

**Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council  
February 16, 2021 Meeting of the Directors  
Meeting Minutes**

**Directors Present: Owasco** - Ed Wagner, **Cayuga County**- Aileen McNabb -Coleman, **City of Auburn** - Debby McCormick, **Niles** – Joan Jayne, **Locke** - Mary Alice Stetz, **Scipio** – Vivian Cunningham, **Village of Moravia** – Michele Lyon

**OLWMC Staff** – Adam Effler – Executive Director, Drew Snell-Watershed Inspector

**Ex-Officio Members and Partners Present:** Tony Prestigiaco –DEC, Michele Wunderlich, Cayuga County Planning Dept. Steve Lynch, Director Cayuga County Planning.

Dr. Effler Opened the meeting at 10:00AM

**Approval of the Agenda** Debby McCormick made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Michelle Lyon and passed unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes from the December 15<sup>th</sup> meeting** Joan Jayne made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 19, 2021 meeting. The motion was seconded by Debby McCormick and passed unanimously.

**Directors Report** – Adam gave a synopsis of highlights from his written report (included with meeting documents).

- He reported that a meeting was held on January 21<sup>st</sup> with Region 7 members of NYSDEC and watershed partners. Communication between OLWIP and local municipal planning boards was identified as an area to improve. The DEC’s broad oversight of activity in the watershed includes large scale residential development. OWIPD is the enforcement arm of this oversight according to local watershed rules and regulations. To improve communication OLWIP can help and advise local planning boards with site review plans. Adam asked directors to strongly encourage their town planning boards to work with OWIPD to improve communication. The next meeting with DEC will be in June.
- The OLWMC and its partners have arranged several meetings with NYS elected representatives, including Senators Mannion and Oberacher, and Assemblyman Lemondes, to answer any questions related to updated watershed regulations that are now under review for approval by the New York State Department of Health. Senator Helming has been in contact with the NYSDEC and NYS Agriculture and Markets regarding her support of the revised watershed rules and regulations.
- The OLWMC is working closely with the Owasco Watershed Lake Association (OWLA) to rollout a variety of signage projects in the near term. The purpose of these signage projects is to increase awareness and promote conservation practices to better protect the lake. These organizations are cost-sharing ‘no dumping-drains to lake’ storm drain medallions and ‘lake friendly living’ signs.

- The Village of Moravia and Town of Scipio both recently approved of the installation of signage, according to the Council's Lake Friendly Living program. All of the watershed municipalities that have resolved to take the pledge via a resolution, have agreed to attach LFL signage to existing municipal signage to help advance that pledge program. Drew Snell of the OLWIPD is collaborating with municipal highway departments' staff to identify and map suitable installation locations. Lake Friendly Living is an awareness campaign that piggybacks on a regional LFL effort throughout the entire Finger Lakes Region. Vivian Cunningham, OLWMC Director and representative for the town of Scipio, brought the resolution to the town board on Wednesday, February 10th.
- We continue to work towards gaining permissions and/or required permits for the advancement of tributary identification and LFL signage throughout the watershed.
- The OLWMC, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and the City of Auburn are discussing developing common source water protection signage for lands acquired by both TNC and the City.
- The CCSWCD, OLWMC, and City of Auburn are working with NYS Senator Mannion of the 50<sup>th</sup> District (that governs the city) to identify ways the 50<sup>th</sup> district can help with Owasco Lake protection and restoration needs. We are proposing that an additional weed harvester would offer a multifaceted approach that could offer benefits to in lake nutrient removal, the removal of nuisance vegetation for lakeshore owners, and could be a shared tool among local lakes' SWCDs with jurisdiction
- The OLWMC and OWLA are planning a community willow planting project along a watershed riparian corridor in the spring, 2021. The riparian buffer installation will occur along Veness Brook. Both groups will continue to develop the logistics for coordinating this effort over the next couple of months.
- The Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization (CLWIO), like the OLWMC, is designed to bring municipalities together within the watershed to preserve and protect our waters. The CLWIO is reviewing its organizational structure. This review is being conducted to gain insight on how the CLWIO can best achieve its goals. The CLWIO is working with the Consensus Building Institute (CBI) to help with the organizational review. Part of this work involves talking to stakeholders in the watershed. The CLWIO is conducting an interview program to gain insights and recommendations to advance the effectiveness of their organization. OLWMC is offering guidance based on its experience with the IO structure.
- For the upcoming March 16<sup>th</sup> monthly OLWMC, Brandon Wong of Hyfi will present on the new watershed level sensor technology. On April 20<sup>th</sup>, Dan Welch and Ron Kuck of CCE plan to offer an update presentation on CCE's land management programming, outreach, and education initiatives that help advance the protection of the watershed and Owasco Lake water resources. Their ability to communicate with producers and track status and needs may prove tremendously helpful for both communication and directing CCSWCD for farming planning, and possibly for identifying farms that might be

interested in easements opportunities as part of a new farm plan or according to updated WRR requirements for the installation of riparian buffers along stream corridors.

**Board of Directors/Municipality Representatives Feedback** – Adam reiterated the interest and need to work together with local watershed town planning boards and OLWIPD to improve communication and protect the watershed.

**Public to be Heard** - No one in attendance requested to speak.

**Treasurer’s Audit and Finance Report, Financials Approval** – Joan Jayne, Treasurer presented the December 2020 and January 2021 finance reports. Both were accepted unanimously.

**Presentation** – Greg Talomie - Flare Usage, Contaminants, and Promoting LED Technology in the Finger Lakes – Mr. Talomie provided the history of flare use on Canandaigua Lake and many other Finger Lakes. He has introduced LED flares to replace chemical flares that contribute to contamination in lakes. His mission is to eliminate chemical flares throughout the Finger Lakes Region to protect the environment.

**NYSDEC Hub Updates- Tony Prestigiaco** had to leave meeting early.

**Update on Watershed Rules and Regulations Revisions** – Steve Lynch reported on the current status with the updated rules and regulations currently under review by the New York State Department of Health.

**Update on Completion of the 9E Plan** – Ms. Wunderlich reported that her 9E meeting is scheduled for tomorrow and she hopes to have good news on calibrations.

**Updates on the Owasco Flats Retention Basins Project-** Ms. Wunderlich reported that Basin 3 mostly done. And as soon as snow melts the punch list of things to finish will be done.

**OWLA updates-** Adam reported on the work he and Dana Hall/OWLA have been doing.

**Cornell Cooperative Extension updates-** no report.

**Emerson Park Sluiceway Cleanout and Retrofit Updates** – Drew reported there has been no activity due to weather.

**Watershed Inspection Monthly Report** – Mr. Snell presented his monthly activity report.

**Lake Level Report** – No report.

**Schedule Next Meeting** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of March, the 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:00AM.

**Meeting adjourned.**

**Minutes Prepared by Debby McCormick on 3/10/2021**