

# Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency

## **2007 Work Plan**

APPROVED  
February 1, 2007

## 2007 WQMA Membership

**Chair:**

Bruce Natale

**Vice-Chair:**

Gary Duckett

**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

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 Executive Director

Doug Ververs

**Non-County, Local Officials**

Association of Town Supervisors

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 Shor

**Representatives from Waterbody Associations in Cayuga County**

Owasco Watershed Lake Association

Al Kozlowski

Duck Lake

Dale Powell

Cayuga Lake Watershed Network

Sharon Anderson

Lake Como Association

Barb Harvey

Tri-County Skaneateles Lake Pure Waters Association

Bill Hecht

**Acronyms and Abbreviations**

CCE: Cayuga County Cornell Cooperative Extension  
 Cayuga Lake RPP: Cayuga Lake Watershed Restoration and Protection Plan  
 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  
 FLOWPA: 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  
 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  
 WQMA: Water Quality Management Agency

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**WQMA Projects**

Program	Responsible Organizations	Watershed(s)
Maintain the WQMA website.	WQMA, Planning	All
Update the Cayuga County Water Quality Strategy.	WQMA	All
Update the water quality contact list.	Planning, CCE	All
Continue work to get a full time watershed inspector for Owasco Lake.	WQMA	Owasco Lake
Continue to implement recommendations and actions from the Cayuga Lake Restoration and Protection Plan, Duck Lake Watershed Management Plan, Owasco Lake Watershed Management Plan, Skaneateles Lake Watershed Management Plan and the Lake Como Management Plan when it is approved.	WQMA	Cayuga Lake, Duck Lake, Owasco Lake, Lake Como, Skaneateles Lake
Document on-going sampling of Cayuga County waterbodies and work to develop a water monitoring framework.	WQMA	All
Support other complimentary efforts in Cayuga County by, for example, letters of support or in-kind contributions.	WQMA	All
Work to fill vacancies in the WQMA membership.	WQMA	All

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

Program	Responsible Organizations	Watershed(s)
Continue monitoring of Dutch Hollow Brook and Owasco Inlet.	Planning	Owasco Lake
Continue water sampling of Cayuga Lake, Duck Lake and Lake Como under the Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP).	Duck, CLWN, Como	Duck Lake, Cayuga Lake, Lake Como
Continue Owasco Lake tributary phosphorus monitoring and begin Duck Lake phosphorus monitoring. Continue to provide the P-Project phosphorus education program.	CCE, Planning, Duck	Owasco Lake, Duck Lake and others
Begin the process of updating the Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations.	Health, Planning	Owasco Lake
Provide assistance on Phase II Stormwater Rules and Regulations to 32 municipalities in Cayuga County by providing education, outreach and model ordinances. Also provide education on stormwater to County youth.	Planning	All
CCE staff person will become a facilitator for Project WET and help coordinate Project WET workshops in Cayuga County.	CCE	All
Continue to have a Cayuga County certified inspector conduct septic system inspections as required in the Cayuga County Sanitary Code.	Health	All
Continue to remove nuisance and invasive aquatic vegetation by mechanical harvesting.	SWCD	All
Conduct education on invasive species county-wide. Also conduct hand pulling of water chestnut on Sterling Creek, Cross Lake and other waterbodies in Cayuga County as needed.	CCE, Planning, Parks, SWCD	All
Conduct streambank stabilization work on a wetland outlet at the Sterling Nature Center to an unnamed tributary that flows into Lake Ontario.	SWCD, Parks	Lake Ontario
Continue the geese management program at the Emerson Park Beaches at the north end of Owasco Lake.	SWCD, Parks	Owasco Lake

***Agriculture***

Action	Responsible Organizations	Watershed(s)
Assist in the development of Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans for farms.	SWCD	All
Continue work to have a SWCD staff member certified as a Nutrient Management Plan Specialist. Once this occurs, this staff person can review comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans from consultants to see if plans are adequate.	SWCD	All
Complete Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Plans for farms. Identify best management practices (BMPs) from these AEMs & other plans. Look for assistance to install these BMPs and measure their effectiveness.	SWCD	All
Assist with hazardous waste and pesticide collection days for farms as funding is available.	Planning, CCE, SWCD	All
Continue with the development and use of new technologies to deal with agricultural waste.	SWCD	All

**Agriculture (continued)**

Action	Responsible Organizations	Watershed(s)
Provide information, incentives and programs for farmers to install, maintain and manage buffers adjacent to streambanks, lakeshore and other sensitive areas.	SWCD	All
Promote the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) for farmers such as livestock exclusion from streams and vegetative filter strips.	SWCD	All
Encourage farmers to join the Conservation Reserve Program and the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).	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
Continue the Lake Friendly Farms program.	CLWN	Cayuga Lake
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, CCE, NRCS, CLWN Planning,	All
Search for funding for and implement grazing best management practices.	SWCD	All
Encourage agritourism.	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."	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
Provide a forum "Docks and Moorings: A Forum for Municipalities.	CLWN	Cayuga Lake

**Collaboration**

Action	Responsible Organizations	Watershed (s)
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)
Provide education on water, water quality, watersheds and related issues to schools and school aged children.	CCE, Planning	All
Provide Project WET workshops for teachers and water education for local schools.	CCE	All
Provide education to citizens on water, water quality, watersheds and related issues.	CCE, Planning	All
Develop promotional campaigns that will interest a larger variety of participants in education programs.	WQMA	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 water, water quality, watersheds, waterbodies and related issues.	OWLA, CCE	All
Provide award for leadership and commitment to protect the Cayuga Lake Watershed.	CLWN, IO	Cayuga Lake
Provide an educational tour.	WQMA	All

**Exotic, Invasive, Introduced and Nuisance Species Management**

Action	Responsible Organizations	Watershed (s)
Continue existing County aquatic vegetation control program utilizing FLOWPA and County funds.	SWCD	All
Continue aquatic weed control program in Duck Lake including herbicide applications and use of harvester.	Duck	Duck Lake
Monitor and attempt control of exotic, introduced and invasive species before they become established. For example, conduct hand pulling of water chestnut in Sterling Creek.	CCE, Parks, Planning, CLWN	All
Provide education on exotic, introduced and invasive species to attempt to prevent their spread into Cayuga County waterbodies.	CCE, Planning	All
Maintain the Weeds Watch Out! Program website.	Planning	All
Continue to participate on CNY Water Chestnut Task Force to assist region in formulating strategies and solutions to water chestnut problems.	CNY RPDB, CCE, CLWN	All
Provide educational materials about how to put in intake pipes and treatment methods for dealing with zebra mussels in intake pipes.	Health	All
Search for funding to inventory, monitor and control exotic, introduced and invasive species in Cayuga County waterbodies and watersheds.	CCE, Planning	All
Search for funding to support education on exotic, introduced and invasive species.	CCE, Planning	All

**Fish and Wildlife Management**

Action	Responsible Organizations	Watershed (s)
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 forestry information and technical services with landowners.	CCE	All
Provide forest landowners with information about available resources & services that are available for forest management; information & training on proper forest management practices; and other topics.	CCE	All
Work with Grow Auburn's Trees to implement an urban forestry education program for City residents.	CCE	Seneca River
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

**Hazardous Materials**

Action	Responsible Organizations	Watershed (s)
Update the County's watershed database with the updated NYSDEC database on bulk petroleum storage facilities.	Planning	All
Assist with household hazardous waste collection event offerings.	Planning, SWCD, CCE	All
Provide opportunities to reduce hazardous material in the County.	Planning, CCE, SWCD	All
Provide information on proper use and disposal of household chemicals and other hazardous material.	Planning, CCE, City	All
Promote and provide education on pest management practices that reduce pesticide use in the County, including integrated pest management and non-toxic pest management.	Planning, CCE	All
Educate to change people's attitudes about the "perfect lawn."	Planning, CCE	All
Conduct education programs to help homeowners prevent water and groundwater contamination.	CCE	All
Provide education on petroleum spill prevention and what to do in the event of a spill or a leak.	Planning, 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, pesticide and other hazardous materials 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	All

**Highway Maintenance**

Action	Responsible Organizations	Watershed (s)
Continue hydroseeding assistance programs for local governments in critical areas to reduce roadbank erosion and promote the program to increase use throughout the County.	SWCD	All
Encourage use of structural controls of sediments on steep roads, roadbanks and in high flow ditches and/or examine ways to prevent roadside ditches from deepening and eroding.	SWCD	All
Provide an annual informational report for highway superintendents and workers.	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

**Lakeshore Erosion**

Action	Responsible Organizations	Watershed (s)
Provide information & assistance to communities with lakeshore erosion issues.	Planning	All

**Lake Level**

Action	Responsible Organizations	Watershed (s)
Continue to educate Owasco Lake watershed residents on what to expect in regards to lake level, the hydrologic system, the “rule curve,” 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, Planning	Owasco Lake
Search for funding to conduct a hydrologic study of Duck Lake, to confirm the boundaries of 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 a 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, PDR, etc.	Planning, IO	All

**Land Use**

Action	Responsible Organizations	Watershed (s)
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
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 IAGT 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 Lake, Duck Lake & Lake Como under Citizens Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP) through FLOWPA funding.	CLWN, Como, Duck	Cayuga Lake, Lake Como, Duck Lake
Continue monitoring of Dutch Hollow Brook and Owasco Inlet utilizing FLOWPA funds.	Planning	Owasco Lake
Continue Owasco Lake tributary phosphorus monitoring and begin Duck Lake phosphorus monitoring utilizing FLOWPA funds.	CCE, Planning, Duck	Owasco Lake, Duck Lake
Continue work on the monitoring buoy for Owasco Lake with IAGT.	OWLA	Owasco Lake
Continue coliform monitoring of public bathing beaches.	Health	Owasco Lake, Cayuga Lake, Cross Lake
Continue coliform monitoring of Owasco Lake.	OWLA	Owasco Lake
Conduct coliform monitoring in Duck Lake.	Duck	Duck Lake

**Nutrient Management**

Action	Responsible Organizations	Watershed (s)
Maintain P-Project website.	Planning	All
Encourage the use of and assist in the development 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
Identify areas that contribute high external loadings of phosphorus and target areas for education and protection efforts utilizing FLOWPA funds.	CCE, Planning	Owasco Lake, Duck 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
Provide input to the NYSDEC regarding the impending upgrade of the Groton Wastewater Treatment Plant and the development of Groton's new SPDES permit.	Health, Planning	Owasco Lake
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
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, Lake Como
Explore what grants & loans are available for water & waste disposal systems for rural communities.	Planning	All
Explore federal or state assistance to replace or upgrade septic systems of people with limited incomes.	Health	All

**Public Access and Use**

Action	Responsible Organizations	Watershed (s)
Encourage low impact activities like hiking, canoeing and fishing instead of motorized use.	Parks, Planning, OWLA	All
Continue to work with Finger Lakes Land Trust and NYSDEC on discussions of Owasco Flats future uses and access.	Planning, OWLA,	Owasco Lake

**Solid Waste Issues**

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
Survey towns and villages in Cayuga County for their municipal codes and ordinances for roadside and/or illegal dumping.	Planning	All
Conduct cleanup of Fall Creek.	CLWN	Cayuga Lake
Conduct cleanup activities at Sterling Nature Center.	Parks	Lake Ontario
Educate on proper yard waste and pet waste disposal.	Planning, CCE	All
Continue to monitor inactive waste sites as requested.	Planning, Health	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
Provide 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 and the use of recognized BMPs to protect water quality.	SWCD, Planning, CNY RPDB	All
Encourage local governments to create & enforce their own stormwater management and erosion control ordinances.	SWCD, Planning, CNY RPDB	All
Continue to conduct stormwater control projects and examine the use of new methods as demonstration projects.	SWCD	All
Provide model site design guidelines for contractors.	SWCD	All
Continue the Cayuga County Stormwater Management Projects Inspection and Monitoring Program	SWCD	All

***Streambanks and Stream Corridor Management***

Action	Responsible Organizations	Watershed (s)
Identify funding sources for comprehensive streambank restoration & management programs. Stabilize severely eroding streams using fluvial geomorphology and other bioengineering methods where feasible. Reevaluate streambank erosion assessments and search for funding for implementation.	SWCD, Planning	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
Provide model buffer and stream corridor protection ordinances to the municipalities.	Planning	All
Educate landowners on what debris can be removed from streams and how to remove it properly.	Planning, SWCD, OWLA	All
Conduct tours, put up signs and provide information on demonstration projects for streambank erosion and stream buffering.	SWCD, OWLA	All
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

**Waterborne Illness**

Action	Responsible Organizations	Watershed (s)
Continue coliform monitoring of public bathing beaches.	Health	Owasco Lake, Cayuga Lake, and Cross Lake
Provide information as needed 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, Parks, SWCD, Planning,	Owasco Lake
Continue geese harassment program at Emerson Park utilizing FLOWPA and County funds.	Parks, SWCD	Owasco Lake
Continue education on the problems caused by feeding ducks and geese.	CCE, Planning	All