

Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency

2011 Workplan

Approved March 3, 2011

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 agencies responsible for, 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.

2011 Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency Membership

Chair: Bruce Natale

Vice-Chair: Gary Duckett

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
Gary Duckett
Ron Podolak
Bruce Natale
Doug Ververs

Non-County, Local Officials

Town of Owasco
City of Auburn
Cayuga County Association of Town Supervisors
Cayuga County Association of Villages

Edward Wagner
Vicky Murphy
Keith Batman
Harry Hinman

Representatives from Waterbody Associations in Cayuga County

Cayuga Lake Watershed Network
Duck Lake Association
Lake Como Association
Owasco Watershed Lake Association

Jim Young
Dale Powell
Barb Harvey
Vacant

Partners

Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board
Finger Lakes Institute
Institute for the Application of Geospatial Technology, Inc.
Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection Program

2011 Cayuga County Critical Water Quality Issues

1. Invasive Species (Asian Clam, Chinese Mystery Snail, Water Chestnut)
2. Phosphorus Loading
3. Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection Program
4. Stormwater Runoff, Erosion and Sedimentation
5. Geese and Gulls

2011 Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency

WQMA Priority Projects for 2011

- 1. Update the Cayuga County Water Quality Strategy.**
- 2. Continue to participate in the Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council implementation.**
- 3. Engage stakeholders and examine the next steps for projects identified in the “Restoration Feasibility Report for the Owasco Inlet and Owasco Flats Restoration Project” report.**
- 4. Asian clam and Chinese mystery snail survey of Owasco Lake.**
- 5. Continue to work on the reanalysis of Owasco Lake level and options available.**

WQMA Priorities

- 1. Monitor, educate about and attempt control of exotic, introduced and invasive species before they become established.**
- 2. Continue to monitor for and educate on blue-green algae.**
- 3. Continue to focus on nutrient reduction in County waterbodies.**
- 4. Educate the public on water quality and stewardship.**
- 5. Continue to monitor waterbodies and coordinate with the Finger Lakes Institute and others.**
- 6. Follow Marcellus Shale and other drilling activities and effects on surface and ground water resources.**
- 7. Search for funding for the actions listed in this work plan.**

WQMA Long Term Initiatives

- 1. Develop a monitoring framework for Cayuga County.**
- 2. Develop templates for stormwater and steep slope ordinances for Cayuga County municipalities and distribute to and educate town/village boards, planning boards, code enforcement officers and zoning boards.**

WQMA Administration

- 1. Administer WQMA including minutes, announcements, agendas, year-end reports, work plans, and other documents needed.**
 - Planning Department
- 2. Maintain the WQMA website.**
 - Planning Department
- 3. Write letters of support upon request.**
 - Planning Department

4. Assist with Owasco Lake Day.

- Planning Department, Parks, Health Department, CCE, OWLA, Owasco Lake Watershed Inspector

5. Administer the grant and complete the work in the NYSDEC Water Quality Improvement Grant funded “Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency Annual Report Project.”

- Planning Department

Other WQMA Programs and Projects

Finger Lakes Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance (FOLLOWPA) Funded Projects

1. Administer FOLLOWPA funds including contracts, requests, budgeting, narratives and attend meetings as requested.

- Planning Department

Agriculture

1. Assist in the development and review of Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans and Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Plans for farms.

- SWCD

2. Promote and assist in the implementation of best management practices (BMPs).

- SWCD

3. Encourage and assist farmers in participating in state and federal programs that relate to water quality and issues. Programs include PDR (purchase of development rights), Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), and GrazeNY.

- SWCD, CCE, Planning Department

4. Assist with hazardous waste and pesticide collection days for farms as funding is available.

- SWMO, SWCD, Planning Department, CCE

5. Continue with the development and use of technologies to deal with agricultural waste.

- SWCD, Planning

6. Continue the Lake Friendly Farms program.

- Cayuga Lake Watershed Network

Education

1. Provide education on water, water quality, watersheds, agriculture and related issues to schools, children and adults; including use of Project WET and the Owasco Watershed Network.

- CCE, Planning Department, CNY RPDB, IAGT, Owasco Lake Watershed Inspector

Exotic, Invasive, Introduced and Nuisance Species Management

1. Continue existing aquatic vegetation control programs.

- SWCD, Duck Lake Association

2. **Monitor, educate and attempt control of exotic, introduced and invasive species before they become established. Includes maintaining the Weeds Watch Out! Program website.**
 - Planning Department, CCE, Parks, CLWN, SWCD, Owasco Lake Watershed Inspector, IAGT

Forestry

1. **Provide forestry information and technical services for landowners.**
 - CCE
2. **Provide the Trade-A-Tree Program.**
 - SWMO, SWCD, CCE, Planning Department

Hazardous Materials

1. **Provide opportunities to reduce hazardous materials in the County including household hazardous waste, tire, electronics and propane tank collections.**
 - SWMO, Planning Department, SWCD, CCE
2. **Provide information and education on protecting water quality, reducing the use of hazardous materials, and the proper use and disposal of household chemicals and other hazardous material.**
 - SWMO, Planning Department, CCE

Highway Maintenance

1. **Continue to provide education and assistance to reduce roadbank erosion and other issues caused by highways.**
 - SWCD, Owasco Lake Watershed Inspector

Land Use

1. **Educate town/village boards, planning boards, code enforcement officers and zoning boards about land use issues that affect water quality such as drainage, buffer zones, stormwater runoff, PDR, etc.**
 - Planning Department, CNY RPDB, Owasco Lake Watershed Inspector
2. **Provide assistance to towns and villages to design, adopt and/or implement standards and guidelines; provide model ordinances, regulations, standards, and guidelines that protect water quality.**
 - Planning Department, CNY RPDB
3. **Assist with the development of comprehensive plans, zoning laws and other land use tools for County municipalities.**
 - Planning Department, CNY RPDB

Monitoring

1. **Continue water sampling of County Lakes with the Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP).**
 - Duck Lake, Lake Como
2. **Monitor lakes and tributaries for nutrients, coliform and other parameters.**
 - Planning Department, OWLA, Owasco Lake Watershed Inspector, Health Department, FLI

Nutrient Management

- 1. Provide education on nutrient management and reduction with the P-Project education program and website, as well as other educational materials.**
 - CCE, Planning Department

Private and Municipal Wastewater Treatment

- 1. Continue to implement the Cayuga County Sanitary Code and provide information to others as needed.**
 - Health Department
- 2. Provide education on proper septic system and holding tank use and maintenance.**
 - Health Department, CCE, SWCD, Owasco Lake Watershed Inspector

Solid Waste Issues

- 1. Provide education on solid waste and recycling issues.**
 - CCE, SWMO, Planning Department
- 2. Conduct cleanup activities in the County.**
 - SWMO, CCE, Parks Department, Cayuga Lake Watershed Network

Stormwater and Sediment Control

- 1. Provide education and assistance on stormwater, sediment control and the Phase II Stormwater Rules & Regulations.**
 - SWCD, CCE, Planning Department, CNY RPDB, Owasco Lake Watershed Inspector

Streambank, Lakeshore and Stream Corridor Management

- 1. Design and conduct stabilization work on tributaries and lakeshores.**
 - SWCD, Parks Department, CNY RPDB, Planning Department
- 2. Provide education and information for farmers and landowners about the importance of buffers adjacent to streambanks, lakeshore and other sensitive areas.**
 - SWCD, CCE, Planning Department, Owasco Lake Watershed Inspector
- 3. Continue to participate in the future work and management of the Owasco Flats and Owasco Inlet area.**
 - Planning Department, Health Department, Parks

Waterborne Illness

- 1. Continue to enforce the Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations.**
 - Health Department, Owasco Lake Watershed Inspector
- 2. Continue coliform monitoring of public bathing beaches.**
 - Health Department
- 3. Provide educational materials on waterborne illnesses.**
 - Health Department, CCE

- 4. Parks will continue to monitor the activity of the geese on Owasco Lake. If they deem it necessary they will apply for a nuisance permit from the NYS DEC.**
 - Parks

Acronyms and Abbreviations

CCE: Cayuga County Cornell Cooperative Extension
CNY RPDB: Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board
FLLOWPA: Finger Lakes Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance
FLI: Finger Lakes Institute
IAGT: Institute for the Application of Geospatial Technology, Inc.
NYSDEC: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
OWLA: Owasco Watershed Lake Association
SWCD: Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District
SWMO: Cayuga County Solid Waste Management Office
WQMA: Water Quality Management Agency