

## Minutes February 6, 2025

**Present:**

|                        |               |                |                 |
|------------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Bob Palumbo (Via zoom) | Dan Marshall  | Fred Stressing | David Adams     |
| John Cowley            | Jared Simpson | Bill Namestnik | Nick Baronowski |

**Necessarily Absent:** Mike Gonzalez, Dale Stell, Art Rilands, Marty Aman

**Staff and Guests:** Kevin Olvany; Lindsay McMillan; Lindsey Ayers (Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association)

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 pm by Co-Chair Marshall.

Councilman Mike Baronowski was introduced to the group as the new representative for the Town of Italy. The Watershed Council Members recognized the efforts of Mike Salotto, who recently passed away.

Co-chair Marshall offered privilege of the floor to speak to the Watershed Council; however, no one came forward to speak.

Co-chair Marshall asked if anyone had any questions or corrections for the November minutes. Motion was made by Fred Stressing to approve the November 13, 2024 minutes, seconded by Supervisor Cowley. Motion carried.

Mayor Palumbo reviewed the Treasurer's Report totaling \$53,429.35 through the City's accounting system. Motion was made by Mayor Palumbo to approve the 2024 bills totaling \$25,399.07 and the 2025 bills totaling \$28,030.28, which was seconded by Dave Adams. Kevin reviewed the partial payments for the Watercraft Steward program, which will close out the existing DEC Aquatic Invasive Species grant from 2019. Additional DEC grant funding was secured in 2023 to continue to the watercraft steward program. Other bills included renewal of Liability, Automobile, and Public Officials Insurance, as well as annual renewals for memberships and software subscription. Motion carried.

Lindsey Ayers, CLWA Program Coordinator, presented on the Watershed Education Program, which serves students in Naples, Marcus Whitman, Canandaigua, and St. Mary's. The program, created in 2007, aims to educate local students about the Canandaigua Lake watershed, raise awareness of water quality issues, and empower students to become stewards of the lake through their daily actions. Since its inception, the Council has co-funded the program, which is run by CLWA with assistance from three teachers.

#### Education Program Highlights:

- The program primarily targets students in grades 3 through 6, with ample outdoor field experiences, including wetland walks, Onanda Field Days, and macroinvertebrate sampling (bioindicators of stream health).
- During the 2021-2022 school year, 3,061 student experiences were recorded. In addition, early childhood lessons (UPK-2) were added to the program.
- The launch of the annual CLWA Water and Wildlife Summer Camp Program, held at Onanda Park for students in grades 6 through rising 9th graders. This field-based lesson camp features immersive programming hosted by CLWA in collaboration with community partners, including the DEC, Finger Lakes PRISM, and others. Foundation funding helps offset costs for families.
- In the 2022-2023 school year, the program hosted 2,703 student experiences. The summer camp was expanded to a two-week session.
- For the 2023-2024 school year, 2,497 student experiences were recorded. Additionally, a new partnership with Trout Unlimited was formed for the *Trout in the Classroom* program.

Kevin then gave an update on four recent grant award announcements. The Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council wrote four successful grant applications for the City and Town of Canandaigua along with the Town of Gorham. Two grants with a total of \$220,000 in state awards for the Sucker Brook project, received through DEC and DOS. The funds will be allocated to advance the Sucker Brook sub-watershed engineering study, which will enhance the City and Town's eligibility for future project implementation grants. The City and Town of Canandaigua were also successful in securing a grant for the MS4 program to map drainage systems. The Town of Gorham grant is for \$112,000 to analyze the 55 drainage systems that flow through Gorham and directly into Canandaigua Lake. This is an area that has experienced 50+ year storm events; study will undertake a drainage system analysis and identify potential water quality project area designs. The Council office is currently managing 22 grants, with a significant amount of paperwork. Watershed Technicians Kim and Lindsay are assisting with this workload

Co-Chair Marshall asked Kevin to review the Lake View and Ag Land Analysis Appraisal proposal from Midland Appraisals for a 165-acre property. Kevin reviewed the proposal and the rationale for the project. This potential partnership site includes a critical section of Menteth Creek, vital for protecting riparian corridors. Kevin presented slides highlighting the area's recent issues, such as erosion on the agricultural land, which contributes large nutrient and sediment loads to Canandaigua Lake. Proposed solutions include creating filtering zones, wetlands, vernal pools and implementing hay fields. The project could prevent thousands of tons of sediment and hundreds of pounds of phosphorus from entering the lake. The site is eligible for funding through the NYS DEC Source Water Protection grant that the Council secured. Additionally, the project qualifies for a \$50,000 Nature Conservancy grant, and an application is being submitted. In addition, private funding from the Sands Family Foundation has been secured for the Deuel Road/Foster Road area. Supervisor Marshall motioned to approve \$1,500 for the first-level appraisal, to be taken from the Watershed Council's Canandaigua National Bank account. Co-Chair Simpson seconded. Motion carried.

Kevin provided a status update on the Docks and Moorings law. He and Maria Rudzinski have been in contact with several Code Officers and have met with local dock builders on a couple of occasions to gather their feedback on the law. The goal is to reach a compromise that maintains the integrity of the law. Once all parties are satisfied with the iteration of the law, a public outreach session for the general

community will be scheduled for the summer. However, the NYS DEC has recently adopted new wetland regulations, raising many unanswered questions regarding the level of review required for projects under this new regulatory threshold. It is still uncertain how these regulations will impact docks and moorings, as some areas of the lake may fall under this new designation. Supervisor Simpson mentioned that the Town of Canandaigua is sending all proposals to the Albany DEC for jurisdictional designation, with reviews potentially taking 9-12 months.

Kevin highlighted several project areas:

- John Foust will attend the April meeting to review the results of the monthly sampling program.
- Collaborating with the City, Gorham, Town of Canandaigua, and Happiness House on FEMA disaster assistance and mitigation projects. The Town of Canandaigua recently accepted an easement for Happiness House, where a basin will be built. FEMA will reimburse excavator usage at \$137 per hour.
- Working with the City on an engineering study for Sucker Brook following the 2023 flooding. A kickoff meeting with Colliers Engineering was held in January.
- The Barnes Gully property is progressing with two appraisals completed, and a consultant is conducting the Phase 1 Environmental Assessment. A draft MOU has been developed between the City and Town for a two-step closing.
- Grants:
  - Submitted a \$40,000 grant application to WRC for the Sucker Brook projects under their new Implementation Projects Grant program.
  - Held a project initiation meeting with the DOS grant manager for the Accessible Kayak Launch at Lagoon Park (DOS grant), and completed the RFP for launch manufacturers.
  - Completed an RFP for engineering services for the Outlet gates study.
- Final payment request for the watercraft steward program.

A motion was made by Supervisor Cowley to enter executive session, seconded by Co-Chair Simpson. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Supervisor Cowley to close executive session and adjourn the meeting, seconded by Co-Chair Simpson. Motion carried

***Next Meeting: April 2, 2025***  
**Location: Hurley Building**