

Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency



2017 Year End Report

**Approved by the Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency
on February 1, 2018**

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.

2017 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

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

Seth Jensen

Vacant

Harry Hinman

Representatives from Waterbody Associations in Cayuga County

Cayuga Lake Watershed Network

Central New York Waterways, Inc.

Duck Lake Association

Lake Como Association

Owasco Watershed Lake Association

Skaneateles Lake Association Inc.

Jim Young

Carl Wiezalis

Dale Powell

Barb Harvey

Rick Nelson

Kathleen Gorr

Partners

Cayuga County Water and Sewer Authority

Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board

Finger Lakes Institute at Hobart and William Smith Colleges

Finger Lakes Partnership for Invasive Species Management

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

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Finger Lakes Water Hub

Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council

Partners for Healthy Watersheds

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.

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 (WQMA) **WORKING GROUP REPORTS**

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 New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) records relating to complaints regarding manure activities, sharing the results of analysis of NYSDEC complaints conducted by the County Planning Department. Publish quarterly or annual reports and press releases of results of Action Item #7. Work will be done after receiving the information from the Cayuga County Department of Planning and Economic Development.

- Resources Required:
 - 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.
 - *Not completed. Data is currently being compiled. Logistics to obtain this information on a consistent basis is still being worked out with NYSDEC.*

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 2018.
- Resources Required:
 - *Need Action Item #8 completed.*
 - *Website and branding plan is currently under development.*

Other Priorities

Work with consultant selected through the RFP process to develop a communications and branding plan and to create a new WQMA website.

- *New logo for WQMA that can be used for branding and marketing has been created.*
- *Communication plan is ongoing, expected to be complete by May 2018.*
- *Work on Website is ongoing, expected to be complete and operational by May 2018.*

INVASIVE SPECIES WORKING GROUP

The priority species that the Cayuga County WQMA Invasive Species Working Group concentrated on in 2017 were those non-native species that have the potential to negatively impact the watersheds of Cayuga County.

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

ACTION: The Working Group will work with partners to survey for priority species within Cayuga County. This will include hemlock woolly adelgid surveys.

- *The Cayuga County WQMA announced the New York State Hemlock Initiative's hemlock woolly adelgid monitoring workshop offered in January and February.*
- *The Cayuga County WQMA announced the hemlock woolly adelgid surveys offered by the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network in February and March.*

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

- *Members of the Working Group assisted John Muller of the Duck Lake Association in identifying a nuisance aquatic plant as musk-grass, which is a native.*

ACTION: The Working Group will conduct Asian clam diving inventory surveys in Owasco Lake to try to determine where the adult population is surviving and then discuss the possible effectiveness of control methods. Cayuga Lake may also be surveyed this summer.

- *Asian clam survey of Owasco Lake conducted on July 26, 2017.*
- *Presentation of survey results to Cayuga County WQMA on September 7, 2017.*

ACTION: The Working Group will assist in getting participants for the August 5th Multi-State Starry Stonewort survey.

- *The Finger Lakes Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (FL-PRISM) did not participate, therefore the WQMA did not participate.*

ACTION: The Working Group will assist in water chestnut surveys of County waterbodies including the Seneca/Cross Lake area and Cayuga Lake.

- *Cayuga County Department of Planning and Economic Development participated in the Water Chestnut Partnership Program coordinated by the FL-PRISM and provided information on water chestnut locations for the control program being funded by an Environmental Protection Agency's Great Lakes Research Initiative grant to the Finger Lakes Institute.*

2. 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 (FL-PRISM) and this working group.

- *Hydrilla educational materials were provided to the County Board of Health.*
- *The Cayuga County Health Department, Cayuga County Department of Planning and Economic Development and FL-PRISM attended and assisted with the June 21, 2017 and July 13, 2017 hydrilla public information meetings held in Aurora.*
- *The Cayuga County Health Department participated in a meeting in Lansing on November 14, 2017 to discuss the status of Hydrilla on Cayuga Lake and the effectiveness of the 2017 treatment.*
- *The Cayuga County Health Department and Cayuga County Department of Planning and Economic Development created and updated the Hydrilla website (<http://www.cayugacounty.us/Community/Health/Environmental-Health/Hydrilla>), which included sampling results of the treatment of the infestation in Cayuga Lake near Aurora.*

ACTION: The Working Group will provide information as requested to the Communications and Branding Working group as the Communications and Branding Plan is developed and a new website is created.

- *Completed.*

ACTION: The Working Group will promote the FL-PRISM website.

- *New Cayuga County WQMA website will promote the FL-PRISM website.*

3. PRIORITY: Education, training and public participation

ACTION: The Working Group will work provide training programs and/or information on priority species at WQMA meetings, Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council meetings, Conservation Field Days and other public venues.

- *Cayuga County Department of Planning and Economic Development provided invasive species education after the July WQMA meeting (same presentation as Invasive Species Week).*
- *Cayuga County Department of Planning and Economic Development provided invasive species education at the Union Springs summer academy.*
- *Cayuga County Department of Planning and Economic Development provided invasive species education at Conservation Field Days in September.*

ACTION: The Working Group will provide a training or control event as part of Invasive Species Week.

- *Michele Wunderlich provided invasive species training as part of Invasive Species Week at the County Office Building in Auburn on July 13th.*

ACTION: The Working Group will work with the FL-PRISM to maximize resources and will provide educational materials and training programs on the priority species of concern to the WQMA members, Owasco Lake Watershed Inspectors, lake associations, nurseries, marinas and boat launches, fishing bait sellers and users, aquarium sellers and users, sport and outdoor shops, and other citizen groups.

- *The Cayuga County Department of Planning and Economic Development printed out and provided 200 copies of the Hydrilla Hunter newsletter for distribution at the Blessing of the Boats to advertise the public meeting on July 13, 2017 at the Aurora Town Hall.*

ACTION: The Working Group will prepare and publish four or more Eco Talk articles per year on invasive species. Topics may include responsible aquaria and water gardening, starry stonewort survey, hydrilla and hemlock woolly adelgid.

- *Eco Talk: Now's the time for spotting this invasive species. January 5, 2017. Written by Stefan Lutter.*
- *Eco Talk: Native alternatives for this spring. February 23, 2017. Written by Stefan Lutter.*
- *Eco Talk: Hydrilla is on New York State's least wanted list. May 18, 2017. Written by Emma Foster.*
- *Eco Talk: A guide to invasive species in Cayuga County. July 6, 2017. Written by Judy Wright.*
- *Eco Talk: The threat of Asian carp. December 7, 2017. Written by Judy Wright.*

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.

- *The Cayuga County WQMA co-sponsored March to Lake Day and Owasco Lake Day.*
- *The Cayuga County WQMA invited stakeholders and partners to FL-PRISM meetings and workshops, New York State Invasive Species Week activities, iMapInvasive trainings, watercraft inspection steward program leader workshops, and other invasive species trainings and activities.*

4. PRIORITY: Invasive species control

ACTION: The Working Group will support existing invasive species control programs including the County's aquatic harvesting program, the Finger Lakes Institute's Water Chestnut Control Program, and will assist as able in other control programs.

- *The Cayuga County SWCD utilized County and Finger Lakes Lake Ontario Watershed Alliance (FLOWPA) funds to conduct aquatic weed harvesting.*

- *Cayuga County Department of Planning and Economic Development, Cayuga County Health Department and FL-PRISM participated in Statewide and Aurora Task Force conference calls, and participated in multiple meetings with local officials and United States Army Corps of Engineers to discuss response and treatment.*
- *The Cayuga County WQMA distributed information on the water chestnut hand pulls in Montezuma March and Howland Island.*
- *The Cayuga County WQMA distributed information on the water chestnut hand pulls in Sterling Creek and the Pond.*
- *Cayuga County Department of Planning and Economic Development assisted the FL-PRISM water chestnut project manager in their permit application for the chemical treatment of water chestnut in the Seneca River.*

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:
 - Contact researchers involved with the Cayuga Lake project to obtain information from their recent literature search and other studies (by 5/1/2017) - Nutrient Working Group
 - *No progress made.*
 - Meet with Finger Lakes Hub researchers/scientists to discuss research needs (by 7/1/2017) - Nutrient Working Group
 - *No progress made.*

Other Priorities

PRIORITY: Septic Systems (includes holding tanks)

ACTION: Establish an inspection protocol for septic systems located in Tompkins County and inspect a minimum of 50 properties in search of problem septic systems – Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection Program.

- *Inspection Program staff met with Tompkins County Health department officials to discuss the Inspection Program's approach for conducting inspections in their jurisdiction. Septic system inspections have not yet occurred in Tompkins County.*

ACTION: Research alternative septic systems that may result in improved operation - Health Department

- *The Health Department reviewed the literature regarding alternative septic systems that may result in improved operation. There are no feasible alternative septic systems that can remove a greater amount of phosphorus than a conventional septic system.*

ACTION: Request that the Finger Lakes Hub work with the Health Department to establish reasonable sampling protocols for substandard septic systems to determine nutrient impact – Health Department

- *No progress made.*

ACTION: Evaluate existing soil information and soil maps for septic systems located less than 100 ft. from the 100 year flood level on properties fronting Owasco Lake – Planning Department, Health Department.

- *Planning Department has compiled some of the necessary data for this project. Work with this analysis will continue in 2018.*
- *The Health Department reviewed information regarding septic systems located less than 100 feet from Owasco Lake and soil data at these locations and a report was provided to the Cayuga County Board of Health at their November 2017 meeting on the potential impact of these septic system on water quality.*

PRIORITY: Waterfowl

ACTION: Research the effectiveness of light reflecting prisms installed at Emerson Park last year to discourage waterfowl. – Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection Program

- *The first year observations proved that the prisms dissuaded large flocks of geese and ducks from congregating on the grounds and in the water of Emerson Park. The seagull population continues to be a concern, however. The prisms certainly seemed to have a disruption effect on the congregations of gulls, as well, but not to the extent that was noticed on the geese. Goose fecal amounts were noticeably reduced on the park grounds, as intended.*

ACTION: Request that the Finger Lakes Hub establish a protocol to determine phosphorus loading from waterfowl – Health

- *No progress made.*

PRIORITY: Stormwater

ACTION: Encourage the installation of medallions on storm drains - Association of Villages, Association of Towns

- *No progress made.*

ACTION: Conduct training for interested municipalities and volunteers to stencil storm drains utilizing current supplies on hand with CCE Cayuga until they are exhausted – CCE

- *No progress made.*

ACTION: Encourage lakefront and stream corridor protection by property owners – OWLA, SWCD, Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection Program, CCE

- *OWLA and the Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection Program stabilized two road side ditches along FL23E and Denman Cove utilizing Toyota grant funds and a 50/50 cost share with property owner.*
- *OWLA and SWCD installed two drainage improvement projects in the Sucker Brook sub-watershed using OWLA's NYS funding grant, with a 25% property owner cost share.*

ACTION: Promote and encourage the installation of permeable pavement where possible –Parks, OWLA

- *OWLA provided literature on permeable pavement to their membership.*

ACTION: Identify densely populated areas that contribute stormwater runoff– CNYRPB, Association of Villages, Association of Towns, Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection Program

- *The Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection Program has determined that the following contribute to stormwater runoff*
 - *Hamlet of Locke – Residential Concentrations and surface water proximity*
 - *Village of Groton – Impervious Stormwater Runoff*
 - *Village of Moravia – Impervious Stormwater Runoff*
 - *Indian Cove – Residential Concentrations and surface water proximity*
 - *Cascade – Residential Concentrations and surface water proximity*
 - *Dresserville – Residential Concentrations and surface water proximity*

ACTION: Create guidelines for lake front property management including landscaping to minimize nutrient loading – Planning Department, Health Department, CCE

- *Planning Department, Health Department, OWLA, CCE and the Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection Program met to begin the development of these guidelines.*

ACTION: Create guidelines for municipal highway departments to minimize nutrient loading – Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection Program, CCE, SWCD

- *Health Department, Highway Department, Planning Department, CCE, Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection Program, OWLA, Cayuga Lake representatives, and Town of Venice Highway Department developed guidelines for improving municipal ditching practices. The WQMA voted to adopt the guidelines at their September 2017 meeting and forwarded the guidelines to the County Legislature for their adoption.*
- *Eco Talk: How roadside ditches work. August 3, 2017. Written by Judy Wright.*

PRIORITY: Pet Waste

ACTION: Improve education regarding proper handling of pet waste –CCE, Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection Program, Duck Lake Association, OWLA, Parks, Lakefront Property Homeowners Associations.

- *Information on proper pet waste handling was/is included in new homeowner/ welcome packets being distributed by the Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection Program.*
- *OWLA provided brochures and other literature to their membership.*
- *Information on pet waste included in OWLA's newspaper articles.*

ACTION: Encourage municipalities to install pet waste receptacles in public parks and trails and ensure proper disposal – Parks, Association of Villages, Association of Towns, Lakefront Property Owners Associations.

- *No progress made.*

PRIORITY: Golf Courses

ACTION: Evaluate nutrient management plans and drainage of golf courses – SWCD.

- *No progress made.*

PRIORITY: Lawn Care

ACTION: Publish and distribute information regarding the ban on phosphorus in lawn fertilizer and appropriate ways to manage lawn waste – CCE, OWLA, Lakefront Property Homeowners Associations.

- *Information regarding NYSDEC's initiative to encourage homeowners to practice sustainable lawn care to protect State waterbodies and to urge homeowners to purchase phosphorus-free lawn fertilizer was forwarded to the membership of OWLA, WQMA, and the OLWMC in April 2017.*
- *OWLA distributed information regarding this issue at meetings and newspaper articles.*
- *Eco Talk: Master gardeners back at Cayuga County extension. March 31, 2017. Written by Emma Foster.*
- *Eco Talk: Look for the '0' in your lawn fertilizer. April 14, 2017. Written by Emma Foster.*
- *Eco Talk: A beginner's guide to composting. April 27, 2017. Written by Emma Foster.*
- *Eco Talk: How to handle leaves without hurting the environment. November 9, 2017. Written by Judy Wright.*

ACTION: Request that NYSDEC check on commercial lawn care companies regarding phosphorus application. – Health Department

- *No progress made.*

PRIORITY: Burning

ACTION: Provide education on proper disposal of ash and the impact of fireworks – CCE, OWLA, Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection Program, Lakefront Property Homeowners Associations.

- *Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection Program had one incident of improper disposal of ash identified and corrected through education/awareness in Cascade.*

PRIORITY: Deer Carcasses

ACTION: Request that DEC provide education regarding proper disposal of deer carcasses – Health Department

- *No progress made.*

PRIORITY: Agriculture

ACTION: Encourage farmers to establish or update their nutrient management plans and to allow SWCD to review them - SWCD

- *As the Cayuga SWCD meets with farming operations, they encourage farms that do not have nutrient management plans to consider the development of one. The Cayuga SWCD makes itself available to farm operations that are interested in the development of new and review of existing nutrient management plans. The number of updated or new plans is not known.*
- *CCE provided workshops for farmers on nutrient management on February 16, March 16, March 23 and April 27, 2017.*

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 – Planning Department

- *No progress made.*

ACTION: Enforce existing regulations that prohibit pollutants from being discharged, deposited, or allowed to flow into the lake or watercourse – Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection Program

- *Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection Program conducted inspections and obtained compliance when watershed violations were discovered in the Owasco Lake Watershed. Regular (weekly) inspections of tributaries were*

conducted throughout the Owasco Lake Watershed to ensure surface waters were flowing in good, clear condition. The shoreline of Owasco Lake was regularly inspected for questionable outfalls and dwelling proximities. The number of issues found is not known.

ACTION: Evaluate existing soil information and soil maps for spreading manure or food processing wastes less than 100 ft. from the 100 year flood level on properties fronting Owasco Lake or adjacent to tributaries or streams or surface waterways that provide hydraulic connectivity to such tributaries or streams. – Planning Department

- *Planning Department has begun compiling the necessary data and will continue with the analysis in 2018.*

PRIORITY: All Areas

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

- *No progress made.*

ACTION: Investigate what incentives would be necessary for landowners to install and maintain buffers – SWCD, OWLA

- *There are existing programs available through the Federal Government and local land trusts that assist landowners with buffers. The Cayuga SWCD directed interested landowners to those programs. The Cayuga SWCD actively promotes the benefits associated with the installation of buffers to agricultural operations. The number of buffers developed through these efforts are not known.*

ACTION: Request that the Finger Lakes Hub develop a monitoring plan for drain tile discharge – Health Department

- *No progress made.*

ACTION: Deliver “Welcome packages” to new homeowners about how to minimize their nutrient impact – Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection Program, Lakefront Property Homeowners Associations.

- *Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection Program developed a mailing list of ~300 new homeowners throughout the Owasco Lake Watershed, residing here since 2013. Packets were prepared and distributed which included information on Owasco Lake watershed rules and regulations, stormwater/septic awareness, and magnets with important contact info.*

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: 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:
 - Identify potential areas of high resource concerns.
 - *Potential areas including road ditches, streambanks, highly erodible soils, steep slopes and saturated ground were identified as potential areas of high resource concerns.*
 - Evaluate the current list of Best Management Practices that are available and create a list of BMP standards and specifications to promote.
 - *The current list of Best Management Practice Standards and Specifications offered through the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS), the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets (NYSDAM) were discussed. The committee feels that there are already existing resources available to utilize as technical guidance for the proper selection of BMPs. In many instances, several BMPs are needed to be implemented in order to act as a complete system to address erosion.*
 - Seek funding that will assist with the implementation of sediment load reducing BMPs.
 - *Programs offered through the USDA-NRCS were utilized by agricultural operations as a source of funding to implement BMPs. The Cayuga SWCD applied to the Water Quality Improvement Project Program and the Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Grants Program for funding.*
 - Implement sediment reducing BMPs throughout Cayuga County.
 - *Many farms implemented BMPs such as cover crops, water and sediment control systems, buffers, and grassed waterways utilizing their own funding. The number of the implemented BMPs however is not known. The Cayuga SWCD received funding from the Ag Non-point Source Abatement and Control Grant Program to implement similar BMPs to protect against erosion. Cayuga SWCD also received funding*

from the Water Quality Improvement Project Program to assist landowners and municipalities with stabilization of critical areas including road ditches, streambanks, shoreline and open lands.

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:
 - Hold specific events that highlight and promote the proper utilization of Best Management Practices that protect water quality and enhance sustainable agriculture.
 - *SWCD hosted a Conservation Bus Tour that took participants around the County, highlighting various BMPs. The Cayuga SWCO regularly attends the County Town Highway Superintendent meetings.*
 - *CCE conducted Soil and Health and Cover Crop trainings on February 22, April 25 and August 23, 2017.*
 - *CCE conducted a listening session with Cornell Representatives on Climate Change impact on farming August 4, 2017.*
 - *CCE provided a radio program on the importance and impact of cover crops on November 28, 2017 on Finger Lakes Radio.*
 - *Eco Talk: The Gulf of Mexico's Finger Lakes Connection. December 21, 2017. Written by Judy Wright.*
 - Seek funding opportunities to help offset the costs to conduct educational public opportunities including conferences, forums, and demonstration and training events.
 - *Finger Lakes Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance funding was able to offset a portion of the costs associated with educational events.*