

# Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency



## **2022 Work Plan**

**Approved by the Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency  
on March 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.

## **2022 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 2022 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

**ACTION:** Promote and distribute the WQMA residential guidelines to the public.

**ACTION:** Provide a newsletter article or blog on fireworks, flares and campfire ash prior to the July 4<sup>th</sup> Holiday.

**ACTION:** Provide newsletter articles, blogs or information on climate change and flooding.

**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

**ACTION:** Gather informational documents on the WQMA website that can be used as Welcome Packages for new homeowners regarding how to minimize their nutrient impact.

### **INVASIVE SPECIES WORKING GROUP**

The priority species that the Cayuga County WQMA Invasive Species Working Group will concentrate on in 2022 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 and through other media such as radio and newspapers.

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

**ACTION:** The Working Group provide and support training programs and/or information on priority species including, but not limited to, meetings such as 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 New York State Invasive Species Week.

**ACTION:** The Working Group will promote activities sponsored by the WQMA and its members and partners, including, but not limited, to 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, Finger Lakes Institute's volunteer programs, 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, Finger Lakes PRISM and others, boat steward programs and will assist as able in other control programs.

**ACTION:** The Working Group will work with partners such as the Finger Lakes PRISM and others on increasing invasive species education to boaters and recreationists.

**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– Health Department, The Nature Conservancy

**ACTION:** Implement, test and monitor donated phosphorus removal technologies at residential properties and/or non-profit properties – Health Department, The Nature Conservancy, Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District

**PRIORITY: Stormwater**

**ACTION:** Promote the use of green infrastructure such as permeable pavement, rain gardens and rain barrels– City of Auburn, Cayuga County Department of Planning and Economic Development, OLWMC, Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District

**ACTION:** Speak at a monthly meeting of the Association of Towns and Association of Villages on the WQMA Municipal Ditch Maintenance guidelines and erosion and sediment control practices during municipal projects– Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District, 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:** Finalize development of a map of outfalls within the City of Auburn- City of Auburn.

**ACTION:** Provide a presentation to the Cayuga County WQMA on the Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District's and City of Auburn's work on culvert inventories and mapping of outfalls- City of Auburn, Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District

**ACTION:** Prepare communication pieces on sedimentation and erosion control issues, subsurface tile drainage and resources available to assist property owners in addressing them. Provide them to the WQMA Communications and Outreach Working Group for distribution– WQMA Nutrient and Sediment Working Group

**ACTION:** 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, Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board

**PRIORITY: Pet Waste**

**ACTION:** Create and provide communication pieces on the importance of properly disposing of pet waste to the WQMA Communication Working Group for distribution- 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:** Update and provide information regarding the ban on phosphorus in lawn fertilizer and appropriate ways to manage lawn waste to the WQMA Communications and Outreach Working Group for distribution– Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County, Owasco Watershed Lake Association, Lake Associations

**ACTION:** Provide information on where property owners can get their soil tested before they apply phosphorus to the WQMA Communications and Outreach Working Group for distribution– Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County

**PRIORITY: Agriculture**

**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, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County

**ACTION:** Review the Manure Management Guidelines, update if needed, and then promote them through the WQMA Communications and Outreach Working Group – Partners for Healthy Watersheds, Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County

**ACTION:** Provide necessary letters and resolutions of support for funding agricultural 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:** Create or provide education on subsurface tile drainage and provide to the WQMA Communications and Outreach Working Group for distribution- Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County, Partners for Healthy Watershed

**ACTION:** Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District will provide an annual report on conservation programs at a WQMA meeting– Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District

**PRIORITY: All Areas**

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

**ACTION:** Provide necessary letters and resolutions of support for funding best management practices and other programs that reduce nutrient and sediment to County waterbodies-WQMA Nutrient and Sediment Working Group