



## **Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council (OLWMC)**

**March 16th, 2021, 10:00am, Meeting of the Directors**

**A. Roll Call:** Board of Directors present: **Owasco** - Ed Wagner, **Cayuga County**- Aileen McNabb-Coleman, **Niles** – Joan Jayne, **Locke** – Thane Benson, **Scipio** –Vivian Cunningham, **Sennett** – Tom Gray, **Executive Director**- Adam Effler

Ex Officio Attending: Andrew Snell, Dr. Dana Hall, Dr. Brandon Wong, Steve Lynch, Daniel Welch, Michele Wunderlich, Dr. John Halfman, Tony Prestigiacomo, John West, Ron Kuck, Greg Rejman, John West, Mr. Colucci

**B. Approval of the Agenda.** Motion to approved agenda as presented made by Ed Wagner. Seconded by Joan Jayne. Vote was unanimous. Motion Carried.

**C. Approval of Minutes from the February 16th meeting as distributed.** Motion by Ed Wagner to accept minutes as distributed. Motion seconded by Joan Jayne. Vote was unanimous. Motion Carried.

**D. Public to be Heard.** No issues raised from the public.

**E. Exec. Director's Briefing-** Adam Effler (full summary distributed for review prior to meeting) Please review Dr. Effler's full summary. He highlighted issues related to the Lake Friendly Living Awareness Week public webinar to be held the first week in May co-sponsored by The Nature Conservancy with support from OLWA.

Dr. Effler discussed a published article in the Citizen regarding the regarding progress on Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) inventorying and mitigation at Fillmore Glen State Park within the Owasco Lake watershed, 2/27/2021.

Dr. Effler announced he was notified NYS Assembly Conservation Committee allocated \$500 million for clean water infrastructure.

Dr. Effler discussed the Hyfi sensors installation with formal signing of a subcontract of OLWMC to install the remaining sensors.

On April 20, Dan Welch, and Ron Kuck of CCE plan to offer an update presentation on land management programming, outreach and education initiatives that help advance the protection of the watershed and Owasco Lake water resources.

OLWMC will partner with OWLA on submitting an insect mitigation funding proposal for the HWA under the appropriate program funding.

**F. Board of Directors/Municipality Representatives Feedback:** Dr. Effler would like to thank the towns that are supporting lake friendly living initiative with resolutions, signage, and messaging.

**G. Treasurer's Audit and Finance Report, Feb. Financials Approval** –The Profit & Loss, Budget vs Actual, and the Balance Sheet reports were presented to the Board. Joan presented the Balance sheet: Total current assets: \$213,174.35. Motion to approve the Financial report was made by Tom Gray. Seconded by V. Cunningham. Vote was unanimous. Motion Carried.

**H. Hyfi Watershed Tributary Level Sensors Technology and Monitoring** –Dr. Effler appreciates the work and collaboration of Dr. Wong and The Great Lakes Protection Fund on the Watershed Tributary Level Sensory Technology and Monitoring Project. Dr. Wong presented on the project. Dr. Wong has been working with a grant on the Hyfi tributary level sensors installation project. With his Great Lakes company, Dr. Wong presented his tracking water levels experience across Michigan, Ohio, and NY, collecting water levels using employing simple, low-cost technology. Dr. Wong presented various methodologies for collecting water levels in tributaries. The Hyfi technology continuously tracks water levels, accurate within a fraction of an inch using cell phone technology. Hyfi uses wireless cellphone technology without the touchscreen, only needing a line of site in real time. It is an easy installation without data outages. Hyfi has the impact ability to predict actionable and meaningful events such as requiring bridge closures with rising waters. Hyfi sensors can bring online gauges for county field staff, emergency responders and wildlife biologists as well as watershed managers. A dashboard has been prepared for Owasco Lake. They are about halfway through the grant for Owasco Lake and the hyfi sensors are in seven locations with more in the planning process.

**Questions:** 1) Are we able to incorporate alerts into county planning when water levels reach a certain point.? Yes, can do that and willing to work with County and make it meaningful.

2): Issue in winter conditions? Some noise with winter condition detecting ice dams.

3)Link to the sensors? <https://www.hyfi.io/olwipd>

**I. Owasco Lake Research Updates-** Dr. John Halfman. Dr. Halfman presented at the spring scientific symposium. They are preparing to start their spring research program beginning in April for the proposed 2021 work.

**J. NYSDEC Hub Updates- Tony Prestigiacom**, link available for the Bob Bower 2021 OWLA Scientific Symposium available on [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a-SGoNolxo8&list=PLuh7rKsN-joCrx6EwVV0kfWPjY\\_GH2yM-](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a-SGoNolxo8&list=PLuh7rKsN-joCrx6EwVV0kfWPjY_GH2yM-)

Update: We are gearing up for spring season. Continuing ‘clean water exercises’ in the Finger Lakes similar to the Nine Element plan for Owasco. We are working with the USGS for data analysis.

**K. Watershed Rules and Regulations Revisions Updates** – Steve Lynch. Steve acknowledges Adam Effler and Dana Hall for their efforts to inform State and Federal Representatives on the revised watershed rules and regulations and their significance and impact. Otherwise, no new information.

**L. Nine Element Watershed Plan Updates**– Michele Wunderlich. OLWMC is a key organization on the process of the nine-element plan. There is continuing work on the validation of the model.

**M. Owasco Flats Retention Basins Project Updates** - Michele Wunderlich. Two more sensors were installed in the basin last week. Hope to complete project by June 18, 2021.

**N. The Nature Conservancy Updates** - Olivia Green No report. Adam expresses gratitude for the upcoming Lake Friendly Living Webinar Awareness Week sponsorship by the Nature Conservancy that will be held the first week in May. Event promotion forthcoming.

**O. Owasco Watershed Lake Association Updates** – Dr. Dana Hall is working for revised Rules and Regulation for the Watershed. He discussed the HWA invasion in the southern part of the Owasco Lake Watershed. OWLA will begin treating some hemlocks critical to holding soil in place in the glens and gullies. They have donated \$25,000 to start and will be accepting donations from any organization willing to participate. Chemical treatment will continue spring and fall for next few years until Cornell can get an insect mitigation program established.

Riparian Buffer Willows Planting Project along Veness Brook will begin late April/Early May. OLWA will need volunteers for assistance if anyone is interested.

For the next monthly forum Hillary Lambert will present on the 10-year battle on hydrilla in Cayuga Lake. It is scheduled for April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 7PM.

**P. Cornell Cooperative Extension Updates** - Daniel Welch, Update: April 10, 2021- a workshop with Dickman Farms on Rain barrel building, limited to 10 individuals.

Link for Rain Barrel workshop in April: <https://www.dickmanfarms.com/events/show/build-a-rain-barrel-184>

Composting workshop regarding weeds along the lake -details next week. This workshop is being developed out of request out of last week’s symposium week.

**Q. Emerson Park Sluiceway Cleanout and Retrofit Updates**- Seth Jensen. Work will soon be underway. Need to get in before lake level rises too much.

**R. Watershed Inspection Monthly Report** – Andrew Snell. Gradual melt has limited runoff turbidity. Runoff in Scipio is being monitored. Animal access to surface water in Locke is being monitored. Monitoring ground disturbances in a few towns. Seven Hyfi tributaries placed and monitored. Digital versions can be placed on the town and OLWMC websites.

**S. Lake Level Report** – John West. Current level is 711.4 feet. Rain is in the forecast, so will likely release with a target of 712.5 feet.

**T. Communications** Nothing to report.

**U. Issues of Concern** None raised.

**V. Schedule** Next Meeting (3rd Tuesday of April is the 20th)

**Adjourn:** Motion to Adjourn: Joan Jayne. Seconded: Ed Wagner. Unanimous vote. Carried.

**Adjourned 11:14 AM**

Respectfully Submitted on 03/16/21,

Vivian Cunningham, Town of Scipio

Acting Secretary