**July 16, 2015**

**Public invited to help update Cayuga Lake’s watershed plan**

**What:** A public meeting is being held to seek input from year-round and summer residents for an update of the Cayuga Lake Watershed Plan. Many things have changed since its completion in 2001, both in the lake and its surrounding watershed. A new planning effort is under way to update the plan in 2015-6, and this meeting gives members of the public an opportunity to hear about the original plan and to provide unique personal knowledge and input for the updated plan.

**When:** Thursday July 30th, 5-7 pm.

**Where:** Seneca Falls Public Library community room, 47 Cayuga St, Seneca Falls, NY 13148.

**Why you should attend:** Your ideas and concerns need to be part of the updated plan! An updated plan will help lake municipalities improve water quality, and will also assist them in applying for funding to repair and upgrade water projects in towns and villages around the lake. Your input will also provide guidance to our communities on how to protect our lake and creeks over the next ten years or longer.

A team of experts will be updating the technical parts of the plan, guided by a committee made up of members of the public from around the lake. The Intermunicipal Organization (IO), formed in 1999 to help Cayuga Lake communities work together to protect the lake and its watershed, is leading this planning effort. The original 2001 plan, formally named the Cayuga Lake Watershed Restoration and Protection Plan, can be viewed online here: <http://www.cayugawatershed.org/>. This plan is funded by the NYS Department of State through the Title 11 Environmental Protection Fund.

**If you can’t attend but want to give input and advice:** Please send an email message to steward@cayugalake.org or leave a phone message at 607 229-9870 to receive a link to an online questionnaire, to be filled out at any time. You will be notified when the link goes live. An additional public meeting may be held at the south end of the lake.

**When you will know what’s in the updated Plan:** A second public meeting will be held in October or November to present the results developed from public and expert input that will be submitted over the next several months. The IO website will provide updates, as will the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network’s website at [www.cayugalake.org](http://www.cayugalake.org). The updated Plan is scheduled to be submitted to the NYS Department of State in early 2016.