



Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council

April 20, 2021, 10:00am, Meeting of the Directors

A. Roll Call: Board of Directors present: **Cayuga County-** Aileen McNabb-Coleman, **Niles –** Joan Jayne, **Scipio –**Vivian Cunningham, **Sennett –** Tom Gray, **Moravia-** Terry Baxter, **Fleming –**Don Oltz, **Executive Director-** Adam Effler

Ex Officio Attending: Dr Halfman, Dr. Dana Hall, Daniel Welch, Andrew Snell, Michele Wunderlich, Steve Lynch, John West, Greg Colucci Ron Kluck, Ally Berry

B. Approval of the Agenda. Motion to approved agenda as presented made by Tom Gray. Seconded by Joan Jayne. Vote was unanimous. Motion Carried.

C. Approval of Minutes from the March16 meeting as distributed. Motion by Tom Gray to accept minutes as distributed. Motion seconded by Joan Jayne. Vote was unanimous. Motion Carried.

D. Public to be Heard. No issues raised from the public.

E. Exec. Director’s Briefing- Adam Effler (full summary distributed for review prior to meeting) Please review Dr. Effler’s full summary. He highlighted the following: Welcome to new hire, Ms. Ally Berry, for the Watershed Inspection position; review continues on the updated Watershed Rules and Regulations; Ashland Farm, located in Cayuga and Owasco watershed, was fined for at least eight environmental law violations on March 9th for an estimated 100,000 gallons of liquid manure that overflowed from a storage pit; NYSDEC announced a proposed nutrient pollution reduction “budget” for Cayuga Lake; NYSDOT approved a permit for installation of Hyfi tributary level sensors along NYS roads. Additional sensor installations are planned along Rt. 38A, at Sucker and Dutch Hollow Brooks; The Lake Friendly Lake Pledge signage is moving along as well as planning for the LFL Coalition webinar series for the first week in May which will include local experts, free resources, virtual education. A request from the NYS Assembly has been made for a resolution to declare a Lake Friendly Living Week; The OWLA/OLWMC collaborative willow planting project designed to plant a riparian buffer along Veness Brook planted 2500 willow canes 4/17/2021; Wegmans Markets will sponsor a program to sell LED flares to replace chemical flares. The project will donate a portion of the sales to OLWMC; NYS will provide \$15

million in another round of funding of State Septic System Replacement Program for homeowners, visit <http://efc.ny.gov/SepticReplacement>; CCSWCD has been awarded funding to improved soil health and yield on cultivated fields with cover crops, reduce erosion with farms in the Finger Laker; OLWMC continues to work with Australian behavioral science consultant to promote voluntary improvements in land use practices; and OLWMC has submitted records for financial audit.

F. Board of Directors/Municipality Representatives Feedback: None heard.

G. Treasurer's Audit and Finance Report, Feb. Financials Approval –The Profit & Loss, Budget vs Actual, and the Balance Sheet reports were presented to the Board by Joan Jayne. Motion to approve the March Financial report was made by Don Gray. Seconded by Vivian Cunningham. Vote was unanimous. Motion Carried.

H. Cornell Cooperative Extension Updates - Daniel Welch, An Update on Cornell Cooperative Extension was presented to the meeting. Daniel presented the mission of the CCE, a brief history and changes seen over time. He discussed research regarding nutrient balance assessment tools for farm use, cover crops, manure incorporation into the soil, phosphorus reduction, integrated pest management, and pesticide management. He discussed education programs for the farm community and public. Covid -19 programs for the agricultural farm workers included providing over 2000 masks, 900 gallons of sanitizer, farmworker vaccination clinics, and information for farmworkers on Covid-19. Future trends include addressing climate change initiatives, NY climate leadership, energy transitions, Net Zero energy 2050 initiative, and public health issues that need to be addressed by a changing climate. Goals for the future include increased staffing, a focus on the watershed and education of farmers on best practices and engaging in translational research projects in Cayuga County on nutrient management.

I. Owasco Lake Research Updates- Dr. John Halfman. Lake monitoring began last 4/17/2021, The sampler out.

J. NYSDEC Hub Updates- Tony Prestigiacomio. No report.

K. Watershed Rules and Regulations Revisions Updates – Steve Lynch. Working with Adam and Dana and other partners to move the Rules and Regulation forward in Albany. The Review is moving forward but within the context of the Covid constraints. We will participate in a webinar with Capital District to assist them with their watershed rules and regulations update process.

L. Nine Element Watershed Plan Updates– Michele Wunderlich. There was meeting of the group with the DEC on April 2, 2021. We are moving forward quickly with Watershed Advisory Committee.

M. Owasco Flats Retention Basins Project Updates - Michele Wunderlich. The contractor was out yesterday working on the punch list and will be finishing by the end of April.

N. The Nature Conservancy Updates - Olivia Green. No report. Adam reports The Nature Conservancy is a major sponsor for the Lake Friendly Living webinar May 2-9,2021.

O. Owasco Watershed Lake Association Updates – Dr. Dana Hall. OWLA participated in the with the Watershed Rules and Regulation webinar, beginning treatment of the wooly adelgid and sponsored the 2500 willow cane planting on Saturday.

P. Partners for a Healthy Watershed-Greg Rejmen. No Report.

Q. Emerson Park Sluiceway Cleanout and Retrofit Updates- Seth Jensen. Report and Photos given by Adam Snell. This is a collaborative effort with the City of Auburn.

R. Watershed Inspection Monthly Report – Andrew Snell and Ally Berry. Welcome Ally Berry to the Inspection Division (contact #315-209-9840, alberry@owascoinspection.com). Overview of the sluiceway cleanout was presented with photos and discussion. An estimated 50 dump truck loads of material were removed to open up the waterflow.

No runoff events the past month. It has been a low impact Spring this year for run off for the watershed. One concern application of manure in Locke was reported and follow up was noted to be of low risk. They are following a few residential construction sites.

S. Lake Level Report – John West. Lake level 712.5 to 712.75 and will try to keep within this level throughout the summer. Will keep abreast of the rains and predicted snow this week.

T. Communications nothing to report.

U. Issues of Concern None raised.

V. Schedule Next Meeting (3rd Tuesday of May is the 18th), Meeting setting reviewed with members and no concerns raised to an in-person meeting. Adam will check with protocols regarding safety on in-person meeting rooms.

Adjourn: Motion to Adjourn: Terry Baxter. Seconded: Tom Gray. Unanimous vote. Carried.

Adjourned 11:25 AM

Respectfully Submitted,

Vivian Cunningham

Acting Secretary