Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council

August 18, 2026, 10:00-11:30 AM

Meeting of the Directors

Owasco – TBD, **Cayuga County** – Aileen McNabb -Coleman, **City of Auburn** – Ginny Kent
Niles – Joan Jayne, **Locke** – Thane Benson, **Scipio –** Nancy Hart, **Fleming** – Karen VanLiew,
Town of Moravia – Terry Palmer, **Village of Moravia** –Chris Fulton,
Village of Groton – Theodore Skibinski, **Summerhill** – Charlie Ripley, **Sennett** – Tom Blair,
Dryden – TBD, **Lansing** – Joseph Wetmore
Executive Director- Adam Effler

Dr. Adam Effler presiding.

A. Board of Directors – Roll call: Cayuga County-Aileen McNabb-Coleman, City of Auburn-Ginny Kent, Scipio-Nancy Hart, Fleming-Karen VanLiew, Town of Moravia-Terry Palmer, Lansing-Joseph Wetmore. Ex-Officio attendees: Gabriel Yerdon, Philip Gioia, Jesse Lloyd, Michelle Wunderlich, Ed Wagner, Abby Hai

B. Approval of the Agenda as distributed via email. Motion to approve the agenda made by Ginny Kent and seconded by Aileen McNabb-Coleman. Motion unanimously approved.

C. Approval of Minutes from the June 16, 2026, Board Meeting as previously distributed via email. Motion to approve minutes made by Joseph Wetmore. Motion seconded by Nancy Hart. Motion unanimously approved.

D. Public to be Heard: none heard

E. Recognition of Ed Wagner: Dr. Effler recognized Ed Wagner for his dedicated support leadership, and service to the OLWMC since its inception. The Council truly appreciates his service and unwavering commitment to the Council and ultimately to Owasco Lake.

F. Resolution 01-2026: Resolution Appointing Nancy Hart as Secretary of the Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council. Motion to approve Resolution 01-2026 made by Ginny Kent and seconded by Aileen McNabb-Coleman. Motion unanimously approved.

G. Resolution 02-2026: Resolution Appointing Ginny Kent as Chair of the Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council and Authorizing the Chair as an Official Signatory for Financial, Banking, Grant, Contractual, and Administrative Matters. Motion to approve Resolution 02-2026 made by Aileen McNabb-Coleman and seconded by Nancy Hart. Motion unanimously approved.

H. Director's Summary – Adam Effler (distributed for review prior to meeting) For an audio/visual of the update of this presentation, please visit https://www.olwmc.org/news.

Watershed Rules and Regulations

Project Update:

The updated regulatory map concerning rules and regulations for the Owasco Lake watershed is complete. A version of the map will be made available on the Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection and Protection Division website and through the Cayuga County Planning Department's online services.

Recognition, Awareness, Education and Outreach Projects

Project Updates:

- The June 25 and July 24, 2026, OLWMC staff feature articles in the Citizen newspaper, respectively, featured 'What data centers could do to upstate NY's water' and 'Climate change, wildfires and cyanobacteria are connected challenges.'
- Partnering organizations are planning reconstruction of a dismantled educational kiosk at a West Lake Road pull-off near the southwest end of Owasco Lake. Interested partners met on the topic on August 11, 2026, to discuss the project and action items to move the project forward.
- The Finger Lakes and St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario (SLELO) Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISMs) invite community members to join a hands-on workshop focused on identifying, reporting, and helping prevent the spread of the spotted lanternfly (SLF), one of New York State's most concerning invasive insects.
- What: Spotted Lanternfly & Tree of Heaven Identification & Reporting Workshop
- When: August 21, 2026, 5:30–7:30 PM
- Where: Green Lakes State Park

Registration: Community members should register for the workshop to receive meeting details and instructions for setting up the community science tools. Visit https://fingerlakesinvasives.org/slftohworkshop/ to register.

Nine Element Watershed Plan (9EP)

Project Update:
The Owasco 9E (Plan) Coordination Committee is focused on developing stream corridor projects based on recommendations from a recent assessment project for Sucker and Veness Brooks. A subgroup convened with a local farmer to discuss associated project recommendations for a targeted reach along their property. The next 9E committee meeting is planned for August 19, 2026.

Watershed Lake and Tributary Monitoring

Projects Update:

The biweekly Owasco Lake tributary monitoring program was last conducted on

August 10, 2026, with collaboration between Cayuga County Planning, OWLA, OLWMC, and SUNY ESF. The next biweekly tributary monitoring run is scheduled for August 24, 2026.

NYS-awarded Drinking Water Source Protection Program (DWSP2)

Project Update:

- A Drinking Water Source Protection Plan (DWSP2, clean water plan) consultant for the City of Auburn and Town of Owasco plans to advance protection initiatives based on the recommendations of the water purveyors' respective clean water plans.
  - The consultant is requesting NYS funding to support the drinking water purveyors' initiative to develop a model ordinance for adoption by watershed municipalities.
- The 9E Coordination Committee has integrated its involvement with DWSP2 implementation efforts.

Municipal Codes, Ordinances, and Projects

Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) Identification and Programming:

Project Review:

The following New York Harmful Algal Bloom System (NYHABS) link is available to support NYS HABs monitoring efforts, and archived data is also available: on.ny.gov/nyhabs

Land Holdings

Fillmore Nature Preserve Project Review:

Over the Fall of 2025, stewardship activities continued at the Fillmore Nature Preserve, whereby new stewards have continued to maintain and clear trails under contract. Hunting permissions, stewardship and indemnification contracts were prepared and signed by three individuals for the 2025 hunting season.

Venice Preserve Review:

Two stewardship hunting agreement contracts have been signed by neighboring landowners, both college students focused on environmental studies.

Potential OLWMC Acquisitions Review:TNC has expressed interest in having the OLWMC own an additional property poised for long term stewardship and preservation within the Owasco Lake watershed, a 100-acre mixed farmland parcel in the Town of Groton. TNC will present the remaining acquisition opportunity to the OLWMC Board of Directors.

Partner Land Acquisitions/Targets Review:

Camp Casowasco has officially announced its closure. The FLLT is interested in exploring ways to conserve the landmark property and buildings.

Grant Projects, Programs, Funding and Opportunities

NFWF SOGL Project Update:

The Owasco Inlet streambank stabilization project is underway with implementation by the Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District. Project materials are being staged at the Town of Locke highway garage. Under project permit requirements prior to bank stabilization, site protection and dewatering will get underway future.

Newly Proposed Projects Update:

- OLWMC staff is seeking funding to replace the OLWMC Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (aka, drone), which is used for monitoring watershed conditions and projects.

- The OLWMC provided a support letter for a proposal being submitted to NFWF Conservation Partners Program by Pollinator Partnership (P2), titled *"Expanding Soil Health and Pollinator Conservation Technical Assistance in the Great Lakes Basin of New York State".*

  - This proposal seeks to increase landowner and producer outreach, engagement, and implementation of Farm Bill programs to help accelerate adoption of conservation practices that promote soil health and support the habitat needs of pollinators and other wildlife in New Yorks's Great Lakes Basin. The proposal envisions that Pollinator Partnership (P2) will provide support to staff for workshops, talks, outreach events, or field days located within the Owasco Lake Watershed where producers could learn more about pollinators and soil health principles. The plan includes informational media about various pollinator-beneficial agricultural practices and potentially other resources to use at such events (e.g., handouts, pamphlets, presentations, etc.), and OLWMC staff would provide feedback in reviewing the resources to ensure they meet the needs of a diverse partner network. Generally, the aim is to provide staff time, resources, and expertise to assist with achieving education and outreach goals, which in turn advances engagement with producers

Relevant Bill and Rulemaking Update:

1. Summary of A11560
   On June 4, 2026, the NY legislature passed the one-year data center moratorium in NY. A11560 is a comprehensive bill that would establish New York's first statewide regulatory framework for the development of large-scale (hyperscale) data centers. Rather than addressing a single issue, the legislation creates an integrated approach to managing the industry's impacts on energy, water, infrastructure, the environment, public health, ratepayers, workers, taxpayers, and host communities. The bill builds on several previously introduced bills. Rather than simply combining these proposals, A11560 refines, expands, and integrates them into a unified regulatory framework while introducing additional labor and oversight provisions. Overall, A11560 establishes New York's first comprehensive framework for evaluating and regulating hyperscale data center development, helping ensure future projects protect the state's electric grid, water

resources, environment, workers, ratepayers, taxpayers, and host communities while providing policymakers with the information needed to make informed decisions as the industry continues to grow.

Major provisions include:

Temporary permitting pause: Establishes a one-year pause on DEC permits for new data centers with a projected peak electric demand of 20 megawatts or more while the state evaluates the industry's cumulative impacts and develops long-term regulations. Existing facilities, permit renewals, modifications, and projects already under construction are exempt. Statewide environmental impact study: Requires DEC to conduct New York's first comprehensive assessment of the cumulative impacts of large data centers, including electricity demand, grid reliability, water use, wastewater, greenhouse gas emissions, air pollution, electronic waste, land use, public health, environmental justice, public subsidies, and infrastructure needs. The study must include public hearings and recommendations for future legislation and regulations.
Public participation and clean energy requirements: Requires public hearings before permitting large data centers, public disclosure of key project impacts and financial incentives, statewide energy-efficiency standards, increasing renewable electricity use to at least 90% by 2040 for facilities of 5 megawatts or more, and encourages on-site renewable generation and waste heat recovery.
Ratepayer protections: Creates a separate utility customer class for large data centers and requires these facilities—not residential and other utility customers—to pay for the electric, gas, water, and wastewater infrastructure needed to serve them. The bill also authorizes financial guarantees to protect utilities and ratepayers if projects are delayed or abandoned.
Host-community benefits: Requires new large data centers and major expansions to invest in community priorities such as energy efficiency, renewable energy, broadband, drinking water infrastructure, pollution reduction, and other locally identified needs through a public planning process, with annual independent audits to ensure commitments are fulfilled.
Labor and workforce standards: Requires prevailing wages for construction, participation in registered apprenticeship programs where available, prevailing wage protections for certain operations and maintenance workers, and the use of domestically produced iron and steel, subject to existing legal exceptions.

- Federal representatives Ocasio-Cortez and Senator Sanders introduced legislation that would enact a national AI data center moratorium and allow communities to protect themselves and the environment.

2. July 1, 2026, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) published the rulemaking *Treatment and Disposal of Landfill Leachate* (6 NYCRR Parts 360 and 363) in the New York State Register- the agency has announced proposed rules that would make New York the first state in the nation to require

treatment of environmental contaminants in leachate at landfills. Leachate is a liquid that forms as water moves through waste at landfills before it is released to the environment. The proposal would strengthen protections for drinking water and reduce long-term risks to public health and the environment. The OLWMC is a member of the New York River Watch Leachate Loophole Coalition and initially signed on to a joint letter requesting that DEC provide a 90-day public comment period upon release of the rule. Then again, signed on to an updated coalition letter requesting an additional 30-

day extension to ensure a full and fair review period. Remaining concerns have to do with whether the leachate will be treated effectively. Currently, wastewater treatment facilities (WWTFs) are allowed to accept leachate for treatment, and while conventional WWTFs are designed to treat human waste, more advanced treatment may be required to remove leachate contaminants. Written public comments will be accepted by DEC through September 9, 2026.Written public comments will be accepted by DEC through September 9, 2026.

3. Sign on Letter that OLWMC Signed:
The Healing Our Waters - Great Lakes Coalition and Environmental Law and policy Center have drafted a letter to the Office of Management and Budget in response to its request for comment on its proposed changes to how federal funds are managed. The Trump administration has proposed changes that overhaul federal grantmaking. Great Lakes restoration and protection happen because of the partnership between the federal agencies and the region. The changes being proposed could block coalition partners from being able to access critical funds going towards restoring habitat, controlling invasive species, or preventing runoff from polluting the lakes. The National Council on Nonprofits has assembled comprehensive material on what's being proposed. One can learn more here: https://www.councilofnonprofits.org/pressreleases/proposed-changes-federal-grantmaking-could-disrupt-nonprofits-and-harm-communities. The letter highlights the risks of inserting subjective policy decisions into the grantmaking process. The Coalition has a long history of recommending ways to improve the efficiency for managing Great Lakes programs.

I. Board of Directors/Municipality Representatives Feedback: None heard.

J. Treasurer's Audit and Finance Report

   i. June 2026 Financials Approval –Ginny Kent reported the financials as of June 30,2026 Total Checking $345,745.25; Total Current Assets $349,904.50 and Total Liabilities & Equity $379,340.37. July 2026 Financials–Ginny Kent reported the July financials as Total Checking $321,714.31; Total Current Assets $325,864.56 and Total Liabilities and Equity $355,966.62. Motion to accept the June and July financials made by Nancy Hart and seconded by Terry Palmer. Vote unanimously approved motion.

   ii. Dr. Effler reported that the annual audit was submitted to NYS comptroller's office,

K. Lake Level Report – John West- unavailable

L. NYSDEC Finger Lakes Watershed Program– Gabriel Yerdon. For an audio of the update of this presentation, please visit https://www.olwmc.org/news. Gabriel discussed funds available for tree reforestation grants for community forests, public comment period open for pesticides rule making, HABS research grants open thru September, DEC podcasts available for education and activity.

M. Owasco Watershed Lake Association Update – Phil Gioia reported that OWLA is working on securing funding for treating selected hemlock trees for woolly adelgid infestation, continuing to work on ditch remediation, and community education.

N. Watershed Inspection Monthly Report – Jesse Lloyd. For an audio/visual of the update of this presentation, please visit https://www.olwmc.org/news.

O. Communications: Nancy Hart reported the Town of Scipio is working on revising the ordinances for the protections of the watershed overlay district with the planning and zoning committees. Plans are underway to vote on new ordinances in the Fall. The highway dept participated in the hydroseeding program. Aileen McNabb-Coleman discussed the Lake Friendly Living Program involving contractors and homeowners that are forward thinking and the importance of recognizing them.

P. Issues of Concern: None heard.

Q. Next Meeting will be Tuesday, September 15, 2026.

R. Adjourn: Motion to adjourn made by Nancy Hart, seconded by Terry Palmer. Motion unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 10:55 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Vivian Cunningham