



Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council

December 16, 2025, 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** – 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** – Anne Clark, **Lansing** – Joseph Wetmore
Executive Director- Adam Effler

Presiding: Dr. Adam Effler

- A. Board of Directors – Roll call: Owasco-Ed Wagner, City of Auburn-Ginny Kent, Niles-Joan Jayne, Scipio-Nancy Hart, Fleming-Karen VanLiew, Town of Moravia-Terry Palmer, Lansing -Joseph Wetmore. Ex. Officio: Jesse Lloyd, Carol Sutkus, John West (online),
- B. Michelle Wunderlich (online), Brian Chambala DEC (online),
- C. Approval of the Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda with shifting the order of Meeting of the Members to the end of standard agenda made by Joan Jayne. Motion seconded by Terry Hart. Vote was unanimous. Motion carried.
- D. Approval of Minutes from November 18, 2025, Board Meeting as distributed via email. Motion to approve the minutes made by Joan Jayne. Motion seconded by Ed Wagner. Vote was unanimous. Motion carried.
- E. Public to be Heard: None heard.
- F. Director’s Summary – Adam Effler (distributed for review prior to meeting) An audio/visual of Dr. Effler’s report can be accessed at <https://www.olwmc.org/news>

Watershed Rules and Regulations

- No new updates.

Recognition, Awareness, Education and Outreach Projects Updates

- The OLWMC and OWLA co-tabled again this year at the Cayuga Community College Craft Fair, promoting watershed conservation education and outreach initiatives.
- Camp Casowasco plans to reopen the camp and has engaged with OLWMC staff regarding future watershed education and conservation projects there. They plan to begin hosting guests there again, as early as April 1, 2026.

Nine Element Watershed Plan (9EP)

- The 9E Coordination Committee finalized its 2022-2025 progress report. The progress report is posting on the OLWMC website: <https://www.olwmc.org/>

Watershed Lake and Tributary Monitoring

- The Cayuga County Planning Department prepared a draft Data Usability Assessment Report (DUAR) and Final Report for the 2025 Owasco Lake Tributary Monitoring Program. Once the DUAR is approved by the NYSDEC, the project data and report can be shared among project partners for data analysis and interpretation.
- Finger Lakes Watershed FLOPA fund workplan recently shared for 2026. Installation of BMP's, flow monitoring of nutrient data, OWLA tributary sampling, Owasco's data portal, educational programs, aquatic data, boat launch maintenance.
- Wednesday 2/11/26 in Albany-Finger Lakes Advocacy Day

NYS-awarded Drinking Water Source Protection Program (DWSP2)

No new updates

Municipal Codes and Ordinances

No new updates

Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) Identification and Programming:

- The 2025 HABs reporting and notification season has ended. The New York Harmful Algal Bloom System (NYHABS) link will be unavailable until the 2026 season begins in May.

Land Holdings

Fillmore Nature Preserve Project Review:

- Over the Fall of 2025, stewardship activities have continued at the Fillmore Nature Preserve, whereby new stewards have continued to maintain and clear trails under contract. Hunting permissions, stewardship and indemnification contracts were prepared and signed by three individuals for the 2025 hunting season.

Venice Property Acquisition Update:

OLWMC staff have completed boundary signage posting at the Venice Nature Preserve and have made introductions with an adjacent property steward.

Potential OLWMC Acquisitions Review:

TNC has expressed interest in having the OLWMC own an additional property poised for long term stewardship and preservation within the Owasco Lake watershed, a 100-acre mixed farmland parcel in the Town of Groton. TNC will present the remaining acquisition opportunity to the

OLWMC Board of Directors.

Partner Land Acquisitions/Targets Review:

- The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and The Nature Conservancy announced the State's addition of 92 acres to Owasco Flats Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in the town of Moravia, Cayuga County. The acquisition more than doubles the size of the WMA and offers new and enhanced public recreation opportunities.

Grant Projects and Funding

Grant Proposal Update:

The OLWMC is collaborating among partners to develop a grant proposal under Cornell's Water Resources Institute's recent RFP with SUNY ESF spearheading the proposal submission. We're proposing integration of real-time sensor arrays with the Owasco Watershed Lake Association's volunteer monitoring program. By pairing continuous sensor data with the existing monitoring program, this project will allow us to better respond to storm events while strengthening the scientific foundation for watershed management. Pairing discharge and constituent concentration data will allow project partners to calculate both nutrient and solids loads to Owasco Lake from prominent tributaries. Constituent loading information will be useful for updating the Soil and Water Assessment Tool that is used for spatially prioritizing recommendations within the Owasco

Lake Watershed Nine Element Plan for Phosphorus Reduction.

Recommendations within this clean water plan inform watershed management decisions and implementation projects.

NFWF SOGL Project Update:

The OLWMC's Owasco Inlet streambank stabilization project will be implemented by the CCSWCD next year. Ninety-five percent design drawing that reflect permitting requirements for NYSDEC and the Army Corps of Engineers were submitted to those agencies on December 8, 2025 for their review.

Relevant NYS Programming Review:

- The OLWMC has made required updates to maintain pre-qualification status within the NYS Statewide Financial System vendor portal in preparedness for future grant proposal(s) submissions.

Proposed Ambient Water Quality Guidance Values for Phosphorus Review:

The OLWMC was a signatory on a joint response to the public comment period for the NYSDEC's proposed ambient water quality guidance values for phosphorus. The response requested that NYS take a more aggressive approach towards reducing guidance values for NYS lakes by creating a framework for developing phosphorus standards.

NYS Relevant Bills Review:

Drinking Water Protection Act (A9069): Enacts the drinking water protection act, relating to the adoption and enforcement of watershed rules and regulations for the purpose of protecting water quality. The purpose of the bill is to strengthen protections for public drinking water supplies by modernizing the framework for watershed rules and regulations, ensuring timely updates, and equipping the NYS Department of Health and water suppliers with clearer tools for prevention, enforcement, and accountability.

Municipality Buy-In 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, and Skaneateles.

- G. Board of Directors/Municipality Representatives Feedback: Adam reported the organization has had inquiry from an individual(s) to hunt in the Venice preserve. He asked if this is something OLWMC wants to do- a stewardship in exchange for hunting rights? Individuals interested in the property own property contiguous to the property and would be able to monitor the property year around. Two people are interested in hunting rights. Directors are interested in pursuing contracts/background checks for 2026. Adam will pursue development of contracts.
- H. 2026 OLWMC Objectives Approval: Motion to approve the 2026 OLWMC Objectives made by Ed Wagner. Motion seconded by Joan Jayne. Vote was unanimous. Motion carried.
- I. Treasurer's Audit and Finance Report
 - i. November 2025 Financials Approval – Joan Jayne reported the financials as of 11/30/2025 include Total Current Assets \$475,621.06, Total Liabilities and Equity \$509,720.26. Motion to accept the financial report made by Joseph Wetmore. Motion seconded by Terry Hart. Vote was unanimous. Motion carried.
 - ii. The Proforma Budget will be developed in early 2026 as well as the annual audit submitted.
- J. Lake Level Report – John West. Lake level is currently at 710.17 ft elevation, he is managing the lake at winter levels and keeping tracking of weather changes.
- K. NYSDEC Finger Lakes Watershed Program– Bryan Chambala attended the meeting but did not have any current updates.
- L. Owasco Watershed Lake Association Update – Carol Sutkus thanked Ginny Kent for CCC craft fair help. Applying for a grant with soil and water and a grant for hemlock wooly adelgid remediation program, phase II. OWLA treated 10,000 trees in phase I. Second round will last for another 5 years. Hopefully, the predators will have established after second round, negating the need for further treatment.
- M. Cornell Cooperative Extension Update – unavailable

- N. Watershed Inspection Monthly Report – Jesse Lloyd’s monthly report can be accessed at <https://www.olwmc.org/news>
- O. Communications: January meeting: MRP technical update regarding Village of Moravia’s wastewater project.
- P. Issues of Concern: Ginny Kent wanted to thank everyone for the work done on the bylaws, including Joe Wetmore who has done a lot of work on this project.
- Q. Next Meeting scheduled for Tuesday January 20, 2026, at 10 AM.
- R. Adjourn: Motion to adjourn made by Joseph Wetmore and seconded by Ginny Kent. Vote was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at. 10:58 AM.

Meeting of the Members

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

- A. Members– Roll call: Owasco-Ed Wagner, City of Auburn-Ginny Kent
- B. Resolution 03-2025 to Accept the Revised OLWMC Organizational Bylaws with the addition to the definition of a quorum **(one third of Directors) include at least** one Member. Motion to accept resolution 03-2025-Revised OLWMC Organizational Bylaws made by Ginny Kent. Motion seconded by Ed Wagner. Discussion: Bylaws were reviewed by an attorney and assisted to clarify distinction between Members and Directors; reduce the numbers of redundancy within the bylaws; and helped to clarify the bylaws to reflect organization activities within existing legal constraints. The Members and Directors discussed the issue of Directors who do not attend the monthly meetings and how to define a quorum. Suggestions a quorum **(one third of Directors)** include at least one Member, giving a proxy vote to another director/member if the member does not attend the meeting or make the director who does not attend Ex. Officio. The consensus decision was to include the change in definition of a quorum to include one Member in Resolution 03-2025 and work on proxy voting or ex officio membership within the coming year. Vote was unanimous. Motion carried.
- C. Adjourn: Motion to adjourn the Meeting of the Members made by Ed Wagner and seconded by Ginny Kent. Vote was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 11:16 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Vivian Cunningham

OWASCO LAKE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COUNCIL, INC.

RESOLUTION

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the **Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council, Inc.** was convened on **December 16, 2025 at 10:00 A.M.** at City of Auburn Council Chambers, 24 South Street, Auburn, NY 13021 and the following resolution was duly offered and seconded to wit:

Resolution No. 03-25

RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE REVISED OLWMC ORGANIZATIONAL

BYLAWS

MOTION BY: _____

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 1411 of the Not-for-Profit Corporation Law (“N-PCL”, and hereinafter referred to as the “Act”), and a Certificate of Incorporation (the “Certificate”) filed with the New York Secretary of State on the 23rd day of February, 2011, the **Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council, Inc.** (the “Corporation”) has been established as a not-for-profit, local development corporation to relieve and reduce unemployment, promote and provide for additional and maximum employment, improve and maintain job opportunities, instructing or training individuals to improve or develop their capabilities for such jobs, carrying on scientific research for the purpose of aiding a community or geographical area by attracting new industry to the community or area or by encouraging the development of, or retention of, an industry in the community or area, lessening the burdens of government and acting in the public interest, including undertaking programs and activities in furtherance of managing, monitoring and protecting the water resources of Owasco Lake and the water resources within the Owasco Lake Watershed for the well-being and benefit of the residents of the County; and

WHEREAS, the Members of the corporation with support from City of Auburn staff have convened on numerous occasions to discuss clarifying, removing redundancies and making more concise bylaws provisions, as well as to remove typos from the original document.

WHEREAS, following internal reviews and revisions, the proposed updated OLWMC bylaws were further reviewed and edited by legal counsel to ensure they meet NYS regulations, laws and statutes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors that the Corporation will adopt the revised set of organizational bylaws, to which the organization will remain committed.

SECOND BY: _____

Dated: December 16, 2025

Owasco Lake Watershed Management
Council, Inc.

Hon. Aileen McNabb Coleman, Cayuga County Legislator Member, ex officio

Hon. Edward Wagner, Supervisor, Town of Owasco Member, ex officio

Hon. Ginny Kent, Councilor, City of Auburn Member, ex officio

CERTIFICATION

STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF CAYUGA

I, Ginny Kent, the undersigned, Secretary of the **Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council, Inc.** (the “Corporation”), do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing extract of the minutes of the meeting of the Members of the Corporation, including the Resolution contained therein, held on **December 16, 2025** with the original thereof on file in my office, and that the same is a true and correct copy of said original and of such Resolution set forth therein and of the whole of said original so far as the same relates to the subject matters therein referred to.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that (A) all members had due notice of said meeting; (B) said meeting was in all respects duly held; (C) pursuant to Article 7 of the Public Officers Law (the “Open Meetings Law:”), said meeting was open to the general public, and due notice of the time and place of said meeting was duly given in accordance with such Open Meetings law; and (D) there was a quorum of the members present throughout said meeting.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that, as of the date hereof, the attached Resolution is in full force and effect and has not been amended, repealed or rescinded.

Date

Secretary

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