



Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council  
November 16th, 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

A. Board of Directors- Roll call

**Owasco** - Ed Wagner, **Cayuga County**- Aileen McNabb-Coleman, **City of Auburn** - Debby McCormick, **Niles** – Joan Jayne, , **Scipio** – Vivian Cunningham, **Fleming** - Don Oltz (remote), **Moravia** – Terry Baxter, **Village of Moravia** – Gary Mulvaney, **Cayuga County**- Aileen McNabb -Coleman (remote),

**Ex Officio:** Olivia Green, Dana Hall, Tony Prestigiacomio, Brandon Wong, Michele Wunderlich, Dr. John Halfman, John West, Jessie Brill, Rick Nelson, Greg Hutnik, Steve Lynch, Ron Kutch, Greg Rejman

**Presiding: Executive Director**- Adam Effler

- B. Approval of the Agenda. Motion to approve by Gary Mulvaney. Seconded by Terry Baxter. Unanimous vote, Motion carried
- C. Approval of Minutes from the October 19, 2021, meeting as distributed via email: Motion to approve made by Terry Baxter. Seconded by Joan Jayne. Unanimous vote, Motion carried.
- D. Public to be Heard: None Heard
- E. Director's Summary- Adam Effler (distributed for review prior to meeting)

**Staff Office Location**

- OLWMC staff have finalized their move to a unified commercial office space located at 6073 West Lake Road (Fleming), Auburn, NY 13021.

**Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection and Protection Division (OLWIPD)**

- Recruitment of a new secondary Watershed Inspector is underway.
- The OLWIPD has been responding to, and offering watershed community guidance for, recent flood damage throughout the watershed. The Division has been assisting with problem-solving and offering recommendations for remediation measures. Furthermore, the OLWIPD has outlined

pre-winter construction site stabilization recommendations associated with observations in the field. These recommendations will be made public within the OLWMC's November feature article with the Citizen newspaper. Municipal officials are encouraged to continue to draw upon support from the OLWIPD, as part of Planning Board construction site planning activities.

- OLWIPD staff will be participating in a sediment and erosion control workshop offered by the Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District (CCSWCD) in 2022.

### **HABs**

- The 2021 HABs reporting and notification season has ended. The NYHABS link will be unavailable until the 2022 monitoring season begins in May 2022.

### **Projects, Planning, and Programming**

- An Emerson Park volunteer rain garden installation was proposed to meet the following goals.
  - Establish Lake Friendly Rain Garden project near the Owasco Lake shoreline using native plants to promote reducing fertilizers and pesticides
  - Start with a small project to demonstrate an attractive alternative to higher maintenance lawns
  - Develop community visibility and volunteer involvement
  - Demonstrate community organizational collaboration towards natural resource protection

The October 23<sup>rd</sup> planting event attracted community involvement and volunteerism for beautifying Emerson Park and demonstrated a recommended practice for capturing runoff and settling sediments. The OLWMC thanks its project partners, including the Owasco Watershed Lake Association (OWLA), Cayuga County Parks and Trails, Wegmans Food Markets, and the community volunteers that committed their time and assistance.

- Hyfi watercourse level sensors well-tracked tributary levels during recent storm activity and remain a recommended data source for flood monitoring, asset management, and advancing the flow component of watershed modeling to support various planning processes and decision-making. The OLWMC and its partners would need to consider the provision of funding to maintain the sensors and associated data beyond 2022.
  - The OLWMC has 14 sensors installed throughout the watershed, targeting locations that align with modeling sites for the Nine Key Element (9E) watershed plan's Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) model. With project support from OLWMC staff, OWLA's 2021 sediment and nutrient sampling program aligned with sensor locations. The ultimate project goal is to provide invaluable loading information for continued calibration of the SWAT model from both levels, and thereby discharge, information and suspended solids and nutrient concentration information. OWLA completed the fall sampling program and associated project data will be shared with the Cayuga County Planning Department for continued calibration of the SWAT model.
- The OLWMC offers partnership and support for the City of Auburn's NYS-awarded Drinking Water Source Protection Program (DWSP2). The working group is identifying objectives and considering calculating 9 Element Watershed Plan project cost estimates to prepare for associated grant proposals. We look forward to relevant data outcomes that will support forthcoming grants and projects implementation.
- This fall, OLWMC staff are planning to assist the Tompkins County Soil and Water Conservation District with sediment sock installations along exposed ditches in Tompkins County. Sediment socks are considered temporary measures for reducing erosion and stabilizing sediments.
- We await guidance and project funding opportunities from Cayuga County and NYS according to a completed and approved 9E Watershed Plan.
- On November 5, 2021, OLWMC staff toured The Nature Conservancy's recent 161-acre land acquisition in the town of Sempronius within the Owasco Lake watershed. Stewardship of the

property will help protect public water supplies and safeguard riparian buffers and wetlands. TNC is considering transferring this property for ownership and watershed stewardship by the OLWMC. The property is currently being monitored by TNC and is closed to the public.

### **Grants and Programs**

- In partnership, the CCSWCD is assisting a watershed farmer in finalizing their application for the installation of a conservation practice according to the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) Conservation Kick Program. OLWMC staff have helped guide progress for this project, and the City of Auburn has invested the required cost share for the grant award. Project funding will meet the implementation costs of installing a water and sediment control basin (WASCOB) on a selected farmer's property.

### **Watershed Rules and Regulations Update Project**

- New York State (NYS) has not provided a specific timeline for the ad hoc agencies to convene and complete their review. The official response from the NYS Department of Health (DOH), prepared in response to repeated inquiries about process/timing, did indicate that the agencies would consider the content and recommendations from the ongoing 9E Watershed Plan and City of Auburn DWSP2, upon the completion of those planning exercises. In recent months, a variety of local and greater NYS resolutions and advocacy letters have been delivered to the DOH and other state officials.

### **Buy-In**

- The OLWMC continues to look forward to buy-in 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, Dryden, Skaneateles, and Lansing; we continue to encourage the Board of Directors to reach out to representatives from these towns to elicit municipality buy-in.
- F. Board of Directors/Municipality Representatives Feedback: None Heard. Please remind Code enforcement officers to involve Ally Berry prior to issuing any permits involving potential erosion within the watershed.
- G. Treasurer's Audit and Finance Report
- i. October 2021 Financials Approval – Joan Jayne reported as of October 31, 2021, current assets and savings \$323,640.79 and total liabilities and equities are \$384,673.79 motion to approve made by Terry Baxter. Seconded by Gary Mulvaney. Unanimous vote. Motion carried.
  - ii. 2022 Council Budget Approval- Adam Effler Discussed changes in the budget proposal, increased commitments, and increased costs. No extraordinary changes from last year.
    1. Directors Approval. Motion to approve 2022 OWLC budget made by Joan Jayne. Seconded by Terry Baxter. Unanimous vote, Motion carried.
    2. Roll Call Ed Wagner, Debbie Mc Cormick, Aileen McNabb-Coleman
    3. Members/Finance and Budget Committee Approval Motion to approve Sponsor: Aileen Mc Nabb-Coleman, Seconded by Ed Wagner. Vote was unanimous. Motion Carried.
    4. Ed Wagner discussed there has been ample opportunities to discuss the budget.
- H. The Nature Conservancy Update Presentation - Olivia Green, Nature Conservancy presented an overview on their mission and Owasco Watershed program. Olivia presented her research on the

high degree of support the community has for the Finger Lakes Region for the lakes themselves, and for maintaining water quality. To view her presentation, see [www.OLWC.org/news](http://www.OLWC.org/news)

- I. Owasco Lake Research Updates- Dr. John Halfman is unavailable but reported that all sampling equipment has been recovered from the lake. Dr. Halfman will spend the winter months working on data analysis
- J. NYSDEC Hub Updates- Tony Prestigiaco: Working with various organizations to develop various plans for Finger Lakes water planning, oversight, surveillance, HABS mitigation and technical assistance for various projects that are ongoing.
- K. Watershed Rules and Regulations Revisions Updates – Steve Lynch: Updated WWR. Nothing to add to what has already been reported.
- L. Nine Element Watershed Plan Updates– Michele Wunderlich: 9 Element Plan recommendation updated
- M. Owasco Watershed Lake Association Updates - Dana Hall had done a great job securing \$140,000 from Federal Government for insect mitigation which will boost the wooly aldelgid elimination. Rick Nelson has also done a great job with Soil and Water in ditch and erosion mitigation. They are looking for more funding to continue the program.
- N. Cornell Cooperative Extension Updates- Ron Kutch, recently hired a Pro Dairy specialist.
- O. Partners for Healthy Watersheds Updates – Greg Rejman: working on a social media campaign, ongoing methane monitoring program for the diaries. Local farmers are sharing in production of Edesia, a milk solid used in the production of Plumpy’Nut. This product was highlighted on the Today Show this week. It is a product that is used to efficiently feed malnourished and starving children without needing feeding centers and scarce health professionals in the developing world. It has saved the lives of millions of children in the developing world. For more information: [https://www.today.com/video/how-a-rhode-island-mother-of-4-is-helping-feed-children-around-the-world-126054981766?playlist=mmlsnnnd\\_todayarchivesfriday](https://www.today.com/video/how-a-rhode-island-mother-of-4-is-helping-feed-children-around-the-world-126054981766?playlist=mmlsnnnd_todayarchivesfriday)
- P. Emerson Park Sluiceway Cleanout and Retrofit Updates- Seth Jensen: nothing to report.
- Q. Watershed Inspection Monthly Report–Ally Berry: Ally reported we have had 5-8 inches of rain this past month which exceeds usual rainfall by 2-3 inches. Ally submitted her Watershed monthly inspection report.
- R. Lake Level Report – John West: The current water level is at 712 ft elevation and he will begin drawing it down for the winter months over the next few days. Planning to be at a 710 elevation by end of De
- S. Communications: Evidn workshop at the end of November 30 3-5 PM. Will be making an update to Council objectives. Please consider any changes you would like to make.
- T. Issues of Concern: None heard.
- U. Schedule Next Meeting (3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of December is the 21, 2021),
- V. Adjourn. Motion made to Adjourn at 11:30 AM: Terry Baxter. Seconded by Joan Jayne Unanimous vote, Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Vivian Cunningham