

Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency



2021 Work Plan

**Approved by the Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency
on March 4, 2021**

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.

2021 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	Stephen Lynch
Director of Cayuga County Environmental Health	Eileen O'Connor
Director of Cayuga County Parks and Trails	Doug Dello Stritto
Director of Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District	Doug Kierst
Cayuga County Solid Waste Management Program Administrator	Vacant
Cayuga County Cooperative Extension Executive Director	Dan Welch

Non-County, Local Officials

Town of Owasco	Edward Wagner
City of Auburn	Seth Jensen
Cayuga County Association of Town Supervisors	Vacant
Cayuga County Association of Villages	Jeff Emerson

Representatives from Waterbody Associations in Cayuga County

Cayuga Lake Intermunicipal Organization	Vacant
Central New York Waterways, Inc.	Carl Wiezalis
Duck Lake Association	Dale Powell
Lake Como Association	Pat Mooney
Little Sodus Bay Betterment Association	Gary Clark
Owasco Watershed Lake Association	Rick Nelson
Skaneateles Lake Association Inc.	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,
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CAYUGA COUNTY WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
2021 WORK PLAN

COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH WORKING GROUP

PRIORITY: Celebrate the positive water quality activities occurring in Cayuga County.

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

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 and Outreach Working Group

ACTION: Prepare blogs at least monthly 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 and Outreach Working Group

ACTION: Provide assistance to other working groups to fulfill their actions – WQMA Working Groups

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 and Outreach Working Group

ACTION: Work to improve the resource section of the WQMA website to include more research reports and water resource protection information – WQMA Communication and Outreach Working Group

INVASIVE SPECIES WORKING GROUP

The priority species that the Cayuga County WQMA Invasive Species Working Group will concentrate on in 2021 are those invasive species that have the potential to negatively impact the Cayuga County and its watersheds.

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 work with partners to prepare and publish two or more newspaper 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 Lakes Institute's Invasive Plant Detectors program, Hydrilla in Cayuga Lake program, Eurasian Watermilfoil program in Skaneateles Lake, Montezuma Alliance for the Restoration of Species and Habitat program, Hemlock Woolly Adelgid programs through OWLA and others, 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

PRIORITY: Stormwater

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, Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council

ACTION: Promote the use of green infrastructure such as permeable pavement – City of Auburn

ACTION: If Covid-19 pandemic allows, 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, Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District

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: If Covid-19 pandemic allows, educate municipal planning board members regarding the importance of including sedimentation and erosion control considerations in site plan review – Cayuga County Planning Department, Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County

ACTION: If Covid-19 pandemic allows, 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.

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 and flares– Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County, Lake Associations, Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council, WQMA Communications Group.

PRIORITY: Agriculture

ACTION: Maintain an inventory of County farms that have participated in the AEM Program, and, 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) – Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District, Partners for Healthy Watersheds, Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council, 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 other best management practices and encourage their implementation – Cayuga County Soil and Water

Conservation District, Partners for Healthy Watersheds, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County, Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council

ACTION: Provide outreach and education for subsurface tile drainage to stakeholders, partners and the public- Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County, WQMA

ACTION: Assist farms that currently do not have Tier 3 or equivalent plans to develop an appropriate plan that meet the operational needs of the farm and include recommendations for applicable best management practices that address identified natural resource concerns – Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County

ACTION: Provide technical assistance to small farms across the County; encourage the development of Tier 3 or equivalent plans and provide recommended best management practices. – 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