

Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council  
May 19, 2020

### **Meeting of the Directors**

Directors Present: Terry Baxter, Ed Wagner, Aileen McNabb-Coleman, Joan Jayne, Debbie McCormick  
Ex-Officio Members Present: Bruce Natale, Eileen O'Connor, Steve Lynch  
Others Present: Drew Snell, John Halfman, Adam Effler, Michele Wunderlich, Kaitlyn Shanahan, Olivia Green, Dana Hall, Thomas Gray, Tony Prestigiacomo

Ed Wagner made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Debby McCormick and it passed unanimously.

Ms. McCormick made a motion to approve the December minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wagner and it passed unanimously.

Joan Jayne gave the treasurer's report. A motion to adopt the report was made by Terry Baxter. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wagner and it passed unanimously. Mr. Wagner reported that they received funding from the Federal Paycheck Protection Program that will help offset salaries and rent.

John Halfman said that he is expecting funding from Cayuga County to do stream monitoring at 9 sites starting next week. Data-loggers and auto-samplers will be installed. He received funding from the Emerson Foundation to install cameras, weather stations and sondes on some docks to monitor for HABs. He also will survey mussels and macrophytes.

Tony Prestigiacomo said that the Finger Lakes Hub will be preparing for the upcoming sampling season, CSLAP 2020 is still planned, and data from the USGS NYHabs project is being analyzed. Adam Effler asked that the Hub give a presentation regarding this project at a future Council meeting.

Steve Lynch said that in March the Steering Committee and the extended working group met to finalize the draft Owasco Rules and Regs. The Steering Committee authorized the transmittal of this draft to the City and Town. Due to COVID19, the scheduling of a meeting with the City and Town has been delayed. An electronic meeting is being considered.

Michele Wunderlich gave a report on the status of the 9E plan. It has been a challenge in the calibration process to capture the very localized events where regional weather stations measure high rainfall but our local streams may not respond accordingly. Because of a longer data record that is available, the simulation runs take a long time and is limited by computer speed. There has been great collaboration with Mr. Prestigiacomo from the Hub and Dave Matthews' team at UFI as work progresses on the model and with Doug Kierst and Tyler Knapp at CCSWCD to get data needed for modeling scenarios. TCSWCD and the AEM staff from Ag & Markets have been looped in and have been very positive about the collaborative approach of the project. Ultimately 9EP recommendations will be developed that reflect site-specific conditions and can be realistic and implemented. The Dept of State is open to have the required public meetings virtually if necessary.

Bruce Natale said the Phase 2 of the Flats project is making progress. It is anticipated that the project will be bid in June and awarded in July. The existing ponds were both filled during the May 1<sup>st</sup> storm and quickly receded leaving a covering of silt and clay as designed. Dr. Effler said that they are looking into integrating phosphorus removal technology into the project.

Dr. Effler read a report from Olivia Green with TNC. TNC is partnering with CCSWCD to seed newly acquired land in the Flats. They are also looking for funding for tree planting along the Inlet. Dana Hall said that OWLA is working with the Council, the Health Department and the WIPD to submit a grant to the NYS Pollution Prevention Institute for funding for the Be Watershed Aware educational campaign. OWLA has also provided funding to cover the cost to municipalities for ditch seeding projects with the CCSWCD.

Mr. Natale said that the City has a contractor on site with equipment to clean the raw water intake line. This equipment may work on the sluiceway. He will be discussing this further with Seth Jensen.

Kaitlyn Shanahan and Drew Snell gave their report. The monitoring sonde that was purchased with funds from the Emerson Foundation is being used to collect water quality data in the watershed. Dr. Effler said that this data will allow the WIPD to identify when conditions may show a violation of NYSDEC water quality standards. From March to May the WIPD followed up on a failing septic system, three agriculture runoff issues, one stream disturbance, one sediment pond installation, and seven residential construction projects. They have notified CCSWCD of ditch disturbances that were then reseeded and have monitored construction sites. They have been successful in getting erosion practices installed at some of these sites. Mr. Snell said he has observed some very positive practices occurring on farm fields including cover crops, buffers between plowing and ditches, and grassed waterways.

Mr. Wagner read a report from John West that said that they are close to their target level of 712.7 to 712.8.

The next meeting is scheduled for 10 am on June 16, 2010.

Minutes prepared by Eileen O'Connor, May 20, 2020