

Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council  
December 17, 2019

### **Meeting of the Members**

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

Ed Wagner made a motion to pass a resolution to adopt the Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council, Inc., conflict of interest policy and to create a governance committee to uphold the policy and advise an employee, director, or member who appears to have a conflict of interest. The motion was seconded by Aileen Mc-Nabb-Coleman and it passed unanimously.

### **Meeting of the Directors**

Directors Present: Joan Jayne, Terry Baxter, Ed Wagner, Don Oltz, Aileen Mc-Nabb-Coleman, Gary Mulvaney, Leslie Baxter

Ex-Officio Members Present: Bruce Natale, Doug Kierst, Eileen O'Connor, Jim Beckwith  
Others Present: Drew Snell, John Halfman, Adam Effler, Dave Eckhardt, Michele Wunderlich, Ron Kuck, Ken Kudla, Charlie Ripley, Kailyn Shanahan, Wendy Baxter, Olivia Green, Tyler Knapp, Dan Welch, Frank Moses

Leslie Baxter made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Terry Baxter and it passed unanimously.

Joan Jayne made a motion to approve the October minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wagner and it passed unanimously.

Adam Effler reported that he sent information to the Towns represented on the Council to encourage them to adopt erosion prevention requirements for soil disturbances less than 1 acre similar to what the Town of Owasco currently requires and to consider environmental protection overlay zones. Don Oltz suggested that Dr. Effler present this information to the Towns' planning boards.

Dr. Effler gave his monthly report, which was distributed prior to the meeting. He corrected his report regarding that the \$2.3M funding received by Soil and Water – these funds were through the Ag Non-point source program, not the AEM program.

Ms. Jayne reviewed the financial documents that were distributed prior to the meeting. There is currently \$181,562.19 in the checking account, and \$215,302.19 in total assets. Mr. Baxter made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wagner and it passed unanimously.

Dan Welch was introduced as the new Executive Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) of Cayuga County. Mr. Welch discussed the many roles and programs of CCE. His office will be reaching out to farmers to see where CCE should focus efforts in its agricultural program. In addition his office will be emphasizing education around water and natural resources and the development of resiliency in the face of climate change.

Ken Kudla gave a presentation about OWLA's new educational program – Be Watershed Aware. Using marketing strategies, OWLA will try to improve the understanding among the public of what a watershed is, why watersheds are important, how activities impact the watershed, and how to modify activities to be more protective of water quality. Kaitlyn Shanahan will be meeting with various stakeholders in assisting in the development of this effort. Mr. Kudla said that they want to recognize good watershed behavior and increase an awareness of the many things that people are already doing to protect water quality.

Dr. Effler reported that the Rules and Regulations is still moving forward. Next steps include sharing the draft with the Town of Owasco and the City of Auburn.

Olivia Green of The Nature Conservancy said that they are working with landowners regarding purchasing priority parcels and looking for an entity to hold ownership or conservation easements. Dr. Effler said he will investigate whether it would be reasonable for the OLWMC to hold ownership. In addition TNC is working with Evidn, a firm charged with identifying barriers to change regarding the implementation of BMPs and creating a strategy to overcome these barriers.

Drew Snell reported that his office logged more than 800 miles by vehicle and 23 miles on foot this past month. The following were investigated: impacts of a beaver dam in Owasco and Scipio, a suspicious water seep in Fleming, a septic installation in Moravia, and the impacts of the broadband installation, specifically in Locke where it has caused significant damage to a roadway shoulder. Mr. Snell said that his office walked the entire shoreline and recovered over 200 gallons of trash that was littering the beaches. During this walk, it was noted that a concerning amount of vegetation removal is occurring on sloped sites and culvert outfalls are causing the undercutting of banks.

John West reported that the lake level is 710.9 and will be brought down towards 710 or lower. He starts to allow the lake to begin rising towards summer level in late March.

The next meeting is scheduled for 10 am on January 21, 2010.

Minutes prepared by Eileen O'Connor, December 19, 2019