



CHAMPLAIN WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT COALITION OF NEW YORK

CLINTON | ESSEX | FRANKLIN | WARREN | WASHINGTON | COUNTIES

2011 Annual Report

In 2011, the Lake Champlain watershed experienced catastrophic hydrologic events that amounted to widespread devastating environmental and economic impacts. Spring floods and lake shore erosion, along with massive upland stream erosion caused by Tropical Storms Irene and Lee, resulted in a high number of distressed areas in critical need of substantial remediation. CWICNY continues to work cooperatively with local partners, municipalities and landowners to repair damage, strengthen infrastructure and improve water quality throughout the watershed.



Tropical Storm Irene Aftermath: Road washout, Spruce Mill Brook Rte 12, Town of Lewis, Essex County.



Tropical Storm Irene Aftermath: Access road washed into a 30 acre corn field, Town of Mooers, Clinton County.



Tropical Storm Irene Aftermath: Road washout, Town of Westport, Essex County.

Also In This Report:

- EPA-funded Targeted Watershed Implementation Project Summary
- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Planning Project Results
- Lake Champlain's America's Great Outdoors Designation
- North Country Stormwater Tradeshow Participant Numbers Increase

CWICNY MISSION: To provide a coordinated effort to improve water quality and other natural resources within the New York Lake Champlain Counties through project implementation.

CWICNY MEMBERS

Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD):

Clinton County
Franklin County
Washington County
Essex County
Warren County

Water Quality Coordinating Committees (WQCC)

Clinton County
Franklin County
Warren County
Washington County
Essex County

Lake Champlain / Lake George Regional Planning Board (LC/LG RPB)

CWICNY EXECUTIVE BOARD:

Beth Gilles (LC/LG RPB), President
Dave Reckahn (Essex Co SWCD), Vice-President
Dave Wick (Warren County SWCD), Treasurer
Julie Martin (Boquet River Association, Essex Co WQCC), Secretary

CWICNY COORDINATOR:
Andrew Snell

www.cwicny.org

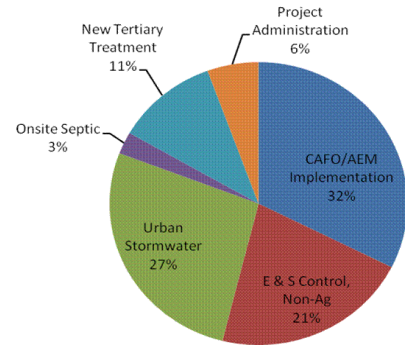
In 2011, CWICNY saw the culmination of projects funded by 2 major grants totaling over \$1 million! The grants, awarded to CWICNY and its member organizations, were for water quality improvement project implementation and planning throughout the watershed.

Targeted Watershed Grant

In 2008, CWICNY was fortunate to have received 1 of 12 nationally-recognized grants through the Environmental Protection Agency's Targeted Watershed program. This program designated \$900,000 in federal funds, and leveraged over \$1 million in local match, to implement a variety of projects throughout the five counties in the Champlain Watershed, reducing phosphorus inputs into Lake Champlain and its tributaries from priority sites throughout the watershed.

In total, five categories of non-point source pollution were addressed, including urban stormwater, agriculture, on-site septic issues, innovative wastewater/tertiary treatment systems and erosion and sediment control.

Targeted Watershed Grant \$ Distribution



Urban Stormwater

Installation of sub-surface infiltration system at several locations in Saranac Lake and Lake George to capture and treat contaminated surface runoff.



Implemented Practice	Quantity	County
Subsurface Infiltration Systems	1	Warren
Subsurface Infiltration Dry Wells	38	Franklin, Warren
Hydro-separation unit	1	Essex

Agricultural (CAFO/AEM)

Constructed new Agricultural best management practices to contain nutrients and reduce runoff from barnyards and crop fields.



Implemented Practice	Quantity	County
Barnyard Nutrient Containment Area	3	Clinton
Manure Containment Structures	2	Washington
Heavy Use Area/Treatment	1	Essex
Heavy Use Laneway	1	Essex

On-Site Septic Maintenance

Septic maintenance program targeted aging waterfront residential systems. Cost-shared holding tank pump-outs, water saving kits, and educational materials were provided to participating landowners.



Implemented Practice	Quantity	County
Lakeside Pumpouts	88	Warren
Riverside Pumpouts	45	Essex

Innovative Waste Water/ Tertiary Treatment System

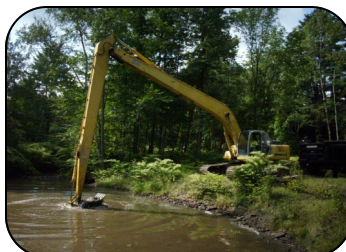
Provided funding assistance for designs and upgrades to new waste water facilities within the Boquet River Watershed.



Implemented Practice	Quantity	County
Large Scale Upgrade	1	Essex
Medium Scale Upgrade	1	Essex

Erosion and Sediment Control (non-Ag)

Increased efforts to minimize impacts of erosion and sedimentation control through a variety of practices and equipment.



Implemented Practice	Quantity	County
Streambank Stabilization	2	Washington, Essex
Hydroseeding Vehicle	1	Franklin, Essex
Straw Mulcher	1	Essex
Hydroseeding Machines	2	Clinton, Essex
Culvert Replacement	1	Essex
Reservoir Cleanouts	4	Warren

Lake Champlain Watershed Water Quality Management Planning

Roadside Erosion Assessment and Inventory

In 2009 the Lake Champlain - Lake George Regional Planning Board, partnered with CWICNY and its members, received a Federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grant to perform roadside erosion assessment planning throughout the Champlain Basin. Field work for the grant was performed by the five County Soil and Water Conservation Districts and CWICNY staff over two field seasons in 2010 and 2011. An array of information was collected and used to prioritize the sites as high, moderate or low priority for remediation efforts. An assessment matrix was produced for each site identifying the location, jurisdiction, sub-watershed, erosive parameters, management recommendations and costs. All together, 319 roadside erosion sites were identified in the five counties on local, county and state roads with a total remediation cost of \$1.7 million. The goal of producing this document is to leverage funding to remediate the sites using techniques such as hydroseeding, re-grading slopes, installing woody vegetation and utilizing rolled erosion and sediment control products.

A copy of the entire report is available through a link on www.cwicny.org.



Town of Saranac, Clinton County



Town of Bolton, Warren County



Town of Harrietstown, Franklin County

Town Black Brook	
Road Name	Soucy Road
Jurisdiction	Town
Watershed	Saranac River
Direct connection to water	No
% of Vegetation	30
Bank Slope	Steep
Level of Erosion	High
Length of Erosion (ft)	150
Width of Erosion (ft)	75
Total Area of Erosion (ft ²)	11,250
Soil Type	Sandy gravel
Management Recommendations	Re-grade slope, install woody plants and hydroseed
Cost	\$4500 - \$6000
Total Points	45
Rank	High

Lake Champlain Watershed federally designated "America's Great Outdoors!"

Lake Champlain is one of three large watersheds in the Country specially recognized by President Obama as a landscape of national significance. This recognition lead to the designation of the Champlain Watershed as part of the Federal Governments "America's Great Outdoors" initiative. CWICNY, in partnership with Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and the NY Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), is promoting this one-year initiative, offering a variety of educational workshops and programs throughout the watershed. Topics are focused on agricultural practices and non-point source pollutant issues facing the lake, including livestock grazing and exclusion for waterways, cover cropping, tile drainage, agricultural plastic recycling and shoreline buffers and stabilization. Please contact Andrew Snell, CWICNY Coordinator if you are interested in attending any of these workshops.

Landowner enrollment for NRCS' Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program (WHIP), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and NYS DEC's Trees for Tribs (T4T) is also available through September 2012 as part of this program. Contact your local NRCS or DEC office for more details.



CWICNY's Annual North Country Stormwater Tradeshow and Conference

The 7th annual North Country Regional Stormwater Tradeshow was held at the Queensbury Hotel in Glens Falls, NY. The October 20th conference drew over 125 participants from Albany to Plattsburgh, as well as exhibitors from throughout the northeast showcasing new and innovative stormwater and erosion & sediment control products and services. Jim Tierney, NYS DEC's Division of Water Assistant Commissioner, was the featured guest providing the conference opening remarks, and speakers included John Dunkle, PE/CPESC of Dunn & Sgromo Engineers presenting *Green Infrastructure and Low Impact Development*; Andy Sansone, CPSWQ of Monroe County Environmental Services presenting *Detection and Elimination of Illicit Discharges to Storm Sewers*; and Scott Perry, CPSWQ of Imbrium Systems presenting *Phosphorus Treatment, Advanced Mechanisms and Design*. New to the program in 2011 was a local stormwater panel to discuss regulatory updates and local issues focused on the new DEC Design Manual, Chapter 5, Green Infrastructure. Panel members included Carol Lamb-Lafay of the NYS DEC; Suzanna Randall of EFC; and Tom Baird from Barton and Loguidice.



Farewell & Best Wishes!

We send off four long-time members of CWICNY with a debt of gratitude. These wonderful folks have set their sights on new directions in their personal and professional lives:

Dave Wick, CWICNY past President and Treasurer, former District Manager - Warren County Soil and Water, will continue tearing the sands up in volleyball, but is moving on to his new role as Director of the Lake George Park Commission

Steve Mahoney, CWICNY past President, former District Manager - Clinton County Soil and Water, has retired to his Agricultural hobbies and pursuit of new entrepreneurial endeavors in natural resources conservation.

Vic Putman, CWICNY long-time Treasurer, and former Director - Essex County Planning Department, has retired to a new, simpler lifestyle of fishing and world travel, occasionally providing consulting services when in the neighborhood.

Carol Treadwell, former Director - Ausable River Association, has changed her direction westward to Montana, accompanying her husband to seek new opportunities and scenic adventures.

Local, Regional and State Partners

Adirondack Park Agency
Environmental Protection Agency
Lake Champlain Basin Program
Lake Champlain Citizens Advisory Committee
USDA - NRCS
US Fish and Wildlife Service

NYS Ag and Markets
NYS DEC
NYS Senator Betty Little
NYS Assemblywoman Janet Duprey
NYS Assemblywoman Teresa Sayward
NYS Dept of Health

Ausable River Association
Boquet River Association
Cornell Cooperative Extension
Greater Adirondack RC&D
Lake George Association
Essex County Planning



Champlain Watershed Improvement
Coalition of New York

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CWICNY is a registered 501c3, non-profit corporation. For more information please visit www.cwicny.org