its responsibilities in the management and protection of the County's water resources.

The WQMA advises the Cayuga County Legislature on matters related to water resource management and planning. The WQMA is charged with identifying problems, proposing priorities, and promoting the coordination of activities in the management and protection of the County's water resources. More specifically, the Agency is charged with:

1. Creating and maintaining a comprehensive planning and implementation program for water quality management in Cayuga County.
2. Coordinating the responsibilities of agencies and watershed associations with interest in water quality management in Cayuga County.
3. Providing greater public input into the process of water quality management and related programs.
4. Providing an effective public education program to develop public understanding and support for water quality management in Cayuga County.

2015 Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency Membership

Chair: Eileen O'Connor

Vice-Chair: Doug Kierst

Cayuga County Legislature's Environmental Advisors:

Director of Cayuga County Planning and Economic Development

Director of Cayuga County Environmental Health

Director of Cayuga County Parks and Trails

Director of Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District

Cayuga County Solid Waste Management Program Administrator

Cayuga County Cooperative Extension Executive Director

Stephen Lynch

Eileen O'Connor

Gary Duckett

Doug Kierst

Bruce Natale

Doug Ververs

Non-County, Local Officials

Town of Owasco

City of Auburn

Cayuga County Association of Town Supervisors

Cayuga County Association of Villages

Edward Wagner

Vicky Murphy

Vacant

Harry Hinman

Representatives from Waterbody Associations in Cayuga County

Cayuga Lake Watershed Network

Duck Lake Association

Lake Como Association

Owasco Watershed Lake Association

Skaneateles Lake Association Inc.

Jim Young

Dale Powell

Barb Harvey

Robert Brower

Kathleen Gorr

Partners

Center for Environmental Initiatives

Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board

Finger Lakes Institute at Hobart and William Smith Colleges

Institute for the Application of Geospatial Technology at Cayuga Community College, Inc.

Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council

Staff Support

Michele Wunderlich, Cayuga County Planning and Economic Development, Associate Planner,
mwunderlich@cayugacounty.us, 315-253-1107

Monthly Meetings

The Cayuga County WQMA meets on a regular basis, on the 1st Thursday of the month throughout the year at 10 am. All meetings are scheduled for the Natural Resource Center at 7413 County House Road, Auburn unless otherwise noted.

Website

The Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency website is
www.cayugacounty.us/wqma.

CAYUGA COUNTY WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
2015 WORK PLAN

Bacteria Working Group

1. PRIORITY: Septic Systems

ACTION: Visit properties in Tompkins County in search of problem septic systems – Watershed Inspection Program

ACTION: Review websites advertising short term rentals around Owasco Lake and visit those properties more frequently during the summer – Watershed Inspection Program

ACTION: Deliver “Welcome packages” to new homeowners about proper septic system maintenance – Watershed Inspection Program

ACTION: Continue distribution of updated NYS Health Department brochure on septic systems- CCE, Health Department and Watershed Inspection Program

ACTION: Support the project to extend public sewers to Koenig Point in Owasco – WQMA

ACTION: Visit properties in densely populated areas (i.e. mobile home parks, clusters of camps nearshore, etc.) on a more frequent basis to monitor for septic system failure – Watershed Inspection Program

ACTION: When meeting with Health Department staff in Onondaga and Tompkins Counties, encourage these counties to consider adopting a septic system inspection program similar to Cayuga County – Watershed Inspection Program

2. PRIORITY: Waterfowl

ACTION: Support the continuation of the USDA program to remove resident geese from Emerson Park – WQMA

ACTION: Research the effectiveness of light reflecting prisms at the park to discourage waterfowl. – Parks

ACTION: Encourage elected officials to allow nuisance permits for seagulls – Parks

ACTION: Continue discouraging the feeding of waterfowl - Parks, Duck Lake Association

ACTION: Work with Dave Figura of the Post Standard and the editor of the Citizen to write articles encouraging hunting since there is a longer hunting season – Parks

ACTION: Continue harassment of waterfowl at the beaches - Parks

3. PRIORITY: Stormwater

ACTION: Install medallions on storm drains–Watershed Inspection Program

ACTION: Promote the use of rain barrels and rain gardens – CCE

ACTION: Provide maps to municipalities showing areas of high risk when ditching in the spring and fall - Planning

ACTION: Educate homeowners regarding the impact of landscaping on stormwater - CCE, Watershed Inspection Program

ACTION: Create and maintain an inventory and condition of ditches - Watershed Inspection Program

ACTION: Install sediment traps as a pilot project - Watershed Inspection Program

ACTION: Reach out to highway superintendents regarding proper ditch maintenance – SWCD, Watershed Inspection Program

ACTION: Investigate which County properties might be good locations for permeable pavements based upon soils – SWCD

ACTION: Encourage the installation of permeable pavement where possible – Planning, Parks

4. PRIORITY: Pet Waste

ACTION: Provide education regarding proper handling of pet waste –CCE, Watershed Inspection Program, Duck Lake Association

5. PRIORITY: Agriculture

ACTION: Encourage DEC to increase penalties for water quality violations - WQMA

ACTION: Encourage DEC to increase the frequency of inspections of CAFOs - WQMA

ACTION: Create sampling program plan around CAFOs during runoff, snowmelt and rain events -Watershed Inspection Program, Health, Planning, SWCD

ACTION: Encourage cooperation with DEC when determining CAFO penalties - WQMA

ACTION: Encourage DEC to include environmental projects as part of any penalties issued - WQMA

ACTION: Encourage farmers within the Owasco Watershed to allow SWCD to review their nutrient management plans. - SWCD, Watershed Inspection Program

ACTION: Increase inspections of agricultural lands during the winter and spring - Watershed Inspection Program

ACTION: Provide roadshow to help inform manure applicators – SWCD

ACTION: Educate planners on numbered streams, bedrock, susceptible soils, and other available resources at the Cayuga County Planning Department – SWCD

ACTION: Encourage the use of model leases which specifies spreading conditions that are allowed – CCE

ACTION: Create a relationship network between farmers who have excess manure and crop farmers/gardeners who may need fertilizer – CCE

ACTION: Provide education regarding the risk of spreading of manure on frozen ground, or during rainy season – SWCD, CCE

ACTION: Seek grants to cover costs of the installation of BMPs along watercourses – SWCD

ACTION: Investigate the feasibility of providing tax breaks or incentives to farmers who maintain buffers – Planning, SWCD

ACTION: Encourage the use of Conservation Easements, Finger Lakes Land Trust, and American Farmland Trust – Planning, CCE

ACTION: Encourage/require water quality improvement practices to protect streams on properties that receive County or State funding – Planning

ACTION: Identify farms where cows have access to streams – Watershed Inspection Program and SWCD

ACTION: Seek funding opportunities for fencing and alternative water source to keep cows out of streams – SWCD

ACTION: Encourage cover crops, especially in areas with steep slopes and highly erodible soils – SWCD

ACTION: Provide education on the positive benefits of cover crops SWCD

ACTION: Seek grants to encourage the use of cover crops – SWCD and OWLA

ACTION: Encourage Manure Injection – SWCD

ACTION: Reach out to the non-CAFO farmers to improve their practices – SWCD and CCE

Invasive Species Working Group

1. PRIORITY: Create a list of target invasive species

ACTION: The Working Group will review the FL-PRISM's list of priority species of concern and use that as starting point to create a list of target species of the WQMA based on:

- Their proximity to or presence in Cayuga County and important areas for conservation;
- How directly their attributes correlate with invasiveness;
- The vulnerability of existing populations and ecological communities to their invasion; and
- The severity of the biological and economic consequences that could result from their spread.

2. PRIORITY: Information dissemination

ACTION: The Working Group will gather and disseminate information to the WQMA and the public on the target species determined in #1 and any new invasives to the County.

ACTION: The Working Group will update and maintain the Cayuga County WQMA website and promote the FL-PRISM website.

3. PRIORITY: Inventory and field reconnaissance of invasive species in Cayuga County:

ACTION: The Working Group will survey for existing target species infestations.

ACTION: The Working Group will conduct Asian clam diving inventory surveys in Owasco Lake to determine the population and effectiveness of control methods.

ACTION: The Working Group will conduct field reconnaissance of areas suspected of having a new invasive species population.

4. PRIORITY: Education, training and public participation

ACTION: The Working Group will provide educational materials and training programs on the WQMA priority species of concern to:

- WQMA members
- Lake Associations
- Nurseries
- Marinas and boat launches
- Fishing bait sellers and users
- Aquarium sellers and users
- Sport and outdoor shops
- Other citizen groups

ACTION: The Working Group will prepare and publish two Eco-Talk articles per year on invasive species.

ACTION: The Working Group will invite other stakeholders and partners to activities sponsored by the WQMA and its members and partners including March to Lake Day, Owasco Lake Day, invasive species workshops and watershed steward events.

5. PRIORITY: Invasive species control

ACTION: The Working Group will support existing invasive species control programs including the County's aquatic harvesting program and will assist as able in other control programs.

Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Working Group

1. PRIORITY: Local government outreach and assistance

ACTION: Planning will work with Cayuga County Towns and Villages, beginning with those adjacent to Owasco Lake, to encourage adoption of ordinances similar to Owasco's Erosion and Sediment Control Plan for Small Homesite Construction ordinance as well as identifying "best practices" that ensure these measures are implemented at the Town and Village level.

ACTION: Planning will conduct training to selected municipalities regarding incorporating steep slope protections in their development review and/or building permit process.

ACTION: Planning will investigate the adoption of storm water regulations within the County and explore viable catch basin maintenance programs that could be implemented at the local level during subdivision and other development review procedures.

ACTION: SWCD will encourage code enforcement officers and highway department personnel to attend their Erosion and Sediment Control Workshops for Construction Site Contractors and Operators.

ACTION: SWCD will encourage highway department personnel to participate in training from Cornell Local Roads Program and follow ditch maintenance practices that will reduce erosion.

2. PRIORITY: Best management practices

ACTION: Promote the sediment and nutrient reduction practice methodology created by the Working Group.

ACTION: Monitor the preparation of watershed management plans and other County plans and advocate including strategies for addressing reducing sediment and nutrient loading.

ACTION: Continue to focus sediment and nutrient reduction activities in the County based on the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's priority waterbodies list and the Dutch Hollow Brook Watershed Restoration Grant Project.

3. PRIORITY: Watershed tools and models

ACTION: Review current work in creating GIS based watershed delineation tools and nutrient loading models and determine opportunities for practical applications in Cayuga County.

- EPA My Watershed Locator Tool
- The web based runoff generating area mapping tool developed by Cornell University.

4. PRIORITY: Public participation

ACTION: Engage Lake Associations in implementing programs to protect water quality such as the “adopt a shoreline/stream” approach.

Solid Waste Working Group

1. PRIORITY: Work plan development

ACTION: Develop a work plan for the Solid Waste Working Group.