

Minutes April 2, 2025

Present:

Bob Palumbo	Dan Marshall	Fred Stressing	David Adams
John Cowley	Jared Simpson	Bill Namestnik	Nick Baronowski
Mike Gonzales	Art Rilands	Marty Aman	

Necessarily Absent: Dale Stell

Staff and Guests: Kevin Olvany, Lindsay McMillan, Neil Atkins, Doug Merrill, Chris Bennem

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm by Co-Chair Marshall.

Privilege of the Floor

Co-chair Marshall offered privilege of the floor to City Councilmember, Doug Merrill. Councilman Merrill presented information on two bills introduced in the 2024–2025 legislative session: Assembly Bill A5150 and Senate Bill S1833, collectively titled *The Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring and Prevention Act*. The bills include four key declarations aimed at mitigating harmful algal blooms (HABs) in New York State:

1. Establish a coordinated, statewide approach to HABs mitigation;
2. Identify the combination of causes of HABs and strategies to address them;
3. Create a centralized clearinghouse for data, research, and funding;
4. Establish a new fund dedicated to monitoring and prevention efforts.

Dr. Merrill noted that the Canandaigua City Council recently passed a resolution in support of the legislation and encouraged Watershed Council members to advocate for similar resolutions in their respective municipalities. Kevin Olvany recommended that members reach out to Senator Pam Helming and Assemblymember Jeff Gallahan to learn more about the bills and get their perspectives.

Approval of Minutes

Co-Chair Marshall asked if anyone had any questions or corrections for the November minutes. Motion was made by Supervisor Adams to approve the February minutes, seconded by Mayor Palumbo. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Mayor Palumbo reviewed the Treasurer's Report. An updated Bills for Approval list was distributed at the meeting, reflecting changes since the version emailed in advance. A motion was made by Mayor Palumbo,

seconded by Fred Stressing, to amend the 2025 budget by increasing the *Invasive Species Management* line item by \$13,907.10, using the Fund Balance to support the 2024 Watercraft Steward Program. Motion carried.

Mayor Palumbo then presented the 2025 bills totaling \$73,581.78 2025 from the city's accounting system, the 2024 bills totaling \$1,657.80 from the city's accounting system, and \$1,300.00 in bills from the CNB account, totaling \$76,539.58. A motion to approve the bills as presented was made by Co-chair Marshall and seconded by Supervisor Stressing. Motion carried.

Presentation: Lake Monitoring Program

John Foust of Finger Lakes Community College (FLCC) presented his report from the 2024 lake monitoring program. Consistent monitoring has been performed in partnership with the Council monthly for the last 29 years. Two mid-lake stations and 4 nearshore sites are monitored. Overall, 2024 data was consistent with previous years. Notes from John's presentation:

- Reviewed thermocline depth and discussed how the volume of water in the upper layer at the north end of the lake—where it is shallower—may retain more warm water.
- Reviewed algal abundance in relation to clarity. There was a spike in algal abundance in September 2024 which tracks with recorded HABs observations.
- Reviewed long-term summer mean algal abundance, which shows high variability from 2013-2024. Discussion on the introduction of quagga mussels in the 2011 timeframe may be a factor.
- Reviewed 2024 total phosphorus numbers. The lab we have been using closed in June of 2024 and the numbers for that month were excluded from the graphs as there was question to their validity. There was a 5 ug/L (micrograms per liter) average. Watershed based increases (runoff from intense storm events potentially bringing pulses of nutrients) and relationships with mussels must be studied more to fully understand any correlation.
- 2024 data from CLWA's volunteer citizen scientist was shared and showed one of the more active HABs year on record. Volunteers were praised for their efforts.

Friends of Canandaigua Lake Update

Kevin Olvany provided an update on the evolving partnership with Friends of Canandaigua Lake, which is being established as an independent nonprofit organization to enhance private fundraising for restoration projects. A kickoff event to launch the fundraising campaign is scheduled for July 8th and is being coordinated with the support of Dixon Schwabl. Additionally, a partnership with Wegmans is in development to offer in-store fundraising opportunities that will benefit both the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council (CLWC) and the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association.

Kevin requested that Watershed Council staff be able to provide administrative support to Friends of Canandaigua Lake as needed, provided such support aligns with the Council's core values. A motion to approve this request was made by Marty Aman and seconded by Supervisor Cowley. Motion carried.

Kevin also distributed a grant agreement between the Sands Family Foundation (SFF) and CLWC for Watershed Council review. The agreement provides \$25,000.00 in funding from SFF to CLWC to cover Dixon Schwabl's services for the July 8th event. A motion to approve the grant agreement was made by Mayor Palumbo and seconded by Supervisor Cowley. Motion carried.

Bond Act Funds

Kevin presented three upcoming grant opportunities that are funded through the bond act and encouraged Watershed Council members to reach out if they have project concepts. There is \$80 million available through Resilient Watershed Grant Program (DEC), Coastal Rehabilitation and Resiliency Projects Program (DOS), Inland Flooding and Local Waterfront Revitalization Implementation Projects Program (DOS).

Review of 2025 current and potential water quality / flood resiliency projects

Kevin Olvany reviewed several current and potential projects:

- Sucker Brook- working with Colliers Engineering to be grant ready for multiple projects – upland retention as well as infrastructure upgrades
- Farm on Deuel Road- potential for multiple basins on the field to alleviate major erosion and downstream flooding issues.
- Middle Cheshire Road- complete work on the Ritchlin property to help provide water quality treatment and runoff reductions
- Vine Valley – working with Yates County SWCD for significant on farm upgrades
- Partnership with landowner in Gorham that rents agricultural land – 1.8-acre edge of field basin
- Turner Road / Route 364 – multiple basins and a berm for water retention
- Middlesex – culvert work and stream stabilization

Manager / Technician Report was reviewed with additional current projects.

A motion to adjourn was made by Supervisor Cowley, seconded by Mayor Palumbo. Motion carried.

Next Meeting: June 4, 2025
Location: Hurley Building