

**CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY WATER QUALITY TASK FORCE**  
**Katherine Jackson Carnahan Center**  
**Jamestown Community College**  
**525 Falconer Street, Jamestown, New York**

**February 13, 2020**

**1. Meeting Called to Order: 10:03 AM**

**Present:** Dave Spann, Chairman; Melissa Mee, Secretary; Brad Bentley; Jane Conroe; Joe Galati; Peter George; Rhonda Lindquist; Carol Markham; Dave McCoy; Bob Pickett

**2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting: Motion** to approve January 2020 CCWQTF Minutes by George. Seconded by McCoy

**3. Old Business:**

**a. Membership Drive.**

**i. CCWQTF Member Inquiry Survey Results.**

- a) Meeting Attendance: Spann reported that the majority of the response received from the survey were from individuals who attend on a regular basis. Per the survey, those who do not attend on a regular basis expressed a genuine interest in CCWQTF.
- b) Teleconferencing: Spann reported that CCWQTF members are not interested in utilizing teleconferencing technology.
- c) Meeting Frequency: Although the majority of survey results were in favor of meeting monthly, Spann noted that there were several parties who suggested meeting bi-monthly in the written responses collected from the survey. Boria also noted by email that he prefers bi-monthly meetings as well. Those in attendance agreed that CCWQTF would be better suited to meet every other month (bi-monthly) in the winter months, unless pressing issues require the group to meet more frequently. Those in attendance agreed that CCWQTF should meet monthly in the Spring. Spann is to contact members by email to reach a determination for the next meeting that is to be held in March.
- d) Meeting Minutes: Spann reported that all who responded to the survey felt that they benefit from the CCWQTF meeting minutes.
- e) Meeting Locations: Spann reported the Katherine Jackson Carnahan Center was the preferred location for CCWQTF meetings. Those in attendance agreed that the Katherine Jackson Carnahan Center is the ideal location.

- f) Additional Locations: Spann reported that of the other locations that were mentioned, the Katherine Jackson Carnahan Center is noted as being the most convenient location.
- g) Meeting Notice: Spann reported that meeting notice is to be sent by email to its current members only and that public notice is not necessary.
- h) CCWQTF Member Feedback: Spann reported that all of those who completed the survey feel that they, or the entity that they represent, have benefited from the CCWQTF meetings.
- i) December 2019 CCWQTF Meeting Minutes: Spann reported that most agreed with the ideas that were expressed at the December 2019 CCWQTF meeting.
- j) CCWQTF Purpose: Realistic and Definable: Spann reported that 83% said yes, the CCWQTF purpose needs to be updated so that it is more realistic and definable.
  - i. Spann suggested building a framework to update Bylaws. Spann noted that the partners and participants at that time that are currently active in education and outreach.
  - ii. Galotti commented that the current strategy partners list needs to be updated.
  - iii. George agreed that the mission should be updated to reflect that the group is an important networking platform within the county.
- k) CCWQTF Purpose: Unique Attributes of Current Members: Those in attendance agreed that letter J rolls into letter K.
- l) Task Oriented/Focused on Detailed Studies: Spann reported that the majority of the CCWQTF members said no, CCWQTF should not become task oriented and set its focus should not be on detailed studies. It was noted that the discussions and networking that take place at CCWQTF meetings are extremely beneficial in that groups with similar agendas stay informed of what projects are being executed by other groups. It was also noted that the studies executed by CCWQTF are equally important during this discussion. Bradley suggested that CCWQTF conducts a detailed road salt study in Chautauqua County.
- m) Water Quality Strategy: Spann is to send out the current Water Quality Strategy in a word document so that members can make suggested changes to submit for review. **The suggested changes should be saved as PDF documents titled Water Quality Strategy followed by the name of the individual making the edits.**

n) Bradely noted that the first two questions to ask in a situation where the purpose of an entity is being questioned, is why we are doing this (what is the CCWQTF mission), and does it still need to be done (is CCWQTF still needed within the county). Bradely also suggested highlighting the three most important items to address and suggested updating the CCWQTF mission every 5 years.

**b. CCWQTF Direction.**

- i. Chautauqua County Water Quality Task Force Bylaws: Current Bylaw document will be sent to group as a word document so that the members can submit suggested changes. Conroe noted that may be a job for an entity that specializes in creating and revising Bylaws. Spann suggested electing officers. A Chairman and a Vice Chairman will need to be elected especially.
- ii. Water Quality Strategy: As mentioned previously, the current Water Quality Strategy document will be sent to group as a word document so that the members can submit suggested changes.
- iii. PWL List Suggestions: Spann noted that Justin Brewer and Spann have had several discussions in regard to the need for TMDL classifications for a number of waterbodies. J Conroe noted that the current TMDL recommendations fall from vision and are not actively addressed - see attached PWL List. Lindquist said that she agrees and noted that TMDL's need to be established for a number of water bodies, and that TMDL's need to be updated that were from 2014 and prior. Conroe noted that the TMDL's are characterized by a lower-case letter. George noted that this could be confusing, as TMDL's are characterized by upper-case letters. The existing PWL List is to be sent to CCWQTF members as a word document. Those who have suggested changes should make their changes in red and save the changes they have made into a PDF document with the original title followed by their name.
- iv. Environmental Management Council (EMC) -
  - a) McCoy noted that EMC membership is appointed by the Chautauqua County Legislature, its purpose is to advise and make recommendations to the County on environmental matters. At meetings EMC members typically discussed public notices published in the Environmental Notice Bulletin, many of which are ministerial in nature (i.e. local permits or statewide regulations). McCoy noted that he administrates the group, but it hasn't met recently. Doug Conroe is the chairman, J. Jablonski, B. Boria and Quadry are members.

- b) McCoy said in some ways, the EMC duplicates the work of the County Planning Board. Towns and Villages are required to submit projects that they are considering to the County Planning Board to determine if county-wide impacts including environmental impacts may result from their implementation. The County Planning Board is required by law to evaluate these projects and make recommendations to the Towns and Villages as to best mitigate these impacts. (i.e. landfills, mining and industrial development)
  - c) J Conroe noted that the Planning Department supported the EMC initially, and that the support dissipated after staff cuts. J Conroe noted that this may need to be revisited by the legislature.
  - d) J Conroe noted that it may take legislature action to request that the CCWQTF to act as an advisory to the county.
  - e) McCoy noted that for the CCWQTF to act as an advisory board to the county legislature, it would have to review projects in detail, they prepare written recommendations, attend and present the recommendations at meetings 2 to 3 times a month.
  - f) Galotti suggested that the CCWQTF provides input by request of the legislature only.
- v. Letters to DEC and New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee/DEC and New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee Contacts: Spann noted that this has not yet been addressed but will be revisited after CCWQTF members provide feedback in regard to the CCWQTF Bylaws, Water Quality Strategy and PWL List documents.

## 2. Road Salt:

- a. Bradley reported that Chautauqua County met with the Lake George Association. Suggestions made to Chautauqua County in regard to road salt were found to be ineffective. Bradley also noted that Lake George is still mixing brine with the road salt. It was also noted by the Lake George Association representative that sand leads to more algae blooms, as the sand contains organic matter. The Lake George Association representative said that he was impressed with the effort that is currently in place in Chautauqua County to address winter road maintenance. Bradley said that the County maintains 550 miles of roads approximately and that it would be extremely beneficial for the CCWQTF to review its strategy to assist the County in looking at plausible solutions to address the effects of road salt.
- b. Lindquist said that she recently read an article that mentioned Erie County is using organic matter as opposed to sand and brine. Bradley noted that Chautauqua County utilized

beet juice in the past, and that it was not effective. Bradley noted that using organic matter such as Beet Juice also entails purchasing new equipment, personnel, etc. Bradely shared that the overall goal in Chautauqua County is to prevent the roads from becoming hardpacked. Pickett added that if a study is conducted, it should also consider the costs for equipment, necessary supplies, and manpower, etc.

- c. J. Conroe asked about the use of brine in Chautauqua County. It was noted that it is used in some counties in NYS, but it is not in Chautauqua County. Bradely explained that the equipment to make trucks capable to spread brine is an expense in itself. Pickett noted that gas well brine is not available because it does not meet regulations and requires periodic testing. It was also noted that Chautauqua County does not have a bare road policy by Bradely and Pickett.
- d. Pickett noted that if the temperatures remained below freezing, maintaining in the roads would be much easier. The constant freeze to thaw this winter has caused an increased effort, as it is more effective to remove hard pack before the next thaw and freeze.
- e. J Conroe add that CCWQTF needs to be proactive in regard to the effects of road salt in Chautauqua County.

### **3. New Business:**

### **4. Reports:**

- a) Pickett: No report
- b) George: No report
- c) Galotti: No report
- d) Markham: Markham reported that the CWC successfully closed on the Cassadaga Nature Park. There was an inaugural hike held the weekend of February 8<sup>th</sup> in celebration with 50 persons in attendance. A yard maintenance survey was sent to approximately 400 residents around Chautauqua Lake. The CWC hopes to find out more information about lawn practices around Chautauqua Lake in order to improve its educational programing in place for residents who live in close proximity to the lake. "Be Wise Don't Over Fertilize" mailers (that also listed BMP's for lawncare) were also sent out to over 7,000 homeowners. The mailers encouraged homeowners to evaluate their own practices and to address lawncare companies that they utilize in regard to their practices. Markham shared that it is expected that there will be 200 drains marked in the CWC's 2020 Drain Marking Campaign. "Wet Your Whistle for Watersheds" will be hosted by the CWC and its newest staff members: Carol, Jeremy, Tracy, and Whitney. This event is to be held on March 11, 2020 at Brazil Craft Beer & Wine Lounge located at 10 East Fourth Street in Jamestown, New York. 25% of the proceeds from the evening will benefit the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy. Enjoy food, drinks, drawings, and music by Bill Ward.

- e) Dave McCoy, Chautauqua County Watershed Coordinator, provided reports relating to the following water quality related initiatives:
- i. The USEPA issued a recent clarification of the Waters of United States (WOTUS) Rule. If it is a roadside ditch it is probably exempt, if it is a tributary to a navigable waterway it's regulated. This clarification should speed up permitting and jurisdictional questions.
  - ii. The 2% Occupancy Tax grant applications will be accepted until April 1. The Waterways Panel will review applications every Wednesday in April.
  - iii. LEWPA should be approved for the next 2 years for Environmental Protection Funding.
  - iv. Great Lakes experience will take place on June 6 in Dunkirk. A full day of entertainment, environmental education, food and family fun. This amazing natural science and environmental event helps create a presence for fish and wildlife education in our area. The festival targets all members of the community – young and old, outdoors enthusiasts, avid fishermen and those attempting their first cast. Last year the festival in Dunkirk drew more than 1,000 visitors.
  - v. Lake Erie Management Commission had an excellent turn out at the January meeting. LEMC initiatives include an upcoming CFA application to support a Feasibility Study for a County Sewer District along Lake Erie, Fishing Essay Contest, new fish grinders at Cattaraugus and Dunkirk harbors, and four public outreach campaigns.
  - vi. Alliance MSS for Chautauqua Lake Sub Committees meetings are going well.
  - vii. County Sewer Agency will soon decide if a County District serving Findley Lake and Peek n' Peak is feasible.
  - viii. Town of North Harmony is beginning a Feasibility Study for a County Water District that involves the Jamestown BPU serving North Harmony and the Chautauqua Institution.
- f) Lindquist: in the process of doing annual compliance reports and is preparing for 3 DEC inspections.
- g) J. Conroe: The Conewango Speakeasy Fundraiser will take place on February 29 from 4 PM to 8 PM at the Warren Moose Lodge located at 422 Pennsylvania Avenue West, Warren, PA. Enjoy an evening inspired by the roaring 1920's for an excellent cause. Guests are invited to dress in the style of that era, however 1920's attire is not required. Tickets purchased before 3 PM on Feb 29 will be \$25 per ticket or 2 for \$40. After 3:30 pm Feb 29 the cost per ticket will be \$25, with no discount available. All proceeds are to benefit the Conewango Creek Watershed Association. dinner, music, wine, beer, and spirits tastings, games, and door prizes. Tickets are on sale at Broken Straw Valley Winery, Youngsville, NY; Arrowhead Wine Cellars at Ekey Florist on Market St Extension, Warren, PA; Well Spring Home and Garden Center, St Clair St, Warren, PA; Conewango Creek Watershed Association Office, 4000 Conewango

Ave, Warren; The Main Landing Restaurant, by Holiday Harbor in Celoron, New York; Warren Moose Lodge, 412 Penn Ave, Warren, PA.

- h) Bradley: Bradley reported that the payment through WQIP was denied for the pavement for the GOP Campus parking lot in Mayville, New York. At this time, the project will not go any further and conventional payment will be necessary. Bradley and George complimented Spann on the work completed to stabilize the shore banks at Cassadaga Lake in 2019.
  - i) Spann: Spann reported that CCSWCD is holding its annual Tree and Shrub Sale, posters are up all over the county and CCSWCD has received an impressive response from the public so far. Spann also shared that the 2020 Envirothon is scheduled to take place on April 28<sup>th</sup> at Camp Merz, roughly 200 students are expected to attend, and this year's topic is Water Resource Management: Local Control and Local Solutions. Spann noted that the construction season has commenced.
5. Treasurer Report:
  6. Next Water Quality Task Force Meeting - Thursday, March 12, 2020 at 10 AM in Room 123, at the Katherine Jackson Carnahan Center on the Jamestown Community College campus located at 525 Falconer Street, Jamestown, NY 14701.
  7. Adjourn to 11:50 PM. Motion by Lindquist. Seconded by Conroe.

Melissa Mee

Secretary

David Spann

Chairman