



Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council  
August 17th, 2021, 10:00am

Meeting of the Directors

**Owasco** - Ed Wagner, **Cayuga County**- Aileen McNabb -Coleman, **City of Auburn** - Debby McCormick  
**Niles** – Joan Jayne, **Locke** – Thane Benson, **Scipio** – Vivian Cunningham,  
**Fleming** - Don Oltz, **Moravia** – Terry Baxter, **Village of Moravia** – Gary Mulvaney, **Village of Groton** – Nancy Niswender, **Summerhill** – Charlie Ripley,  
**Sennett** – Tom Gray  
**Executive Director**- Adam Effler

Board of Directors- Roll call: Board of Directors present: **Owasco** - Ed Wagner, **Cayuga County**- Aileen McNabb-Coleman, **Niles** – Joan Jayne, **Scipio** –Vivian Cunningham, **Town of Moravia**-Terry Baxter, **Village of Moravia**- Gary Mulvaney, **Fleming**-Don Oltz (Remote), **Executive Director**- Adam Effler

Ex Officio Attending:

- A. Dr. Dana Hall, Michele Wunderlich, John West, Ron Kuck, John West, Mr. Colucci, Rick Nelson, Kathleen Bertuch, Olivia Green, Ken Kudla, Rick Nelson, Doug, Greg Rejman, Greg Hutnik, Thomas Gray, Steve Lynch. Eileen O'Connor, Roxanna Johnston
- B. Approval of the Agenda. Motion to approve the agenda-Terry Baxter. Motion seconded by Joan Jayne. Was approved unanimously. Motion carried.
- C. Approval of Minutes from the July 20<sup>th</sup> meeting which were electronically distributed. Motion to approve made by Gary Mulvaney. Motion seconded by Terry Baxter. Unanimously approved. Motion carried.
- D. Public to be heard: None heard.

- E. Director's Summary- Adam Effler (distributed for review prior to meeting) and reviewed the summary. Welcome to Brycine Cochrane from Evendine, Australian Consulting Team; First HABS documented in Lake-remind people to check NYHABS for status of HABS in lake; City is monitoring raw water daily for algae; Received a letter from the NYSDOH regarding the updated WRRR-they commented they have formed a 4-agency review committee and the review is underway; Working with NYSERDA approved the Council to work with the clean energy internship program which will support an intern to work with communities to certify for the Climate Smart Communities Program primarily for the Town of Owasco; HYFI water level project has 14 sensors throughout watershed data is tracking very well; Thank you to Partners for a Healthy Watersheds for offering their Farm Tours regarding protective watershed practices. We are working on several projects with OLWA, and we appreciate their partnership; We are positioned to hold lands within the watershed and working with Olivia Green. We are looking for office space to unify our space. We recently finalized and approved our financial audit.
- F. Board of Directors/Municipality Representatives Feedback. None
- G. Treasurer's Audit and Finance Report
  - i. July 31, 2021 Financials Approval – Joan Jayne presented the balance sheet report of \$452,678.09. It has increased since last month due to a large payment from the City of Auburn which is encumbered for salaries. Motion to approve Terry Baxter. Motion seconded Gary Mulvaney. Unanimously approved. Motion carried.
- H. Owasco Lake Research Updates- Dr. John Halfman provided updates. They are servicing autosamplers Dutch Hollow/installed and collecting data. Will be visiting dockside research station monthly. Members are able to join him with sampling they may send him an email if interested on Tues am at 10AM
- I. NYSDEC Hub Updates- Tony Prestigiacomio. Busy with field sampling. Continuing to work with the Finger Lakes Water Planning Hub to develop clean water plan and HABS mitigation. Multiple research programs are underway.
- J. Watershed Rules and Regulations Revisions Updates – Steve Lynch

received the August 2,2021 response as reported in Dr. Effler's report.

- K. Nine Element Watershed Plan Update Presentation– Michele Wunderlich Presented an overview on the Nine Element Plan Project and an Update on the Plan acknowledging partners NYS Depart of State and Cornell University. Cornell is currently working on the possible modeling scenarios for implementation of the plan. The plan has been in the planning stages since 2016 and will now move forward quickly forward with public forums. Her presentation for the public forum will be at the next council meeting. (Her presentation is available on the olwmc.org website video of the meeting).
- L. The Nature Conservancy Updates - Olivia Green, discussed a priority property acquisition of 161 acres in Town of Sempronius which ranks 8<sup>th</sup> in watershed water quality protection features desirable to have in a property.
- M. Owasco Watershed Lake Association Updates – Ken Kudla, awaiting a sampling plan few final pieces. Working for the site survey and monitoring program and then look for volunteers.
- N. Cornell Cooperative Extension Updates- Daniel Welch- the office move is completed to Cayuga Community College; they are working on a Home Electronics Collection event will be held on 9/25/21 which you can register for now and a Hazardous Waste event on 10/16/21 which you can register for in September 1, 2021.
- O. Partners for Healthy Watershed – Greg Rejman Updates: none now, experiencing computer problems.
- P. Emerson Park Sluiceway Cleanout and Retrofit Updates- Seth Jensen designing a retrofit for the sluiceway to prevent clogging in the future.
- Q. Watershed Inspection Monthly Report–Ally Berry and Dillon Shults: Discussed appearance of HABS in lake-a few have recently appeared, reported working on issues for last month; continuing to monitor sited. On septic spill last month. One RV may be improperly disposing sewage and are monitoring. Discussed sites they are monitoring. Reported on Healthy Watershed Farm Tours. Will be developing a Citizen article.
- R. Lake Level Report – John West reported the lake level at 712.7 feet and is continuing to monitor lake level considering the predicted rainfall. They are continuing to test raw water for algae.

- s. Communications: None Heard
- T. Issues of Concern: None Heard:
- U. Next Scheduled Meeting September 21,2021 at 10 AM.
- v. Motion to Adjourn made by Joan Jayne. Motion seconded by Gary Mulvaney. Motion was unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Vivian Cunningham

## 2021 OLWMC Goals

1. Increase participation of municipalities that have yet to join the Council.
2. Community Outreach
  - a. Increase awareness of the Lake Friendly Living Pledge Program and boundaries of the watershed through signage.
  - b. Mobilize an outreach campaign for eventual rollout of Updated Watershed Rules and Regulations
    - i. Plan distribution methods for supportive materials for guidance for watershed programs and lines of supportive funding.
  - c. Development of a watershed specific farmers' advisory committee
    - i. Growing membership
    - ii. Determine meeting times and location
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 funding availability
  - c. Seek watershed support as a line item on the NYS Environmental Protection Fund (EPF)
4. Work with the Towns' elected officials, highway superintendents, and county soil and water conservation district's (SWCD's) to improve ditching practices.
  - i. Support communication between highway departments and SWCD's.
5. Support for the completion and implementation of the NYS Nine Element (9E) Watershed Plan
  - i. Transitioning from 9E plan information and priority sites or 'hot spots' to target watershed project implementation
    1. Presentation of priority information for managers to

support priority project implementation

2. Use (9E) Plan to advocate for eternal project funding through grants
6. 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.
  - i. NYSDEC- 2021 sampling plan
    - a. OWLA/NYSDEC/OLWMC collaboration essential
7. Continue to support requested revisions of the Updated Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations, as well as OLWIPD program requirements according to their rollout
  - a. Develop programmatic needs for watershed rules and regulations variance process
8. Support oversight, growth, and guidance for the Watershed Inspection and Protection Division
  - a. Foster outreach and guidance for stakeholders
9. Continue monitoring the lake to assess water quality.

- a. Transferrable datasets between multiple groups, scientists and planners/managers
- b. Work with the DEC Finger Lakes Hub and other partners towards reducing nutrient loading and HABs.