

# Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency

## 2026 Work Plan

Approved on February 5, 2026.

### 2026 12-Month Board Work Plan

#### Structure:

- **Odd Months:** Board-focused work sessions (planning, policy direction, discussion)
  - **Even Months:** Presentation-focused meetings (education, information sharing, stakeholder perspectives)
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### January – Board Planning & Governance

#### Board Focus: Setting the Annual Work Plan

- Review statutory responsibilities and board roles
  - Establish annual priorities and success measures
  - Approve board calendar and meeting themes
  - Align work plan with budget, staffing capacity, and regulatory requirements
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### February – Presentation

#### Topic: Lake Associations – Needs and Challenges

- Presentation from lake association representatives
  - Overview of common concerns, capacity gaps, and priorities
  - Discussion of WQMA support roles and partnership opportunities
  - Identify themes to inform outreach and advocacy efforts
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### March – Presentation

#### Topic: Data Collection and Usage in Water Quality Monitoring

- Overview of monitoring programs and data sources
  - How data is used for decision-making and prioritization
  - Data gaps, limitations, and opportunities for improvement
  - Board discussion on data transparency and reporting
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### April – Advocacy & Networking

#### Board Focus: External Engagement

- Identify key local, regional, and state partners
  - Clarify board role in advocacy versus education
  - Develop consistent messaging on WQMA priorities
  - Plan board participation in regional meetings or coalitions
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### May – Public Outreach & Communications

#### Board Focus: Community Engagement Strategy

- Review current outreach and education efforts
  - Identify priority audiences and key messages
  - Discuss communication tools, campaigns, and partnerships
  - Provide board direction on outreach priorities
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### June – Presentation

#### Topic: Invasive Species

- Invasive Species Working Group's main priority: Reduce threats invasive species present to water quality in Cayuga County
  - Review invasive species monitoring practices
  - Discussion of education, citizen science and volunteer opportunities
  - Identify alignment with WQMA water quality goals
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## **July – Residential pesticide, herbicide, fertilizer Best Management Practices (BMPs)**

**Board Focus:** Practical application of BMP's for the homeowner

- Review pesticide, herbicide, fertilizer impacts to water quality
  - Overview of BMPs, education, and compliance challenges
  - Identify opportunities for coordination with municipalities and applicators
  - Provide board guidance on priorities
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## **August – Presentation**

**Topic:** Your WQMA, Your Waters

- Public-facing overview of the WQMA mission and programs
  - How WQMA actions connect to local water resources
  - Success stories and ongoing initiatives
  - Opportunity for board members to refine messaging
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## **September – Erosion & Sediment Control BMPs**

**Board Focus:** Development & Construction Impacts

- Review erosion and sediment control standards
  - Discuss compliance trends and enforcement challenges
  - Identify education and collaboration opportunities
  - Provide direction on program improvements
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## **October – Presentation**

**Topic:** Erosion and Sediment Control BMPs

- Technical presentation on BMP design and implementation
  - Case studies and common compliance issues
  - Emerging practices and regulatory considerations
  - Board Q&A and clarification
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## **November – Project Permitting & Planning**

**Board Focus:** Long-Range Water Quality Protection

- Review WQMA role in project review and permitting
  - Discuss integration of water quality into planning processes
  - Identify opportunities for earlier coordination with applicants
  - Provide policy and process guidance
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## **December – Presentation**

**Topic:** Project Planning

- Overview of project planning processes and timelines
- How water quality considerations are incorporated
- Lessons learned from recent projects
- Preparation for January work planning discussions