

Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council
August 18, 2020

Meeting of the Directors

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

Ex-Officio Members Present: Eileen O'Connor, Bruce Natale, Steve Lynch

Others Present: Drew Snell, Adam Effler, Kaitlyn Shanahan, Dana Hall, Dana Hall, Rick Nelson, Kim Oswald, Charlotte Malmborg

Ed Wagner and made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Debby McCormick and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Wagner made a motion to approve the July minutes. The motion was seconded by Aileen McNabb-Coleman and it passed unanimously.

Joan Jayne gave the treasurer's report. Mr. Wagner made a motion to approve the report. The motion was seconded by Ms. McNabb-Coleman and it passed unanimously. Adam Effler said he is working on loan forgiveness of the PPP funds that were received.

Dr. Effler read a report from Dr. Halfman that data upload from the buoy has been slow, there has been noticeable cyanobacteria in the phytoplankton, and dock side sensors are deployed until October.

Dr. Effler also read a report from Tony Prestigiacoamo that he is presently focused on field work and on the Governor's project to find the best technology to reduce the impact of HABs on water bodies.

Steve Lynch reported that he is working with the City and Town of Owasco to set up a joint meeting in the next month to transmit the draft rules and regs from the steering group. He also reported that the 9E project has had challenges in calibrating the model and the County received a one year extension on completing the project. The 9E plan will become an addendum to the watershed management plan and is a tool to assist in the prioritization of projects and a pathway for funding.

Bruce Natale reported that the County issued a notice to proceed construction of the third retention pond in the flats.

Olivia Green reported that TNC hopes to close on a 200 acre parcel in the Town of Locke within the next month. Evidn will be presenting to OWLA at their next meeting.

Dana Hall reported that over the next few months, the OWLA membership will be focused on contacting politicians to discuss lake protection, increase signage in the watershed, distribute information on best practices to watershed residents, pick up trash, plant trees and work with teachers on water quality issues. The newly trained Hemlock Hunters are working to find and assess hemlocks in the watershed.

Kim Oswald from Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County introduced herself and said she will be working with OWLA on teacher education.

Bruce Natale said that the shape of the sluiceway culvert has been determined via camera to be elliptical. This information will be forwarded to the contractors to see how that may impact the project.

Charlotte Malmborg from the NYS Hemlock Initiative at Cornell University gave a presentation on the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid and discussed the work of her organization.

Drew Snell said that the WIPD followed up on four construction sites, four septic issues, one hydraulic fluid spill and gasoline odor complaint. He said that the big rain event in July caused significant sediment plumes to be discharged to the lake. He and Kaitlyn Shanahan were able to use the sonde to document the changes in turbidity in some of the streams. Mr. Snell showed before and after pictures of work done by Soil and Water on a farm field in the Veness Stream sub-watershed. A new grassed waterway and a control structure that backs up flow when necessary onto the ag field were installed. Mr. Snell also reported on the positive work done by the Tompkins County Highway Department in which they stabilized a steep ditch, installed check dams and hydroseeded the area.

Dr. Effler encouraged the directors to promote the Lake Friendly Living initiative among their Towns' residents.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 15, 2020.

Minutes by Eileen O'Connor, August 28, 2020