

WATER RESOURCE COUNCIL

July 10, 2026 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 09:30 AM at 74 Ontario St, Committee Room, Canandaigua, NY with Chairperson Russ Welser presiding.

2. Roll Call

Upon roll call, the following members were:

Present:

Emily DeBolt (Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association)
Bruce Gilman (Science Advisor)
Terry Gronwall (Honeoye Lake Watershed Task Force)
Ben Klein (Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association)
Betsy Landre (Ontario County Planning Department)
Megan Webster (Ontario County Soil and Water District)
Russ Welser (Cornell Cooperative Extension)
Ryan Wilmer (Ontario County Planning Board representative)
Elaine Cook (Honeoye Valley Association)

Present Not Voting:

Dorothy Gronwall (Honeoye Valley Association)
Erin Holley (Ontario County Planning Department)
John Maier (City of Rochester - Hemlock Treatment Plant - Virtual)
Kerry McElroy (Eastern Finger Lakes Watershed Coalition)
Kyle Ritts (Ontario County Planning Department)
Ian Smith (Seneca Watershed Intermunicipal Organization - Virtual)
Mark Petzold (Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association - Virtual)

Excused Members: Robert Holland (City of Rochester), Nadia Harvieux (FLI), John Hornberger (NYSDEC), Lynn Klotz (CLWA), Kevin Olvany (CLWC), Emily Royce (G/FLRPC)

Present (Voting): 9, Present (Not Voting): 5, Absent: 0, Excused 6

Guests: Lewis McCaffrey, NYSDEC Finger Lakes Watershed Program

3. Approval of Minutes

Ben Klein motioned to approve the minutes of the May 15, 2026. The motion was seconded by Terry Gronwall. The motion passed.

4. Treasurer's Report

Erin Holley — July 10, 2026, Treasurer's Report

Board Motion: To Approve the July 10, 2026, Treasurers Report. **Motion made by:** Betsy Landre, **seconded by:** Megan Webster. **Vote:** Yes 9, No 0, Abstained 0. **The Motion** passed.

5. Presentation

Lewis McCaffrey (NYS DEC, Research Scientist for the Finger Lakes Watershed Program) - NYSDEC Updates

1. Lew reviewed DEC's recent report on the results of the Honeoye Lake Alum treatment applied in November, 2022. Report concludes there were no long-term benefits from the treatment. The dosing was determined around 2019, but dosing calculations based on 2022 sediment samples were 4X the 2019 calculations. DEC also determined there was some drift, attributed to a major rain event/tropical storm that disrupted the application. DEC considers the pilot treatment and study to be completed and they have enough information to move forward with developing a permit application for NYS. However, no timeline was given for permit development.

2. The Finger Lakes Action Agenda is now at the DEC Commissioner's office/level for feedback. The next step is including it in the Environmental Bulletin.

3. Finger Lakes Research Initiative. Meeting on July 30 among selected scientists will identify research gaps. Participants will come from academia, environmental laboratories, state and federal agencies, and major non-profit organizations.

4. HAB Support. DEC released the HABs Roadmap, a 5-year plan and strategy guide for managing HABs. New HABs Research funding is available in WQIP Round 22. 10% match is required. Awards will range from \$250-\$750K each, and are intended for PhD level projects with academic institution participation. Applications are open until September 15.

5. Dr. Mar Schmidt, Assistant Professor at Cornell CALS is the new Finger Lakes Watershed Program Supervisor.

Erin Holley — Civic Clerk Board Portal — Instructions and Training

Erin explained the emails members received from Civic Clerk. She offered to work with anyone having difficulty establishing or using their account.

6. Payments

Active Special Projects

No project reports submitted for approval/payment.

7. Mini and Impementation Grants

Revision to Minigrant Project Funding Priorities for 2026:

Current unranked WRC priorities are:

- a. Erosion and Sediment Control
- b. Storm water management
- c. Water quality education and outreach
- d. Invasive species
- e. Water quality monitoring to assess conditions and/or document trends
- f. Wetlands and floodplain management
- g. Sound land use planning practices and code development
- h. Private source water assessment
- i. Harmful algae blooms (HABS)

j. Nutrient management

Board Motion: To Approve the update to Minigrant Project Funding Priorities for 2026, letter **E.** to state **"Water / soil quality monitoring to document conditions and trends."** **Motion made by:** B. Landre, **seconded by:** M. Webster. **Vote:** Yes 9, No 0, Abstained 0. **The Motion** passed.

Board Motion: To Approve the update to Minigrant Project Funding Priorities for 2026, letter **H.** now states **"Private source water and groundwater assessment."** **Motion made by:** B. Landre, **seconded by:** M. Webster. **Vote:** Passed. **The Motion** passed.

8. Round Robin

- Emily DeBolt (CLWA) -
 - CLWA held their annual meeting in June with over 100 attendees. Dr. Bruce Gilman was recognized with a Lifetime Achievement award for his work.
 - WRC-supported stream monitoring equipment is up and running. Data will be shared.
 - Working on a "Wake-Smart" public outreach initiative. The focus is for wake boarders to voluntarily stay further out from shore, in deeper areas, in order to reduce disturbance to sediment. Canandaigua Lake marinas have signed on to help promote.
 - Jack Johnson (recent concert at CMAC) highlighted local non-profits and supported them by donating a challenge match.
- Terry Gronwall (HLWTF) -
 - Completing a sediment analysis for Honeoye Lake, the first such effort in 20 years. The study offers a chance to look at recent sedimentation impacts.
 - July is Lake Appreciation Month. The NYS Legislature passed a resolution establishing Lake Appreciation Month.
- Bruce Gilman (Science Advisor)
 - Currently helping with Honeoye Lake stream monitoring and biochar project. Biochar has been installed as a filter and will be evaluated for water quality impact.
- Betsy Landre (OCPD) -
 - The County is using Hydras Engineering for a stream corridor/floodplain assessment of Black Brook / Black Creek in northern Ontario County,
 - The Honeoye Aquatic Vegetation Management Program has a full crew and has started their work this year.
 - NYSFOLA is doing interviews for a new CSLAP Coordinator
 - Ontario County Planning is putting a work plan together with local partners for a variety of projects to be supported by FLOWPA SFY26-27 funding.
- Megan Webster (OCSWCD) -
 - Reported on USF&W funding for projects at Kashong Point. Also, SWCD looking at public education signage options.
 - OCSWCD will be selecting a new mulch trailer soon. They are still using the old trailer currently, and it is on its last leg.
 - SWCD's WRC Implementation Grant projects should be completed this year.
 - Heavy stormwater from precipitation events had impacts in all watersheds this year. Concerns about PFAS during major erosion events at Canandaigua Lake. There were some roads lost in some areas.
 - Farmers did not get into the fields until late due to how wet the soils were.
- Russ Welser (CCE) -

- Well Water Sampling Program Updates
- Hosting "Woods Walk" event on 7/18.
- Ben Klein and Mark Petzold (SLPWA) -
 - SLPWA's Summer Soirée coming up 7/26.
 - SLPWA is busy with its monitoring program. Lake level is relatively normal, but some public feedback is that it is dropping too quickly. They are paying attention to the lake level rule curve.
 - A new observation is benthic cyanobacteria floating in Seneca Lake. Mark will reach out to Abby Webster for more information.
 - Total phosphorus reports are high in places. SLPWA is looking for a possible connection to manure in the watershed.
- Ryan Wilmer (OCPB) -
 - The Ontario County Planning Board continues to review projects, highlighting water quality / quantity as a primary concern.
- Elane Cook (HVA) -
 - HVA annual meeting is July 11, and will feature Brian Duffy from DEC Division of Water reviewing the alum treatment.
 - HVA is working on increasing visibility to the community. They are participating in the Honeoye Lake Strawberry Festival, a chicken BBQ, and bake sale.

9. Upcoming Events/Conferences and Training Opportunities

- Seneca Lake Pure Waters Summer Soirée - July 26, 2026 6-9PM Geneva, NY
 - Tickets : <https://senecalake.org/events/summersoiree/>
- CCE - Walk in the woods—an educational event — 7/18 - flyer attached
 - To register, call the Ontario CCE office at 585-394-3977 (ext. 427) or email nea8@cornell.edu
- NYSFOLA in Cuba, NY on 10/30/26 more information to follow

10. Next Meeting and Important Dates

The next regular WRC meeting will be September 11, 2026, at 74 Ontario St, RM 218 (Sessions room), Canandaigua, NY.

11. Adjournment

Board Motion: To Adjourn Meeting motion to adjourn the July, 10, 2026 WRC regular meeting at 11:11AM. **Motion made by:** Ryan Wilmer, **seconded by:** Terry Gronwall. **Vote:** Yes 9, No 0, Abstained 0. **The Motion:** Passed.

ONTARIO COUNTY WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL
Treasurer's Report - General Account Summary
July 7, 2026

WRC CW ACCOUNT BALANCE			
Rollover Previous Years and Interest (through 2025)			\$ 152,232.24
2026 Mini-grants			\$ 15,590.00
2026 Implementation Grants			\$ 100,000.00
Returned funds			\$ 4,400.97
Encumbrances - WRC Projects 2026 and Previous Years - MUNIS Report			\$ (207,729.00)
Projects Awarded Not Yet Encumbered			\$ (3,000.00)
2026 Payments			\$ (59,799.03)
Available Funds 7/7/2026			\$ 1,695.18
Current interest accrued in 2026			\$ 1,552.74
Total Available Funds			\$ 3,247.92

WRC Active Projects May 15, 2026

Proj #	Title	Sponsor	Partners	Balance
Mini-Grants				
M1-26	Marsh Creek Floodplain Restoration Design	FLI	SWIO/T. Geneva	\$ 2,500.00
M2-26	Stabilization Project - Straw Mulcher Trailer	OC SWCD	T. Farmington	\$ 3,000.00
M3-26	Sandy Bottom Park Lagoon Siltation Survey	T. Richmond Parks	OC SWCD	\$ 480.00
M4-26	Youth Watershed Education in Honeoye Valley Region	HVA	CLWA	\$ 3,000.00
M6-26	Expansion of Seneca Lake Open Data Platform	SLPWA	FLI	\$ 2,000.00
M7-26	Deep Run & Gage Gully Subwatersheds Sampling Equipment	CLWA	SUNY ESF	\$ 3,000.00
M 8-26	Understanding Canandaigua Lake HABs - Weather Stations	CLWA		\$ 2,400.00
M 9-26	Understanding Rainfall/Runoff - Weather Stations	CLWC	T Candga/TV Naples	\$ 2,224.00
M 10-26	FLCC Educational Signs	CLWC	FLCC	\$ 2,000.00
M 1-25	Sandy Bottom Park/3M Trail Forest Management Practices	T. Richmond Parks	DEC	\$ 2,500.00
M 4-25	Vernal Pool Project	OC SWCD	T. Geneva/FLLT	\$ 3,000.00
M 7-25	Gage Gully Hydrology & Hydraulic Model & Nature-Based Opportunities	CLWC	OCDPW	\$ 3,000.00
2-2024	Honeoye Lake Boat Cleaning System to Control Transport of AIS	OC Planning	DEC, OPRHP, FLPRISM, Towns	\$ 3,000.00
4-2024	Signage for Rain Garden Demonstration Project	CLWA	Wood Library	\$ 2,845.00
5-2023	Establishing Riparian Buffer Easement along Deep Run Stream - Town of Gorham	CLWC		\$ 3,000.00
	TOTAL ACTIVE MINI-GRANT PROJECTS			\$ 37,949.00
Implementation Grants				
IG 1-26	Road Ditch Stabilization - Coxe Rd. Drainage Ditch Basin	CLWC		\$ 15,000.00
IG 3-26	Cottage City Flood Resiliency and Water Quality	CLWC		\$ 30,000.00
IG 4-26	Kashong Creek Streambank Stabilization	OC SWCD		\$ 12,780.00
IG 5-26	Deep Run Water Quality Project	CLWC		\$ 20,000.00
IG 6-26	Marsh Creek Phosphorus Reduction Project	OC SWCD		\$ 30,000.00
IG 2-25	Jones Rd. Roadside Stabilization	SWCD		\$ 25,000.00
IG 4-25	Building Resiliency in the Sucker Brook Subwatershed	CLWC		\$ 40,000.00
	TOTAL ACTIVE IMPLEMENTATION GRANT PROJECTS			\$ 172,780.00
	TOTAL WRC ACTIVE PROJECTS			\$ 210,729.00
	Adjustments			\$ -
	Pending contracts			-\$3,000.00
	Transfer to Planning Dept. budget - MG 2-2024			\$ 3,000.00
	Requesting Approval of Payment			
	Payment Approved and Pending			