

Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency



2019 Work Plan

**Approved by the Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency
on April 4, 2019**

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
Doug Dello Stritto
Doug Kierst
Bruce Natale
Vacant

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
Don Oltz
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
Rachael DeWitt

Partners

Atlantic States Legal Foundation
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
2019 WORK PLAN

COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH WORKING GROUP

PRIORITY: Promote WQMA as the source of water quality information.

ACTION: Distribute WQMA promotional items at meetings and public events-WQMA.

PRIORITY: Provide timely information regarding water news, agency activities, and pollution prevention.

ACTION: Prepare and send out quarterly newsletter, the purpose of which will be to highlight work of member and partner agencies and to highlight upcoming or current classes (i.e. Erosion and Sediment Control Training) or programs (such as hydroseeding availability) that are available. Audience will include elected officials, municipal clerks, and planning boards- WQMA.

ACTION: Prepare blogs focusing on educating the public regarding a wide variety of water quality news and topics. These blogs will be posted on the website and published on Facebook and Twitter- WQMA.

The following three action items are from the Cayuga County Manure Management Working Group – 14-Point Action Agenda Items to Address:

ACTION: 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- Planning.

ACTION: 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- WQMA Communications and Outreach Working Group.

ACTION: Expand the WQMA Website by adding material on how to recognize good and bad manure handling practices and effectively communicate the Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency Manure Management Guidelines prepared in 2017 and the analysis of NYSDEC complaints and investigations in a manner that makes this information understandable to the widest possible audience-Communications and Outreach Working Group.

INVASIVE SPECIES WORKING GROUP

The priority species that the Cayuga County WQMA Invasive Species Working Group will concentrate on in 2019 are those non-native species that have the potential to negatively impact the watersheds of Cayuga County.

PRIORITY: Survey 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 work with partners to survey 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.

PRIORITY: Education, training and public participation

ACTION: The Working Group will share educational information on priority species of concern to the public on the WQMA website, newsletter and social media accounts.

ACTION: The Working Group will prepare and publish four or more Eco Talk articles per year on invasive species.

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 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 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 AND SEDIMENT WORKING GROUP**PRIORITY: Septic Systems**

ACTION: Evaluate technologies that remove phosphorus from septic tank effluent before it is discharged into a leach field– Cayuga County Health Department.

ACTION: Promote public sewers where appropriate– Cayuga County Planning Department, Cayuga County Health Department.

PRIORITY: Stormwater

ACTION: Encourage installation of storm drain disks – Lake Associations, The Nature Conservancy, Association of Towns and Association of Villages.

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

ACTION: Encourage lakefront and stream corridor protection by property owners through education and distribution of lakefront property owner’s guidelines– Lake Associations, CCE.

ACTION: Promote and encourage the installation of permeable pavement where possible– Planning, Parks, Lake Associations, Association of Towns and Association of Villages, Soil and Water, CCE.

ACTION: Promote Municipal Ditch Maintenance guidelines– Lake Associations, Soil and Water, CCE.

ACTION: Develop a presentation on sedimentation and erosion control considerations in site plan review for municipal planning board members; Schedule making the presentation at one of the County’s planning board training sessions- Nutrient and Sediment Working Group.

ACTION: Prepare and distribute one or more communications pieces on sedimentation and erosion control issues and resources available to assist property owners in addressing them- Nutrient and Sediment Working Group.

ACTION: Educate municipalities regarding the need to implement erosion and sediment control practices during municipal projects such as waterline installations-Nutrient and Sediment Working Group

PRIORITY: Pet Waste

ACTION: Encourage pet owners to properly dispose of pet waste through education– Communication Group, CCE, Lake Associations.

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

PRIORITY: Golf Courses

ACTION: Educate managers and owners of golf courses about the importance of implementing nutrient management plans– Soil and Water.

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, WQMA Communications Group.

ACTION: Request that the Finger Lakes Hub investigate the compliance of commercial lawn care companies with phosphorus free fertilizer law.

PRIORITY: Burning

ACTION: Provide education on proper disposal of ash and the impact of lakeshore fireworks– CCE, Lake Associations, WQMA Communications Group.

PRIORITY: Agriculture

ACTION: Promote participation in Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) - Soil and Water.

ACTION: Promote Manure Management Guidelines– OWLA, CCE, Soil and Water.

ACTION: Encourage the installation and maintenances of BMPs, including cover crops, buffers, and hedgerows, to improve soil health, increase organic content in soils, and minimize soil loss– CCE, Soil and Water

ACTION: Request that the Finger Lakes Hub investigate the nutrient impact of drain tile discharges.

PRIORITY: All Areas

ACTION: Deliver “Welcome packages” to new homeowners about how to minimize their nutrient impact– Lake Associations, Association of Towns and Association of Villages.

ACTION: Promote the use of conservation easements- Finger Lakes Land Trust, Nature Conservancy, Planning, CCE, Soil and Water.