



Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization
(CWIO)



News **May 2022**

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Many of your municipalities send out public service announcements to your residents which is great in the days when fewer and fewer folks are subscribing to local news sources. There is information throughout this May CWIO News that could be helpful or of interest to landowners and residents. Feel free to pick through this and forward on whatever information is useful.

NYS has allotted large amounts of funding for water quality projects (see details below in the funding section). If your municipality needs assistance, please let us know how CWIO can help. Also remember, Cayuga Lake is within the Ontario watershed, so funding opportunities for the Great Lakes can sometimes apply here as well.

Summary of the 4/27 CWIO Meeting and Recent Progress

- Watershed Manager: The window to apply for the Watershed Manager position is now closed. Candidates will be interviewed in May.
- Dues: The deadline to pay municipal dues in order to be a voting member is June 30. Let us know if your municipality needs to be re invoiced. Thanks to SO MANY municipalities that have already paid!
- The CWIO Executive Committee developed comments to the [Climate Act Scoping Plan](#)¹. Sections of the scoping plan, that if implemented, would help achieve some of the goals of the Cayuga Lake Restoration and Protection Plan (RPP). Comments are due June 10. CWIO may take action to comment at the May meeting
- Michele Wunderlich from Cayuga County Planning gave an overview of some of the impressive work they are doing in Cayuga County for both the Cayuga and Owasco watersheds.
- Discussion, and possible action, of creating a State Outreach Committee will continue at the May meeting. This committee would create communication ties with both state elected officials and also state agencies and departments.
- CWIO discussed how to narrow down their focus of work in the near future to a few topics or actions that are laid out in the RPP. We will be following up with a poll of CWIO members and partners in the near future.
- Committees:
 - Communications: The communications committee is on schedule to have the new CWIO website go live in July.
 - Technical Advisory: TAC is reaching out to municipalities to see if any of the top projects on the CWIO projects list can be advanced. They are also discussing how to update and track the list over time.

¹ <https://climate.ny.gov/Our-Climate-Act/Draft-Scoping-Plan>

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES and FUNDED WORK

5/25/22 11:59 p.m. Flood Adaptation Grant Writing Capacity Available in NY

The Nature Conservancy in New York is currently seeking applications for the [New York Flood Adaptation Grant Writing Capacity Program](#). The program will provide grant preparation and writing capacity to NY communities that are pursuing funding for flood adaptation and mitigation projects. Applications are due **Wednesday, May 25 at 11:59PM EST**.

6/17 and 8/31 deadlines: Financing Available for Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Projects

The NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC), DEC, and the Department of Health (DOH) [have announced](#) the availability of funds in support of Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) for water pollution control and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). The CWSRF and DWSRF programs are available to municipalities and certain non-municipal entities in New York State to finance water quality and drinking water related projects.

New project listing forms and project updates will be accepted through **Friday, June 17, 2022**, from municipalities interested in competing for:

- FFY 2023 CWSRF Base funding
- FFY 2022 CWSRF BIL General Supplemental funding
- FFY 2022 CWSRF BIL Emerging Contaminants (EC) funding
- FFY 2023 DWSRF Base funding
- FFY 2022 DWSRF BIL General Supplemental funding

New project listing forms and project updates will be accepted through **Wednesday, August 31, 2022**, for municipalities interested in competing for:

- FFY 2022 DWSRF BIL Lead Service Line Replacement (LSLR) funding
- FFY 2022 DWSRF BIL EC funding

Check [EFC's website](#) for more information.

7/1/22 10:00 a.m. - New York Great Lakes Basin Small Grants projects

New York Sea Grant and DEC announced the availability of \$400,000 for Great Lakes Basin projects (includes Cayuga). Proposed projects must address key water quality, natural resource, and resiliency priorities in New York's Great Lakes Action Agenda and should advance local priorities identified in existing community plans. Eligible projects may include planning, design, implementation, information management tool development, demonstration projects, and targeted educational outreach.

Not-for-profit organizations, county and local government or public agencies, municipalities, regional planning and environmental commissions, and educational institutions are eligible to apply.

Examples of [past New York Great Lakes Basin Small Grants projects](#) can be found online on the New York Great Lakes Basin Small Grants Program website.

[Application instructions are available online](#), including details to register for the "how to apply" webinar on May 19, at 10 a.m. Proposals must be submitted by 4:30 p.m. EST on July 1, 2022. For more information, contact New York Sea Grant at (315) 312-3042.

7/29/22 4:00 - Water Related Funding Programs Open Through July Through the NYS CFA

Many water-related funding opportunities are currently open through the NYS consolidated funding application (CFA) with applications due on July 29, 2022 by 4:00:

- **[Water Quality Improvement Projects² \(WQIP\)](#)**: WQIP funds implementation projects to improve water quality or aquatic habitat, or protect a drinking water source. Eligible project types include wastewater treatment improvement, non-agricultural nonpoint source abatement and control, land acquisition for source water protection, salt storage, aquatic connectivity restoration, and marine habitat restoration. A total of \$75 million is available.

Learn more about WQIP

- Wed, May 18 at 2:00: [Register](#).
- Tues, May 31 at 1:00: [Register](#).

One of the project types the WQIP program funds is [Land Acquisition for Source Water Protection](#). This project type protects sources of public drinking water by providing funds for the purchase of parcels and/or conservation easements for land in key areas of an active public drinking water supply's source area. It has a low-cost match requirement and a sizeable maximum grant award.

To date, DEC has awarded over \$60 million to more than 25 municipalities and land trusts to conserve and protect sources of public drinking water through land acquisition. Acquisitions have ranged from 1 acre to 700+ acre parcels.

Visit the [WQIP website](#) or the [WQIP Land Acquisition Projects for Source Water Protection Toolkit](#) web page to learn more.

- **[Non-Agricultural Nonpoint Source Planning³ and Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System \(MS4\) Mapping Grant \(NPG\)](#)**: NPG funds the writing of planning reports for nonpoint source water quality improvement projects and mapping of Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems. A total of \$3 million is available with a 10% match. Grant awards of up to \$30,000 are available for planning services to produce project planning reports, with up to \$75,000 available for comprehensive stream corridor studies. Grants from \$30,000 per municipality to \$400,000 for an MS4 collaborative are available for MS4 mapping.
- **NYSDEC Climate Smart Communities Grants** - Up to \$12,000,000 is available for 50/50 matching implementation grants, between \$50,000 and \$2,000,000 for eligible climate change mitigation, adaptation, and planning and assessment projects. Up to \$2 million is available for certification project grants between \$10,000 and \$200,000, with the full list of certification actions available at: <https://climatesmart.ny.gov/actions-certification/actions/>. See the Climate Smart Communities website for more information: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/109181.html#CSC>
- **NYS Department of State (DOS) Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) Grants** - Up to \$16.3 million is available for preparing, updating, or implementing a local waterfront revitalization or watershed management plan, including updates to mitigate future climate risks. State assistance will fund up to 75% of the total eligible project costs, and up to 85% within an [environmental justice](#) community. More information on the DOS LWRP funding is available at: <https://dos.ny.gov/2022-2023-local-waterfront-revitalization-program>

² <https://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/4774.html>

³ <https://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/116725.html>

- **NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation Green Innovation Grant Program (GIGP)**- Up to \$15,000,000 is available for projects that improve water quality and mitigate the effects of climate change, for green practices such as green storm water infrastructure, water efficiency, energy efficiency, and environmental innovation. Grants of up to \$3,000,000 may be awarded, with 50% to 90% of the project being funded depending on a municipality's median household income, and if the project benefits an environmental justice community. More information is available at: <https://efc.ny.gov/gigp>
- **NYS Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation - Preservation, and Heritage grants**- Up to \$26,000,000 is available for the acquisition, planning, development, and improvement of parks, to municipalities and not for profits with an ownership interest. For more information, visit: <https://parks.ny.gov/grants/grant-programs.aspx>
- [Engineering Planning Grant Program](#) (Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC))

Apply for funding through the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) through 4:00 on Friday, July 29, 2022.

See resources that can be helpful in preparing applications:

- [Regional Economic Development Councils Available CFA Resources](#)
- [REDC Guidebook](#)
- [Standalone CFA Programs](#)

Plans for Cayuga Lake exist, but remember these other plans to use to justify applications:

- Goals of the [NY's Great Lakes Action Agenda \(GLAA\)](#)
- [Great Lakes Restoration Initiative \(GLRI\)](#):

Funded Projects: The Conservation Partnership Program Grants Announced.

[DEC has announced](#) \$3.375 million in Conservation Partnership Program grants, the largest amount of funding for this program to date, for 51 not-for-profit land trusts across the state. The announcement includes 80 grants funded through New York's Environmental Protection Fund and will leverage an additional \$2.7 million in private and local funding to support projects that protect water quality and farmland, boost public access for outdoor recreation, and conserve open space. The Land Trust Alliance administers the Conservation Partnership Program in coordination with DEC.

The [list of grant awards](#) is available on DEC's website.

Free Technical Assistance to Help Municipalities Protect Public Drinking Water Sources.

Earlier this year, DEC and Department of Health, in collaboration with the Departments of Agriculture and Markets and State, announced the new Drinking Water Source Protection Program (DWSP2) to assist municipalities with proactively protecting their drinking water sources. The State is now seeking communities to work with a technical assistance provider (TA provider), free of charge, to develop and initiate implementation of a drinking water source protection program.

TA providers will help municipalities develop community-specific DWSP2 plans that they can implement by exploring and ultimately accessing numerous resources available to protect their source of public drinking water.

The DWSP2 is open to all community public water supplies in New York. Selected municipalities must be prepared to work with a TA provider throughout the DWSP2 process and to implement their programs.

To apply, visit the [Drinking Water Source Protection Program](#)⁴ (DWSP2) website and complete an electronic application (PDF). Direct questions to the DWSP2 Team at source.water@dec.ny.gov.

TRAININGS and EDUCATION

5/31/22 at 7:00 p.m. –Responding to the Rain

Even after flood prevention efforts are carried out, lake communities still experience the aftermath of intense flash floods. Join experts from the Skaneateles Lake Association, Cornell Cooperative Extension, and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation as they discuss strategies in responding to rain events.

See more and [register](#)⁵

2022 Lake Friendly Living Series

Lake Associations across the Finger Lakes have organized in 2022 around the theme, Lake Friendly Living for Watershed Resiliency. The series focuses on the changing climate of our watershed and how residents and communities can respond to these changes in ways that will help protect and preserve our lakes. This short presentation illustrates the impact of climate change and provides an overview of simple lake friendly living practices for the homeowner that will make a difference.

<https://www.flrwa.org/lake-friendly-living>

2022 Stormwater Training Series

Practical training for those involved with stormwater management.

- 5/18 8:30-1:00 Updates for the MS4 Permit
- 6/8 8:30-1:00 SWPPP Preparation and Review

[See the details.](#)

Critical Environmental Area Training and Assistance

Municipalities can designate conservation priorities as [Critical Environmental Areas](#) (CEAs) under State Environmental Quality Review regulations. The designation raises awareness about the important features contained within the CEA that might otherwise be overlooked, such as wildlife habitat, drinking water sources, or scenic values. CEA designation has the benefit of a simple adoption process and does not prohibit or regulate development. It can be a step toward future policy actions such as setbacks or other protective measures through zoning, if desired by the community. Learn more about Critical Environmental Areas from our [CEA fact sheet](#), a [5-minute video](#) about CEA designation in an Ulster County town, and a recorded [CEA webinar](#).

⁴ https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/115250.html#Free_Technical_Assistance

⁵⁵ https://uso2web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_p2saGENiQsWogJSgGAAzKA

10/23-28, 2022 National Symposium on Harmful Algae to be Held in New York.

The 11th U.S. Symposium on Harmful Algae will be held **October 23 - 28, 2022**, in Albany, NY. The theme is "Science to Support Solutions from Shore to Shore", and the intended audience is water managers, researchers and government officials. From freshwater to marine systems, the prevalence of harmful algal blooms (HABs) is a national environmental challenge, and solutions are needed. Mark the dates on your calendar now if you are interested in attending this event.

For information about the event, visit [NEIWPCC's website](#). For general questions about attending, sponsoring, or exhibiting at the 11th U.S. Symposium on Harmful Algae, contact Maryann Dugan mdugan@neiwpc.org.

WATERSHED PLANS, and LEGISLATION

NYS Climate Plan – learn more about how this can affect water quality.

The New York State Climate Action Council released the Draft Scoping Plan on December 30, 2021. This document addresses many water quality issues. The Council is encouraging all New Yorkers to review the Draft Scoping Plan and share comments by June 10, 2022. The comments received will help the Council finalize the Scoping Plan, which is due by January 1, 2023.

Written comments can be **submitted through June 10, 2022**, via the online public comment form, via email to scopingplan@nyserda.ny.gov, or via U.S. Mail to Attention: Draft Scoping Plan Comments, NYSDERDA, 17 Columbia Circle, Albany, NY 12203-6399.

For more information about the New York State Climate Action Council, visit the [Climate Act website](#)⁶.

MONITORING

Have Time to Volunteer to Monitor the Lake? – please help spread the word.

The Community Science Institute is a huge organizer of volunteer monitoring efforts. Contact Nate Launer to join the effort Nathaniel.launer@communityscience.org.

The Cayuga Lake Watershed Network also has volunteer opportunities. Contact Liz Kreitenger at steward@cayugalake.org.

The Water Assessment Evaluators (WAVE) is citizen-based water quality assessment developed by the NYS DEC. The purpose of WAVE is to enable citizen scientists to collect biological data for assessment of water quality on wadeable streams in NYS. [Learn more](#)⁷ about WAVE and becoming a WAVE volunteer.

RESEARCH

2022 Bob Brower Symposium: Human Factors Affecting Water Quality in Owasco Lake.

If you missed this presentation of recent research, the talks can be seen [here](#)⁸.

⁶ <https://climate.ny.gov/Our-Climate-Act>

⁷ https://lnks.gd//eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkjoxMTEsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpbGljaySI6ImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjo1MjAyMjA1MDEuNTcyNDk3NjEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwOi8vd3d3LmRlYy5ueS5nb3YyY2hibWljYWVwOTlyMjkuaHRtbCJ9.fpyHh1GWR_muobeGXW7jS3h6_s-MwAzSRPQ6dPNoGxo/s/173552665/br/130645968858-l

⁸ <https://owla.org/bbss2022/>

NEWS AND REPORTS

Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District News

See the [Cayuga County SWCD News](#)⁹ full of interesting work to protect the watershed.

Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency 2021 Annual Report

Lots of action. [See the report](#)¹⁰ and the [WQMA 2022 Work Plan](#)¹¹.

See the Ontario County Soil and Water Conservation District News

See the [spring newsletter](#)¹² news with highlights on:

- The importance of septic system inspections
- The benefits of grassed waterways
- An article about a new 7 million gallon capacity manure storage
- Notice of a Soil Health Workshop
- And more...

Tompkins County Water Resources Council 2021 Annual Report

[See the report](#)¹³

Seneca-Keuka Watershed Partnership

The [spring issue](#) of the Seneca-Keuka Watershed Partnership is a good example of organizations working together on water quality issues. This issue is packed with good information for municipalities.

May is American Wetlands Month

New York State is home to over two million acres of freshwater wetlands. Freshwater wetlands have many different names including bogs, swamps, marshes, vernal pools, potholes, and fens.

Wetlands provide many benefits, including:

- **Habitat.** Many plants and animals spend most of or all of their lives in wetlands.
- **Filters.** They remove excess nutrients, toxic chemicals, and sediment from water that flows through them.
- **Flood protection.** They absorb excess rain or river water.

During [American Wetlands Month](#), we encourage residents to explore a local wetland or two. Warm, damp nights after a rain are perfect times to explore a wetland.

EPA Announces Strategy to Protect Water Quality by Accelerating Nutrient Pollution Reductions.

Nutrient pollution is a growing challenge with profound implications for public health, water quality, and the economy. In a changing climate, the complexity and severity of the problem is increasing. Nutrients are the most widespread stressor impacting rivers and streams. Fifty eight percent of the nation's rivers and streams and 45% of our lakes have excess levels of phosphorus. About two-thirds

⁹ http://www.cayugaswcd.org/uploads/1/1/4/3/11439932/2021_annual_report_-_final.pdf

¹⁰ <http://cayugacountywater.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/2021-WQMA-Year-End-Report.pdf>

¹¹ <http://cayugacountywater.org/cayuga-county-wqma-2022-work-plan/>

¹² https://www.ontswcd.com/_files/ugd/e6fc30_fe8a184653d046a7943eaf00637754d6.pdf

¹³ https://www.tompkinscountyny.gov/files2/planning/committees/WRC/documents/2021_wrc_annual_report.pdf

of the nation's coastal areas and more than one-third of the nation's estuaries are impaired by nutrients.

The EPA recently released a new policy memo on *Accelerating Nutrient Pollution Reductions in the Nation's Waters*. This memo reaffirms EPA's commitment to working with federal agencies, state co-regulators, tribes, water stakeholders, and the agricultural community to advance progress in reducing excess nutrients in our nation's waters.

View more detail in the EPA's memo at: <https://www.epa.gov/nutrient-policy-data/2022-epa-nutrient-reduction-memorandum>.

The agency will support innovation and pursue science-based and data-driven strategies to reduce excess nutrients in our nation's waters. Critically, EPA will also provide technical assistance and other support to help states, Tribes, and territories scale effective nutrient loss reduction strategies