

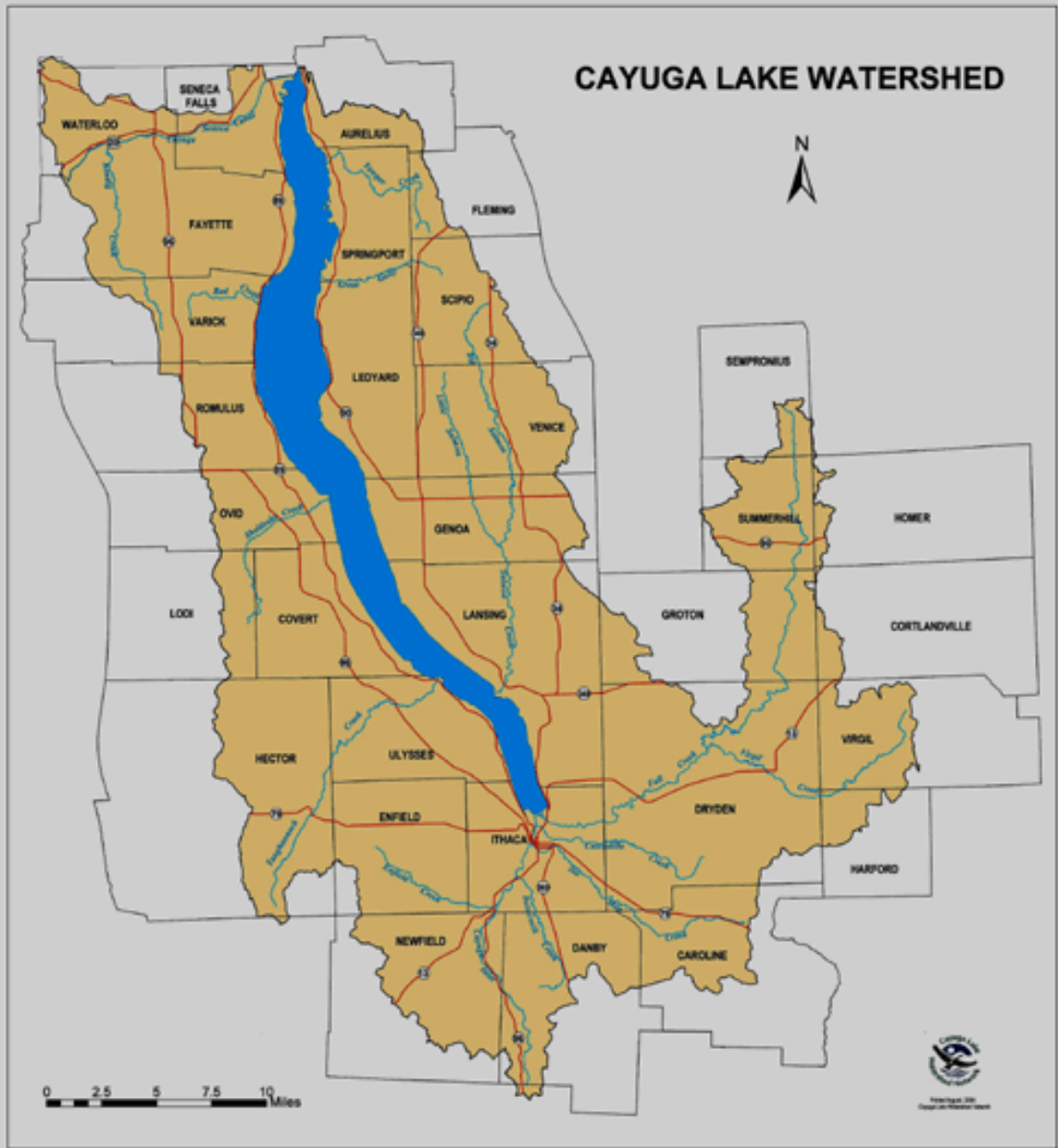
An aerial photograph of the Cayuga Lake Watershed. The lake is the central focus, surrounded by green hills and a town with various buildings and a stadium. The text is overlaid on the image in a bright yellow color.

Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization

Darby Kiley
IO Coordinator
Planner, Town of Ithaca



Cayuga Lake



Statistics:

Lake

- 435 feet deep
- 38.2 miles long
- 1.75 miles avg. width
- >95 mile shoreline

Watershed

- 864 square miles
- >120,000 residents
- 7 counties
- 48 municipalities



The Beginnings

- 1998 IO Established
- 2000 *Preliminary Watershed Characterization*
- 2001 *Cayuga Lake Watershed Restoration and Protection Plan (RPP)*
- Funding
 - NYS Dept of State
 - Others

The Rationale

Cooperation among municipalities and active citizen participation

- to protect and/or restore environmental quality in the watershed
- to promote sustainable economic development
- to access funding to accomplish these ends

The Process

- Establishment of IO and Watershed Network
- Preliminary Characterization
- Desired future of the watershed
- Identify and prioritize threats
- Restoration and Protection Plan

Coordination, Collaboration & Partnerships

- Cayuga Lake Watershed Network
 - Watershed Steward
- Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- County Water Quality Coordination Committees
- Cornell Cooperative Extension
- Cornell University, Wells College, TST-BOCES
- Community Science Institute
- Other Regional, State, and Federal Agencies

IO Structure

- Only municipalities are voting members
- Six members constitute a quorum
- Annual membership fee - \$900
 - Reduced for first time members
- Annually elect Chair and Administrative Center
- Staff – zero
- Coordinator – meeting coordination, financial center

Committees

- Executive
- **Technical Advisory**
- **Education/Public Participation/Outreach**
- Finance
- Membership/Nominating
- Administration/Personnel
- **Agriculture**
- Environmental Review
- Legislative

Funding

- Annual dues paid by 15-20 munis/year – supports Floating Classroom
- Grants from NYS DOS received in 2001, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2009 totaling close to \$600,000



Grant Funded Projects

- Stream projects
- Hydroseeding
- Lakefront restoration
- Roadbank stabilization
- Stormwater retention
- Subwatershed plan
- RPP update



Opportunities and Challenges

- Information sharing between municipalities
- Sample ordinances – one does not fit all but several towns working together
 - Docks
 - Stormwater
- Working with elected officials



Cayuga Lake Watershed Network

- Established in 1997
- Mission: to identify key threats and advocate for solutions that support a healthy environment and vibrant communities
- Board of Directors represent 3 counties, plus at-large seats
- Watershed Steward – outreach, coordination, education
- Discussions over years about combining but have stayed separate and work together

Successes and Take Home Message

- Floating Classroom
- Grant opportunities for small municipalities
- Create a unique name for your intermunicipal group
- Smaller area to accomplish goals – report back to larger group

www.cayugawatershed.org