

Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency



2021 Year End Report

**Approved by the Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency
on February 3, 2022**

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
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
Vacant
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
Vacant
Jeff Emerson

Representatives from Waterbody Associations in Cayuga County

Cayuga Lake Intermunicipal Organization
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
Pat Mooney
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>

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

- *All newsletters sent to WQMA email list, Cayuga County Legislators, Town and Village clerks, Mayors and Supervisors, City of Auburn Mayor and clerk, and 128 town and village planning board members.*
- *First newsletter sent out March 26, 2021 was focused on invasive species and articles included:*
 - *“The Finger Lakes Institute’s Hydrilla Survey.”*
 - *“Hydrilla Treatment in Cayuga Lake.”*
 - *“Diving Deep with Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS).”*
 - *“Landscaping with Native Plants.”*
 - *“The Lake Friendly Living Program Spreads its Wings!: May 2-8 Region-wide online events.”*
 - *“If We Lose the Hemlocks....”*
 - *“Hemlock Trees in Fillmore Glen State Park Receive Protection Against Woolly Adelgid.”*
 - *“Spotted Lanternfly.”*
- *Second newsletter sent out June 24, 2021 and articles included:*
 - *“Owasco Flats Wetland Restoration and Riparian Buffers Initiative Project.”*
 - *“Tire Collection Event.”*
 - *“Cross Lake in Photos.”*

- ***“Road Flares, Ring of Fire Celebrations, and Toxic Chemicals-Technological Advancements provide Opportunities for Safer and Environmentally Conscious Celebrations.”***
- ***Third newsletter sent out on September 30, 2021 and articles included:***
 - ***“Ten Things You Can Do to Protect Your Lake.”***
 - ***“Nutrient Monitoring in Tributaries to Owasco Lake.”***
 - ***“Cayuga County Electronics Collection Event.”***
 - ***“Agricultural Leaders Provide Farm Tours to Highlight Watershed Protection.”***
- ***Fourth newsletter sent out on December 20, 2021 and articles included:***
 - ***“Rain Garden at Emerson Park.”***
 - ***“Dam Removal”***
 - ***“Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event.”***
 - ***“Resources Available from Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County.”***
 - ***“Manure Management Guidelines.”***

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

- ***Blogs published on WQMA website:***
 - ***July 13, 2021 blog: Cayuga County WQMA Newsletters Available On-Line.***
 - ***February 16, 2021 blog: Cayuga County WQMA 2020 Year End Report***

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

- ***Invasive species based newsletter in March upon request of the Invasive Species Working Group.***
- ***“Manure Management Guidelines” article in December WQMA newsletter upon request of the Nutrient and Sediment Management Working Group.***

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

- *Most meetings and public events cancelled due to Covid-19 pandemic.*
- *Educational items were provided at in person WQMA meetings.*

ACTION: Review and update the WQMA website - WQMA Communication and Outreach Working Group

- *The Cayuga County Planning Department routinely reviews and updates the WQMA website.*

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

- *The Cayuga County Planning Department routinely reviews and updates the WQMA website.*

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 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.

- *The WQMA worked with the Finger Lakes Institute/Finger Lakes Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management on surveying for priority species such as hydrilla and other invasive species.*

ACTION: The Working Group will work with partners to survey areas suspected of having a new invasive species population.

- *The Owasco Watershed Lake Association and Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council continue to survey the Owasco Lake Watershed for hemlock woolly adelgid. The WQMA assists by promoting these surveying efforts.*

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.

- *Asian clam survey held on August 11, 2021 off of the Emerson Park Beaches in Owasco Lake.*

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

- *First WQMA newsletter sent out March 26, 2021 was focused on invasive species and articles included:*
 - *“The Finger Lakes Institute’s Hydrilla Survey.”*
 - *“Hydrilla Treatment in Cayuga Lake.”*
 - *“Diving Deep with Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS).”*
 - *“If We Lose the Hemlocks....”*
 - *“Hemlock Trees in Fillmore Glen State Park Receive Protection Against Woolly Adelgid.”*
 - *“Spotted Lanternfly.”*

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.

- *Provided educational information on invasive species to the WQMA Facebook and Twitter accounts.*
- *First WQMA newsletter sent out March 26, 2021 was focused on invasive species and articles included:*
 - *“The Finger Lakes Institute’s Hydrilla Survey.”*
 - *“Hydrilla Treatment in Cayuga Lake.”*
 - *“Diving Deep with Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS).”*
 - *“Landscaping with Native Plants.”*
 - *“The Lake Friendly Living Program Spreads its Wings!: May 2-8 Region-wide online events.”*
 - *“If We Lose the Hemlocks....”*
 - *“Hemlock Trees in Fillmore Glen State Park Receive Protection Against Woolly Adelgid.”*
 - *“Spotted Lanternfly.”*
- *Sent information on Japanese knotweed control to the WQMA email list.*

ACTION: The Working Group will work with partners to prepare and publish two or more newspaper articles per year on invasive species.

- *Eco Talk Article: “Season for hydrilla vigilance has come” written by Michele Wunderlich, Associate Planner, Cayuga County Department of Planning and Economic Development, Eileen O’Connor, Cayuga County Health Department and Hilary Lambert, Steward/Executive Director, Cayuga Lake Watershed Network. The Citizen, July15, 2021.*

ACTION: The Working Group provides and supports 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.

- *Most meetings and public events cancelled due to Covid-19 pandemic.*

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

- *Michele Wunderlich presented a webinar on Invasive Species Identification and Local Prevention and Control Programs on June 10, 2021 as part of New York State Invasive Species Awareness 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.

- *The WQMA co-sponsored and promoted the “Bob Brower Scientific Symposium in ‘Plain English’” that included the presentations:*
 - *“If We Lose the Hemlocks, We Lose the Lake!” by Dr. Dana Hall*
 - *“Aquatic Invasive Species and Owasco Lake: Present and Future” by Dr. Catherine McGlynn*
- *Forwarded the links to the Finger Lakes Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management’s webinar series “Invasive Species: Know, Observe and Report” to the WQMA email list.*
- *Forwarded “Hydrilla Hunter Happenings” to the WQMA email list.*
- *The WQMA promoted activities by email, on Facebook and on Twitter:*
 - *New York State Hemlock Initiative “Conserving Hemlocks Webinar” on March 10, 2021 through Twitter.*

- *“Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Planning and Management in Skaneateles” webinar on March 1, 2021 by email.*
- *“How to use iMapInvasives to Report and Track Invasive Species” webinar on April 29, 2021 by email.*
- *Finger Lakes Lake Friendly Living Week from May 2-8, 2021 on Facebook and email.*
- *Finger Lakes Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management’s Invasive Species Sampling on Owasco Lake on June 6, 2021 on Facebook.*
- *Finger Lakes Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management’s water chestnut pulls through Facebook on July 21, 2021.*
- *Finger Lakes Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management full partner meeting on December 8, 2021 by email.*
- *“Invasive Species in New York” webinar on December 10, 2021 by email and Facebook.*
- *Cayuga Lake Watershed Network’s Conference Session #2: Cayuga Lake Hydrilla 11/18/2021 Public Presentation by email and Facebook.*

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.

- *The WQMA updated the Cayuga County Hydrilla webpage with new information and the sampling results from the public drinking water and herbicide treatment areas in Cayuga Lake in Aurora.*
- *Cayuga County utilized Finger Lakes Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance (FOLLOWPA) funds to purchase and install a CD3 boat cleaning station at Emerson Park.*
- *Promoted the Finger Lakes Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management’s macrophyte survey program and trail survey.*
- *Staff member participated in the Finger Lakes Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management’s Steering Committee.*
- *Requested volunteers for the Finger Lakes Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management’s to survey hemlock wooly adelgid through their Winter Warriors program through email.*

- *Requested landowners in the Owasco Lake Watershed contact the Owasco Watershed Lake Association to allow them to survey their property for hemlock wooly adelgid.*

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

- *Finger Lakes Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance (FOLLOWPA) funds were utilized to partially fund the printing of clean boating maps for Cayuga Lake. These maps will be delivered to marinas and other boating outlets in 2022.*

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

- *The Nature Conservancy was looking to develop ideas and possible procedures and systems that target phosphorus removal; similar to work done around nitrogen in the Long Island Area. They worked with Eileen O'Connor and the Cayuga County Health Department on nutrient treating septic technologies. They are currently working on the final draft of a memo containing a list of what technologies are currently available and the pros and cons of these technologies.*
- *The Nature Conservancy asked the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation if Septic System Replacement Program funds will cover the cost of these products when installed on eligible properties and they do.*

PRIORITY: Stormwater

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

- *The Inspectors from the Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection and Protection Division of the Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council installed 140 disks at storm catch basins in Moravia and Groton. The disks read "No Dumping - Drains to Lake". The Inspectors were assisted by the Owasco Watershed Lake Association and Boy Scout volunteers.*
- *The WQMA passed a motion on December 3, 2021 for the WQMA Chair to prepare a letter and an information package on the City of Auburn's specifications on catch basin details and send it to the Cayuga County Legislature for possible*

adoption. This letter will be sent in 2022 when the new County Legislature is in place.

ACTION: Distribute the residential guidelines to the public – Lake Associations, WQMA Communications Working Group, Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council

- *The Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council distributed through their email list on September 23, 2021 and provided for download on their website.*
- *Sent the residential guidelines to OWLA for distribution and to put on their website.*

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

- *The City of Auburn is planning on installing a permeable pavement information sign at Emerson Park in 2022.*
- *The City of Auburn installed permeable pavement at the State Street Bridge.*
- *The Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council, Owasco Watershed Lake Association, Friends of Emerson Park and Cayuga County Parks and Trails installed a rain garden in Emerson Park.*
- *The Sterling Nature Center Revitalization Project includes green infrastructure such as porous pavement, sidewalks, rain gardens, wetlands, and more.*

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

- *Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District staff attended and spoke at approximately eight municipal meetings in 2021.*

ACTION: Inventory condition of culverts discharging into municipal ditches or streams – Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council, Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District

- *The Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District continues efforts to implement the North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative (NAACC) compliant database. They have inventoried approximately 180-200 culverts and approximately 50 remain in the Owasco Lake Watershed with a deadline of May 2022. The Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District applied for additional funding to do this in the Skaneateles Lake Watershed, portions of Lake Ontario/Little Sodus Bay Watershed and the remainder of the Cayuga Lake Watershed. They were awarded this funding on December 14, 2021.*

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

- *Due to the Covid-19 pandemic this action was not completed in 2021; will revisit for 2022.*

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

- *Due to the Covid-19 pandemic this action was not completed in 2021; will revisit for 2022.*

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

- *Due to the Covid-19 pandemic this action was not completed in 2021; will revisit for 2022.*

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

- *Pet waste discussed in Auburn Citizen Article on June 25, 2021: “OWLA: New board looks to the future”; Ann Robson, President Elect OWLA.*

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

- *The Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council began to research how golf courses could get certified.*
- *Frank Moses will work with Adam Effler on his experience working with the Skaneateles Country Club. They will engage more in 2022 to help support their efforts.*

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.

- *Third WQMA newsletter sent out on September 30, 2021 had an article by Rick Nelson, “Ten Things You Can Do to Protect Your Lake,” that included information on proper lawn care.*
- *Fourth WQMA newsletter sent out on December 20, 2021 had an article by Ron Kuck, “Resources Available from Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County”, which included a link to the “Homeowners Lawn Care Water Quality Almanac” and soil testing resources available at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County.*
- *Eco Talk Article: “How to manage your lawn without hurting the environment” written by Judy Wright upon request of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County.*
- *The Lake Friendly Living Pledges created by the Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council and the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network; and the Lake Friendly Land Care Pledge Created by the Skaneateles Lake Association, all concentrate of proper lawn care.*
- *Lawn care discussed in The Citizen Article on June 25, 2021: “OWLA: New board looks to the future”; Ann Robson, President Elect OWLA.*

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

- *Fourth WQMA newsletter sent out on December 20, 2021 had an article by Ron Kuck, “Resources Available from Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County”, which included a link to the “Homeowners Lawn Care Water Quality Almanac” and soil testing resources available at 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.

- *In coordination with Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association (CLWA) and Greg Talomie, Skaneateles Lake, Owasco Lake and Little Sodus Bay associations have committed to replacing incendiary flares with their LED counterparts.*
 - *The Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council and the Skaneateles Lake Association partnered with Wegmans and received funds from the sale of LED flares at the Auburn Wegmans store.*
 - *The Bay Betterment Association promoted LED flares and sold around 700 for the Little Sodus Bay Ring of Fire celebration.*
 - *The Owasco Watershed Lake Association sold LED flares as a fundraiser.*
 - *The Lake Como Association is looking at doing LED flares in 2022.*
- *The Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council worked with the Cayuga County Sheriff's Office to switch to using LED flares instead of incendiary flares.*
- *Watershed Watch Article on June 3, 2021 in The Citizen: "Lake groups partner with Wegmans to promote LED flares at ring of fire events" written by Ally Berry.*
- *Skaneateles Lake Association distributed the Lake Friendly Living Coalition of the Finger Lakes "Lake Friendly 4th" flyer which included information on the dangers of flares. The Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council put it on their website and it was also sent to the WQMA email list.*

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

- *This inventory is found in the Ag Census which is updated every 5 years.*
- *The Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District reviews a list of farmers who participate in AEM program and BMP implementation annually.*

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

- *Work began on looking at recognizing agricultural operations that participate in the AEM program and/or have implemented best management practices (BMPs). Tyler Knapp discussed the options for this recognition program and the possible costs at the December WQMA meeting. The work group plans on continuing this work next year.*

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

- ***“Manure Management Guidelines” article in December WQMA newsletter with a link to the guidelines.***

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

- ***Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District has applied to Local, State and Federal agricultural funding sources in 2021 for the implementation of best management practices (BMPs). Currently they have approximately 27 active grant contracts. The District has applied to six additional grants/rounds in 2021; three applications are still active and awaiting review. BMPs included soil health practices, soil and erosion control systems, nutrient management, pasture management, covers and flares, and treatment/storage.***

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

- ***Partners for Healthy Watersheds provided an educational video on tile drains on their Facebook page.***
- ***Laura Klaiber presented “Water Quality Monitoring of Surface Runoff and Tile Drainage on Dairy Farms in the Lake Champlain Basin” at the Owasco Watershed Lake Association's Virtual 2021 Bob Brower Symposium.***

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

- ***The Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District reviews a list of farmers who participate in AEM program and BMP implementation annually.***
- ***The Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District has an outreach and priority list for the Owasco Watershed that they are reaching out to about updating their Tier process.***

- *The Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District has a pilot program with New York State for nutrient management implementation of plans in the Owasco Lake Watershed. Once they finish with the Owasco Lake Watershed, they will move to Cayuga Lake Watershed and then to others. They are trying for a five year cycle.*
- *Farmland Protection Program requires going through the process which brings in new farms.*

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

- *The Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District reviews a list of farmers who participate in AEM program and BMP implementation annually.*
- *The Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District has an outreach and priority list for the Owasco Watershed that they are reaching out to about updating their Tier process.*
- *The Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District has a pilot program with New York State for nutrient management implementation of plans in the Owasco Lake Watershed. Once they finish with the Owasco Lake Watershed, they will move to Cayuga Lake Watershed and then to others. They are trying for a five year cycle.*
- *Farmland Protection Program requires going through the process which brings in new farms.*

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

- *The Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council has developed a framework of documents and will continue work in 2022.*

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

- *The Skaneateles Lake Association has created a lake friendly living guide and are working with realty companies to become sponsors of the printing.*

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

- *The Nature Conservancy purchased a high-priority property for protecting water quality along Filmore Road and they plan on conveying it to the Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council for long-term stewardship. The 161 acre property includes 40 acres of wetlands in the Dresserville Creek watershed. The Conservancy continued working with owners of additional headwater properties for protection.*
- *The Finger Lakes Land Trust acquired 102 acres off of Iowa Road in the Town of Sempronius that has 2,275 feet of frontage on Bear Swamp Creek, a critical tributary to Skaneateles Lake. They plan on conveying to the NYSDEC as an addition to the Bear Swamp State Forest.*