



Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council
September 20, 2022, 10:00-11:30 AM

Meeting of the Directors

Owasco – Ed Wagner, **Cayuga County** – Aileen McNabb -Coleman, **City of Auburn** – Ginny Kent

Niles – Joan Jayne, **Locke** – Thane Benson, **Scipio** – Melinda Pitman, **Fleming** – Karen VanLiew, **Moravia** – Terry Baxter, **Village of Moravia** – Gary Mulvaney, **Village of Groton** – Nancy Niswender, **Summerhill** – Charlie Ripley, **Sennett** – Tom Blair, **Dryden** – Anne Clark

Executive Director- Dr. Adam Effler, Presiding. Dr. Effler welcomed Senator Rachel May of the NYS 53rd district, Erin Norris, Watershed Manager from Cayuga Co Watershed Committee and Dan Kuhn from OWLA.

- A. Board of Directors – Roll call: Owasco- Ed Wagner, Cayuga County-Aileen McNabb, City of Auburn- Ginny Kent, Niles- Joan Jayne, Moravia-Terry Baxter, Dryden-Anne Clark

Ex Officio: Ann Robson, John West, Olivia Green, Michelle Wunderlich, Katri Haantera, Tony Prestigiacomio, Senator May, Dan Kuhn, Erin Norris, Jillian Aluisio

Agenda: Motion to approve Terry Baxter, seconded by Joan June, Unanimous vote. Motion carried.

- B. Approval of Minutes from the August 16, 2022, meeting distributed via email: Motion to approve by Terry Baxter seconded by Joan June, unanimous vote. Motion carried.
- C. Public to be Heard: Erin Norris introduced herself.
- D. Director’s Summary – Adam Effler (distributed for review prior to meeting)

Watershed Rules and Regulations Update:

Project Update:

The technical workgroup has met six times thus far. During its most recent August 2,

2022 meeting, the technical workgroup worked efficiently to revise the Sediment Generation & Control provision of the proposed regulations. Further details are outlined within the NYSDOH's project update report (9.20.2022 Monthly Owasco WRR Update for OLWMC- Sediment Generation & Control) delivered to the OLWMC Board of Directors, Ex Officio Partners, and engaged members of the public prior to the September 20, 2022 OLWMC public board meeting. The overall timeline for the project, described within the NYSDOH update, is as follows:

- State Interagency Workgroup meets with Owasco Technical Committee – June 2022
- New Workgroup will meet approx. 6 times - June to Oct 2022
- DOH publishes proposed amendments to WRRs- Nov 2022
- Three-month public comment period- Feb 2023
- DOH submits response to comments- Mar 2023
- DOH publishes amendments to WRRs - May/June 2023

NYS Tributary Legislation Project Review:

An OLWMC endorsed, NYS environmental conservation law ([A6652/S4162](#)) would protect up to 41,000 miles of New York streams. Class "C" waterways, which are regularly used by people for boating, fishing, and other activities. The new law would offer permit-based protections that are currently provided to waterways with higher classifications. That is, if passed, the law will require the need for permit for certain stream access and project(s) scenarios. The bill passed both NYS houses and will need to be signed into law.

Nine Element Watershed Plan (9E) Update:

The Owasco Lake Watershed Nine Element Plan is now complete and approved by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). The development of the plan focused on understanding and managing phosphorus and sediment inputs from the Owasco Lake watershed to provide for recommendations that will drive watershed protection and remediation projects. The OLWMC will provide a coordination role for future projects and programming according to the recommendations of the 9E.

NYS-awarded Drinking Water Source Protection Program

(DWSP2)

Project Review:

Consultants for the City of Auburn's NYS-awarded Drinking Water Source Protection Program (DWSP2) have convened with City of Auburn water resource managers and partners to identify potential sources of Owasco Lake water quality contamination and provide recommendations for resource protection. Project consultants provided recommendations to Auburn City Council on July 14, 2022.

Project Update:

At recent meetings, the DWSP2 committee reviewed and edited the draft plan. The NYSDEC and NYS Department of Health (DOH) are also reviewing the plan and will provide comments. Barring any changes based on agency feedback, the plan can be finalized. At that point, Auburn City Council will be asked to endorse the plan and name the implementation team. At the last meeting, the committee discussed implementation steps and expressed support desired from consultants and NYSDEC/NYSDOH to help maintain momentum.

Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) Identification and Reporting

This year, as of September 16, 2022, there were seven HAB reports on NYHABs that had been reported in the previous two weeks and four archived reports more than two weeks old. Observations of HABs are increasing throughout the eastern Finger Lakes Region. Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (a.k.a. drones) have been used for HABs monitoring on Skaneateles Lake and are poised for use on Owasco Lake. This summer-fall, a sampling team from BloomOptix is collecting Owasco Lake water samples for HABs and will scout for blooms using drone sensors.

Recognition, Awareness, Education and Outreach Updates

- The OLWMC's September staff feature article with the Citizen newspaper spotlights innovative technologies being used in the Finger Lakes Region to monitor HABs using UAV spectral imagery coupled with water sample collections.
- NYS commissioners and local farmers were featured in an August 30, 2022 article spotlighting NYS funding programs aimed at supporting farmers towards ensuring climate resiliency for the future.
- Recent local and NYS articles have featured the completion of the Owasco 9E Watershed Plan.
- The Dryden Town Board was given an OLWMC introductory presentation and welcome at their September 15, 2022 board meeting.

Hyfi Watercourse Level Sensors

Project Review:

- OLWMC staff maintain 15 watercourse level sensors throughout the watershed, targeting locations that align with modeling sites for the Nine Key Element (9E) watershed plan's Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) model. The sensors are used for guiding flood and asset management, as well as for level monitoring. Hyfi has completed their development of correlation and regression analysis for the relationships between the watercourse level sensors and conventional USGS stream gauging. A highly significant relationship between long-term datasets supports the continued use and funding of the more spatially robust watershed sensors.

- The Owasco Watershed Lake Association's (OWLA's) 2022 sediment and nutrient sampling program, which has elements of both routine and storm event sampling, aligns with watercourse level sensor locations. The project can provide invaluable lake loading information for continued calibration of the SWAT model. The OLWMC is supporting field sampling and sample delivery efforts for OWLA's monitoring program.
- A Hyfi sensor for a targeted SWAT model monitoring location was installed on Long Point Road.
- The two-year pilot project grant period is officially complete. Project partners are discussing funding options for continuing the operation and maintenance of the watershed watercourse level sensors moving forward.

Land Holding

Project Review:

- The OLWMC is nearing the final transfer of a land preserve from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) that will advance the its position as a land conservation steward for properties within the watershed. TNC acquired the property in the summer of 2021 using funds from the NYS Water Quality Improvement Program for the purpose of protecting Owasco Lake water quality. The property consists of 164 acres located near 6053 Filmore Road in Sempronius (with a small portion in Summerhill). The Cayuga County tax map numbers are 212.00-1-51.2 and 51.2 (Sempronius property), and 223.00-1-1.822 (Summerhill property). As part of a successful transfer of ownership of the property, TNC will offer \$15,000 of upfront land stewardship dollars to help the OLWMC get started with funding needs (e.g., insurances) to own and maintain the land preserve.
- The OLWMC developed a land protection and management policy, adopted from TNC's plan, to ensure the OLWMC meets project responsibilities. The OLWMC's Land Protection and Management Policy for the new property references the OLWMC's proposed 'Land Stewardship' standard policy adopted from the 'Land Trust Alliance Standards and Practices.' The policies were adopted by the OLWMC at its June 21, 2022, public board meeting.
- A property liability insurance policy has been selected to cover the OLWMC's new exposure.
- OLWMC's Board of Directors has agreed to own and manage the Filmore Road property for the purposes of water quality protection and passive recreation. The OLWMC's commitment to these terms is articulated in Resolution No. 02-22 approved at the July 19, 2022 OLWMC board meeting.

- The Notice of NYSDEC Grant Agreement has been provided to OLWMC. The OLWMC has agreed to follow the stewardship and management protocols approved by the DEC, as indicated in its adapted management protocols for the property.
 - In early August 2022 the NYSDEC approved the transfer of the Filmore Road property to the OLWMC.
- E. Board of Directors/Municipality Representatives Feedback: Terry Baxter reported the new sign in Moravia at Owasco inlet highlighting Owasco Lake and Filmore Glen. Ginny Kent suggested OLWMC have a presence at the Annual craft fair at the community college. Kudos to Michelle Wunderlich for the success of the 9 Element Plan.
- F. Treasurer’s Audit and Finance Report
- i. August 2022 Financials Approval – Joan Jayne reported on the Financials as of August 31,2022. Total Liabilities & Equity \$ 434,498.18 and Total Current Assets \$377,750.68. Motion to accept Terry Baxter. Seconded by Ed Wagner. Vote unanimous. Motion carried.
 - ii. Request approval from Board cost for title insurance for newly acquired property in Sempronius, NY. The Nature Conservancy has granted approximately \$15000 for initial stewardship. Approximate cost of the title insurance is \$1500. Move to approve cost made by Ginny Kent and seconded Joan June. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.
 - iii. Budgets for 2023 will be developed in October and discussed at the November meeting.
- G. Lake Level Report – John West-Lake elevation.75-2.25 in past few days but is watching very carefully the lake level. Keeping the lake level at. 712.60 watching rain and will adjust. Flows are elevated due to rain. Aim for 710 during the winter. Draw down begins in about a month.
- H. NYS Environmental Conservation Committee – Senator May 53rd District.
- i. To hear her presentation visit. <https://www.olwmc.org/news>
 - ii. She discussed statewide issue and bills to stop importation of fracking waste- as was being spread on roads
 - iii. Discussed the Center of Health Water Excellence at Clarkson
 - iv. Discussed the importance of quality of water because we have water and public water and efforts to privatize water is controlled and leveraged
 - v. Bills to collect and share water data
 - vi. Bills about disclosure of Phosphorus emissions and forever chemicals have health implications and are showing up in our water supply and we need to understand how to reduce their impact the on the environment.
 - vii. There is an environmental bond on the ballot this year and is important to know that there is money for the watershed

- I. Reducing the Spread of AIS – A presentation by Mark Apfelbacher, of CD3 Systems, on Invasive Species was planned but he was unable to attend.
- J. ‘Our Owasco’ Behavioral Change Project Update – Katri Haantera -rolling out behavioral change/capacity building projects-have developed some ideas and will be discussing with folks who they are working with. Plan to roll out in the mid to end of October. Will be expanding to other watersheds in the regions.
- K. Lake Monitoring Report – John Halfman-Will finish up in early October with sampling and removal of lake buoy. Have noticed increased chloride in Finger Lakes in the past 10 years. Will follow up with data research on chloride to attempt to determine the change in road salting practices during the winter. Has recommendations for an agency responsible for Finger Lakes monitoring over time for data and he will be working on funding and setting up a data hub.
- L. The Nature Conservancy Update – Olivia Green-Pursuing a conservation easement in the Town of Venice. Filmore Preserve moving forward toward closing. Monitoring Camp Owasco of septic installation for phosphorus/nitrogen has ceased as the children are back to school.
- M. NYSDEC Hub Updates – Tony Prestigiacomio-in addition to working on the 9E plan approved and published online. There is an environmental plan Owasco Lake water quality model is also published online at the same site.
- N. Nine Element Watershed Plan Updates – Michele Wunderlich-Thank you to everyone who helped her with work on the 9E Watershed plan.
- O. Owasco Watershed Lake Association Updates – Ann Robson- Working on OLWA 101 strategy to improve membership and targeting businesses campaign. Working to improve the road ditches with hydroseeding of ditches. Dan Kuhn discussed the plan that OLWA has \$25000 for hydroseeding and this year. No towns took up any hydroseeding strategies. OWLA will be contacting highway superintendents for ditch rehabilitation for the following year.
- P. Cornell Cooperative Extension Updates – Ron Kuck finalizing the hire for the educational programming. Hazardous waste recycling for 10/29/22
- Q. Partners for Healthy Watersheds Updates – Greg Rejman- Unavailable
- R. Watershed Inspection Monthly Report – Jillian Aluisio presented. 5-10 inches in precipitation in past 30 days. To view the presentation visit:
<https://www.olwmc.org/news>
- S. Communications:
- T. Issues of Concern: None heard.
- U. Schedule Next Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 18, 2022. Motion to adjourn made by Joan June at 11:24 AM seconded by Ed Wagner. Unanimous vote. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vivian Cunningham