

Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council  
September 15, 2020

### **Meeting of the Directors**

Directors Present: Joan Jayne, Debbie McCormick, Terry Baxter

Ex-Officio Members Present: Eileen O'Connor, John West, Steve Lynch, Dan Welch, James Beckwith

Others Present: Drew Snell, Adam Effler, Kaitlyn Shanahan, Dana Hall, Michele Wunderlich, Olivia Green, Toneya McIntosh, Todd DuMont, Tony Prestigiacomo, Gavin Gretskey

There was not a quorum at this meeting.

Gavin Gretskey from Congressman Katko's office introduced himself. Adam Effler said that OWLA is looking for support from the Town Supervisors on the Hemlock project and he is looking for support for the Lake Friendly Living pledge program.

Joan Jayne gave the treasurer's report and Dr. Effler reported that the Village of Moravia is now contributing to the OLWMC.

Dr. Effler reported that John Halfman, who was not able to attend the meeting, conveyed to him that he is looking into the relationship between rotting weeds and HABs.

Michele Wunderlich said that it has been reported on Canandaigua Lake that areas with lots of foam often experience HABs once the foam dissipates. Tony Prestigiacomo said that results of a study in which lake foam was analyzed and found to have chemicals consistent with Microcystis algae, a cyanobacteria that can be responsible for harmful algal blooms, can be found on the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association's website. Jim Beckwith said that he has noticed more HABs out in the deep water this year. Mr. Prestigiacomo said that that is not unusual. Mr. Prestigiacomo also said that the NYS HABs website is operational, Owasco HABs volunteers have been actively reporting HABs sightings, the USGS buoy is collecting data, and he has been working on the Governor's HABs project where Universities are competing to develop in-lake technologies to combat HABs. Some of the technologies have been deployed on a lake in Fulton, and they are now receiving results. Dana Hall said the NYS HABs website doesn't report HABs sightings in a timely manner.

Steve Lynch reported that he is working with the City of Auburn and Town of Owasco to set up a joint meeting in October regarding the draft Rules and Regs of the Watershed.

Ms. Wunderlich reported that the calibration of the model for the 9E plan is continuing. Now that Cornell has re-opened, the modelers have access to a faster computer that should help. She also said that the third basin in the Flats is under construction and may be completed by early November, ahead of schedule.

Olivia Green said that The Nature Conservancy is purchasing a 200 acre parcel in Locke. This property was ranked highest in their priority list and is adjacent to Fillmore Glen State Park. The property will be turned over to the State Park.

Toneya McIntosh from EVIDN gave an update on her firm's work on behavioral changes towards the adoption of BMPs to improve water quality. They are developing a baseline of BMPs currently installed in the area and are engaging directly with farmers to discuss BMPs. They hope to increase the capacity for behavioral skills training and positive communication. She is very supportive of the recent positive articles published by the Watershed Inspection and Protection Division highlighting good practices.

Dan Welch reported that he is reaching out to teachers in the Moravia School District to encourage interest in incorporating water quality topics in their curriculum. He has also received a map from Cornell showing where Hemlocks may be located which will assist in the Hemlock project spearheaded by OWLA.

Dr. Effler said that the bill requiring permits for stream disturbances in C stream has passed both houses in New York. He asked if CCE can help educate the farm community on this new requirement. (After the meeting it was discovered that the governor has not yet signed this bill into law.)

Nathan Dewing from Bradford Co PA Soil and Water Conservation District talked about a communal farm planning strategy to develop farm plans at low or no cost to non-regulated farmers. The farms can complete a Land Application of Manure template with or without assistance. The value in this exercise is raising awareness of the issues regarding the amount of nutrients in manure, winter spreading, managing outdoor barnyards, etc. There is a mapping application where the farmers can produce their own maps. The process is not time consuming and very beneficial for the farmers.

Drew Snell said that the WIPD followed up on six construction sites, a land disturbance in a possible wetland, and a stream bank reconstruction project during the past month with two possible violations noted. Dutch Hollow has been experiencing on-going HABs and foam has been seen on the lake. Tompkins County SWCD assisted in the creation of sediment socks that can be used on sites to minimize erosion. He reported that Ed Wagner and Matt Marko from DEC took a trip up the inlet and found five significant snags that DEC will be removing soon. The data that is being collected in the watershed using the sonde is on the WIPD website. Ten signs have been provided to land owners who have taken the Land Friendly Living pledge and a new transportable billboard that will be used to educate the public on Invasive Species has been obtained through funding from the PRISM.

Todd Dumont discussed the BMPs installed on his property in the Veness watershed. He has installed grassed waterways and will be planting riparian buffers along Veness Brook soon. He is installing an overflow so that during high flows of Veness, the stream can overflow onto his property which will allow sediment to settle. Mr. Lynch said that he hopes that the WIPD will be able to capture results from these improvements. Mr. Dumont said that once the project is completed he would like to use this project to help educate other farmers.

John West reported that the lake level is 711.8 and dropping with no rain in the forecast

The next meeting is scheduled for October 20, 2020

Notes prepared by Eileen O'Connor, September 25, 2020