

2011 Annual Report



Using the expertise and knowledge of its agencies as well as other local, state, and federal cooperating agencies to protect and conserve the water resources of Tioga County.

WQCC: Background & Participating Members

In 1991 the Tioga County WQCC was formed to address issues of Non-point Source Pollution and problems of water quality. In 2011, we continued our work on a water shed wide basis, identifying priority issues and solutions in a Water Quality Strategy. Together, participating agencies agreed on the county's greatest needs and work to access the funds necessary to implement the Water Quality Strategy.

Participating Agencies and Organizations

Tioga County Soil & Water Conservation District

Tioga County Planning Department

Tioga County Environmental Health Department

Tioga County Solid Waste

Town of Owego

Cornell Cooperative Extension

USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

NYS Soil & Water Conservation Committee

Tire Clean-up



With the participation of the Town of Barton, Town of Owego, Town of Spencer and Town of Tioga, 62 tons of tires were cleaned up during the 2011 tire clean-up program. This marked the 4th year of a five year program originally established in 2008 when a grant was awarded to Tioga County Solid Waste for funding. The program has provided a safe and economical method for both resident and municipalities to dispose of waste tires. To date we have safely disposed of over 40,000 tires (400 tons) through this program.



Tioga County Water Quality
Coordinating Committee

Stream Clean-up

2011 was the 11th annual stream clean-up sponsored by the Tioga County WQCC. Since 2001, this event, which coincides with National River Clean-Up Week, has helped to improve the health and beauty of our county's streams, creeks, and rivers, as well as providing a way to bring more awareness to the general public. The program is largely supported by local organizations and businesses. All organizations, groups, or individuals are encouraged to participate and are provided with garbage bags and a gift. They just have to register with the Tioga County Soil & Water Conservation District.

Some long-term sponsors include:

- Best Buy
- CNYOG
- Hiawatha Island Boat Club
- Jouchum Logging
- Kenny Construction
- Mead Farm
- NYSDOT
- Owego Kiwanis
- Taylor Garbage Service
- Tioga State Bank
- Town of Owego
- Wagner Lumber Company



Storm Water



The WQCC is a member of the BTSC

Stormwater Management Training

In conjunction with the Broome-Tioga Stormwater Coalition, the WQCC held two training sessions for contractors, developers, and engineers regarding erosion and sediment control practices. This training is required under the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's Stormwater Permit for at least one individual per company on any construction site where the soil is being disturbed (equal to or exceeding 1 acre). In the WQCC training sessions held in March and June of 2011, and a total of 55 individuals were trained.

Storm Water Management Plan

This plan was developed and adopted in 2011 and includes regulations to improve many of the issues that contribute to and stem from stormwater erosion and runoff. This plan is in compliance with the NYS-DECs General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from MS4s and aims to maintain or improve water quality.

In 2011, Town of Owego received 4 SWPPPs from Everest Hotel Group, Taylor Garbage Recycling Facility, Guthrie Medical Building and McDonald's.

The Elements of the SWMP include:

- Public Education and Outreach
- Public Involvement/Participation
- Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
- Construction Site Runoff Control
- Post-Construction Stormwater Management
- Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations



Chesapeake Bay Program
A Watershed Partnership

Chesapeake Bay

The USC held a legislative forum in July 2011 regarding the TMDL in Binghamton. Federal and State Legislators attended and were given updated on TMDL. This was attended by the WQCC.



Waters contributing to the Chesapeake Bay



Natural Gas Preparations

In 2011, a TING Resource binder was completed and a presentation was done by TING to all municipalities. The County Planning Department attended and presented to all municipalities but one on the resource binder.

The TING Resource Binder recommended that the county develop either a countywide ordinance or guidelines for aquifer protection. Completion of this activity was delayed due to the September flooding.

Resource Binder: Natural Gas Exploration & Development



Prepared by Tioga Investigates Natural Gas
Winter 2010



2011 Flood

In September 2011, Tioga County was devastated by Tropical Storm Lee. The National Weather Service recorded a maximum of 11 to 12-inches of rain in a 48 hour period fell over the County, with most of this rain falling over a 24-hour period on September 7th & 8th. Apalachin, Town of Owego recorded rainfall amounts of up to 12-inches. The storm caused widespread flash flooding on the county's smaller streams on September 7th and historic flooding along the river corridor on September 8th. This storm caused massive destruction to local roads, bridges, businesses and private properties. It is estimated that for Tioga County alone there was \$300 million in damages; \$100 million in infrastructure and \$200-million in property loss.

Flood events can be devastating to the environment. To prevent this, WQCC put information on the County web site on how to properly clean up Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) after your home's been flooded and circulated press releases on where drop offs were located for HHW and Electronics.

