

RE: RESOLUTION SUPPORTING SENECA COUNTY GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NINE ELEMENT WATERSHED PLAN FOR SENECA AND CAYUGA LAKES

WHEREAS, a watershed is the area of land that contributes runoff to a lake, river, stream, wetland, estuary, or bay. A watershed management plan defines and addresses existing or future water quality problems from both point sources and nonpoint sources of pollutants. Experience over the past decade has shown that effective watershed management includes active participation from stakeholders, analysis and quantification of the specific causes and sources of water quality problems, identification of measurable water quality goals, and implementation of specific actions needed to solve those problems, and

WHEREAS, Nine Element Plans are consistent with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and N.Y.S. Department of Environmental Conservation framework for developing watershed plans, and funding is available from the N.Y.S. Department of State for 75% of the plan's cost, and

WHEREAS, a Summary of the nine minimum elements to be included in watershed plans is as follows:

- A. Identify and quantify sources of pollution in watershed
- B. Identify water quality target or goal and pollutant reductions needed to achieve goal
- C. Identify the best management practices (BMPs) that will help to achieve reductions needed to meet water quality goal/target
- D. Describe the financial and technical assistance needed to implement BMPs identified in Element C
- E. Describe the outreach to stakeholders and how their input was incorporated and the role of stakeholders to implement the plan
- F. Estimate a schedule to implement BMPs identified in plan
- G. Describe the milestones and estimated time frames for the implementation of BMPs
- H. Identify the criteria that will be used to assess water quality improvement as the plan is implemented
- I. Describe the monitoring plan that will collect water quality data need to measure water quality improvement (criteria identified in Element H)

WHEREAS, such plans use adaptive management, have strong implementation sections, are effective plans for restoration or protection, and projects identified in such plans are eligible for federal and state funding, and

WHEREAS, consistent countywide efforts to protect the watersheds of the lakes are preferable to town-by-town measures which may be inconsistent and ineffective due to the geography of the county and the watersheds,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ovid Town Board supports the development of a Nine Element Plan for the Seneca Lake Watershed and Cayuga Lake Watershed, and calls on Seneca County Government to work with representatives of the Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association, the Finger Lakes Institute, the Cayuga Lake Association, the Cayuga Watershed Improvement Cooperative and other interested stakeholders in preparing an application for funding for a Nine Element Plan, and ultimately in preparing and implementing the plan.