



Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council
May 17, 2022, 10:00am

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** - Don Oltz, **Moravia** – Terry Baxter, **Village of Moravia** – Gary Mulvaney, **Village of Groton** – Nancy Niswender, **Summerhill** – Charlie Ripley, **Sennett** – Tom Blair, **Dryden** – Anne Clark

Executive Director- Adam Effler

Presiding: Dr. Adam Effler: Express condolences to friends and family of loss of friend and colleague Rick Nelson who supported issues affecting the Owasco Watershed.

A. Board of Directors- Roll call:

Cayuga County – Aileen McNabb -Coleman, **City of Auburn** – Ginny Kent, **Niles** – Joan Jayne, **Fleming** - Don Oltz, **Village of Moravia** – Gary Mulvaney

Ex officio attending: Olivia Green, Tony Prestigiacomio. Dana Hall, Michelle Wunderlich, Steve Lynch, Ally Berry, Jillian Alosio, Camille Bouvet-Boisclair, Daniel Welch, Anna Cristina Feldman, John West

B. Approval of the Agenda: Motion to approve Joan Jayne seconded by Don Oltz. The motion was unanimously approved.

C. Approval of Minutes from the April 19, 2022, meeting which was distributed via email. Motion to approve by Don Oltz. The motion was unanimously approved.

D. Public to be Heard: Director of Municipalities of City of Auburn, Seth Jensen, read a Proclamation from the City of Auburn, to the Directors regarding the role of OWLMC and Lake Friendly Living in improving and maintaining the quality of drinking water so precious to the City of Auburn. The City of Auburn takes the LFL pledge. The City of Auburn designated the month of May as Lake Friendly Living month.

E. Director's Summary- Adam Effler (distributed for review prior to meeting)

Recognition, Awareness, Education and Outreach

- The OLWMC's May feature article with the Citizen newspaper led by Watershed Inspector, Jillian Aluisio, spotlighted wastewater treatment facility

damages and costs associated with flushing non-flushable products. The article recommended proper disposal of such items.

- The OLWMC's aquatic invasive species (AIS) 'Clean, Drain, Dry' Portaboard® trailer was moved by Cayuga County Parks and Trails staff from the Parks and Trails office to the Emerson Park boat launch for the purpose of increased visibility.
- The Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection and Protection Division (OLWIPD) completed the distribution of 2021 OLWIPD/OLWMC annual report copies among watershed municipalities.

HABs Identification and Reporting

Project Update: The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's (NYSDEC's) NYHABs website remains unavailable until the 2022 monitoring season begins. The Finger Lakes Hub has scheduled a virtual training this year for Finger Lakes Shoreline HABs Surveillance volunteers on Tuesday, June 7, 2022. There are no major changes to the program this year. New volunteers are required to attend either the live training or watch the recorded version, and DEC staff recommend returning volunteers participate for review. Surveillance coordinators for each lake should plan to attend and discuss programming logistics.

Lake Friendly Living

Project Update: The Lake Friendly Living Coalition is providing nearly 15 educational and hands on events during the May 2022 awareness series. The LFL May Series events calendar is published via the Cayuga County Chamber of Commerce, the Citizen Newspaper, and Life in the Finger Lakes magazine. Furthermore, LFL program promotion is underway as part of the NYSDEC Region 7 News via 'DEC Delivers' with nearly ~45,000 subscribers. OLWMC staff coordinated, among local leaders, webinar presentations on the NYS Climate Smart Communities program and the implementation of Emerson Park's new rain garden. Further, staff coordinated with the State University of New York Environmental Science and Forestry for the upcoming May 21, 2022 community shrub willow-planting project at the OLWMC's nursery in the Town of Owasco. All members of the public are encouraged to assist with the planting project. The nursery will act as a long-term source of willow canes for the future installation of riparian buffers within the watershed. This project is also poised to offer an opportunity for a student undergraduate internship and/or capstone project in 2023. All event registrations are available on the Coalition's website (www.flrwa.org/lake-friendly-living). At their May 12 meeting, Auburn City Council heard a mayoral proclamation endorsing LFL awareness month and the expansion of the messaging program throughout the watershed and the greater Finger Lakes Region.

Hyfi Watercourse Level Sensors

Hyfi Project Updates:

1. On April 22, 2022, Hyfi sensors were replaced at two locations: Sucker Brook at Owasco Rd, and Inlet at Route 90 in Locke.
2. Staff will be installing an additional sensor and assembly for a newly targeted stream monitoring location adjacent to Long Point Road.

Watershed Partner Collaboration

Projects Updates:

- The OLWMC continues to work towards a transfer of ownership of a ~160-acre priority parcel in Sempronius from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to the OLWMC that will advance the council's position as a land conservation steward within the watershed. We continue to evaluate insurance coverage scenarios in context with desired land uses and associated costs. 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 stewardship/maintenance plan, adopted from TNC's plan, to ensure the OLWMC meets project responsibilities.
- The OLWMC is collaborating with Wegmans Food Markets to promote LED flares as a safer and more environmentally friendly alternative to conventional incendiary flares. The OLWMC is underway and under contract with a profit-sharing initiative with Wegmans. Similar to last year, starting May 22, 2022, Wegmans will be selling a 2pk and 6pk LED Flares. Wegmans will be donating \$2.00 for each 2pk (\$16.99 retail) sold and \$6.00 for each 6pk (\$39.99 retail) sold to local Watersheds as outlined in the attached document.
- Our Keynote Presenter for next month's June 21, 2022 OLWMC public board meeting will be Kirsten Workman, Nutrient Management and Environmental Sustainability Specialist from Cornell ProDairy. She will present on advancements in, and recommendations for, cover cropping within the Owasco Lake watershed.

Grants Projects and Programs Underway

Projects Review:

- GLRI Conservation Kick Project

Project Review: In partnership, the Cayuga County SWCD assisted a watershed farmland owner to finalize their application for the installation of a water and sediment control basin (WASCOB). The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) Conservation Kick Program will fund the project, in part. The City of Auburn invested the required cost share for the grant award administered through the OLWMC, demonstrating the city's commitment towards supporting conservation advancements for local agriculture. Based on the Great Lakes Commission's upfront analysis, and relative to all other Conservation Kick projects planned across the Great Lakes Basin, the CCSWCD/OLWMC project will result in the greatest nutrient reduction outcomes. Project partners finalized contract details. Seneca County Soil and Water Conservation

District Engineer and Auburn Director of Municipal Utilities have reviewed the final WASCOB design for approval.

- NRCS RCPP

Project Review: On April 13, 2022 the OLWMC submitted a project proposal through the Natural Resources Conservation Service Regional Conservation Partnership Program (NRCS RCPP). The OLWMC retooled last year's NRCS RCPP proposal, according to review comments, and requested federal funding intended to help advance the Cayuga County SWCDs' conservation farm planning and BMP implementations within the Owasco Lake watershed. The proposed project will help build local capacity for certified farm planning within the watershed and provide support for targeted conservation projects, a prospect intended to increase efficiencies for local agriculture that will benefit both farmers and watershed conservation.

Relevant Available Grant Programs

TNC:

- TNC is offering flood adaptation grant writing support. This is an invaluable opportunity, especially for those municipalities that experience flooding concerns, yet have limited capacity to write grant proposals for project(s) funding. The OLWMC submitted a program application in anticipation it will target an OLWMC directing municipality that has identified a suitable project and is interested to engage.

NYSDEC:

- Water Quality Improvement Projects (WQIP): funds are available for the implementation of projects to improve water quality or aquatic habitat, or protect a drinking water source. Eligible project types include wastewater treatment improvement, non-agricultural nonpoint source abatement and control, land acquisition for source water protection, salt storage, aquatic connectivity restoration, and marine habitat restoration.
- Non-Agricultural Nonpoint Source Planning and Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Mapping Grant (NPG): funds production of planning reports for nonpoint source water quality improvement projects and mapping of Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems.
- New York Sea Grant, in partnership with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), announced \$400,000 in grant funding is now available for Great Lakes ecosystem-based management projects in support of New York's Great Lakes Action Agenda. Awards of up to \$50,000 per project. Applications are due July 1, 2022. Proposed projects must address key water quality, natural resource, and resiliency priorities in New York's Great Lakes Action Agenda and should advance local priorities identified in existing community plans. Eligible projects may include planning, design, implementation, information management tool development, demonstration projects, and targeted educational outreach.

Municipality Buy-In

Project Review: The OLWMC continues to encourage participation and directorship from the remaining towns within the watershed that have yet to join to help direct project initiatives. They include the Towns of Venice, Sempronius, Groton, Genoa, Skaneateles, and Lansing; we continue to encourage the Board of Directors to reach out to representatives from these towns to elicit municipality interest.

F. Board of Directors/Municipality Representatives Feedback:

- i. Joan Jayne asked how the LED flares did last year. Lakes with ‘ring of fire’ tradition did much better but Wegman’s did offer \$1000. Grant.
- ii. People need to be aware that baby wipes are NOT flushable. There is an article in the Citizen.
- iii. Commend municipalities for engaging watershed inspectors with approval of site construction process.

G. Treasurer’s Audit and Finance Report

- i. April 30, 2022, Financials Approval – Joan Jayne reported that Total Assets \$245,777.63 and Total Liabilities and Equity are \$304,229.73. Motion to approve by Don Oltz seconded by Terry Mulvaney. Motion was unanimously approved.
- ii. 2021 Draft Financial Audit Approval: Auditor’s opinion:
 - “In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council, Inc., as of December 31, 2021, and 2020, and the changes in net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.”
 - Motion to approve the Auditor’s report as distributed via email Ginny Kent. Seconded by Joan Jayne, Motion was unanimously approved.

H. 2021 Project Outcomes and Future Outlooks for the Tompkins County Soil and Water Conservation District- Jon Negley: To view this presentation please visit the video of the Directors Meeting at <https://www.olwmc.org/news>

I. Lake Monitoring Report- John Halfman unavailable-lake monitoring will begin in May.

J. The Nature Conservancy Update - Olivia Green-continue to evaluate properties for sharing, continue with septic upgrade for children’s camp on Owasco Lake.

K. NYSDEC Hub Updates- Tony Prestigiacommo-information covered in report in

Adam's report.

- L. Watershed Rules and Regulations Revisions Updates – Steve Lynch-unavailable but no recent changes. Document still in review after 18 months in process.
- M. Nine Element Watershed Plan Updates– Michele Wunderlich continuing to edit 9 element plan and hope to have a public meeting in June.
- N. Owasco Watershed Lake Association Updates - Dana Hall-completed 1st round of bimonthly 7 sites of water sampling and concluded did not meet criteria; second round scheduled for this Friday. Part way through hemlock trees infected with HWA, having treated 1300 trees.
- O. Cornell Cooperative Extension Updates- Daniel Welch-Tire collection event on June 25, 2022, for car and truck tires for recycling. Ag and environmental sustainability educational coordinator position was posted last week.
- P. 'Our Owasco' Behavioral Change Project Update- Camille Bouvet-Boisclair (Evidn): Regular communication sessions are ongoing. The contract is renewed, and they are working out scope, Camille has enjoyed working with council and is returning to Australia. Another representative will be coming to represent the company.
- Q. Partners for Healthy Watersheds Updates – Greg Rejman-unavailable
- R. Watershed Inspection Monthly Report–Ally Berry: To view this presentation please visit the video of the Directors Meeting at <https://www.olwmc.org/news>
- S. Lake Level Report – John West- Lake elevation-currently at 712.95 ft. Hope to have it 712.75 in a few days.
- T. Communications: Senator John Manion will be at next meeting. Have a job opening at OLWMC and Cornell Cooperative Extension. If anyone is interested in identifying invasive species they can download the Invasive Species App and Michelle will stay after June meeting to assist people.
- U. Issues of Concern: Question regarding who is responsible for fallen trees around the lake (i.e., Veness brook). Think it is the landowner.
- V. Next Meeting is June 21, 2022. Motion to Adjourn made by Terry Mulvaney, seconded by Aileen Mc Nabb-Coleman, vote to adjourn was unanimous and motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:05 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vivian Cunningham