



Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council  
December 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**- Adam Effler

Presiding: Dr. Adam Effler

- A. Board of Directors – Roll call-, **City of Auburn**-Ginny Kent, **Niles**-Joan Jayne, ,  
**Fleming**-Karen VanLiew, **Town of Moravia**-Terry Baxter, **Village of Moravia**-  
Gary Mulvaney, **Dryden**-Anne Clark, **Locke**-Thane Benson, **Scipio**-Melinda  
Pitman, **Executive Director** Dr. Adam Effler
  - i. Ex officio: Olivia Green, Ally Berry, Jillian Aluisio, Greg Rejman, Ann  
Robson, Frank Clark, John West, Rebecca Schneider, Marissa Breault,  
Dr. John Halfman, Steve Lynch, Michelle Wunderlich, Ryan Spachock,  
Michelle Wunderlich, Ryan Staychock
- B. Approval of the Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda made by Joan Jayne  
seconded by Terry Baxter. Unanimous vote. Motion carried.
- C. Approval of Minutes from the November 15, 2022, meeting as distributed via  
email. Motion to approve the minutes made by Karen VanLiew seconded by Joan  
Jayne. Unanimous vote. Motion carried.
- D. **Resolution No. 04-22: Meeting Procedural Requirements Adoption-  
Addressing Changes to NYS Open Meetings Law**  
Motion to approve Resolution No. 04-22 made by Ginny Kent seconded by Joan  
Jayne. Unanimous vote. Motion carried.
- E. Public to be Heard: Emily Cummings introduced herself. She is part of an  
environmental engineering company from Syracuse involved with Watershed  
planning public and private.
- F. Director’s Summary – Adam Effler (distributed for review prior to meeting) Sent  
via email.

## Watershed Rules and Regulations

### Project Update:

NYSDOH project updates are now posted on the OLWMC's website (<https://www.olwmc.org/projects>). The following details were provided from NYSDOH's project update report (12.20.2022 Monthly Owasco WRR Update for OLWMC) delivered to the OLWMC Board of Directors, Ex Officio Partners, and engaged members of the public prior to the December 20, 2022 OLWMC public board meeting:

*'The State-Local workgroup has not met since the Nov 4, 2022 meeting. The State has been collaborating with Division of Legal Affairs and other state agencies in order to prepare for the legal meetings to review the proposed regulations. Those meeting will be scheduled as soon as possible. DOH will schedule the next State-Local workgroup meeting after the legal meetings are complete.'*

### **Revised Meeting Schedule:**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <i>State Agency Legal Meetings</i>          | <i>December 2022/January 2023 (if necessary)</i> |
| <i>Follow up with State-Local Workgroup</i> | <i>January 2023</i>                              |

### **Revised Overall Process Timeline:**

- *State Interagency Workgroup meets with Owasco Technical Committee – June 2022*
- *Series of State-Local Workgroup meeting - June to Jan 2023*
- *DOH publishes proposed amendments to WRRs- Mar 2023*
- *Three-month public comment period- Jun 2023*
- *DOH submits response to comments- Aug 2023*
- *DOH publishes amendments to WRRs - Sep/Oct 2023*

## NYS Tributary Legislation Project Review

### Project Review:

An OLWMC endorsed, NYS environmental conservation bill ([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. Moreover, if passed, the new law would require the need for permit for certain stream access and project(s) scenarios. On May 24, 2022 the bill passed the Senate and was returned to the Assembly. The bill passed both

NYS houses.

Project Update:

On December 2, 2022, bill A6652 was delivered to Governor Kathy Hochul. The bill, passed by both houses, was vetoed by the Governor. Her Veto Memo is as follows:

*TO THE ASSEMBLY:*

*I am returning herewith, without my approval, the following bill:  
Assembly Bill Number 6652, entitled:*

*"AN ACT to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to the protection of certain streams"*

*NOT APPROVED*

*This bill would expand the definition of regulated streams under the Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) Article 15 protection of waters program to include "Class C" waterways, thereby requiring a permit prior to disturbance. Class C water bodies support fisheries and are suitable for non-contact activities.*

*I fully support efforts to safeguard clean water and natural resources across our state. While the intent of this bill is laudable, it would have significant regulatory impacts on related projects and will carry substantial costs to the State, as well as to local governments and to*

*the communities that would bear the impact of these new regulations. It would more than double the amount of stream miles as well as the number of permits over which the Department of Environmental Conservation has a planning and oversight role. These significant practical and fiscal implications have not been addressed since the bill was last vetoed in*

*2020 and were not budgeted for in the State's financial plan. This legislation would be more appropriate to address in the State's budget process.*

*Therefore, I am constrained to veto this bill.*

*This bill is disapproved.*

*(signed) KATHY HOCHUL*

### Municipal Codes and Ordinances Review

The Village of Moravia has adopted the Sediment and Erosion Control Plan, and associated Appendix E, prepared and proposed by the OLWMC for advancing municipal control requirements for new construction activities.

### Nine Element (9E) Watershed Plan

#### Project Update:

The OLWMC created the 9E Plan Project Coordination Committee via Resolution 03-3022 at its November 15, 2022 public board meeting. The Committee's charter will be to prioritize, coordinate, and facilitate project and programming implementation based on the recommendations of the 9E Plan. Subsequently, request letters for Committee participation by the OLWMC's Ex Officio partners were delivered to the following organizations:

- Environmental Health Division of the Cayuga County Health Department
- Cornell Cooperative Extension Cayuga County
- Cayuga County Planning Department
- Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District
- City of Auburn Municipal Utilities
- Cornell CALS PRO-DAIRY
- Onondaga County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Owasco Watershed Lake Association
- Tompkins County Soil and Water Conservation District
- The Nature Conservancy

Committee participation by OLWMC Directors of the Board will also be sought.

### NYS-awarded Drinking Water Source Protection Program (DWSP2)

#### Project Update:

- HABs season has ended for 2022, and the NYSDEC's NYHABs notification page is no longer available for reference. The NYSDEC's HABs Archive Page is available for reference. During 2022, 198 waterbodies statewide were listed with "Confirmed HABs" NYHABs. Over 1,600 HAB reports were collected by NYSDEC and its partners, and of these, over 1,000 met DEC criteria for a Confirmed HAB. The reports ranged from a single observation to widespread blooms that were persistent throughout the season. HABs may occur on waterbodies throughout the year, although fewer blooms occur as water and air temperatures decrease.
- The third annual Harmful Algal Bloom Research Symposium will be held on January 5 and 6, 2023. This virtual symposium is free. Visit the North Central Region Water Network's website for more information.

### Recognition, Awareness, Education and Outreach Projects Update

#### Project Review:

- Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) awareness (and mitigation) project partners decide to provide for new visibility of the OLWMC’s ‘Clean, Drain, Dry’ portable billboard currently positioned at the Emerson Park boat launch. In 2023, staff are planning to target improved visibility at the south end of the watershed by positioning the billboard on a Cayuga County owned pull-off along Route 38. The billboard was relocated from the Emerson Park Boat launch back to its winter location adjacent to the Cayuga County Parks and Trails building.

Project Update:

- On the weekend December 3<sup>rd</sup> and December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Ginny Kent, acting Secretary and Member of the OLWMC, hosted a watershed education booth at the Cayuga Community College Craft Fair. The OLWMC and OWLA shared the booth and educational materials to promote water quality protection for Owasco Lake.
- The OLWMC’s December staff feature article with the Citizen newspaper spotlights the OLWIPD staff site winterization recommendations.
  - OLWMC staff have committed to monthly feature articles with the Citizen in 2023. Consistent with previous years, articles will target recognition of watershed residents making strides in watershed protection.
- The Town of Dryden Conservation Board is considering its recommendation to the Dryden Town Board for the Town to resolve to take the Lake Friendly Living (LFL) Pledge.

Land Holdings

OLWMC Land Preserve Project Update:

- Concerning the property transfer of the Fillmore Nature Preserve from TNC to the OLWMC, project partners are working with real estate attorneys to finalize required documentation to close. The group continues to target closing in the near term.
- Property signage will be installed with the help of TNC, following closing. The associated field trip will also accommodate TNC’s insights and recommendations on effective property inspection protocols to meet the OLWMC’s annual property inspection commitment.

Partner Project Updates:

- The Finger Lakes Land Trust (FLLT) is nearly closed on a conservation easement that will secure the 160-acre Post property in the Owasco Lake watershed. In conjunction with the easement, the FLLT will expand riparian buffers through planting of native trees and shrubs.
  - A letter of OLWMC support was written for a grant proposal written by the FLLT from the NYS Conservation Partnership Program. The NYS Conservation Partnership Program is a joint effort of NYSDEC and the Land Trust Alliance – it provides a variety of grants for the Land Trust community.
- FLLT has recently undertaken wetland restoration work on a parcel Land Trust owns within the Owasco Flats, off Rockefeller Road. The parcel will be transferred to

NYSDEC at some point in future.

### Watershed Lake and Tributary Monitoring

#### Project Review:

- Projected for 2023, NYSDEC is pairing down its funding of the Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP) in the Finger Lakes Region by nearly half. Local lake stewards will be responsible for covering the costs and sampling for any additional samples.
- Lake and watershed monitoring partners prepared a comprehensive budget for review by the Cayuga County Planning Department that includes costs for 1) a new Owasco Lake monitoring role by the Finger Lakes Institute, Hobart William Smith Colleges, and 2) laboratory analysis for watershed tributary samples collected by OWLA.

### Hyfi Watercourse Level Sensors

#### Project Update:

- Hyfi's project dashboard was updated and is linked within the OLWMC website. The new landing page was created for the purposes of improved navigation and data access.
- The Cayuga County Planning Department is drawing upon their remaining 2022 FLOWPA funding balance to cover the continued operation and maintenance costs of the Hyfi watercourse level sensors through the remainder of 2022. Cayuga County is evaluating continued funding for the project in the context of the overall lake and watershed monitoring programming for 2023.

### Programs, Funding, and Related Opportunities

#### Project Update:

- OLWMC staff prepared and submitted a foundation proposal and associated job description for the hire of a 2023 summer intern. The proposed intern would help with developing a watershed resident survey to garner interest from the community concerning the implementation of willow plantings to be installed throughout the Owasco Lake watershed, in support of riparian zones, reduced stream bank destabilization, and the provision of stream shading. The vegetative material would be sourced from the Town of Owasco's Willow Nursery created in the spring of 2022. Specific proposed intern responsibilities would include:
  - Identifying prime locations/properties within the Owasco Lake watershed for shrub willow plantings
    - GIS map development of a comprehensive map of priority planting areas
  - Developing a fact sheet that can be presented to landowners, describing the program initiative and including the benefits of planting shrub willow

- Developing a data repository containing the contact and parcel information of interested landowners concerning:
  - Willow Plantings
  - LFL Pledge
    - Follow up with pledge signage and information
- Generating an outline of a management plan for the future planting and maintenance of the shrub willow

### Municipal Opportunities

- The NYSDEC Municipal Zero-emission Vehicle (ZEV) Rebate Program has awarded \$567,500 from the Environmental Protection Fund to municipalities for the purchase or lease of electric light- and medium-duty fleet vehicles. EC Municipal ZEV Rebate Program continues to support municipal efforts to mitigate further climate change. Since it began in 2016, the ZEV Rebate Program has awarded over \$1.5 million (including this round) towards the purchase or lease of 114 plug-in hybrid vehicles and 182 all-electric vehicles.
- Governor Hochul recently announced the new Green Purchasing Communities Program that helps local governments to ensure that the products they are purchasing have a lower environmental impact. Local governments that participate will receive recognition for their commitment to purchasing green products and services through the Climate Smart Communities program. Learn more here: <https://ogs.ny.gov/green-purchasing-communities>

### 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.

Project Update: OLWMC Director, the Village of Groton, is considering appointing a new representative on the Board to support better involvement with our initiatives.

- G. Board of Directors/Municipality Representatives Feedback: Congratulations to Village of Moravia for adoption of their sediment and erosion program. Question regarding Owasco flats and solar farm. Michele Wunderlich said meeting regarding making this area a nature conservation area had taken place and there was not a discussion regarding placement of a solar farm in this area.
  - i. Discussed changes in the proposed 2023 OLWMC objectives. Recommended 2023 OLWMC Objectives were previously distributed
    - Motion to accept proposed 2023 OLMWM Objectives made by Terry Baxter. Seconded by Karen VanLiew. Unanimous vote. Motion carried
    - Adam Effler asked directors to participate in 9Element program coordination committee.

- Ginny Kent agreed to a member on the steering committee. Dr. Effler asked members to consider membership to assist in moving the project forward with initially monthly meetings.

H. Treasurer's Audit and Finance Report

October 2022 Financials Approval – As of November 30, 2022 Joan Jayne reported Total Liabilities and Equities as \$ 398,042.64 and Total Current Assets as \$344,273.59. Motion to approve report made by Terry Baxter. seconded by Gary Mulvaney. Unanimous vote. Motion carried.

Thanks to Dryden to commit to financially commit \$300 to the council

- I. Lake Level Report – John West- Lake elevation 7.10.25 ft. Watching storm coming in this weekend. Plan to keep lake level at 7.10 ft. elevation.
- J. 'Our Owasco' Behavioral Change Project Update –Marissa Breault: developing a short online webinar. Everyone welcome.
- K. Lake Monitoring Report – John Halfman done sampling for year and working on data. Working on two reports on water quality and cyanobacteria blooms for a conference in January. He has 20 years of data on Owasco Lake that will answer some questions regarding events in the watershed and water quality.
- L. The Nature Conservancy Update – Olivia Green- Getting started to convene a meeting of property owners of Owasco Flats to determine what their vision is for the area. Working on a property in Venice near to Owasco Flats. Discussed the Owasco Flats and Wetland Trust, owner of the Flats and recognition of importance of keeping the discussion going on the importance of that area. Everyone is interested in conservation of the area. YMCA septic nitrogen/phosphorus treating system presented many challenges. They needed to be creative with many partners. The results showed promising results and hopefully a residential system near the lake.
- M. NYSDEC Hub Update – Tony Prestigiacomo-continuing clean water planning for various Finger Lakes.
- N. Owasco Watershed Lake Association Update – Ann Robson-. Will have a December forum of the 9E plan for the public with Michelle Wunderlich.
- In January a Woolly Aldelgid Hemlock Hunters Survey will take place. Targeting property owners in Moravia and Niles.
- Monitoring Fire Lane 26 for sediment and erosion along with Soil and Water.
- March 11,2023 Bob Bower Scientific Forum on Climate Change with dynamic form and coming along well. Matt Margo, Dr. Andrew Bernard, Evidn, Dr Halfman.
- Educational activities are taking place with local schools.
- O. Cornell Cooperative Extension Update – Dan Welch, introduced a new employee, Ryan Staychock, who will be shared with Seneca and Schuyler County as an



environmental/natural resources educator.

In January a winter crop meeting in conjunction with Soil and Water will take place.

- P. Partners for Healthy Watersheds Update – Greg Rejman-unavailable
- Q. Watershed Inspection Monthly Report – Ally Berry and Jillian Aluisio. To view their reports, visit: <https://www.olwmc.org/news>  
Jillian Aluisio reported on a workshop she attended.
- R. Communications: Aileen McNabb-Coleman suggested a Directors’ retreat
- S. Issues of Concern: Terry Baxter asked about restrictions on Fillmore property. Signage will indicate no hunting allowed but respectful public access. Terry asked about enforcement of hunting policies.
- T. Next Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday of January 17, 2023.
- U. Motion to adjourn at 11:11am made by Terry Baxter, seconded by Joan Jayne Unanimous vote. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Vivian Cunningham