

# Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency



## **2024 Year End Report**

**Approved by the Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency  
on February 6, 2025**

### **The Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency's Mission**

The Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency (WQMA) was created by County Legislative Resolution #445-90 to serve the Cayuga County Legislature in meeting its responsibilities in the management and protection of the County's water resources.

The WQMA advises the Cayuga County Legislature on matters related to water resource management and planning. The WQMA is charged with identifying problems, proposing priorities, and promoting the coordination of activities in the management and protection of the County's water resources. More specifically, the Agency is charged with:

1. Creating and maintaining a comprehensive planning and implementation program for water quality management in Cayuga County.
2. Coordinating the responsibilities of agencies and watershed associations with interest in water quality management in Cayuga County.
3. Providing greater public input into the process of water quality management and related programs.
4. Providing an effective public education program to develop public understanding and support for water quality management in Cayuga County.

## 2024 Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency Membership

**Chair: Ani Fish**

**Vice-Chair: Seth Jensen**

### **Cayuga County Legislature's Environmental Advisors:**

Director of Cayuga County Planning and Economic Development

Stephen Lynch/

Kari Terwilliger

Director of Cayuga County Environmental Health

Ani Fish

Director of Cayuga County Parks and Trails

Doug Dello Stritto

Director of Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District

Doug Kierst

Cayuga County Cooperative Extension Executive Director

Dan Welch

Cayuga County Solid Waste Management Program Administrator

Evan Tuthill

### **Non-County, Local Officials**

Town of Owasco

Edward Wagner

City of Auburn

Seth Jensen

Cayuga County Association of Town Supervisors

Gary Mutchler

Cayuga County Association of Villages

Vacant

### **Representatives from Waterbody Associations in Cayuga County**

Cayuga Lake Intermunicipal Organization

Keith Batman

Central New York Waterways, Inc.

Carl Wieszalis

Duck Lake Association

Dale Powell

Lake Como Association

Pat Mooney

Little Sodus Bay Betterment Association

Gary Clark

Owasco Watershed Lake Association

Ann Robson

Skaneateles Lake Association Inc.

Patty Orr

### **Partners**

Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board

Finger Lakes Institute at Hobart and William Smith Colleges

Finger Lakes Partnership for Invasive Species Management

NYSDEC Finger Lakes Water Hub

NYSDEC Great Lakes Program

Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council

Partners for Healthy Watersheds

The Nature Conservancy

### **Staff Support**

Michele Wunderlich, Cayuga County Planning and Economic Development, Associate Planner,  
[mwunderlich@cayugacounty.us](mailto:mwunderlich@cayugacounty.us), 315-253-1107, <http://cayugacountywater.org>

## **CAYUGA COUNTY WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT AGENCY 2024 YEAR END REPORT**

### **COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH WORKING GROUP**

**PRIORITY:** Celebrate the positive water quality activities occurring in Cayuga County.

**ACTION:** The celebration of positive initiatives will be the focus of communication pieces (see next priority) generated by the committee - WQMA Communication and Outreach Working Group

**PRIORITY:** Provide timely information regarding water news, agency activities, and pollution prevention.

**ACTION:** Prepare and send out quarterly newsletters, (March, June, Sept, and Dec) the purpose of which will be to highlight water quality initiatives, watershed resiliency and response, work of member and partner agencies, and upcoming or current classes (i.e. Erosion and Sediment Control Training) or programs (such as hydroseeding availability, or Hazardous Waste Disposal opportunities). Audience will include County Legislators, municipal elected officials, municipal clerks, and planning boards as well as WQMA partners and members- WQMA Communication and Outreach Working Group

- *All newsletters sent to the WQMA email list, Cayuga County Legislators, Town and Village clerks, Mayors and Supervisors, City of Auburn Mayor and clerk, and town and village planning board members.*
- *The first WQMA newsletter was sent out on March 27, 2024 and articles included:*
  - *“Soil Sampling for Lawns and Gardens.”*
  - *“Resources Available from Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County.”*
  - *“Bob Brower Scientific Symposium 2024 – Meeting Summary.”*
  - *“From Source to Sip - The Shared Journey of Preserving Owasco Lake’s Water Quality.”*
  - *“Winter Wonders on Skaneateles Lake: A Conversation with SUNY-ESF’s Lake Expert, Dr. Kim Schulz.”*
  - *“Trout.”*
- *The June newsletter was cancelled.*
- *The second WQMA newsletter was sent out September 27, 2024 and articles included:*
  - *“New ADA-Compliant Kayak Launch Constructed in the Village of Union Springs.”*
  - *“No-Cost Action Plans for Protecting Drinking Water,”*
  - *“Cayuga Lake Watershed Network’s Community Conference.”*
  - *“DEC Announces EPA-Approved Pollution Prevention Plan for Cayuga Lake Watershed.”*
  - *“New July 31, 2024 Stormwater Design Manual Replaces Draft Manual from 2022.”*

- *“Statewide - Availability of the New York State Stormwater Management Design Manual, July 31, 2024 (2024 Design Manual).”*
- *“Lead Inspector Reflects on Owasco Lake Watershed Management.”*
- *“Challenges & Progress in Water Quality – an uneasy coexistence for agriculture in our watersheds.”*
- *The third WQMA Newsletter was sent out December 18, 2024 and articles included:*
  - *“Fillmore Nature Preserve Grand Opening.”*
  - *“Trade-A-Tree Program.”*
  - *“December Outreach.”*
  - *“Cayuga County Recycling Program Celebrates 2024 Successes.”*

**ACTION:** Prepare blog posts at least monthly focusing on educating the public regarding a wide variety of water quality news and topics. These blogs will be posted on the website and links published on Facebook- Cayuga County Department of Planning and Economic Development

- *Blog posts published on the WQMA website:*
  - *January 26, 2024: “Skaneateles Lake Watershed Nine Element Plan Public Meeting.”*
  - *February 29, 2024: “2024 Bob Brower Owasco Lake Scientific Symposium “Our Lake Our Legacy.”*
  - *March 27, 2024: “Cayuga County Electronics Recycling Event.”*
  - *April 22, 2024: “Dan Egan Program Now Available.”*
  - *May 24, 2024: “Skaneateles Lake Watershed 9E Plan: 3rd Public Meeting.”*
  - *May 29, 2024: “New York State Invasive Species Awareness Week 2024.”*
  - *June 28, 2024: “Protect Your Lake This Fourth of July: Use LED Flares.”*
  - *July 26, 2024: “Clean Up After Your Pet for Cleaner Water.”*
  - *August 8, 2024: “Hydrilla.”*
  - *August 15, 2024: Public Comment Hearings-Wetland Rule Changes.”*
  - *September 26, 2024: “Water News.”*
  - *October 11, 2024: “Great Lakes Action Agenda (GLAA) Sub-basin Work Group Meetings Coming Soon.”*
  - *October 16, 2024: New York AEM Leopold Conservation Award Winners.”*
  - *November 26, 2024: “Fillmore Nature Preserve Grand Opening.”*
  - *December 20, 2024: “Trade-A-Tree Program.”*

**ACTION:** Provide assistance to the other working groups to fulfill their actions – WQMA Working Groups

- *Nutrient and Sediment Working Group*
  - *Articles in the first WQMA newsletter sent out March 27, 2024:*
    - *“Soil Sampling for Lawns and Gardens.”*
    - *“Resources Available from Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County.”*

- *Articles in the second WQMA Newsletter sent out September 27, 2024:*
  - *“New July 31, 2024 Stormwater Design Manual Replaces Draft Manual from 2022.”*
  - *“Statewide - Availability of the New York State Stormwater Management Design Manual, July 31, 2024 (2024 Design Manual).”*
- *Invasive Species Working Group*
  - *May 31, 2024 Eco Talk Article in The Citizen:” Invasive species in Cayuga County, and you” by Michele Wunderlich.*
  - *Blog posts published on WQMA website:*
    - *May 29, 2024: “New York State Invasive Species Awareness Week 2024.”*
    - *August 8, 2024: “Hydrilla.”*

**ACTION:** Promote and distribute the WQMA residential guidelines to the public as well as provide to all the County watershed groups for use by that group- WQMA Communication and Outreach Working Group.

- *No action taken.*

**ACTION:** Provide recordings of meetings and presentations on the WQMA YouTube Channel- Cayuga County Department of Planning and Economic Development

- *Posted WQMA meetings on the Cayuga County WQMA YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/@CayugaCountyWQMA>).*
- *Posted the Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization (CWIO) presentations on the WQMA YouTube channel.*

**PRIORITY:** Update website resources with current and scientific information and promote the WQMA as the source of factual water quality information in Cayuga County

**ACTION:** Distribute WQMA promotional items at meetings and public events-WQMA Communication and Outreach Working Group

- *No action taken. Promotional items are in the closed County Office Building.*

**ACTION:** Review and update the WQMA website - WQMA Communication and Outreach Working Group

- *The Cayuga County Planning Department routinely reviews and updates the WQMA website.*
  - *Updated the Harmful Algal Blooms webpage to make it more consistent with the Cayuga County Health Department’s webpage.*
  - *Updated webpage links.*
  - *Began updating the lake informational pages on the website.*

**ACTION:** Work to improve the resource section of the WQMA website to include more research reports and water resource protection information, as well as presentations from partner lake associations – WQMA Communication and Outreach Working Group

- *Began updating the report and resource sections on the lake informational pages on the website.*
- *Posted WQMA meetings and CWIO presentations on the Cayuga County WQMA YouTube channel at (<https://www.youtube.com/@CayugaCountyWQMA>).*

**ACTION:** Gather informational documents on the WQMA website that can be used by homeowners on how to minimize their impacts on water quality – WQMA Communication and Outreach Working Group

- *No action taken.*

**ACTION:** Promote members and partners as speakers on water quality issues to community groups and local governments – WQMA Communication and Outreach Working Group

- *Updated speaker list in October 2024.*

**ACTION:** Create a stock photo page on the WQMA website – WQMA Communication and Outreach Working Group

- *No action taken.*

## **INVASIVE SPECIES WORKING GROUP**

The priority species that the Cayuga County WQMA Invasive Species Working Group concentrated on were those invasive species that have the potential to negatively impact Cayuga County and its watersheds whether terrestrial (e.g., Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA)) or aquatic (e.g., hydrilla).

### **PRIORITY: Survey invasive species in Cayuga County**

**ACTION:** The Working Group will work with partners to survey for priority species within Cayuga County.

- ***Worked with the Finger Lakes Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (FL-PRISM) on surveying priority species such as hydrilla and other invasive species.***
  - ***Promoted the FL-PRISM’s Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Survey Program for 2023 and 2024.***
  - ***Promoted the FL-PRISM 2024 Volunteer Macrophyte Survey Program and the Trail Survey Program.***
  - ***Worked with the FL-PRISM Crew Assistance Program who conducted a “species of interest” inventory at the Fillmore Nature Preserve, focusing on the identification of invasives species that exist there.***
- ***Promoted the hemlock woolly adelgid surveying programs of the Owasco Watershed Lake Association (OWLA) and the Skaneateles Lake Association.***

**ACTION:** The Working Group will work with partners to survey areas suspected of having a new invasive species population.

- ***Worked with OWLA on a possible water chestnut infestation in a tributary to Owasco Lake. It was determined that the plants were not water chestnut.***
- ***The Skaneateles Lake Association surveyed Skaneateles Lake for water chestnut after one was found and pulled in Onondaga County on the east side of Skaneateles Lake.***
- ***FL-PRISM investigated a report of red swamp crayfish in the Cayuga-Seneca Canal. It was determined that it was not a red swamp crayfish but it was identified as a possible white river crayfish. This species is not native to most of New York and is in the “M” tier, which means it needs more monitoring to see if it is invasive. They are waiting for final confirmation on the identification.***

**ACTION:** The Working Group will distribute reports of partners doing surveillance and monitoring and will assist with finding volunteers for surveillance and monitoring programs.

- ***Distributed the FL-PRISM’s Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Newsletter.***
- ***Distributed the NYS Hemlock Initiative’s Summer 2024 Hemlock Tribune.***
- ***Promoted the FL-PRISM’s Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Survey Program for 2023 and 2024.***
- ***Promoted the hemlock woolly adelgid surveying programs of OWLA and the Skaneateles Lake Association.***



- *Promoted the FL-PRISM 2024 Volunteer Macrophyte Survey Program and the Trail Survey Program.*

**PRIORITY: Education, training and public participation**

**ACTION:** The Working Group will share educational information on priority species of concern to the public on the WQMA website, newsletter, and social media accounts and through other media such as radio and newspapers.

- *Provided educational information on invasive species to the WQMA Facebook account, WQMA webpage, WQMA newsletter, newspapers, radio and email.*
- *Blog posts published on the WQMA website:*
  - *May 29, 2024: “New York State Invasive Species Awareness Week 2024.”*
  - *August 8, 2024: “Hydrilla.”*

**ACTION:** The Working Group will work with partners to prepare and publish two or more articles per year on invasive species.

- *April 24, 2024 Eco Talk article in The Citizen: “Four pests to know this summer” by Ryan Staychock.*
- *May 31, 2024 Eco Talk article in The Citizen: “Invasive species in Cayuga County, and you” by Michele Wunderlich.*
- *August 9, 2024 Eco Talk article in The Citizen: “What to know about spotted lanternfly sightings in Cayuga County” by Ryan Staychock.*

**ACTION:** The Working Group will provide and promote invasive species training programs and activities.

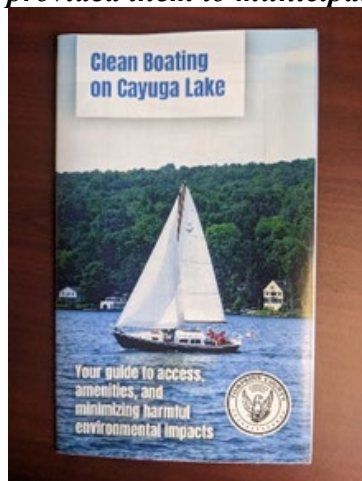
- *Promoted invasive species programs and activities on the WQMA Facebook account and email lists.*
- *Promoted the St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (SLELO PRISM) Zoom webinar series that was held from January through May 2024.*
- *Promoted two iMapInvasives webinars in September.*
- *Jesse Lloyd from the Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection and Protection Division and Michele Wunderlich from Cayuga County Department of Planning and Economic Development participated in Conservation Field Days providing education on invasive species to sixth grade students. They received eighteen essays after the event from the students describing what they learned. One of the winning essays can be found here: <http://www.cayugaswcd.org/conservation-field-days.html#:~:text=Conservation%20Field%20Days%20is%20an,at%20Emerson%20Park%2C%20in%20Auburn.>*
- *FL-PRISM provided training for their Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Monitoring Program, Macrophyte Survey Program and Trail Survey Program.*

**ACTION:** The Working Group will provide a training or a control event as part of the New York State Invasive Species Awareness Week (NYSISAW).

- *Advertised the NYSISAW.*
- *Michele Wunderlich gave a presentation on invasive species at the June 6, 2024 WQMA meeting as part of NYSISAW.*
- *FL-PRISM's Amy Slentz and Matt Gallo and Whitney Carleton of NYS Parks participated in the Connections radio show with Evan Dawson presenting "Joro spiders, spotted lanternflies: Understanding invasive pests in our area."*

**ACTION:** The Working Group will work with partners such as FL-PRISM, the Skaneateles Lake Boat Launch Steward program and others on increasing invasive species education for boaters and recreationists; including education on "Clean. Drain. Dry." and the promotion and monitoring of boat cleaning stations.

- *Cayuga County utilized Finger Lakes Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance (FLLWPA) funds to reprint copies of the Cayuga Lake Clean Boating map and provided them to municipalities, marinas and the Cayuga County Tourism Office.*



- *Distributed email from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation "DEC Reminds Water Recreationists to 'Clean. Drain. Dry.' Watercraft to Protect Waters from Aquatic Invasive Species."*
- *FL-PRISM and Skaneateles Boat Launch Stewards provide education to boaters and recreationists at boat launches in Cayuga County.*
- *The OLWMC's aquatic invasive species "Clean, Drain, Dry" billboard was placed at the Emerson Park boat launch.*
- *Three invasive species signs for Finger Lakes boat launches from the FL-PRISM were given to Doug Dello Stritto for Emerson Park and one was given to Union Springs for their boat launch.*

## **PRIORITY: Invasive species prevention, control and management**

**ACTION:** The Working Group will support existing invasive species prevention, control and management programs in Cayuga County and the Finger Lakes Region.

- *Members participated in the FL-PRISM Steering Committee.*
- *Members participated in the NYS Hydrilla Task Force Meetings.*
- *Promoted and members attended the FL-PRISM Fall Partner meeting which included a focused conversation about water chestnut management in the Finger Lakes PRISM.*
- *Promoted and members attended the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network's Fall 2024 Community Conference Series program "Hydrilla Management in Cayuga Lake: Updates & Panel."*
- *Promoted the hemlock woolly adelgid survey programs of the FL-PRISM, OWLA and Skaneateles Lake Association.*
- *The Cayuga County Health Department issued a press release on the hydrilla treatment in Cayuga Lake on June 21, 2024.*
- *Members updated the Cayuga County hydrilla webpage with new information and the sampling results from the public drinking water and herbicide treatment areas in Cayuga Lake in Aurora.*
- *Members worked with the FL-PRISM who conducted a comprehensive survey of Fillmore Nature Preserve for terrestrial invasive species. The FL-PRISM also awarded the OLWMC a boot brush station for the Fillmore Nature Preserve.*



- *The FL-PRISM is contracting for hemlock woolly adelgid treatment in Fillmore Glen State Park with the United States Forestry Service and New York State Parks Stewardship Division. They have identified and selected riparian hemlock stands to be treated for hemlock woolly adelgid.*
- *The Skaneateles Lake Association conducted their Milfoil Control Program in Skaneateles Lake which includes matting Eurasian watermilfoil in Cayuga County.*
- *The Skaneateles Lake Association treated over 800 hemlock trees in Cayuga County around Hooker Brook to help maintain stable slopes and reduce risk of sediment and nutrient loading.*

**NUTRIENT AND SEDIMENT WORKING GROUP****PRIORITY: Septic Systems**

**ACTION:** Work with SUNY Stony Brook University Center for Clean Water Technology to review current phosphorus removal technologies, determine which technologies may be a good match for Cayuga County and find residents who may be interested in participating in a pilot evaluation of new phosphorus removal technologies. Cayuga County Health Department.

- *The Cayuga County Health Department has been working with SUNY Stony Brook to put sampling monitoring wells for continuous monitoring on a handful of houses on Lake Como to test nutrient movement.*

**ACTION:** Provide a presentation to the Cayuga County WQMA on the Cayuga County Health Department Septic System program – Cayuga County Health Department

- *Ani Fish, P.E., Director of Environmental Health, Cayuga County Health Department, presented “Cayuga County Septic System Program” at the September 5, 2024 WQMA meeting.*

**ACTION:** Provide education and outreach to residents who are eligible to participate in the expanded septic system replacement grant program – Cayuga County Health Department

- *The Cayuga County Health Department created a list of individuals who had applied for the New York State’s Septic System Replacement grant and were denied that then became eligible through the expanded septic system replacement grant program. They identified two properties that were originally denied that will now have a grant awarded to them.*
- *The Cayuga County Health Department contacted eligible residents for the New York State’s Septic System Replacement grant program’s expanded waterbodies list.*

**PRIORITY: Stormwater**

**ACTION:** Promote and publicize the effective use of green infrastructure such as permeable pavement, rain gardens and rain barrels– City of Auburn, Cayuga County Department of Planning and Economic Development, OLWMC, Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District

- *Cayuga County Parks Department added 6,000 square feet of permeable parking at the Agricultural Museum with some funding coming from the Friends of the Agricultural Museum. Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District did the installation and provided over \$2,000 of in-kind for labor and equipment.*
- *Cayuga County Parks Department restored lawn at Emerson Park as well as established and expanded buffer zones around the channel that goes around Deauville Island.*

- *The OLWMC and OWLA participated in the Lake Friendly Living public event “Owasco Lake: Fillmore Nature Preserve Pollinator Wildflower Garden” on May 25, 2024. They covered approximately 480 feet of the preserve’s public access lot perimeter with 12 cubic yards of compost, then seeded it with wildflowers.*



- *OWLA joined the Friends of Fillmore Glen State Park, other community volunteers and the park staff to establish a new native plant garden there. This event was part of the 2024 I Love My Park Day.*
- *OWLA and the Cayuga County Parks Department maintain the rain garden at Emerson Park. Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County and OWLA held a tour of the Emerson rain garden and taught participants about the role of native plants in the watershed on August 8, 2024. It allowed for a hands-on opportunity to care for OWLA's native plant nursery and to take a plant home.*

**ACTION:** Provide information and/or presentations to municipalities, the Association of Towns, Association of Villages and Association of Town Highway Superintendents on erosion and sediment control practices during municipal projects– Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County

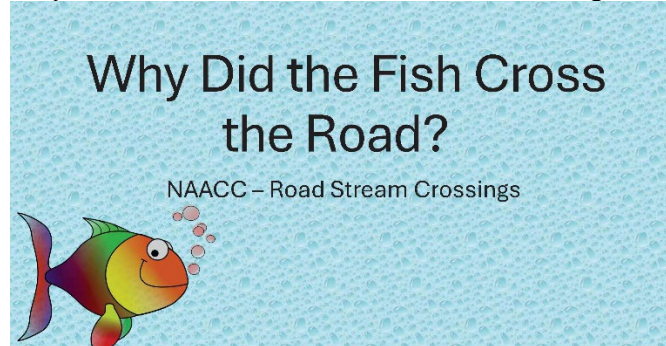
- *Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District provides information on grants for hydroseeding and other ditch management at the County Highway Superintendents meetings.*

**ACTION:** Inventory condition of culverts discharging into municipal ditches or streams – Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District, Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council

- *Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District continued efforts to conduct assessments and enter them into the North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative (NAACC) compliant database. They have done this in portions of the Lake Ontario/Little Sodus Bay Watershed, a portion of the Skaneateles Lake Watershed and the remainder of the Cayuga Lake Watershed.*

**ACTION:** Provide presentations to the Cayuga County WQMA on the Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District's and City of Auburn's work on culvert inventories and mapping of outfalls- Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District, City of Auburn

- ***Val Horning of Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District presented "Why Did the Fish Cross the Road?" at the April 4, 2024 WQMA meeting.***



**ACTION:** Provide the Communication and Outreach Working Group with communication pieces on resiliency, stormwater management and flooding and the resources available to assist property owners in addressing them – WQMA Nutrient and Sediment Working Group

- ***The second WQMA newsletter sent out on September 27, 2024 had the following articles:***
  - ***"New July 31, 2024 Stormwater Design Manual Replaces Draft Manual from 2022."***
  - ***"Statewide - Availability of the New York State Stormwater Management Design Manual, July 31, 2024 (2024 Design Manual)."***

**ACTION:** Update the brochures created by the Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection and Protection Division for other watersheds (Owasco Lake New Homeowner Packet, Owasco Lake Rain Garden Brochure, Owasco Lake Stormwater Brochure, and Owasco Lake Green Infrastructure Brochure) and provide to the Communications and Outreach Committee to place on the WQMA website -WQMA Nutrient and Sediment Working Group

- ***No action taken.***

**ACTION:** Educate municipal planning board members regarding the importance of including sedimentation and erosion control considerations in site plan review – Cayuga County Department of Planning and Economic Development, OLWMC

- ***The Cayuga County Department of Planning and Economic Development conducted a Cayuga County Planning Board training entitled "Conducting Site Plan Review" on September 18, 2024.***
- ***Proposed erosion and sediment control ordinances concerning new construction activities were prepared for OLWMC directing municipalities for their independent board review and consideration for adoption.***
  - ***The Village of Moravia adopted the Sediment and Erosion Control Plan, and associated Appendix E, prepared and proposed by the OLWMC for advancing municipal control requirements for new construction activities.***

- *The Town of Fleming reviewed the proposed ordinances and concluded that they already have adequate protections in place concerning new construction activities as part of an existing overlay district.*

### **PRIORITY: Lawn Care**

**ACTION:** Provide the Communication and Outreach Working Group with communication pieces on proper lawn fertilizing, how to get soil tested and appropriate ways to manage lawn waste – Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County, Owasco Watershed Lake Association, Lake Associations

- *The first WQMA newsletter sent out on March 27, 2024 had the following articles included:*
  - *“Soil Sampling for Lawns and Gardens.”*
  - *“Resources Available from Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County,”*

**ACTION:** Encourage homeowners to install and/or maintain buffers along streams and lakeshores - Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County, Lake Associations

- *The Skaneateles Lake Association mailed 3,040 Lake Friendly Living guides promoting deeper rooted plants and buffers to streams and shorelines.*

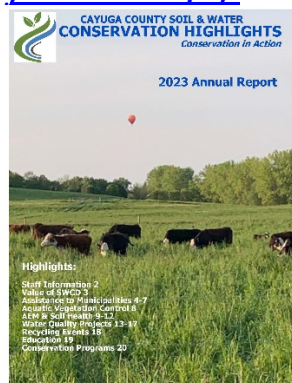
### **PRIORITY: Agriculture**

**ACTION:** Review the Manure Management Guidelines, update if needed, and then promote them through the WQMA Communications and Outreach Working Group – Partners for Healthy Watersheds, Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County

- *No action taken.*

**ACTION:** Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District will provide an annual report on conservation programs at a WQMA meeting– Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District

- *Cayuga County Soil & Water Conservation Highlights: Conservation in Action 2023 Annual Report is available at [http://www.cayugaswcd.org/uploads/1/1/4/3/11439932/2023\\_annual\\_report\\_-\\_final\\_revised.pdf](http://www.cayugaswcd.org/uploads/1/1/4/3/11439932/2023_annual_report_-_final_revised.pdf).*



**PRIORITY: Land Preservation**

**ACTION:** Promote land acquisition and conservation easements for preservation purposes  
– Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council, Finger Lakes Land Trust

- ***Fillmore Nature Preserve grand opening on November 7, 2024.***



- ***The Nature Conservancy has expressed interest in having the OLWMC own and steward two properties poised for preservation within the Owasco Lake watershed. TNC will present these acquisitions to the OLWMC Board for ownership and stewardship consideration. The acquisitions include:***
  - ***72-acre parcel in Venice, dense wetland***
  - ***100-acre parcel in Groton, mixed farmland***