

Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council  
January 21, 2020

### **Meeting of the Members**

Members Present: Ed Wagner, Aileen Mc-Nabb-Coleman, Debby McCormick

Ed Wagner made a motion to pass a resolution that the OLWMC can hold real property for conservation purposes that support the organization's water quality and resource protection mission. The motion was seconded by Aileen Mc-Nabb-Coleman and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Wagner made a motion to pass a resolution to formally request a monthly report from NYSDEC regarding state funded projects in the Owasco watershed. The motion was seconded by Debby McCormick and it passed unanimously.

### **Meeting of the Directors**

Directors Present: Joan Jayne, Terry Baxter, Ed Wagner, Don Oltz, Aileen Mc-Nabb-Coleman, Gary Mulvaney, Debbie McCormick, Mary Alice Stetz

Ex-Officio Members Present: Bruce Natale, Doug Kierst, Eileen O'Connor, John West  
Others Present: Drew Snell, John Halfman, Adam Effler, Dave Eckhardt, Michele Wunderlich, Ron Kuck, Kailyn Shanahan, Olivia Green, Dan Welch, Leslie Baxter, Brian Hall, Steve Fland, Anita Schneller, Carlos Schneller, Dana Hall, Scott Cook, Greg Rejman, Tony Prestiagiacomo, Dana Hall, Susan Allen, Tim Lattimore, Mark Noga, Eric Murdoch

Adam Effler presented a plaque to Leslie Baxter in recognition of her service to the Council. The Town of Scipio has not yet named her replacement to the Council.

Joan Jayne made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Don Oltz and it passed unanimously.

Gary Mulvaney made a motion to approve the December minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Oltz and it passed unanimously.

Adam Effler asked if any of the Towns that he sent information to regarding the adoption of erosion prevention requirements for soil disturbances less than 1 acre similar to what the Town of Owasco currently requires had discussions with their boards. Mary Alice Stetz said that the Town of Locke is not interested and Mr. Oltz said that the attorney for the Town of Fleming is reviewing the information.

Dr. Effler also reminded the Directors that he will provide assistance to any town that needs help in setting up the grant portal and that he still needs some signatures on the conflict of interest policy. If anyone perceives a conflict of interest on behalf of the Council and/or its Directors, they should contact a Director or Dr. Effler.

Tim Lattimore said that he has not yet received a response to the number of comments he made regarding the proposed rules and regulations.

Dr. Effler presented his monthly report, which was distributed prior to the meeting. Ms. Jayne asked if anyone had questions on the financial documents that were distributed prior to the meeting. Terry Baxter made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Oltz and it passed unanimously.

Eric Murdock P.E., representing Onsite Engineering, gave a presentation about pilot demonstration projects, funded by the USEPA that were implemented as replacement systems in the Skaneateles watershed for lots that were limited and not large enough for a traditional system. He discussed the benefits of enhanced treatment units, previously called aerobic tanks, in removing BOD from the effluent. He said that an investigation on Otsego Lake has shown that pretreatment with an ETU improves the operation of a septic system. Mark Noga said that phosphorus removal technologies are too expensive to be feasible for residential use. He has a patent on an effluent filter to remove phosphorus.

John Halfman reported that precipitation levels for 2019 were typical and based upon his data, there was a little less phosphorus entering the lake than leaving via the outlet which is good, but more needs to be done to make the watershed more resilient to precipitation changes. Some ideas mentioned to look into include how to be prepared for intense storm events, treating manure before it is spread, and testing drainage tiles. His data is similar to that from the CSLAP project. He hypothesized that bacterial respiration may release nutrients in the sediments making it available for HABs and that decaying organic matter on the nearshore also provides nutrients for HABs. For 2020 he hopes to have the buoy back on the lake, look at nutrients in the sediments, and use more shoreline tools to investigate what is happening in the near shore area.

Steve Lynch said that following conversations with the City of Auburn legal team regarding the updated draft of the Rules and Regs, a meeting with the steering group and extended staff will be scheduled.

Michele Wunderlich reported that Cayuga County Planning is currently working with Ecologic on revising the 2016 Owasco Lake Watershed Management and Waterfront Revitalization Plan into an EPA 9 Element Plan. The watershed model, an important component of the plan, will help identify critical areas and land uses that deliver nutrients and soils to Owasco Lake. There were some issues with the data Cornell used in their model and they are working with Cornell, NYSDEC, and the project team to get the issues straightened out and the modeling completed ASAP. The Watershed Advisory Committee will then develop the following: recommendations to meet goals and objectives of the plan, the implementation plan, and monitoring plan. Public input in the various phases of the project will be sought. Funding for the project ends August 2020.

Olivia Green reported that a large parcel of property in the flats was recently donated to TNC as a result of a lot of work from TNC and its partners. Tony Prestiagiacomo reported that winter sampling will begin soon and he will set up a meeting in March with the many partners to discuss monitoring for 2020. The 2018 CSLAP report has been released.

Drew Snell reported that the past month has been very quiet with only a few watershed issues. The WIPD responded to a complaint regarding manure spreading on snow covered ground, but no water quality issue was seen. A property near FL 23 in Niles may be of interest to TNC as a priority parcel to purchase as

on-going erosion has caused some down gradient problems. The WIPD is monitoring a suspicious outfall on Rt 38 and new construction sites. Mr. Snell is discussing the problems caused by the installation of broadband in the southern part of the County with DEC. He also expressed concern about the condition of the seawall on the northeast corner of the lake. Mr. Wagner said the seawall is owned by NYSDOT and suggested that Mr. Snell contact the state elected officials. Dana Hall requested that the issue with the sluiceway at Emerson Park be put on future agendas to make sure the issue gets resolved.

John West reported that the lake level is at 709.8 and will likely be held at this point until the spring.

The next meeting is scheduled for 10 am on February 18, 2020.

Minutes prepared by Eileen O'Connor, January 31, 2020