

Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency



2016 Work Plan
Approved on June 2, 2016

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.

2016 Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency Membership

Chair: Stephen Lynch

Vice-Chair: Eileen O'Connor

Cayuga County Legislature's Environmental Advisors:

Director of Cayuga County Planning and Economic Development	Stephen Lynch
Director of Cayuga County Environmental Health	Eileen O'Connor
Director of Cayuga County Parks and Trails	Gary Duckett
Director of Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District	Doug Kierst
Cayuga County Solid Waste Management Program Administrator	Bruce Natale
Cayuga County Cooperative Extension Executive Director	Doug Ververs

Non-County, Local Officials

Town of Owasco	Edward Wagner
City of Auburn	Vacant
Cayuga County Association of Town Supervisors	Vacant
Cayuga County Association of Villages	Harry Hinman

Representatives from Waterbody Associations in Cayuga County

Cayuga Lake Watershed Network	Jim Young
Central New York Waterways, Inc.	Carl Wiezalis
Duck Lake Association	Dale Powell
Lake Como Association	Barb Harvey
Owasco Watershed Lake Association	Robert Brower
Skaneateles Lake Association Inc.	Kathleen Gorr

Partners

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
Finger Lake Partnership for Invasive Species Management

Staff Support

Michele Wunderlich, Cayuga County Planning and Economic Development, Associate Planner,
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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.

Websites

Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency: www.cayugacounty.us/wqma.
Cayuga County Manure Management Working Group – 14-Point Action Agenda:
www.cayugacounty.us/manuremanagement.

CAYUGA COUNTY WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
2016 WORK PLAN

COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH WORKING GROUP

Cayuga County Manure Management Working Group – 14-Point Action Agenda Items to Address:

ACTION ITEM #8: Publish quarterly or annual reports and press releases summarizing the NYSDEC records relating to complaints regarding manure activities, sharing the results of analysis of NYSDEC complaints conducted by the County Planning Department.

- Specific Tasks and Timeline:
 - Publish quarterly or annual reports and press releases of results of Action Item #7. Work will be done within 60 days after receiving the information from the Cayuga County Department of Planning and Economic Development.
- Resources Required:
 - Action Item #6: Cayuga County Legislature has to request on a monthly basis, records compiled by the NYSDEC relating to complaints regarding manure activities and the investigations of them.
 - Action Item #7: The Cayuga County Department of Planning and Economic Development will need to analyze NYSDEC records of complaints and investigations of manure activities over time to determine if enforcement activities are: 1) focused strongly enough on repeat, uncooperative offenders, 2) adequately preventing direct, unrestricted access to streams by livestock, and 3) conducted in a manner that is uniform and consistent across all watersheds.

ACTION ITEM #11: Develop a Request for Proposals from qualified professionals to create a branding and communications plan for WQMA. Seek funds from educational foundations and other potential sources to create and implement an effective communications plan.

- Specific Tasks and Timeline:
 - Develop Request for Quotes to create a branding and communications plan by May 30, 2016.
 - Release Request for Quotes to create a branding and communications plan by June 2016.
 - Determine if any Request for Quotes to create a branding and communications plan meets the needs of the WQMA by July 31, 2016.
 - Seek funds by October 1, 2016 to create and implement the communications plan.
- Resources Required:
 - Funding to create and implement the communications plan.

ACTION ITEM #13: Expand the WQMA Website by adding material on how to recognize good and bad manure handling practices and effectively communicate the local standards prepared under Action Item #3 and the NYSDEC analysis from Action Item #8 in a manner that makes this information understandable to the widest possible audience.

- Specific Tasks and Timeline:
 - Expand the WQMA website after the communications and branding plan is completed. Approximately 2017.
 - Add information from Action Item #3 and Action Item #8. Approximately 2017.
- Resources Required:
 - Need Action Item #11 completed first.
 - Need Action Item #3 and Action Item #8 completed.

INVASIVE SPECIES WORKING GROUP**PRIORITY: Information dissemination**

ACTION: The Working Group will gather and disseminate information to the WQMA and the public on priority species determined by the Finger Lakes Partnership for Invasive Species Management (PRISM) and this working group.

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

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.

PRIORITY: Education, training and public participation

ACTION: The Working Group will work with the PRISM to maximize resource and will provide educational materials and training programs on the 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.

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 WORKING GROUP**Cayuga County Manure Management Working Group – 14-Point Action Agenda Items to Address:**

ACTION ITEM #1: Analyze the results of a literature search recently undertaken as part of the Cayuga Lake Watershed Plan Update Project to identify priority nutrient management research needs; Continually update the literature search and the analysis and distribute the results of the analysis in periodic reports; Meet with representatives of universities and other research institutions and organizations to identify and endorse proposals that address the priority needs and to assist in the creation of strategic, cooperative research partnerships.

- Specific Tasks and Timeline:
 - Identify information needs regarding effective nutrient management practices (by 7/30/2016) - Nutrient Working Group.
 - Contact researchers involved with the Cayuga Lake project to obtain information from their recent literature search and other studies (by 9/1/2016) - Nutrient Working Group.
 - Identify gaps in information about nutrient loading (by 10/1/2016) - Nutrient Working Group.
 - Meet with researchers/scientists to discuss research needs (by 2/1/2017) - Nutrient Working Group.

ACTION ITEM #3: Direct the WQMA to expand the membership of one of its working groups to insure greater participation and input from the agricultural community and assign that working group the tasks of reviewing existing standards for manure management (including the NRCS Code 590 Standard) and developing its own set of locally appropriate standards addressing issues and practices.

- Specific Tasks and Timeline:
 - Identify strategy for engaging agricultural community (includes identifying possible ag advisors/partners to the Working Group) (by 6/30/2016) - Manure Management Group.
 - Review Code 590 to develop an interpretation of guidance (by 2/1/2017) - Nutrient Working Group.
 - Create a list of key elements from existing standards and guidelines to promote (by 2/1/2017) – Nutrient Working Group.

ACTION ITEM #4: Determine what field conditions must exist and what management practices must be followed in order for manure application on frozen, snow covered and/or saturated soil to be considered acceptable; Seek advice and guidance on this issue from representatives of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), Cornell University; In discussing standards for application on saturated soil, address issues relating to the Code 590 Standard.

- Specific Tasks and Timeline:
 - Create a list of questions regarding appropriate field conditions that must exist in order for farmers to be able to spread manure on frozen, snow covered and/or saturated (by 10/1/2016) - Nutrient Working Group.
 - Set up meetings with DEC, NRCS, and Cornell to create concrete interpretation (by 11/1/2016) - Nutrient Working Group.

Other Priorities

PRIORITY: Septic Systems (includes holding tanks)

ACTION: Inspect properties in Tompkins and Onondaga Counties in search of problem septic systems – Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection Program.

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

ACTION: Deliver “Welcome packages” to new homeowners about proper septic system maintenance – Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection Program, Owasco Watershed Lake Association, Duck Lake Association, and Lake Como Association.

ACTION: Establish a set of criteria for municipal officials to use when considering extending public sewers – Cayuga County Department of Planning and Economic Development.

ACTION: Research alternative septic systems that may result in improved operation – Cayuga County Health Department.

PRIORITY: Waterfowl

ACTION: Research the effectiveness of light reflecting prisms at the park to discourage waterfowl – Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection Program.

PRIORITY: Stormwater

ACTION: Install medallions on storm drains–Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection Program.

ACTION: Encourage the installation of medallions on storm drains - Association of Villages, Association of Towns, and the Cayuga County Department of Planning and Economic Development.

ACTION: Encourage stream corridor protection by property owners – Owasco Watershed Lake Association, Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection Program.

ACTION: Investigate which County properties might be good locations for permeable pavements based upon soils – Cayuga County Department of Planning and Economic Development.

ACTION: Encourage the installation of permeable pavement where possible – Cayuga County Department of Planning and Economic Development, and Cayuga County Parks and Trails.

ACTION: Identify densely populated areas that contribute stormwater runoff and promote practices that can reduce direct conveyances to the lake and/or streams – Cayuga County Department of Planning and Economic Development, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County, Central New York Regional Planning Board, Association of Villages, Association of Towns, and the Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection Program.

PRIORITY: Pet Waste

ACTION: Improve education regarding proper handling of pet waste – Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County, Watershed Inspection Program, Duck Lake Association, Owasco Watershed Lake Association, and Cayuga County Parks and Trails.

ACTION: Encourage municipalities to install pet waste receptacles in public parks and trails – Parks, Association of Villages, Association of Towns, and the Cayuga County Department of Planning and Economic Development.

PRIORITY: Golf Courses

ACTION: Evaluate nutrient management plans and drainage of golf courses – Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District.

PRIORITY: Lawn Care

ACTION: Publish and distribute information regarding the ban on phosphorus in lawn fertilizer and appropriate ways to manage lawn waste – Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County and the Owasco Watershed Lake Association.

ACTION: Reach out to home and garden stores regarding posting information of phosphorus law – Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County.

PRIORITY: Burning

ACTION: Publish and distribute information regarding backyard burning laws and proper disposal of ash – Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County, Owasco Watershed Lake Association, and the Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection Program.

PRIORITY: Deer Carcasses

ACTION: Provide education regarding proper disposal of deer carcasses – Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County and the Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection Program.

ACTION: Provide guidance and referrals on wildlife mortality composting to highway and DPW departments - Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County.

PRIORITY: Agriculture

ACTION: Encourage the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to increase the frequency of inspections of Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) – Cayuga County WQMA.

ACTION: Encourage farmers to establish or update their nutrient management plans and to allow the Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District to review them - Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection Program.

ACTION: Create a network between farmers and gardeners who may need fertilizer – Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County.

ACTION: Identify critical areas and encourage the use of Conservation Easements, Finger Lakes Land Trust, New York State Agriculture Land Trust and American Farmland Trust – Cayuga County Department of Planning and Economic Development and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County.

ACTION: Identify farms where cows have access to streams in order to enforce existing regulations that prohibit this practice– Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection Program.

PRIORITY: All Areas

ACTION: Encourage the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to include environmental projects as part of any penalties issued – Cayuga County WQMA.

ACTION: Investigate the feasibility of providing incentives to landowners who install and maintain buffers – Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Owasco Watershed Lake Association.

ACTION: Develop a monitoring plan for drain tile discharge – Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection Program, Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District, Cayuga County Health Department, and the Cayuga County Department of Planning and Economic Development.

SEDIMENT WORKING GROUP**Cayuga County Manure Management Working Group – 14-Point Action Agenda Items to Address:**

ACTION ITEM #5: Craft and implement a program promoting: (1) the Local Standards established by the Nutrient Working Group under Action Item #3; and (2) Local Standards for Sediment Control/Best Practices prepared by the Sediment Working Group (in a manner similar to Action Item #3 prepared by Nutrient Working Group).

- Specific Tasks and Timeline:
 - Provide a brief explanation of a watershed concept and how sediment travels through and impacts the system (by 8/2016).
 - Identify potential areas of high resource concerns (by 7/2016).
 - Explore the feasibility to develop a case study in a particular sub-watershed to collect information that can be utilized as a possible model in other areas (by 12/2016).
 - Evaluate the current list of Best Management Practices that are available and create a list of BMP standards and specifications to promote (by 5/2017).
 - Develop a list of potential funding sources for the installation of BMPs (by 9/2016).

ACTION ITEM #12: Seek sponsorship for and convene well-publicized annual conferences and other forums that focus on water quality and sustainable agriculture. Submit material highlighting issues relating to water quality and sustainable agriculture to agencies that publish newsletters containing information on such topics. This Action Item will also require the participation and coordination from the Communications & Outreach Working Group.

- Specific Tasks and Timeline:
 - Create and promote potential opportunities to engage the public, including the agricultural community, to discuss and highlight erosion and sediment control practices (by 8/2016).
 - Identify specific types of events that are needed to promote Best Management Practices that protect water quality and enhance sustainable agriculture (by 8/2016).
 - Identify sources and seek funding opportunities to help offset the costs to conduct conferences, forums, and demonstration and training events (by 5/2017).