

Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council
December 15, 2020

Meeting of the Directors

Directors Present: Joan Jayne, Debbie McCormick, Ed Wagner, Mary Alice Stetz, Don Oltz, Aileen McNabb-Coleman

Ex-Officio Members Present: Eileen O'Connor, John West, Dan Welch, Dana Hall, Doug Kierst

Others Present: Drew Snell, Adam Effler, Kaitlyn Shanahan, Ken Kudla, Michele Wunderlich, Michele Lyon, Vivian Cunningham, Andy Zepp, Tricia Kerr, Greg Rejman, John Halfman, Ron Kuck, Seth Jensen, Christopher Jones, Tony Prestigiacomo

Debbie McCormick made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mary Alice Stetz and it passed unanimously.

Ms. McCormick made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 2020 meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Stetz and it passed unanimously.

Adam Effler presented Resolution No. 05-2020 - To Endorse the Acceptance of Revised Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations by The City of Auburn (City of Auburn Resolution #104 Of 2020) And The Town of Owasco (Town of Owasco Resolution 20-149) And Transmittal to NYS Agencies for Review and Adoption. Ms. Stetz made a motion to adopt the resolution. The motion was seconded by Ms. McCormick and it passed unanimously.

Dr. Effler reported that a grant proposal through NRCS RCPP in partnership with CCSWCD and OWLA requesting federal dollars to advance watershed farm planning has been submitted. Senator Schumer's office is preparing a letter of endorsement for this project to share directly with their contacts at NRCS. Dr. Effler will be reaching out to Congressman Katko's office to do the same.

Governor Cuomo vetoed the NYS tributary bill that would have provided additional protection to Class C streams.

The OLWMC is a grant subcontractor for the installation of Hyfi tributary level sensors and will be receiving approximately \$4000. The OLWIPD will be installing the remaining sensors in the specified locations.

The OLWMC and OWLA are planning community willow planting projects along watershed riparian corridors for spring 2021.

To date, resolutions to endorse the Lake Friendly Living pledge have been made by the City of Auburn, the Towns of Moravia, Niles, and Owasco, and the Village of Moravia, as well as the Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency.

Joan Jayne requested approval of the monthly financial documents. Ms. McCormick made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 2020 meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Stetz and it passed unanimously

Dr. Effler reported that the SBA PPP loan was forgiven in full. Also the Town of Moravia has provided \$1000 to the OLWMC and the Town of Owasco has increased their contribution by \$2000.

Dr. Effler requested approval of the OLWMC 2021 budget. Ms. McCormick made a motion to approve the proposed budget. The motion was seconded by Ms. Stetz and it passed unanimously. Dr. Effler requested approval of the 2019 Audit Report and the 990/Char 500 IRS Tax forms. Ms. McCormick made a motion to approve the audit report and tax forms. The motion was seconded by Ms. Stetz and it passed unanimously.

Doug Kierst gave a presentation regarding work that Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District has done within the watershed recently. The District is currently managing grants worth over \$2M for projects within the watershed. Since 2018 the CCSWCD has hydroseeded between 32 and 41 miles of ditches and have completed rock line channel ditch stabilization projects on Wykoff Rd in the Town of Fleming and Mathers Rd in the Town of Scipio. Other projects include an undersized culvert replacement project on Richardson Rd in Niles, a bank stabilization project on the Owasco Inlet, and flooding mitigation project in Moravia in which channel capacity was increased and debris clean out structures were installed. Ag projects included over 7500 acres of cover crops on 16 farms, the installation of grazing systems to keep animals out of streams, and an erosion rock lined waterway within a farm field. His agency attends the highway superintendents' meetings and encourages them to contact the CCSWCD if they need assistance on ditch stabilization projects.

John Halfman said that he will be able to give his report about the 2020 sampling season at the January meeting. Tony Prestigiaco reported that the Hub has started to analysis of data sets from the USGS/DEC data collection project.

Michele Wunderlich said that the Watershed Rules and Regulations website has been updated, that the consultant is still working to calibrate and validate the watershed model for the 9E plan, and that they are waiting on a control structure to be delivered and the completion of plantings for Basin 3 of the Flats Project.

Dr. Effler reported that he is working with TNC on a willow planting event in 2021 on the their recently acquired property in the Flats.

Dana Hall reported that the Hemlock Wooley Adelgid surveillance project is being postponed due to Covid.

Dan Welch reported that his agency is examining where to focus their environmental education efforts in 2021.

Seth Jensen reported that the County and OWLA have committed \$31,000 and \$5,000 respectively toward the clean out of the sluiceway. A change order for a project on the City's intake will be made to allow a contractor to do the clean out. Also solutions to prevent the sluiceway from filling up again are being examined.

Andy Zepp from the Finger Lakes Land Trust discussed the work his agency has done in the Owasco watershed. The FLLT has purchased lake front property now known as the Owasco Bluff Nature Preserve. They have worked with US Fish and Wildlife to build seasonal wetlands to capture storm water, have removed invasive buckthorn and are initiating a re-forestation project with native trees. They will be working with staff and volunteers to maintain the trails at the site. The FLLT also acquired 35 acres in the Flats and will explore restoring the wetland function at this site. They hope to transfer this property to NYSDEC. They also purchased a parcel on the southwest side of the flats that was known for erosion runoff issues and have restored that site. They hope to bring partners together to look at the Flats holistically so that water quality is improved and the Village of Moravia is protected from flooding events. The FLLT has also acquired a conservation easement on a property in Groton that will be restored.

Drew Snell reported that in the past month he and Kaitlyn Shanahan have followed up on a storm water issue in Locke, a steep slope construction project in Moravia, and a manure management construction project in Groton. The WIPD has installed 140 storm water medallions in the southern part of the watershed, assisted TCSWCD with the installation of ditch filter socks to slow down storm water and installed the HyFi water level sensors in 6 locations along the Inlet and 1 location on Veness Brook. Ms. Shanahan is developing a new homeowner information packet that will include a map of the watershed showing the protected streams.

John West reported that the lake level was at 710.4 feet and he hoped to bring it down to 710 by the end of the year.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 19 at 10 am

Notes prepared by Eileen O'Connor, December 16, 2020