

Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency



2020 Work Plan

**Approved by the Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency
on March 5, 2020**

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.

2020 Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency Membership**Chair: Seth Jensen****Vice-Chair: Doug Dello Stritto****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 (delegate)
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
Dan Welch

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
Vacant

Representatives from Waterbody Associations in Cayuga County

Cayuga Lake Watershed Network
Central New York Waterways, Inc.
Duck Lake Association
Lake Como Association
Little Sodus Bay Betterment Association
Owasco Watershed Lake Association
Skaneateles Lake Association Inc.

Vacant
Carl Wiezalis
Dale Powell
Barb Harvey
Gary Clark
Rick Nelson
Lauren Ryan

Partners

Atlantic States Legal Foundation
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
Finger Lakes Water Hub
NYSDEC Great Lakes Program
Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council
Partners for Healthy Watersheds
The Nature Conservancy

Staff Support

Michele Wunderlich, Cayuga County Planning and Economic Development, Associate Planner,
mwunderlich@cayugacounty.us, 315-253-1107, <http://cayugacountywater.org>

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
2020 WORK PLAN**COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH WORKING GROUP**

PRIORITY: Celebrate the positive water quality activities occurring in Cayuga County including highlighting the voluntary implementation of BMPs

ACTION: The celebration of positive initiatives will be the focus of communication pieces (see next priority) generated by the committee. - WQMA Communication

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

ACTION: Prepare and send out quarterly newsletters, (March, June, Sept, and Dec) the purpose of which will be to highlight positive water quality initiatives, work of member and partner agencies, and upcoming or current classes (i.e. Erosion and Sediment Control Training) or programs (such as hydroseeding availability, or Hazardous Waste Disposal opportunities). Audience will include County Legislators, municipal elected officials, municipal clerks, and planning boards as well as WQMA partners and members- WQMA Communication

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 Communication

ACTION: Assist the Nutrient and Sediment Working group by posting blogs on the topics of pet waste, lawn fertilizer and getting soil tests before adding amendments- WQMA Communication

ACTION: Assist the Nutrient and Sediment Working group by creating an electronic resource of lake friendly informational brochures that can be included as welcome package for new lakeshore residents-WQMA Communication

PRIORITY: Update website resources with current and scientific information and promote the WQMA as the source of factual water quality information in Cayuga County

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

ACTION: Review and update the WQMA website - WQMA Communication group

ACTION: Expand the WQMA Website by adding material on how to recognize appropriate and inappropriate manure handling practices -WQMA Communication group

INVASIVE SPECIES WORKING GROUP

The priority species that the Cayuga County WQMA Invasive Species Working Group will concentrate on in 2020 are those invasive 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 and Skaneateles Lakes may also be surveyed this summer.

ACTION: The Working Group will solicit reports of partners doing surveillance and monitoring.

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 two or more Eco Talk articles per year on invasive species.

ACTION: The Working Group provide and support training programs and/or information on priority species at WQMA meetings, Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council meetings, Bob Brower Scientific Symposium in "Plain English", 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 promote activities sponsored by the WQMA and its members and partners, including the Bob Brower Scientific Symposium in "Plain English", invasive species workshops and watershed steward events on the WQMA website and social media accounts.

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 Lake's Institute's Starry Stonewort Collaborative, Finger Lake's Institute's Invasive Plant Protectors program, Hydrilla in Cayuga Lake program, Eurasian Watermilfoil program in Skaneateles Lake, boat steward programs and will assist as able in other control programs.

ACTION: The Working Group will work on increasing invasive species education to boaters.

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

ACTION: Find homeowners interested in participating in a pilot evaluation of phosphorus removal technologies that are not yet on the market. – Nutrient and Sediment Working Group

ACTION: Hold a workshop on septic systems to educate homeowners on function and maintenance – Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County, Owasco Watershed Lake Association, Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council, Cayuga County Health Department, The Nature Conservancy

PRIORITY: Stormwater

ACTION: Research funding sources for storm drain disks – The Nature Conservancy

ACTION: Work with interested municipalities to install storm drain disks at storm catch basins – Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council, Lake Associations

ACTION: Distribute the residential guidelines to the public – Lake Associations, WQMA Communications Working Group, Associations of Towns and Villages, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County, Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council

ACTION: Promote the use of green infrastructure such as permeable pavement – Cayuga County Planning Department, Lake Associations, Association of Towns and Association of Villages, Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County, Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council

ACTION: Speak at a monthly meeting of the Association of Towns and Association of Villages regarding the WQMA Municipal Ditch Maintenance guidelines– Lake Associations, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County

ACTION: Inventory condition of culverts discharging into municipal ditches or streams –Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council

ACTION: Prepare and distribute communication pieces on sedimentation and erosion control issues and resources available to assist property owners in addressing them – WQMA Nutrient and Sediment Working Group & Communications Working Group

ACTION: Educate municipal planning board members regarding the importance of including sedimentation and erosion control considerations in site plan review – Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County

ACTION: Speak at a monthly meeting of the Association of Towns and Association of Villages regarding the importance of implementing erosion and sediment control practices during municipal projects such as waterline installations- Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County

PRIORITY: Pet Waste

ACTION: Provide and distribute communication pieces regarding the importance of properly disposing pet waste. – WQMA Communication Group, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County, Lake Associations.

ACTION: Obtain information regarding what trails and parks in the county have pet waste receptacles available – Parks, Association of Towns and Association of Villages

PRIORITY: Golf Courses

ACTION: Work with managers and owners of golf courses to obtain certification from Audubon International by implementing Standard Environmental Management Practices – Lake Associations, Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council

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, Owasco Watershed Lake Association, Lake Associations, WQMA Communications Group.

ACTION: Provide information on where property owners can get their soil tested before they apply phosphorus – Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County

PRIORITY: Burning

ACTION: Provide education on proper disposal of ash and the impact of lakeshore fireworks– Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County, Lake Associations, WQMA Communications Group.

PRIORITY: Agriculture

ACTION: Develop an inventory of County farms that have completed AEM Tier 1 and Tier 2 – Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District

ACTION: Develop an inventory of best management practices (BMPs) that have already been implemented in the County – Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District

ACTION: Recognize agricultural operations that have implemented best management practices (BMPs) – Partners for Healthy Watersheds, WQMA Communications Group, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County

ACTION: Promote Manure Management Guidelines– Partners for Healthy Watersheds, WQMA Communications Group, Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County

ACTION: Take advantage of funding available for buffers and encourage their implementation adjacent to streams – Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District, Partners for Healthy Watersheds, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County, Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council

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

ACTION: Assist farms that currently do not have Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans to develop nutrient management plans that will specify appropriate rates, volumes, and timing of application of manure and/or commercial fertilizer on available fields– Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County

PRIORITY: All Areas

ACTION: Gather informational documents in one electronic location for use as Welcome Packages for new homeowners regarding how to minimize their nutrient impact– WQMA Communication Group, Lake Associations, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County, Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council

ACTION: Download electronic Welcome Packages and deliver to new homeowners – Lake Associations, Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council

ACTION: Promote land acquisition and conservation easements for preservation purposes – Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council, The Nature Conservancy