

Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council
July 21, 2020

Meeting of the Directors

Directors Present: Ed Wagner, Joan Jayne, Debbie McCormick, Don Oltz

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

Others Present: Drew Snell, Adam Effler, Michele Wunderlich, Kaitlyn Shanahan, Dana Hall, Tony Prestigiacomo

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

Ed Wagner made a motion to approve the June minutes. The motion was seconded by Don Oltz and it passed unanimously.

Joan Jayne gave the treasurer's report. Ed Wagner made a motion to approve the balance sheet. The motion was seconded by Don Oltz and it passed unanimously.

Ed Wagner made a motion to approve the May financials. The motion was seconded by Don Oltz and it passed unanimously.

Adam Effler thanked Moravia for meeting their 2020 request for funding by providing \$2,000 of funding to the Council.

Adam Effler reported on John Halfman's sampling program. Until the last couple of weeks, the creeks were dry and Dutch Hollow Brook was very low. The dockside sensors have been deployed which will record weather and water temperature and the buoy in the lake is collecting data.

Tony Prestigiacomo from the Finger Lakes Hub updated the Council on the harmful algal bloom program and how to use the NYHABs website to report a HAB. Adam Effler invited people to join OWLA's team of people who specifically look for HABs on Owasco Lake.

Michele Wunderlich reported that the 9E team is currently calibrating the SWAT model for total suspended solids. Cayuga County SWCD has compiled data at the HUC12 levels to support projections and prioritization of recommendations. This includes data from Tompkins County SWCD. The team is starting to develop recommendations and the one year extension has been approved.

Adam Effler reported that The Nature Conservancy is working to put together a regional survey to gain an understanding of the public's perception of water quality in the region.

Dana Hall reported that ten OWLA members have signed up for field training to document hemlock trees and their health in the watershed.

Dan Welch reported that CCE is working on developing a map showing where hemlock groves are located. His agency has hired a part-time educator who will be involved with water quality issues and initiatives.

Adam Effler said that the City is hoping to re-purpose some grant funding to assist in the sluiceway cleanout.

Drew Snell said that the WIPD followed up on 2 new construction, 1 streambank stabilization, and 1 wetland restoration sites. They also are investigating the cause of excessively turbid water in a wetland. He said that the recent rains were absorbed by the dry vegetation and did not impact the streams in the watershed. The Town of Owasco is working to restore a wetland on their property off of Route 38A. They are removing fill and planting native shrubs. The basin in Casowasco that was drained earlier in the year has been stabilized and seeded with wildflowers. A lake front property in Scipio completed a slope and gully stabilization project. All of these projects are significant improvements over their previous conditions. Drew Snell also reported that Groton and Locke are interested in working with the WIPD on storm drain medallion installation.

John West said the outlet is flowing at the minimum allowed due to the ongoing drought and the lake level is typical for this time of year.

Adam Effler said the Partners for a Healthy Watershed is planning to circulate to its membership the article that Drew Snell wrote about a farm in the watershed voluntarily implementing many BMPs on his property to protect water quality.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 18, 2020.

Minutes by Michele Wunderlich and Eileen O'Connor, July 29, 2020