

Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency



2018 Work Plan

**Approved by the Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency
on May 3, 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.

2018 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

Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board
Finger Lakes Institute at Hobart and William Smith Colleges
Finger Lakes Partnership for Invasive Species Management
Finger Lakes Water Hub
Great Lakes Action Agenda Southeast Lake Ontario Work Group
Institute for the Application of Geospatial Technology at Cayuga Community College, Inc.
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.

CAYUGA COUNTY WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
2018 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 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.

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.
- Resources Required:
 - Need Action Item #8 completed.

Other Priorities

PRIORITY: WQMA Website and Branding

ACTION: Complete, launch, evaluate and adjust the new WQMA website.

ACTION: Conduct an outreach program including publication of the new e-newsletter to build awareness of the WQMA to local residents.

INVASIVE SPECIES WORKING GROUP

The priority species that the Cayuga County WQMA Invasive Species Working Group will concentrate on in 2018 are 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.

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

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.

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

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.

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

3. PRIORITY: Education, training and public participation

ACTION: The Working Group will work to 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.

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

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.

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 wooly adelgid.

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.

4. PRIORITY: Invasive species prevention, control and management

ACTION: The Working Group will support existing invasive species prevention, control and management programs including the County's aquatic harvesting program, the Finger Lakes Institute's Water Chestnut Control Program, the Finger Lake's Institute's Starry Stonewort Collaborative, Hydrilla in Cayuga Lake 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: Once the Cayuga Lake TMDL information is released, contact researchers involved with the project to obtain information on their recent literature search and other studies.

Request that Finger Lake Water Hub researchers/scientist look into the following issues:

- Appropriate sampling protocols to determine nutrient impact of substandard septic systems
- Methodology to determine the nutrient impact of waterfowl
- Compliance of commercial lawn care companies with phosphorus free fertilizer law
- Nutrient impact of drain tile discharges

Other Priorities**PRIORITY: Septic Systems (includes holding tanks)**

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.

PRIORITY: Stormwater

ACTION: Encourage storm drain stenciling – Nutrient Working Group, Lake Associations

ACTION: Encourage lakefront and stream corridor protection by property owners through education – CCE

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

ACTION: Create guidelines for lake and stream front property management including landscaping to minimize nutrient loading – Nutrient Working Group

ACTION: Promote Municipal Ditch Maintenance guidelines– Nutrient Working Group

PRIORITY: Pet Waste

ACTION: Encourage pet owners to properly dispose of pet waste through education–
CCE

ACTION: Encourage municipalities to install pet waste receptacles in public parks and
trails and ensure proper disposal – Planning

PRIORITY: Golf Courses

ACTION: Educate managers and owners of golf courses about the importance of
implementing nutrient management plans - Nutrient Working Group

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.

PRIORITY: Burning

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

PRIORITY: Agriculture

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

ACTION: Promote Manure Management Guidelines – Nutrient Management Group

PRIORITY: All Areas

ACTION: Encourage DEC to funnel fines collected from violators in Cayuga County to
the Environmental Protection Fund to be used for environmental projects – WQMA

ACTION: Deliver “Welcome packages” to new homeowners about how to minimize
their nutrient impact – Lakefront Property Homeowners Associations.

ACTION: Identify critical areas of high nutrient loading and encourage the use of Conservation Easements through cooperative agreements with the Finger Lakes Land Trust and The Nature Conservancy - Planning, CCE

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.
 - Evaluate the current list of Best Management Practices that are available and create a list of BMP standards and specifications to promote.
 - Seek funding that will assist with the implementation of sediment load reducing BMPs.
 - Implement sediment reducing BMPs throughout Cayuga County.

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.
 - Seek funding opportunities to help offset the costs to conduct educational public opportunities including conferences, forums, and demonstration and training events.