Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council

October 20, 2026, 10:00-11:30 AM – Agenda

Meeting of the Directors

Owasco – TBD, **Cayuga County** – Aileen McNabb -Coleman, **City of Auburn** – Ginny Kent
Niles – Joan Jayne, **Locke** – Thane Benson, **Scipio –** Nancy Hart, **Fleming** – Karen VanLiew,
Town of Moravia – Terry Palmer, **Village of Moravia** –Chris Fulton,
Village of Groton – Theodore Skibinski, **Summerhill** – Charlie Ripley, **Sennett** – Tom Blair,
Dryden – TBD, **Lansing** – Joseph Wetmore
Executive Director- Adam Effler

A. Board of Directors – Roll call
B. Approval of the Agenda
C. Approval of Minutes from the August 18, 2026 Board Meeting
D. Discussion of Notes from September 15, 2026 Board Meeting
E. Public to be Heard
F. Director's Summary – Adam Effler (distributed for review prior to meeting)
G. Board of Directors/Municipality Representatives Feedback
H. Treasurer's Audit and Finance Report
    i. August 2026 Financials Approval – Joan Jayne
    ii. September 2026 Financials Approval – Joan Jayne
I. Lake Level Report – John West
J. NYSDEC Finger Lakes Watershed Program– Gabriel Yerdon
K. Owasco Watershed Lake Association Update – Phil Gioia
L. Watershed Inspection Monthly Report – Jesse Lloyd
M. Communications
N. Issues of Concern
O. Schedule Next Meeting (3rd Tuesday of November, 2026 is the 17th)
P. Adjourn

2026 OLWMC Objectives

1. Increase participation of municipalities that have yet to join the Council.
    a. Formal directorship request letters will be delivered to the remaining watershed municipalities and their responses (if any) will be documented. OLWMC staff will make a concerted effort to visit municipal offices to directly communicate organizational objectives and elicit interest and buy-in.
2. Community Outreach
    a. Increase awareness of the Lake Friendly Living Pledge Program, boundaries, and tributaries of the watershed through signage
    b. Advocate for NYS approval of community consensus Updated Watershed Rules and Regulations
        i. Mobilize an outreach campaign for eventual rollout of Updated Watershed Rules and Regulations
            1. Plan distribution methods for supportive materials providing guidance on watershed programs and lines of supportive funding
    c. Continue to advance engagement with watershed farmers
    d. Coordinate watershed science programming and education in schools
    e. Extend outreach opportunities throughout the Finger Lakes Region, where applicable
3. Continue to look for funding opportunities.
    a. Advance funding support for project initiatives through collaboration for funding and partnership among agencies
    b. Use adaptive strategies for project priorities list based on watershed planning and funding availability
    c. Seek watershed support as a line item on the NYS Environmental Protection Fund (EPF)
4. Provide new and relevant programmatic opportunities to watershed municipal leaders
    a. Offer support and guidance to assist watershed municipalities with advancing resource protection and climate smart initiatives that protect water quality and benefit municipalities
5. Work with the Towns' and Villages' elected officials, highway superintendents, and county soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs) to maintain BMPs (e.g., ditch stabilization practices)
    a. Support communication between highway departments and SWCDs
6. Support the coordination and implementation of the NYS Nine Element (9E) Watershed Plan
    a. Facilitate response to needs and communication for the 9E Project Coordination Committee that will:
        i. Interpret 9E Plan information to target watershed project implementation based on recommended projects/practices and prioritized 'hot spots'
        ii. Present relevant information for managers, municipalities, and implementers to support priority projects
        iii. Utilize NYS approved (9E) Plan to advocate for external project funding through grants
7. Participate in the on-going NYSDEC harmful algal bloom monitoring and surveillance program, the purpose of which is to identify priority areas for health and safety and ultimately develop mitigation strategies for HABs
    a. OLWMC/NYSDEC/OWLA (Owasco Watershed Lake Association) collaboration is essential
8. Develop Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection and Protection Division (OLWIPD) program requirements according to the rollout of Updated Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations
    a. Advance programmatic needs and SOPs for updated watershed rules and regulations, including for the proposed variance process
9. Support oversight, growth, and guidance for the OLWIPD
    a. Foster outreach and guidance for stakeholders through the OLWIPD
10. Continue supporting monitoring the lake and watershed to assess water quality
    a. Ensure transferrable and accessible datasets between multiple groups, including scientists, planners, and managers
    b. Work with the DEC Finger Lakes Hub and other partners to reduce watershed-sourced nutrient loading to Owasco Lake
11. Preserve natural ecosystem functions that protect watershed water quality through stewarding land preserves and seek new opportunities to preserve land within the watershed