



Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

# Finger Lakes Watershed Hub

Anthony (Tony) Prestigiacomo

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/122661.html>

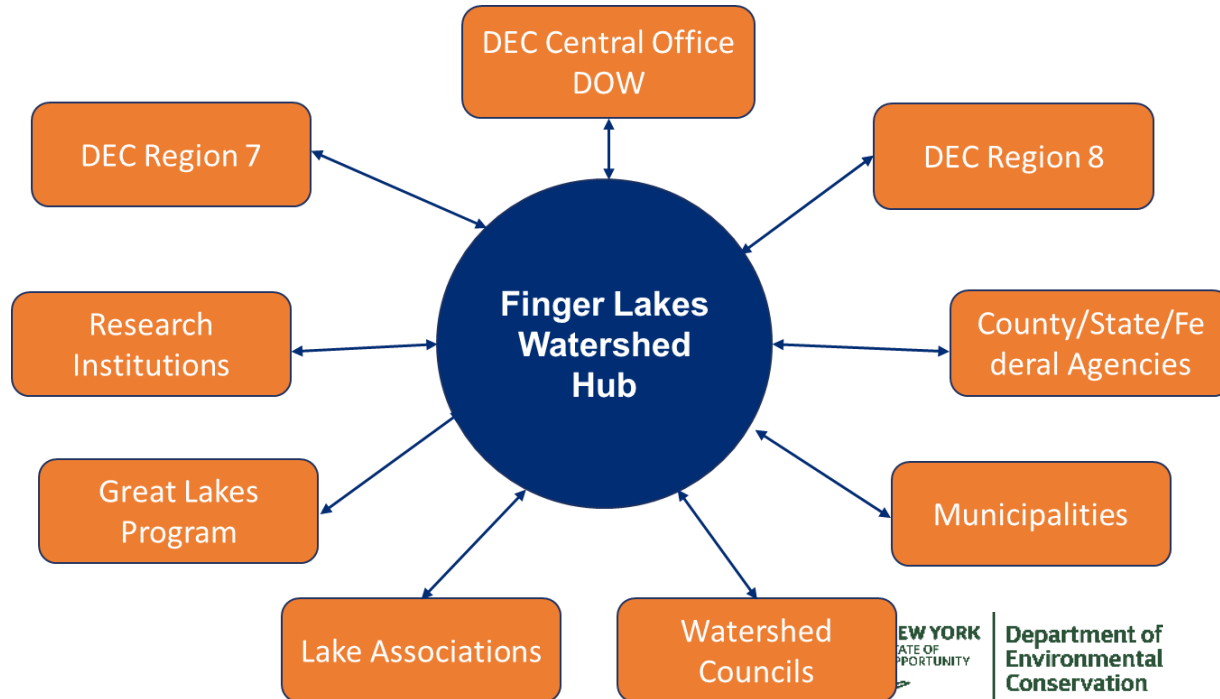
May 10, 2023

Genesee River Basin Summit

# Establishment

- Announced in October 2016, created in early 2017
- Hub consists of technical staff and a watershed coordinator
- Works in DEC Regions 7 & 8
- Working on all 11 Finger Lakes and watersheds

The Finger Lakes Watershed Hub is a Section in the Bureau of Water Resource Management in the DEC's Division of Water



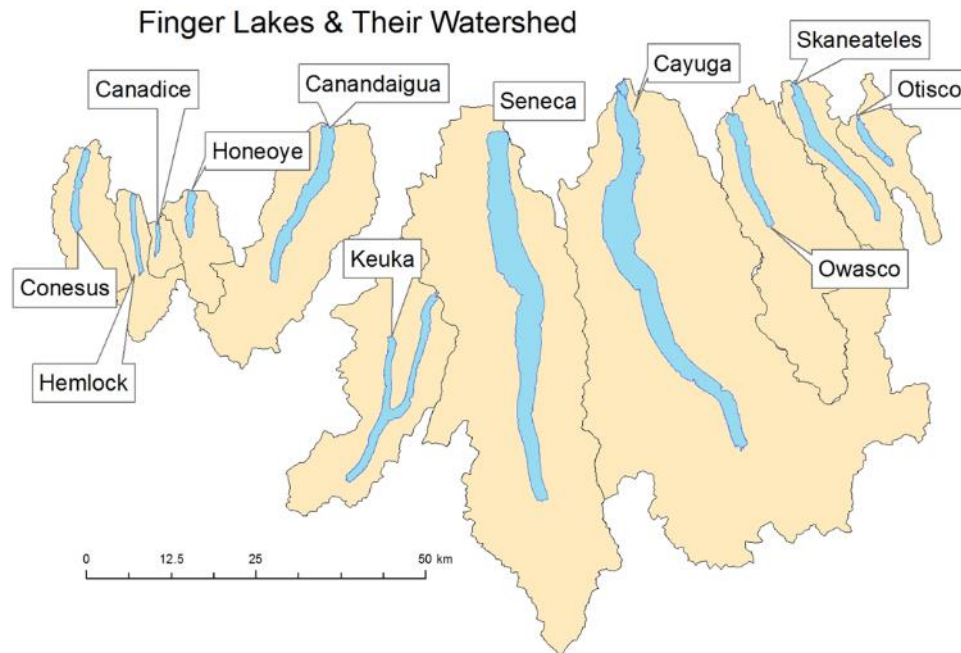
# Staff

Staff Member	Position	Experience
Aimee Clinkhammer	Watershed Coordinator	coordination of stakeholder groups, project management
Lewis McCaffrey, PhD	Research Scientist	geology, with 25 years of experience in hydrogeology, water chemistry and health
Tony Prestigiacomo	Research Scientist, Hub Supervisor	monitoring and assessment of lakes, reservoirs, and streams



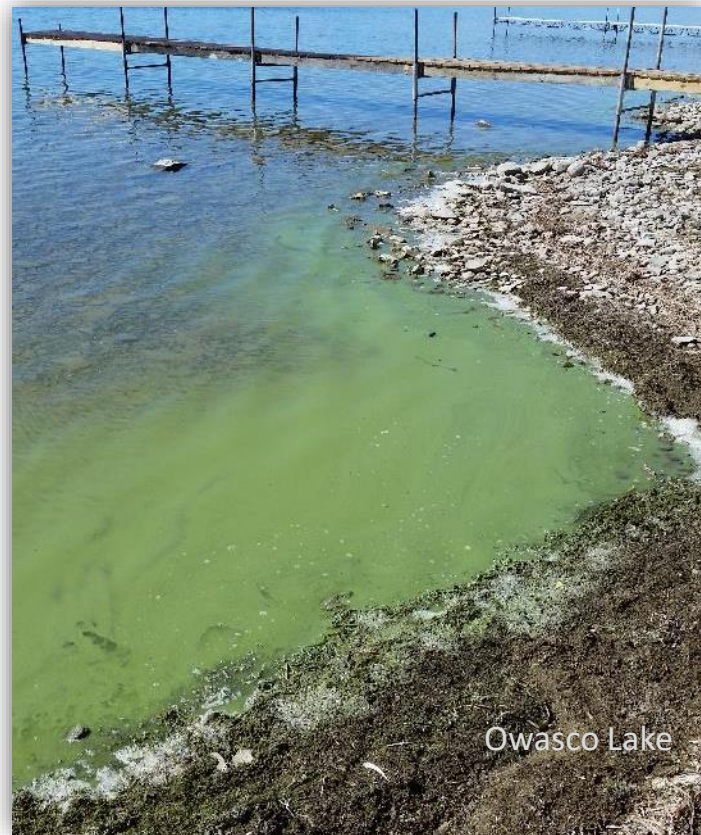
# Why is the Hub Needed?

- Important natural resource for NYS
- Drinking water sources
- Recreation and tourism
- Fishing
- Critical resources to protect and rehabilitate
- Recent/emerging issues
  - TMDL/9E watershed plans
  - Harmful algal blooms (HABs)



# Ongoing Activities

- Administer FLOWPA, LEWPA
- HABs and Clean water plans
- Data coordination, validation, quality assurance
- Monitoring and research
- Evaluate the use of new and emerging technology
- Ongoing coordination with stakeholders/partners



Owasco Lake

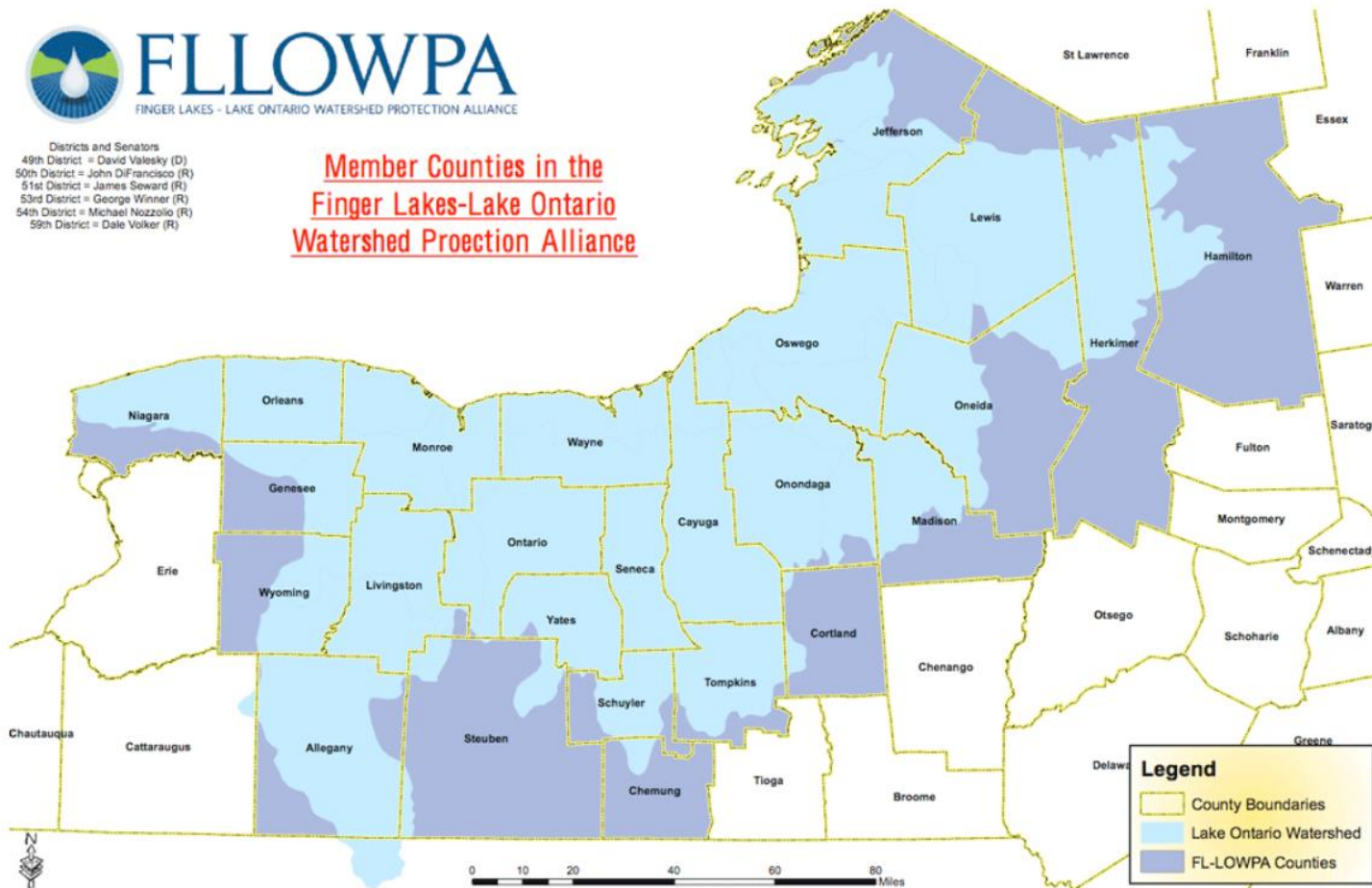
FLOWPA membership includes the following New York State counties wholly or partially in the Lake Ontario drainage basin: Allegany, Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Genesee, Hamilton, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Livingston, Madison, Monroe, Niagara, Oneida, Onondaga, Ontario, Orleans, Oswego, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tompkins, Wayne, Wyoming, Yates



**FLOWPA**  
FINGER LAKES - LAKE ONTARIO WATERSHED PROTECTION ALLIANCE

Districts and Senators  
49th District = David Valesky (D)  
50th District = John DiFrancisco (R)  
51st District = James Seward (R)  
53rd District = George Winner (R)  
54th District = Michael Nozzollo (R)  
55th District = Dale Volker (R)

**Member Counties in the  
Finger Lakes-Lake Ontario  
Watershed Protection Alliance**



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# FLLOWPA – Examples of Watershed Management

Type of Work				
Installation and Implementation of Best Management Practices	Watershed Monitoring	Public Education and Outreach	Streambank Stabilization	Technical Assistance
Rotational grazing	Continue to collect stream erosion and document the issues in our GIS database.	Grazing meetings	Assist towns and property owners with identifying solutions for problem areas.	Provide engineering and technical services for FL-LOWPA nonpoint source pollution practice implementation
Heavy Use Area Protection Systems		Soil health meetings	Design structures to prevent streambank erosion	Technical assistance to support AEM
Erosion Control Systems		Farmstead management meetings	Work with DEC and Army Corp of Engineers to permit streambank stabilization projects.	FL-LOWPA program management
Silage Leachate Systems		Farm Tours	Inspect previously implemented projects.	
		Woodlot Management Meetings	Install streambank protection projects	

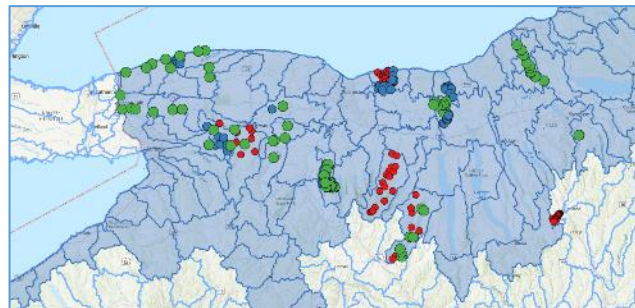
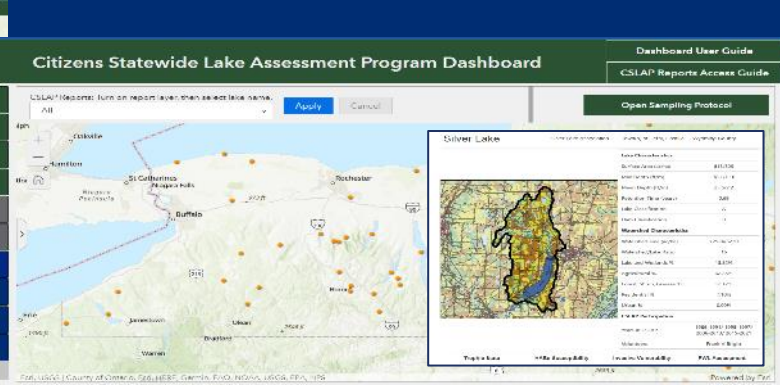
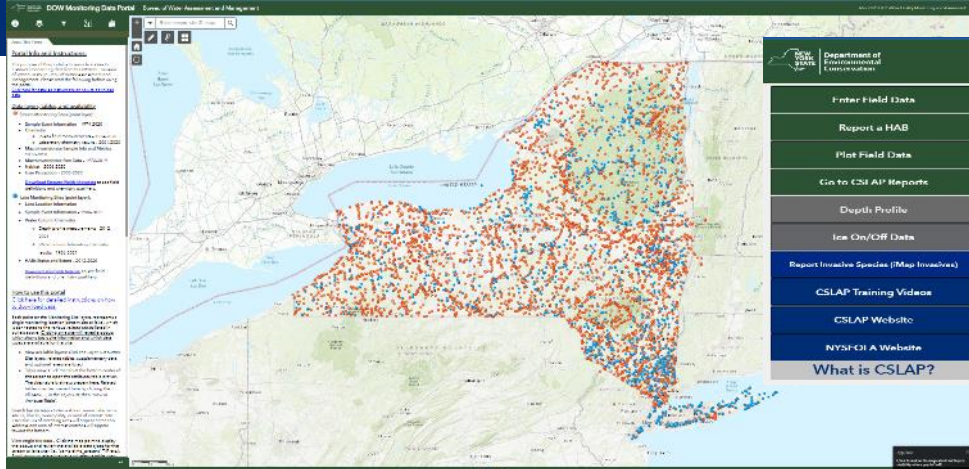


# Monitoring In the Finger Lakes and Watersheds

- FLWH Website <https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/122661.html>
- NYSDEC DOW monitoring portal  
<https://nysdec.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=692b72ae03f14508a0de97488e142ae1>
- CSLAP dashboard  
<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/c32878596a0a47deb5f97ea5e07ec9c5>
- NYHABS [on.ny.gov/nyhabs](https://on.ny.gov/nyhabs)
- FLWH winter limnology program
- Great Lakes Program monitoring and CSMI
- USGS







National Water Information System: Web Interface

USGS Water Resources

- Click to hide News Bulletins
  - Explore the [NEW USGS National Water Dashboard](#) interactive map to access real-time water data from over 13,000 stations nationwide.
  - [Call Now](#)
- This page is scheduled to be decommissioned and will no longer be available after Summer 2023. Please begin using the [Next Generation Page](#) For The Nation Blog for posts on Monitoring Location Pages.

### USGS 04231600 GENESSEE RIVER AT FORD STREET BRIDGE, ROCHESTER NY

**PROVISIONAL DATA SUBJECT TO REVISION**

Available data for this site: [Time-series](#) [Currents/Velocity](#) [Observance](#) [UD](#)

Click to hide station specific text

Funding for this site is provided by:

- NY State Office of Environmental Conservation
- US Army Corps of Engineers - Surface Water (USGS WQ)

USGS - Cross-section Velocities

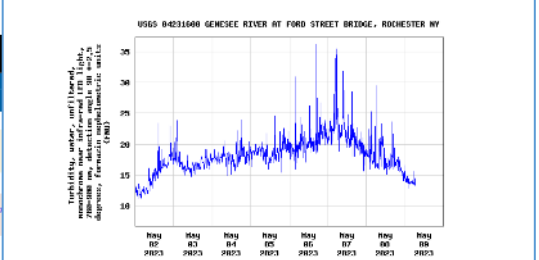
USGS - Surface Velocity

Site Information

USGS 04231600 is referenced to North American datum of 1985. Mean low water hydrologic unit stations, on left bank, adjacent to floodwall. DRAINAGE AREA: 2,476 sq. mi.

PERIOD OF RECORD: April 1961 to September 1998, December 1910 to current year (published as 04231600). Lower flow level recorded: 1,000 cfs on 02/22/2002. No data. GAGE: Automatic velocity meter and water-stage recorder. Automatic velocity meter since 2005. Datum of gage is 442.41 ft above datum of 1985. 500.00 ft above Range State canal. April 1961 to December 1910, recording gaps; and December 1910 to September 1998, water-stage recorder. USGS 19 in upstream of station 500.00 ft. Stage Canal datum. Cross-sections: 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023.

**Turbidity, water, unfiltered, monochrome near infra-red LED light, 780-900 nm**  
 Most recent instantaneous value: 13.5 05-09-2023 06:30 EST



Create presentation-quality stand-alone graph. [Subscribe to WaterAlert](#)

See this graph on the [Monitoring Location Pages](#)

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**Mean water velocity for discharge computation, feet per second**  
 Most recent instantaneous value: 0.70 05-09-2023 06:30 EST



# Ongoing Activities

- Clean Water Plans
  - Watershed-based approach to improve/protect water quality
  - Nine Element Plans, 9EPs



Lake	Watershed Management/Clean Water Planning Status
Conesus	TMDL - Complete 2019; HABs Action Plan
Hemlock	None in development
Canadice	None in development
Honeoye	TMDL - Complete 2019; HABs Action Plan
Canandaigua	9E In-progress; Expected completion spring 2023
Keuka	9E - Completed/Approved 2022
Seneca	9E - Completed/Approved 2022
Cayuga	TMDL - In-progress; HABs Action Plan
Owasco	9E - Completed/Approved 2022; DWSP2 In Draft 2022; HABs Action Plan
Skaneateles	9E In-progress; Expected completion 2023-2024; HABs Action Plan
Otisco	Included in Onondaga TMDL; DWSP2



# Other Hub Updates

- Finger Lakes Watershed Action Agenda (public comment opportunity later this year). Goals, priorities to focus efforts in the Finger Lakes
- \$370,000 for the Finger Lakes Cover Crop Initiative. Funding for the grant program is provided by the State's Environmental Protection Fund.
- Research:
  - Patterns and impacts of cyanobacteria in a deep, thermally stratified, oligotrophic lake
  - Remote sensing of Chl-a
  - Spatial variability of water quality in Skaneateles Lake



# Thank You

Tony Prestigiacomo

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Finger Lakes Watershed Hub, Supervisor

Bureau of Water Resource Management

Region 7 – Syracuse, NY

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# Links and Resources

- Clean Water Plans <https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/23835.html>
- DEC HABs Research guide:  
[https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/water\\_pdf/researchguide.pdf](https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/water_pdf/researchguide.pdf)
- HAB Action Plans <https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/113733.html>
- HABs In-Lake Mitigation <https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/120970.html>
- Water Quality Standards Program <https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/23853.html>
- Quality Assurance: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/23850.html>
- CALM [https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/water\\_pdf/calmmay2021.pdf](https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/water_pdf/calmmay2021.pdf)

