Good morning, team.

Please bear with me as I act as act as a moderator for the OLWMC meeting for the first time. I am still putting names with faces. I've been working on introducing myself to the various agencies and partnering groups the WMC will be partnering with to advance our collaboration moving forward.

As an Executive director, it is my great pleasure to help lead the Council and coordinate activities intended to help protect and restore the Owasco Lake Watershed in support of a cleaner lake resource. I want to thank the many volunteer, government, and agency leaders who have stepped up to develop, lead, and guide the council thus far. I hope partners with continue to provide guidance and enthusiasm for upcoming project collaboration with the OLWMC.

Beyond my own personal administrative and onboarding tasks, I want to touch on activities and project initiatives we've worked on since I started about 2 weeks ago.

First off, I will being sharing an office space in the administrative section of Cayuga Community College with OWLA partner Dave Carr. My office room number is R302.

Watershed Specialist, Drew Snell, and I have toured the watershed together, and he has given me some sense of what he looks for in identifying problem areas within the watershed as well as sharing some targeted strategies that he would like to see going forward.

I've read through the most recent and near-final draft of the watershed rules and regulations, a regulatory document with input and authorship from several different partnering groups. The final draft will be discussed at a City Council Meeting at Memorial City Hall March 28th, 6pm, for those of you who would like to attend and share your thoughts.

The OWLA-organized March to Lake Day Symposium was a great success with a full audience.

- Dr. John Halfman presented substantial nutrient phosphorus concentrations and loading estimates from watershed sourced lake tributaries.
- Dr. Robert Howarth showed that nutrient nitrogen concentrations plays an important role in contributing to the toxicity of the cynobacteria blooms, yet Phosphorus is still limiting and should be targeted. He also explained that many of the watershed nutrient management controls for P also work for N.
- Dr. Kim Schulz presented on evidence that quagga mussels may have an important influence on cycling of Phosphorus at the lake bottom and limiting P burial- this was an important indicator the Harmful algal blooms are likely a culmination of many influencing factors, potentially not only new nutrient impacts but perhaps legacy nutrient impacts as well.
- DEC Hub's Anthony Prestigiacomo presented on the seasonally, temporally, and spatially intensive sampling strategies the NYSDEC is implementing to target hot spot nutrient and sediment areas. OWLA is working collaboratively with the NYSDEC HUB that was especially helpful in guiding updates to their 2019 sampling QAPP. Dana Hall of OWLA shared with me their QAPP that was already submitted for 2019 sampling efforts. Sampling results from OWLA's work, along with sampling efforts by the DEC Finger Lakes Hub, should help identify priority management areas for our protection and restoration efforts and OWLA's volunteer tributary sampling will certainly help advance the DECs scientific research. I am particularly excited about

the DEC's work towards mapping blooms to develop relationships with watershed nutrient hotspots.

Here I will make a pitch for an upcoming educational opportunity:

The Community Science Institute presents:

Water and Community, Nutrients in the watershed, unusual weather, and harmful algal blooms: A public conversation

Sat., March 23rd 1-4pm

Inns of Aurora, 391 Main Street Aurora NY (please see Michele Wunderlich for information or flyer ideas for audiences for flyer distributions.

Since I have been on-boarded, I have heard from multiple parties the impressive nature and extent of partner collaboration in this community for watershed improvements for a healthy lake. A list of priority ideas has been compiled that includes multi-partner and organization involvement to take to Albany to request funding support. The priority list includes:

- *Acquire and/or conserve lands within the watershed to protect and maintain existing buffers before increased subdivision and land conservation impacts these functioning systems.*
- *Maximize coordination and equitable allocation of resources through the Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council (OLWMC) in order to leverage available staffing to complete the projects listed.*
- *Implement Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Tier 3A Resource Management Plans to reduce sediment and nutrient runoff on crop and alternative farms and AEM Tier 3A Nutrient Management Plans (NMPS) for non-CAFO beef/dairy operations.*
- *Perform a pilot study to evaluate the phosphorus removal efficiency of stormwater management techniques (e.g., iron-enhanced sand filter, i.e., Minnesota Filter) in locations such as the discharge of agricultural swales and tile lines.*
- *Alternative water quality improvement project that will remove nutrient concentrations (weed harvesters)*

My involvement in OLWMC project discussions thus far, primarily with OLWIP, OWLA, the nature conservancy, County Planning, County Health Department, and NYSDEC Finger Lakes Hub:

1. Advancing road ditching improvements. OWLA looks to support an active hydroseeding campaign with partner support for guidance and implementation.
2. Working towards reclassification of Owasco tributaries to AA to support more stringent regulations to protect tribs and the lake resource, this reclassification will likely support more stringent watershed rules and regulations.
3. A feasibility study for septic improvements in flood prone areas in Indian Cove and related pre- and post- construction monitoring plans.

Some ideas moving forward:

1. I plan to reach out directly to the agricultural community to learn and to consider how we can best collaborate with an incentivize farmers to help us better protect our drinking water resource for non-point source pollution. I would like OLWMC to support the formation of a farmer-led advisory council specific to Owasco Lake governed by farmers to help other farmers implement BMPs that have shown demonstrated successes.
2. Next, I see the expansion of restoration work and efforts to improve resiliency in the Owasco Lake Flats as a good place to move forward for the time being while we continue to encourage community buy-in for similar restorative work on more privately held lands.
    a. I can envision improved hydraulic and stream dynamics design that supports the new model that encourages nature stream-course meandering and encourages the use of the flood plain for enhanced resiliency
    b. I can envision, an OWLA populous led planting and community planting even in strategic areas within the flats, all as a part of a momentous outreach campaign. Sycamore trees and shrub willow have been successfully used for riparian work in similar flood-prone areas.
    c. For review, at a basic level, the science is clear that receiving water bodies from forested watersheds tend to demonstrate reduced effects of non-point source nutrient runoff.

Now, at the bottom of the agenda and before we move forward with the agenda, I will review previously identified goals from previous WMC meeting and a subsequent expansion of said goals.

Moving to our agenda…