

Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency

2006 Work Plan

Approved February 2, 2006

2006 WQMA Membership

Chair:

Bruce Natale

Vice-Chair:

Gary Duckett

Cayuga County Legislature's Environmental Advisors:

Deputy Director of Cayuga County Planning and Economic Development	Tricia Riter
Director of Cayuga County Environmental Health	Eileen O'Connor
Park Maintenance Supervisor	Gary Duckett
Director of Cayuga County Soil & Water Conservation District	Jim Hotaling
Cayuga County Solid Waste Management Program Administrator	Bruce Natale
Cayuga County Cooperative Extension Interim Executive Director	Judy Wright

Non-County, Local Officials

Association of Towns	Vacant
Association of Villages	Vacant
City of Auburn Owasco Lake Watershed Inspector	Anthony DeCaro

Representatives from Interested Regional, State and Federal Agencies:

Institute for the Application of Geospatial Technology	Matt Starr
CNY Regional Planning	Kristy LaManche
Finger Lakes Institute	Sarah Meyer
NYS DEC Region 7 Forest Practice Board	Dick Fox
NYS DEC Region 7 Water Resources	Scott Cook
NYS DEC Region 7 Permits	Elizabeth Tracy
USDA Farm Service Agency	Jane Cabal
USDA NRCS	Katie Nash

Representatives from Waterbody Associations in Cayuga County

Owasco Watershed Lake Association	Al Kozlowski
Duck Lake	Dale Powell
Cayuga Lake Intermunicipal Organization	Darby Kiley

Acronyms and Abbreviations

CCE: Cayuga County Cornell Cooperative Extension
Cayuga Lake RPP: Cayuga Lake Watershed Restoration and Protection Plan
CEMO: Cayuga County Emergency Management Office
CLWN: Cayuga Lake Watershed Network
CNY RPDB: Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board
City: City of Auburn
DEC: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Duck: Duck Lake Association
FLLOWPA: Finger Lakes Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance
Health: Cayuga County Department of Health and Human Services Environmental Health Division
Highway: Cayuga County Highway Department
IAGT: The Institute for the Application of Geospatial Technology
IO: Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization
Network: Cayuga Lake Watershed Network
OWLA: Owasco Watershed Lake Association
Parks: Cayuga County Parks and Trails Commission
Planning: Cayuga County Department of Planning and Economic Development
SWCD: Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District
Tour: Cayuga County Department of Tourism
WQMA: Water Quality Management Agency

Agriculture

Action	Responsible Organizations	Watershed(s)
Develop Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans for farms	SWCD	All
Once SWCD staff member is certified as a Nutrient Management Plan Specialist, this staff person will review comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans from consultants to see if plans are adequate	SWCD	All
Complete Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Plans for farms.	SWCD	All
Identify best management practices (BMPs) from AEMs and other plans. Look for assistance to install these BMPs and measure their effectiveness.	SWCD	All
Provide hazardous waste and pesticide collection days for farms as funding is available.	Planning, CCE, SWCD	All
Take advantage of new technologies to deal with agricultural waste.	SWCD	All
Provide incentives and programs for farmers to install, maintain and manage buffers adjacent to streambanks, lakeshore and other sensitive areas.	SWCD	All
Assist farmers with PDR (purchase of development rights) applications where applicable. CCE will provide educational materials on PDR.	CCE, Planning	All
Provide public education and news articles/columns on agriculture and the environment.	CCE, SWCD, City, CLWN	All
Present farm, conservationist, and educator of the year awards.	SWCD	All
Continue to develop a program and criteria for providing signs for lake friendly farmers or watershed friendly farmers.	CLWN, IO, OWLA, SWCD, CCE	Cayuga & Owasco Lakes
Encourage farmer participation in state and federal programs that relate to water quality and issues; and pursue forms of assistance such as continued federal and state grants and cost share programs.	SWCD, NRCS, CCE, Planning, CLWN, IO	All
Search for funding for and implement grazing best management practices.	SWCD	All
Encourage farmers to join the Conservation Reserve Program.	SWCD	All
Encourage agritourism.	Planning	All
Encourage towns to change local laws to allow additional business enterprises on farms.	Planning, IO, SWCD	All

Biosolids

Action	Responsible Organizations	Watershed (s)
Continue to enforce the Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations which state: "No human excreta or sewage shall be deposited or spread upon the surface of the ground at any point on the watershed. Composted sludge, pursuant to a permit issued by an appropriate State or local agency having jurisdiction, if any, shall be allowed."	City & Health	Owasco Lake

Boating

Action	Responsible Organizations	Watershed (s)
Provide information on the safe and proper fuel storage of boats, slips, etc. Include information on what to do in a spill.	Planning	All

2006 WQMA Work Plan

Provide information on speed limits, boating setbacks and other issues on Cayuga County waterbodies.	Planning	All
Search for funding to conduct research on boating and to provide education to boaters.	Planning	All

Collaboration

Action	Responsible Organizations	Watershed (s)
Work to implement the Cayuga Lake Restoration and Protection Plan, Duck Lake Watershed Management Plan, Owasco Lake Watershed Management Plan and the Skaneateles Lake Watershed Management Plan.	WQMA	Cayuga Lake, Duck Lake, Owasco Lake, Skaneateles Lake
Examine developing state of the lake reports and watershed management plans for other waterbodies in Cayuga County.	SWCD, Planning	All
Support other complimentary efforts in Cayuga County by, for example, letters of support or in-kind contributions.	WQMA	All
Assist the Center for Environmental Information, Inc. as they work on developing the Lake Ontario Coastal Initiative.	Planning	Little Sodus Bay, Lake Ontario
Continue to provide the Regional Non-point Source Strategy meeting series.	CNY RPDB	All

Education

Action	Responsible Organizations	Watershed (s)
The Cayuga Co. WQMA should encourage and promote a coordinated approach to public education among its member organizations.	WQMA	All
Provide educational programs on watershed and related issues for schools and school aged children.	CCE, Planning	All
Make watershed issues more accessible to citizens by utilizing the internet, direct mailings, and media releases.	CCE, Planning	All
Agencies and organizations that conduct public education programs should utilize the local media to its fullest extent to promote programs, highlight events, and draw larger audiences.	Everyone	All
Develop promotional campaigns that will interest a larger variety of participants in education programs.	Everyone	All
Provide displays at Emerson Park tied to watershed protection and information from USGS water monitoring station.	Parks	All
Provide educational columns for the newspaper on Cayuga County waterbodies and watersheds.	OWLA, CCE	All
Provide award for leadership and commitment to protect the Cayuga Lake Watershed	Network, IO	Cayuga Lake
Provide an educational tour.	WQMA	All

Exotic, Introduced and Invasive Species Management

Action	Responsible Organizations	Watershed (s)
Utilize expertise to monitor and control exotic, introduced and invasive species before they become established. For example, conduct hand pulling of water chestnut in Sterling Creek.	CCE, Parks, Planning, Network	All
Continue existing County aquatic vegetation control program.	SWCD	All
Continue aquatic weed control program in Duck Lake including herbicide applications and use of new harvester.	Duck	Duck Lake
Continue to participate on CNY Water Chestnut Task Force to assist region in formulating strategies and solutions to water chestnut problems.	CNY RPDB, CCE, Network	All
Continue educational programs to prevent the spread of exotic, introduced and invasive species into Cayuga County waterbodies.	CCE, Planning	All
Develop and continue educational programs to inform lake users and homeowners about the spread and characteristics of exotic, introduced and invasive species.	Planning	All
Provide educational materials to landowners about how to put in intake pipes and treatment methods for dealing with zebra mussels in intake pipes.	Health	All
Search for funding to conduct inventory, monitoring and control programs for exotic, introduced and invasive species in Cayuga County lakes and watersheds.	CCE, Planning	All
Search for funding to conduct education on exotic, introduced and invasive species.	CCE, Planning	All
Search for funding to inventory and map aquatic vegetation in County lakes, compare to historical data, and determine management needs. Publish findings as an educational tool.	Planning	All
Search for funding to determine water quality, including phosphorus level, in Cayuga County lakes and the tributaries, and the effect it has on aquatic vegetation.	Planning, OWLA, CCE	All

Fish and Wildlife Management

Action	Responsible Organizations	Watershed (s)
Search for funding to determine water quality, including phosphorus level, dissolved oxygen and chlorophyll, in Owasco Lake and the tributaries and the effect it has on fish and wildlife.	CCE, Planning, OWLA	Owasco Lake
Request that the NYSDEC contact the Duck Lake Association before any stocking is conducted to discuss why stocking is being conducted and to get their input.	Planning, Duck	Duck Lake

Forestry: (Includes Community and Urban Forestry)

Action	Responsible Organizations	Watershed (s)
Coordinate information and technical services with landowners.	CCE	All
Provide forest landowners with information about available resources & services are available for forest management; information & training on proper forest management practices; and information on such topics such as highgrading to encourage landowners to retain existing well managed woodlots.	CCE	All
Encourage development of forest plans.	CCE	All
Encourage owners to apply for cost-sharing forest management programs.	CCE	All
Encourage towns and villages to apply to grant programs for tree planting.	Planning	All
Provide a model town or village tree ordinance.	Planning	All
Work with Grow Auburn's Trees to implement an urban forestry education program for City residents and City of Auburn staff.	CCE	Seneca River

Funding Options

Action	Responsible Organizations	Watershed (s)
Explore full range of funding alternatives; examples include surcharge to users, franchise fees, grants, loans, etc.	Everyone	All

Hazardous Materials**Fuel and Chemical Storage**

Action	Responsible Organizations	Watershed (s)
Update the County's watershed database with the updated NYSDEC database on bulk petroleum storage facilities.	Planning	All

Hazardous Material Spills and Spill Response

Action	Responsible Organizations	Watershed (s)
Update the water quality contact list yearly.	Planning, CCE	All
Provide education on petroleum spill prevention and what to do in the event of a spill or a leak.	Planning, CCE	All
Educate boaters on proper fueling and what to do in the event of a spill.	Planning, CCE	All

Yard, Garden and Household Chemical Use and Waste Disposal

Action	Responsible Organizations	Watershed (s)
Continue household hazardous waste collection event offerings.	Planning, City, SWCD, CCE	All
Continue to search for other ways to reduce hazardous material in the County.	Planning, CCE, SWCD	All

2006 WQMA Work Plan

Provide information on proper use and disposal of household chemicals; suggested media includes annual water quality reports by water providers, water bill messages, direct mailings, and the WQMA webpage.	Planning, CCE, City	All
Promote pest management practices that reduce pesticide use in the watershed, including integrated pest management and non-toxic pest management.	Planning, CCE	All
Examine ways to change people's attitudes about the "perfect lawn" through education.	Planning, CCE	All
Conduct education programs to help homeowners prevent groundwater contamination; include wells, well maintenance, septic system use, yard waste, composting, etc.	CCE	All
Search for funding for educational programs on yard, garden and household chemicals.	Planning, CCE	All
Search for funding to provide household hazardous waste and pesticide collection days.	Planning, CCE	All

Highway Deicing

Action	Responsible Organizations	Watershed (s)
Explore funding options for those that need salt storage structures and contained mixing areas.	Planning, IO	All

Highway Maintenance

Action	Responsible Organizations	Watershed (s)
Continue hydroseeding assistance programs for local governments in critical areas, such as road ditches and promote the program to increase use throughout the County.	SWCD	All
Encourage use of, provide information and assist with the installation of best management practices (BMPs) to reduce roadbank erosion.	SWCD, IO	All
Encourage and provide information on timely revegetation of road ditches and banks.	SWCD, IO	All
Encourage use of structural controls of sediments on steep roads, roadbanks and in high flow ditches.	SWCD	All
Provide an annual informational report for highway superintendents and workers.	SWCD	All
Organize local training programs through SWCD and Highway Superintendents Association.	SWCD	All
Examine ways to prevent sediment eroded from plowed fields by wind and water from ending up in the ditches to the lake; especially during heavy rainfalls.	SWCD	All
Examine ways to prevent roadside ditches from deepening and eroding.	SWCD, IO	All

Lakeshore Erosion

Action	Responsible Organizations	Watershed (s)
Assist communities with lakeshore erosion issues.	Planning	All

Lake Level

Action	Responsible Organizations	Watershed (s)
Continue to work with the Army Corps of Engineers at revisiting the Owasco Lake “rule curve.”	WQMA	Owasco Lake
Continue to educate Owasco Lake watershed residents on what to expect in regards to lake level, the hydrologic system, the “rule curve,” about downstream uses of water, and why different people want different lake levels.	City, Planning	Owasco Lake
Encourage local officials who are responsible for Owasco Lake level management to continue working with others in their region to coordinate flood period discharges (i.e. Balance lake impacts, downstream impacts, etc).	City	Owasco Lake
Continue work needed to dredge the South end of Owasco Lake.	SWCD	Owasco Lake
Search for funding to conduct a hydrologic study of Duck Lake, to confirm the Duck Lake Watershed, and to install an official gauge on Duck Lake.	Duck, Planning	Duck Lake

Lake Water Diversions

Action	Responsible Organizations	Watershed (s)
Request that any water diversions in, near or upstream of the Duck Lake Watershed be subject to formal public comment process, especially those that require local, state and federal permits.	Duck, Planning	Duck Lake

Land Use

Action	Responsible Organizations	Watershed (s)
Educate planning boards about land use issues such as drainage, buffer zones, stormwater runoff, etc.	Planning, IO	All
Provide assistance to towns and villages to design, adopt and/or implement standards and guidelines; provide model ordinances, regulations, standards, and guidelines.	Planning, IO	All
Explore opportunities to protect streambank areas. Use data from streambank assessments and management plans to search for funding.	Planning, IO	All
Conduct a survey of wetlands and open spaces countywide.	Planning	All
Review and update the webpage directory of zoning provisions and other development regulations of towns and villages.	Planning	All
CNYRPDB & Planning, in conjunction with the Institute for the Application of Geospatial Technology and the Genesee Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council, will evaluate the impacts of future development, urban sprawl and changing land uses on municipalities within the Owasco Lake Watershed and throughout the Finger Lakes region. Technical assistance, staff support and guidance will be provided to municipalities seeking tools and techniques to effectively control the impacts of development, sprawl & changing land uses.	CNY RPDB, Planning	All

Monitoring

Action	Responsible Organizations	Watershed (s)
Continue water sampling of Cayuga, Duck and Owasco Lakes under Citizens Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP) through FLOWPA funding.	Network, OWLA, Duck WQMA	Cayuga Lake, Owasco Lake, Duck Lake
Continue monitoring of Dutch Hollow Brook and Owasco Inlet utilizing FLOWPA funds.	Planning, SWCD	Owasco Lake
Continue tributary phosphorus monitoring utilizing FLOWPA funding.	CCE	Owasco Lake, Cayuga Lake
Continue work on the monitoring buoy for Owasco Lake with IAGT.	OWLA	Owasco Lake
Continue coliform monitoring of Owasco Lake.	OWLA, Health	Owasco Lake
Conduct phosphorus monitoring in Duck Lake.	Duck	Duck Lake
Conduct coliform monitoring in Duck Lake.	Duck	Duck Lake
Search for funding for nutrient education.	Planning	All

Nutrient Management

Action	Responsible Organizations	Watershed (s)
Encourage the use of nutrient management plans for golf courses, developments, parks, etc.	SWCD	All
Educate the public and developers on how to reduce nutrient introduction to waterbodies.	OWLA, CCE, City, SWCD, CNY RPDB	All
Continue the phosphorus monitoring of tributaries through FLOWPA funding. Identify areas that contribute high external loadings of phosphorus and target areas for education and protection efforts.	CCE	Owasco and Cayuga Lakes
Continue work needed to dredge the South end of Owasco Lake.	SWCD	Owasco Lake
Search for funding for nutrient education.	CCE, Planning	All

Private and Municipal Wastewater Treatment

Action	Responsible Organizations	Watershed (s)
Continue to implement the Cayuga County Sanitary Code and provide information to others as needed.	Health	All
Explore federal or state assistance to replace or upgrade septic systems of people with limited incomes.	Health	All
Encourage the adoption of comprehensive plans that describe the capacity of public facilities and services required to serve new development and discourage growth where adequate facilities and services are not available.	Planning	All
Explore what grants & loans are available for water & waste disposal systems for rural communities.	Planning	All
Explore the possibility of upgrading the Groton Wastewater Treatment Facility. Permit is due for renewal in 2006.	Health, Planning	Owasco Lake
Fair Haven Sewer Project, Village of Fair Haven. Provide requested technical assistance.	Planning	Little Sodus Bay

Provide educational literature that provides examples of good septic system and holding tank use and maintenance.	Planning, CCE	All
Distribute a septic maintenance log sheet for homeowners.	Duck, Planning	Duck Lake

Public Access

Action	Responsible Organizations	Watershed (s)
Encourage low impact activities like hiking, canoeing and fishing instead of motorized use.	Parks, Planning, OWLA	All

Spring Quality

Action	Responsible Organizations	Watershed (s)
Search for funding for groundwater studies for Duck Lake.	Duck, Planning	Duck Lake
Educate people in the Duck Lake Watershed on how to protect groundwater.	Duck, Planning, CCE	Duck Lake

Stormwater and Sediment Control

Action	Responsible Organizations	Watershed (s)
Continue to work closely with the DEC on the Phase II Stormwater Rules & Regulations. Provide assistance for towns and villages to comply with the Phase II Stormwater Rules and Regulations.	SWCD, Planning, CNY RPDB	All
Continue to conduct education to local decision makers, planning and zoning boards, Code Enforcement Officers, Highway Superintendents, residents, WQMA, and others about the Phase II Stormwater Rules & Regulations & the use of recognized development BMPs to protect water quality.	SWCD, Planning, CNY RPDB	All
As further guidance is provided by the regulatory agencies, examine and/or encourage local governments to create & enforce their own stormwater management and erosion control ordinances.	SWCD, Planning, CNY RPDB	All
Conduct general Phase II construction permit education and outreach for local governments and the general public by providing sample and guidance materials as they become available.	CNY RPDB	All
Continue to conduct stormwater control projects.	SWCD	All
Continue hydroseeding assistance programs for local governments in critical areas, such as road ditches, and promote the program to increase use throughout the watershed.	SWCD	All
Provide model site design guidelines for contractors.	SWCD	All
Encourage use and provide information on structural measures to control sediments and other pollutants from stormwater runoff.	SWCD	All
Examine the use of infiltration trenches, detention ponds, siltation ponds, basins, vegetated swales and filter strips in critical areas and in demonstration projects.	SWCD	All

Streambanks and Stream Corridor Management

Action	Responsible Organizations	Watershed (s)
Reevaluate streambank erosion assessments and search for funding for implementation.	SWCD, Planning, IO	All
Search for funding and implement streambank stabilization on severely eroding streams using fluvial geomorphology and other bioengineering methods where feasible.	SWCD, Planning	All
Identify funding sources for comprehensive streambank restoration & management programs.	SWCD	All
Provide incentives and programs for farmers and landowners to install, maintain and manage buffers adjacent to streambanks, lakeshore and other sensitive areas. Find funding opportunities for buffer installation, management and maintenance.	SWCD, NRCS, Planning	All
Promote the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) such as livestock exclusion from streams and vegetative filter strips.	SWCD	All
Continue having staff members of the SWCD assist in the preparation of grant and cost share applications to reduce streambank erosion and implement buffering.	SWCD	All
Provide model buffer and stream corridor protection ordinances to the municipalities.	Planning	All
Examine debris accumulation in streams and determine whose jurisdiction it is to remove it and have it removed.	Planning	All
Educate landowners on what debris can be removed from streams and how to remove it properly.	Planning, OWLA	All
Conduct tours, put up signs and provide information on demonstration projects for streambank erosion and stream buffering.	SWCD, OWLA	All
Conduct streambank stabilization projects on tributaries to Owasco Lake.	SWCD, Planning	Owasco Lake
Train staff in remedial fluvial geomorphology and conduct pilot projects on tributaries to Owasco Lake, particularly Dutch Hollow Brook and the Inlet.	SWCD	Owasco Lake

Waste Sites

Landfills, Inactive Hazardous Waste Sites, Solid Waste Management and Other Waste Sites

Action	Responsible Organizations	Watershed (s)
Discourage open burning and encourage alternatives such as pay by the bag programs for residential solid waste disposal.	Planning, Health	All

Waste Sites

Roadside and Illegal Dumping

Action	Responsible Organizations	Watershed (s)
List all municipal codes and ordinances for roadside and/or illegal dumping.	Planning	All
Conduct cleanup of Fall Creek.	Network	Cayuga Lake

Waterborne Illness

Action	Responsible Organizations	Watershed (s)
Continue to monitor bathing beaches.	Health	All
Continue to provide information to residents using untreated lake water as a drinking water source and encourage them to install some type of treatment system to disinfect their drinking water.	Health	All
Provide educational materials on waterborne illnesses.	Health	All
Use Best Management Practices (BMPs) and Environmental Protection Agency Regulations to reduce contamination from pastures.	SWCD	All
Continue to work on the Emerson Park swale and pond coliform issue.	Health, SWCD, Planning, Park	Owasco Lake
Continue to address the bird problem in Emerson Park and Owasco Lake by trying realistic methods.	Parks, SWCD	Owasco Lake
Implement a continuous coliform monitoring program in Owasco Lake and the major tributaries.	OWLA, City	Owasco Lake
Continue to create awareness of dangers of spreading unwanted weeds and zebra mussels as well as feeding ducks and geese.	Duck	Duck Lake