

# Warren County Board of Supervisors

## RESOLUTION NO. 37 OF 2020

**RESOLUTION INTRODUCED BY SUPERVISORS BRAYMER, DICKINSON, HOGAN, BEATY, MERLINO, SIMPSON AND STROUGH**

### **AUTHORIZING WARREN COUNTY'S PARTICIPATION IN A CLEAN LAKES COLLABORATION DEDICATED TO PROTECTING NEW YORK STATE'S MOST VITAL AND THREATENED ASSET**

WHEREAS, the unparalleled array of fresh water lakes and watersheds of New York State and their associated watersheds constitute the State's most valuable asset for drinking water, recreation, tourism, agriculture, flood control, fishing and community health, as well as essential habitat for plant and animal life, and

WHEREAS, the enormous economic value of fresh waters in the State only appreciates as the needs for and pressures on these resources increase, and

WHEREAS, growing scientific documentation presents incontrovertible evidence of mounting threats and impacts on the State's fresh water lakes and their associated watersheds, and

WHEREAS, sources of these threats and impacts commonly include inadequate wastewater and stormwater controls, introduction and spread of aquatic and terrestrial invasive species, excessive use of road salt and warming from climate change, and

WHEREAS, these sources are contributing to measurable declines in the quality of New York's fresh water resources and their natural resilience to change, and

WHEREAS, such declines in water quality are evidenced by the escalating number and frequency of fresh water lakes, including public drinking water supplies, experiencing Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) with substantial economic, environmental, public health and community costs, and

WHEREAS, successful programs for stopping and reversing water quality declines are being developed and implemented across the State, and

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WHEREAS, the watershed-based management of Lake George by the Lake George Park Commission, municipal agencies, and non-governmental organizations is a model of success for other lake communities across the State, and

WHEREAS, the effectiveness of programs to stem the decline of fresh waters has been shown to be substantially strengthened through their application by watershed boundaries rather than political boundaries, and

WHEREAS, natural watersheds encompass comprehensive inputs to and influences on a waterbody, including streams and seepages, stormwater runoff, leaching from municipal and onsite wastewater treatment, weather and more, and

WHEREAS, the value of accelerating coordinated understanding of effective programs for reducing water quality declines can ensure their growing application statewide, and

WHEREAS, across sectors and regions of New York State there is growing interest in and support for active collaboration, and

WHEREAS, various parties representing diverse sectors and regions of New York State intend to work together collaboratively to advocate for protection and/or restoration of their waters, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that Warren County is authorized to participate in this new collaboration, if they desire, that is dedicated to solving the problems threatening water quality with particular emphasis on improving wastewater and stormwater controls, stopping the introduction and spread of aquatic and terrestrial invasive species, reducing the use of excessive road salt, educating residents and visitors of their role in fresh water protection, and thus increasing resilience to climate change, and be it further

RESOLVED, that effective solutions to identified problems threatening water quality will be generated by coordinated exchange of information and initiatives among and beyond the waters threatened

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by HABs, and be it further

RESOLVED, that development and implementation of solutions will be guided by best available science, lake management experience, technology and analytics as being applied at and beyond the waters threatened by HABs, and be it further

RESOLVED, that natural watershed boundaries will frame the execution of measures to be implemented to ensure maximum effectiveness in protecting and/or restoring waters of the parties represented in the clean lakes collaboration, and be it further

RESOLVED, that implementation of any state-funded measures dedicated to protecting the state's fresh waters will be monitored by best available technologies and practices to assess their effectiveness in reducing sources of water quality declines, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, or his designee(s), be, and hereby is, authorized to collaborate with State agencies, municipal agencies, and non-governmental organizations dedicated to protecting New York State's most vital and threatened asset.