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WATER RESOURCE COUNCIL

November 14, 2025 at 9:30 AM

Board of Supervisors Session Room, 2nd Floor, 74 Ontario Street, Canandaigua, NY

Parking directly across the street

1. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Water Resources Council was called to order at at 74 Ontario St, Canandaigua, NY 14424 with Chairperson Russ Welser presiding.

2. Roll Call

Upon roll call, the following members were:

Present:
CLWA Emily DeBolt
Science Advisor Bruce Gillman
HLWTF Terry Gronwall
City of Rochester Robert Holland
Betsy Landre
CLWC Kevin Olvany
G/FLRPC Emily Royce
OCSWCD Megan Webster
CCE Russ Welser
HLWTF- Proxy voter Dorthey Gronwall
Ben Klein - SLPWA

Present Not Voting:
Lindsey Ayers - CLWA
Lisa Cleckner - FLI
FLI Nadia Harvieux
DEC John Hornberger
Lisa Klotz - CLWA
SWIO Ian Smith
Erin Holley - OC Planning
Kyle Ritts - OC Planning

Absent:
Roslyn Grammer - County Planning Board

Excused:
John Maier, William Roege, Thomas Harvey

Present, Voting 11, Present, Not Voting 8, Absent 1, Excused 3

Guests:
Tara Curtin Dep of Geo Sicences, HWS, Lisa Cleckner FLI, Kerry McElroy Eastern FL Coalition of SWCD

3. Approval of Minutes

Terry Gronwall motioned to approve the minutes with modifications (correct name spelling Jeremy Paris) of September 12, 2025. The motion was seconded by Emily DeBolt.

4. Treasurer's Report

E. Holley presented the Treasurer's Report dated November 10, 2025. WRC has $99,326.38 rolled over from previous years, and 115,590 in 2025 County funds allocated to 2025 mini-grants ($15,590) and 2025 implementation projects ($100,00), for a total budget of $214,916.38. A total $162,925.93 is encumbered in active WRC contracts, and payments to date in 2025 equal $51,746.15. This leaves an available balance of $244.30. Interest accrued in 2025 is $2,263.90 and rolls into the account at year-end. **Board Motion:** To Approve The November 14, 2025, Treasurers Report. **Motion Made By:** Ben Klein, **Seconded By:** Russ Welser. **Vote:** Yes 11, No 0, Abstained 0. **The Motion** Passed.

5. Presentation

Introduction to the Eastern Finger Lakes Coalition of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Kerry McElroy, Watershed Coordinator

K. McElroy was introduced and explained the Coalition includes 11 SWCDs encompassing an area from Canandaigua Lake and Finger Lakes to the east and the Erie Canal and Seneca River in this area. New York State has approved $6 million in grant funding for use over five years, split evenly among the 11 districts through NYSDEC. Another $41.5 million is allocated for use over five years for Best Management Practices, administered by Ag and Markets. McElroy fills a newly created position for this Coalition, as Watershed Coordinator. She previously worked at NYSDEC Region 7. Kerry was thanked for attending WRC.

6. Payments

Finger Lakes Water Quality Open Data Platform
Lisa Cleckner, Finger Lakes Institute

Two WRC mini-grant awards (seeking reimbursement) supported working with Finger Lakes Institute to import and share water quality data for Canandaigua and Seneca Lakes through the Finger Lakes Water Quality Open Data Platform. L. Cleckner presented an overview of the Open Data Platform and demonstrated its functionality and graphic representation of Secchi disc, Total Phosphorus, Chlorophyl *a* and HABs occurrence data for Canandaigua Lake in recent years. Her introductory comments are below:

> *Today I will be talking about the data portals that we have been working on for sharing Finger Lakes water quality data.*
> *The spirit behind this is the FAIR operating principles for data from the National Science Foundation.*
> - *Findable*
> - *Accessible*
> - *Interoperable*
> - *Reusable*

We know there is a deep history of both water quality research and monitoring that has happened in the FLX over the years. But…, a lot of the data has been published in reports, presented at conferences, or shared amongst a small group of people.

The goal of the two projects then is to bring some daylight to the data that exist and to facilitate some exploratory data analysis.

We first started these efforts to display data from our water quality buoys on Seneca and Owasco Lakes. These platforms share real-time data on websites that are updated automatically through programs and available to the public. Users include lake enthusiasts, scientists, sailors, anglers and others.

Thus, we believe that the natural extension of these efforts is to document and display lake water quality data that is important to the lake associations as a start. As a scientist, I know what I want to see but this is not always the same as others.

The guidance of the lake association members, the collation of data from the original sources and the development of the visuals is a must for these projects.

These data portals are an iterative effort – all products should be revisited and updated based on new interests, better tools, and relevance to different issues such as climate change, where we need to be able to examine and analyze data that was collected at one time. And, we might not realize the importance of the data until several years later, which has certainly been true with climate change and understanding long-term trends such as temperature increases in lakes.

What I will show now is a small demo of a few of the data sets from Canandaigua Lake, which represent a collective effort of several people across our region.

The first data set is the CLWA citizen science Secchi Disk program that Canandaigua has been operating since 2019, so we need to acknowledge all the people that have given their time to participate in these data collection efforts.

The second data set is the lake total phosphorus and Chlorophyll-a data that has been collected since the 1990s and has involved Kevin Olvany, Bruce Gilman, Patty Rockwell, John Foust, and many others, including lots of students that have helped collect data.

The third data set is the Canandaigua HABs database for 2025. This is a direct product of the lake association and regional partners like Seneca Lake Pure Waters for taking the time and care to set up survey tools and share photos of HAB events and samples for analysis.

These Shiny apps reside at a url accessible through shinyapps.io, a platform for sharing shiny applications on the web. The FLI has a paid subscription to host these apps.

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In conclusion, the investment of funds to support these efforts has been vital to get these conversations started with Lake Associations, county agencies, and the greater community.

The FLI believes that this documentation and sharing of data sets is important to have in a findable, accessible, interoperable, and reusable format.

This is an iterative process, and we look forward to continuing to work with our lake association partners to:
• expand the data set collation and
• develop useful visualizations to enhance the understanding of the data and the discovery of new trends and uses.

Board Motion: *To Approve requested payment for* ***WRC mini-grant M2-25, Seneca Lake Open Data Platform invoice in the amount of $3,000 and close WRC Project M2-25 . Motion made by:*** *Emily DeBolt,* ***seconded by:*** *Kevin Olvany.* ***Vote:*** *Yes 10, No 0, Abstained 0.* ***The Motion*** *passed.*

Board Motion: To Approve requested payment for **WRC mini-grant 1-24, Open Data Platform for the Canandaigua Lake Watershed invoice in the amount of $2,000 and close WRC Project 1-2024**. **Motion made by:** Russ Welser, **seconded by:** Kevin Olvany. **Vote:** Yes 11, No 0, Abstained 0. **The Motion** passed.

M3-25 Seneca Lake Water Quality Symposium. B. Klein reviewed the equipment purchased through this mini-grant to support public outreach. While the equipment was not used for SLPWA's Water Quality Symposium because the venue provided adequate technology in-house, it is now being used for an education and outreach series and SLPWA's annual meeting. It allows people to connect virtually who cannot participate in person and affords a lot of flexibility in planning and execution of public outreach events.

Board Motion: To Approve **payment of WRC mini-grant M3-25, Water Quality Symposium invoice in the amount of $2,300 and close WRC Project M3-25**. **Motion made by:** Emily Royce, **seconded by:** Betsy Landre. **Vote:** Yes 11, No 0, Abstained 0. **The Motion** passed.

WRC 2-2023 Watershed Education for Youth in the Honeoye Valley Region T. Gronwall and L. Ayers reviewed this project, which supported the 3rd year of educational offerings in the Honeoye Central School District, K-5. Offerings focused on the watershed model and land use lessons for this third and final phase of WRC Project M3-25. Having a very receptive contact at the school district is tremendously helpful. The educators also visited the Sandy Bottom Park Recreation Program. Photos and a summary were shared. A payment request for the third and final invoice for this project in the amount of $827.08 was presented.

Board Motion: To Approve requested payment for the **final invoice for WRC 2-2023 Watershed Education for Youth in Honeoye Valley Region in the amount of $827.04 and close *WRC Project 2-2023***. **Motion made by:** Russ Welser, **seconded by:** Ben Klein. **Vote:** Yes 11, No 0, Abstained 0. **The Motion** passed.

WRC 5-2021 Long-term Trends in Finger Lakes Harmful Algal Blooms
Presentation by Tara Curtin, PhD, Dept. of Geosciences, Hobart & Wm. Smith Colleges

T. Curtin presented the results of the study "Long Term Trends in Finger Lakes Harmful Algal Blooms." The study involved a historical look at sediment samples. Box core samples from various lakes were collected with attention to avoiding areas of stream inputs and favoring flat basin floor samples. Samples showed obvious color differences where oxidation was present and absent. Radiographs showed the internal structure and depositional history of the sediment cores without disturbing the sediments. ^{210}Pb-dating was used along with a second model to age sediment layers. A best-fit model was derived, and age

estimations were verified using the presence of mussels and ragweed pollen. Using a methodology known as UMASS analysis, multiple elements were studied in the sediment cores (Si, Fe, Ti, K, Ti/Ca, Si/Ti, Ca), several of which are associated with rock and soil and can be used to determine how much material came from the watershed. Si/Ti is associated with organic matter (diatoms). Patterns were relatively consistent over time. Calcite (Ca) increased between 1920 and 1990 and then decreased. Biological proxies were examined (plant and algae pigments, dinoflagellates, diatoms, cyanobacteria and colonial cyanobacteria) to determine how algal presence has changed over time. There was rapid acceleration of plants, algae, diatoms and cyanobacteria after 1950-2000. Geochemical proxies (Ti) for sediments indicated that, beginning in 1950, there is a lot of evidence of watershed inputs. Organic matter also came in with sediments. After 1950, proxies for algae show an increase, while land plants decreased, as do watershed sources. In sum, historical analysis of lake bottom sediment structure shows land use as a major influence up to 1950. Post-1950, population growth appears to be a larger contributing factor. The analysis did not account for climate change, a consideration for future research.

Board Motion: To Approve payment of invoice for WRC Project 5-2021 Long-term Trends in Finger Lakes Harmful Algal Blooms in the amount of $2,250 and close WRC Project 5-2021. **Motion made by:** Emily Royce, **seconded by:** Kevin Olvany. **Vote:** Passed. **The Motion** passed.

7. Mini and Impementation Grants

WRC Active Projects November 14, 2025				
Proj #	Title	Sponsor	Partners	Balance
Mini-Grants				
M 1-25	Sandy Bottom Park/3M Trail Forest Management Practices	T. Richmond Parks	DEC	$ 2,500.00
M 2-25	Seneca Lake Open Data Platform	SLPWA	FLI	$ 3,000.00
M 3-25	Seneca Lake Water Quality Symposium	SLPWA	SWIO	$ 2,300.00
M 4-25	Vernal Pool Project	OC SWCD	T. Geneva/FLLT	$ 3,000.00
M 5-25	Managing Water Resources Outreach	OC SWCD		$ 3,000.00
M 6-25	Building Water Quality & Flood Resiliency — Middle Cheshire Road	CLWC	T. Canandaigua	$ 2,600.00
M 7-25	Gage Gully Hydrology & Hydraulic Model & Nature-Based Opportunities	CLWC	OCDPW	$ 3,000.00
1-2024	Open Data Platform for the Canandagiua Lake Watershed	CLWA	FLI	$ 2,000.00
2-2024	Honeoye Lake Boat Cleaning System to Control Transport of AIS	OC Planning	DEC, OPRHP, FLPRISM,	$ 3,000.00

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			Towns	
4-2024	Signage for Rain Garden Demonstration Project	CLWA	Wood Library	$ 2,845.00
5-2024	Isolation and Genome Assembly of Toxic Benthic Cyanobacteria Honye & Cndga Lks	SUNY ESF	FLI, GLRC	$ 3,000.00
7-2024	Sucker Brook Water Quality and Flood Resiliency Project	CLWC	City/Town of Canandaigua	$ 3,000.00
2-2023	Watershed Education for Youth in Honeoye Valley Region	HVA	CLWA	$ 827.08
4-2023	Characterization of Benthic Cyanobacteria/Toxin Production — Honeoye & Cdga Lkes	SUNY ESF	FLI	$ 3,000.00
5-2023	Establishing Riparian Buffer Easement along Deep Run Stream — Town of Gorham	CLWC		$3,000.00
1-2022	Downspout Planter Box Demonstration Project	T. Geneva	SWIO Steward	$ 2,600.00
5-2021	Long-term Trends in Finger Lakes Harmful Algal Blooms	FLI		$ 3,000.00
	TOTAL ACTIVE MINI-GRANT PROJECTS			$45,672.08
Implementation Grants				
IG 2-24	Building Flood Resiliency for V. Naples Water Treatment Plant/Reservoir Creek	CLWC		$15,000.00
IG 1-25	Sandy Bottom Park Shoreline Stabilization	SWCD		$15,000.00
IG 2-25	Jones Rd. Roadside Stabilization	SWCD		$25,000.00
IG 3-25	Rocky Run Creek Erosion Control	SWCD		$20,000.00
IG 4-25	Building Resiliency in the Sucker Brook Subwatershed	CLWC		$40,000.00
	TOTAL ACTIVE IMPLEMENTATION GRANT PROJECTS			$115,000.00
	TOTAL WRC ACTIVE PROJECTS			$160,672.08
	Adjustments			
	Pending transfer to WRC available balance - unspent funds — IG 3-24 Wilson Creek			$ 5,253.85
	Transfer to Planning Dept. budget — MG 2-2024			$ 3,000.00
	NET			$162,925.93

	Requesting Approval of Payment			
	Payment Approved and Pending			

Mini-grant proposals are due 12/5/25. Guidelines are on the WRC website. The review committee is B. Gilman, K. Ritts, I. Smith, M. Webster, and B. Landre.

Implementation Project proposals are due 12/19/25. Guidelines were sent out with meeting materials and are also available on the WRC website. The review committee is R. Welser, B. Gilman, E. Royce, J. Hornberger, K. Ritts and B. Landre.

Anyone interested in serving on a review committee should contact Betsy or Erin at OC Planning.

8. Old Business

E. Holley reminded everyone that the WRC meetings (agenda, documents, etc.) are now posted on Ontario County's Civic Clerk portal. If anyone is having trouble signing up or receiving notifications, contact Erin for help. Some members are receiving multiple email notifications. E. Holley replied that can happen as there is both a "board" and "public" portal. She will look into how people are signed up.

9. Round Robin

10. Upcoming Events/Conferences and Training Opportunities

NYSFOLA Statewide conference in Lake George May 8, 2026

1-29-26 HWS campus Finger Lakes Research conference

11. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for January 16, 2026

12. Adjournment

Board motion to: Approve. Motion made by: Ben Klein, seconded by Emily DeBolt, Vote: Yes 11, No 0, Abstained 0. The motion Passed. The Water Resources Council meeting was adjourned.

WATER RESOURCE COUNCIL

September 12, 2025 at 9:30 AM

Board of Supervisors Session Room, 2nd Floor, 74 Ontario Street, Canandaigua, NY

Parking directly across the street

1. Call to Order

Chair Russ Welser called the Friday, September 12, 2025 Water Resources Council meeting to order at 09:32 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Upon roll call, the following members were:

Present:
Betsy Landre
Bruce Gillman
Emily DeBolt
Kevin Olvany
Russ Welser
Terry Gronwall
William Roege
Jeremy Plain — Proxy for Megan Webster
Dorothy Gronwell — proxy for Don Cook

Present Not Voting:
Erin Holley
Kyle Ritts
Lindsey Ayers - virtual
Nadia Harvieux - virtual
Ian Smith - Virtual

Absent:
Emily Royce
John Hornberger
Roslyn Grammer
Kim McGarry
Lisa Cleckner
Robert Holland

Excused:
Megan Webster, Don Cook, Thomas Harvey, John Maier

Present, Voting 9, Present, Not Voting 4, Absent 6, Excused 4

Guests: Linda Phillips (OCPD), Richard Smith Global Aquatic Research — Presenter

3. Approval of Minutes

Terry Gronwall motioned to approve the July 11, 2025 WRC meeting minutes, seconded by Emily DeBolt. The motion carried.

4. Treasurer's Report

September 2025 Treasurer's report Presented by Erin Holley, OCPD

Board Motion: To Accept the September 2025 Treasurer's report. **Motion by:** Dorothy Gronwall, seconded by Kevin Olvany. **Vote:** Yes 9, No 0, Abstained 0. Motion **carried.**

5. Payments

Payment Requests:

1. MG 5-2021 Long-term Trends in Finger Lakes Harmful Algal Blooms, FLI. Held over to the November meeting.

2. IG 1-24 Excavator Funding Assistance - Canandaigua Lake Watershed, CLWC, $15,000.00
Kevin Olvany reported the project excavator has been used for multiple projects, including retention basins and a grassed waterway. Funding sources for this excavator project include FEMA reimbursement, NYS grant funds, WRC, and FLLOWPA. He discussed the MOU with the Town of Canandaigua and how the sharing of the excavator will work. The CLWC has saved $6.3 million and time, allowing them to complete more projects.

Council Motion: To approve payment of invoice for project IG 1-24 in the amount of $15,000. **Motion by** Betsy Landre, **seconded by** Bruce Gillman. **Vote:** Yes 9, No 0, Abstained 0. **The Motion** carried.

3. IG 3-24 Wilson Creek Erosion Control Project, Ontario County SWCD, $9,746.15
Jeremy Paris reported the project occurred on the Minns farm in Stanley, NY. A dilapidated ditch draining to Wilson Creek in the Seneca Lake watershed was improved with stone and seeding and realignment at the confluence with the creek. SLPWA was a contributing partner, SWCD will follow up to check on the installation. The operation and maintenance of the installation is the responsibility of the landowner.

Council Motion: To approve payment of invoice for project IG 3-24 in the amount of $9,746.15. **Motion by** Betsy Landre, **seconded by** Terry Gromwell. **Vote:** Yes 9, No 0, Abstained 0. **The Motion** passed.

4. IG 4-24 - Flint Creek Erosion Control Project, Ontario County SWCD, $15,000.
Jeremy Paris reported the project was a collaboration with two landowners and County Highway. A 900' drainage channel leading to Flint Creek with a head cut was stabilized.

Council Motion: To approve payment of invoice for project IG 4-24 in the amount of $15,000. **Motion by** Kevin Olvaney, **seconded by** William Roege. **Vote:** Yes 9, No 0, Abstained 0. **The Motion** carried.

6. Mini and Implementation Grants

a. Active Special Projects — See attached document for a list of the Active Special Projects

b. WRC Grant Supported projects
The one-page progress report form should be submitted for all open WRC funded projects by 11/5/2025. This allows WRC to track progress, financial need, and assists the WRC evaluation committees, which will review new proposals to assess eligibility. Email progress reports to betsy.landre@ontariocountyny.gov. Kyle Ritts will post a new fillable form that can be downloaded from the County's WRC web page at: https://www.ontariocountyny.gov/1149/Water-Resources-Council for convenience. A copy of the Word version is also attached.

c. 2025 WRC Mini-grant Guidelines for 2026 awards
2025 WRC Mini-grant Guidelines for 2026 Projects are attached. The limit is $3,000 per award. Projects should relate to one or more of WRC's priorities as listed in the guidelines. The deadline for submission is December 5, 2025. Awards are anticipated to be approved by WRC at the January 2026 meeting. The Mini-Grant Guidelines are attached and are also posted for download on the County's WRC web page: https://www.ontariocountyny.gov/1149/Water-Resources-Council

A question was asked about the timing of the release of the Implementation Grant funding. A schedule for release of the RFP and due date for proposals will be released following discussion by the Executive Committee. The County budget is being deliberated at this time, and $100,000 is proposed in the 2026 budget for WRC Implementation Grants.

7. Presentation

HABs and Foam in the Finger Lakes — Progress and Next Steps
Richard Smith, PhD, President and Senior Consultant, Global Aquatic Research, LLC (GAR)

Foam observed on the surface of the Finger Lakes is associated with Langmuir circulation. The foam has been the subject of study by GAR and others. GAR's recent work looked at the chemistry of the foam and the mussel population and plankton community. GAR has determined that the foam consists of sugar-rich biopolymers. Microsystis creates sugar-rich chains and releases these compounds upon cell death. The foam tends to show up two weeks

after microsystis blooms and with sustained wind that creates Langmuir circulation. GAR finds the foam can store chemicals that are not very soluble in water. The foam traps algal cells, sediment, and PFAS. Future work should look at the significance of PFAS and other pollutants in the foam. There was general Q&A and discussion on HABs. Rick Smith referenced his article in Chris Kenyon's Outdoor column of the Finger Lakes Times titled "Why Harmful Algal Blooms in the Finger Lakes are so Challenging to Mitigate" (https://www.fltimes.com/sports/outdoors-why-harmful-algal-blooms-in-the-finger-lakes-are-so-challenging-to-mitigate/article_72145084-66d4-11ef-be1b-4334ff76abd2.html). The article emphasizes the complexity of HAB dynamics and notes that HABs are forming even in low nutrient lakes. Smith noted it's important to look at the nutrient profile of a lake, including N and P, not just P. Mussel populations and warming lakes work to favor blue-green algae species. Also, those with buoyant cells may overwinter in sediments. In sum, the lake foam appears to be related to Microsystis blooms, plays a role in the fate and transport of pollutants, and acts as a collector of elements. Questions about foam safety were raised. It was noted the foam does contain mostly air and tends to break down quickly, but caution is advised. Future research may look at foam aerosols. Greg Boyer's (SUNY ESF) research was also referenced. GAR maintains a Finger Lakes HABs and Foam web page with references: https://www.globalaquaticresearch.com/finger-lakes.html

8. Round Robin

Due to time constraints, the round-robin was shortened to include to important announcements:
Erin Holley - Future WRC minutes, agendas and meeting information will be transitioned to the software application Civic Clerk. WRC members will have a login to view the WRC portal. We hope to start by posting the September meeting minutes and November meeting agenda in Civic Clerk.
Betsy Landre - NYSFOLA's Western Region Conference is October 25 at The Woods, 6021 State Route 21, Naples, NY. The registration fee is $30 and includes lunch and other refreshments. The program and registration are available on the NYSFOLA website: https://pci.jotform.com/form/252085271634153
Bill Roege - SLPWA has an open search for Association Director. Thank you for sharing the opportunity. For more details, contact SLPWA.

9. Upcoming Events/ Training / Conferences

NYSFOLA's Western Region Conference is October 25 at The Woods, 6021 State Route 21, Naples, NY. The registration fee is $30 and includes lunch and other refreshments. The program and registration are available on the NYSFOLA website: https://pci.jotform.com/form/252085271634153

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 9:30-11:00 a.m., November 14, 2025, Board of Supervisors Sessions Room, 2nd Floor, 74 Ontario St, Canandaigua. Finger Lakes Land Trust staff will be presenting on the High Tor to Hemlock Conservation Initiative.

11. Adjournment

Board motion to: Adjourn. **Motion made by:** Betsy Landre, **seconded by:** Emily DeBolt, **Vote:** Yes 9, No 0, Abstained 0. **The motion:** Passed. The Water Resources Council meeting was adjourned at 11:23 PM.

ONTARIO COUNTY WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL
Treasurer's Report - General Account Summary
November 10, 2025

WRC CW ACCOUNT BALANCE			
Rollover Previous Years and Interest*			$ 99,326.38
2025 Minigrants			$ 15,590.00
2025 Implementation Grants			$ 100,000.00
Total Revised Budget			$ 214,916.38
Encumbrances - WRC Projects 2025 and Previous Years			$ (162,925.93)
Projects Awarded Not Yet Encumbered			
2025 Payments			$ (51,746.15)
Available Funds			$ 244.30
Current interest accrued in 2025*			$ 2,263.90
*Interest rolls into account at year end.			