



Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council  
June 21, 2022, 10:00am Meeting

Meeting of the Directors

**Owasco** – Ed Wagner, **Cayuga County** – Aileen McNabb -Coleman, **City of Auburn** – Ginny Kent

**Niles** – Joan Jayne, **Locke** – Thane Benson, **Scipio** – Melinda Pitman, **Fleming** - Karen VanLiew, **Moravia** – Terry Baxter, **Village of Moravia** – Gary Mulvaney, **Village of Groton** – Nancy Niswender, **Summerhill** – Charlie Ripley, **Sennett** – Tom Blair, **Dryden** – Anne Clark  
**Executive Director**- Adam Effler

**Presiding:** Dr. Adam Effler. Dr. Effler welcomed guest Senator Mannion who has offered to engage on various topics; Program associates from Cayuga Lake, and Evidn representatives John Pickering and Katri Haantera.

Don Oltz has resigned as Town of Fleming representative on the OLWMC Directors and Karen VanLiew has taken his place.

A. Board of Directors- Roll call:

**Owasco**- Ed Wagner, **Cayuga County** – Aileen McNabb -Coleman, **City of Auburn** – Ginny Kent, **Village of Moravia** – Gary Mulvaney, **Moravia** – Terry Baxter, **Fleming** - Karen VanLiew

Ex officio attending: Olivia Green, Tony Prestigiacomio. Dana Hall, Michelle Wunderlich, Steve Lynch, Ally Berry, Jillian Alosio, Daniel Welch, Anna Cristina Feldman, John West, Karen Workman, Doug Kierst, John Pickering, Katri Haantera (Evidn), Janice Degni (Field Crop Specialist, Cornell Cooperative Extension)

- B. Approval of the Agenda: Motion to approve Karen VanLiew seconded by Gary Mulvaney. Vote was unanimously approved. Motion carried.
- C. Approval of Minutes from the May 17, 2022 meeting Motion to approve Terry Baxter and seconded by Gary Mulvaney. Vote was unanimously approved. Motion carried
- D. Public to be Heard: none heard

E. Director's Summary- Adam Effler (distributed for review prior to meeting)

### **Recognition, Awareness, Education and Outreach**

- The OLWMC's June feature article with the Citizen newspaper, led by Lead Watershed Inspector, Ally Berry, spotlighted the Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection and Protection Division's (OLWIPD's) objectives, procedures, and staff contact information.
- On June 15, 2022 Watershed Inspectors gave a watershed physical model and watershed protection educational session to Herman Elementary school students at Emerson Park. Members of the Owasco Watershed Lake Association (OWLA) assisted with the event.
- Bill Davis of the MRB Group will be a keynote presenter for the July 19, 2022 OLWMC public board meeting. He will present on the implementation of wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) upgrades in the Village of Moravia.

### **HABs Identification and Reporting**

Project Update: The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's (NYSDEC's) NYHABs notification page is now available for the 2022 monitoring season.

### **Lake Friendly Living**

Project Updates:

- 17 Lake Friendly Living community events were held across the Finger Lakes Region during the month of May. The creation of the shrub willow nursery in the Town of Owasco, NY on May 21, 2022 represented one of three LFL events that the OLWMC helped lead. The nursery will act as a long-term source of willow to be used for the installation of riparian buffers throughout the Owasco Lake watershed. In total, 462 shrub willow canes were installed, which included 176 salix purpurea and 286 salix eriocephala. Lead Watershed Inspector, Ally Berry, helped spearhead discussions with SUNY-ESF staff, Tim Volk and Ann Moore, to garner their initial project support. The shrub willow material was sourced from ESF's Research Station in Tully, and Dr. Volk assisted with the nursery installation. We are grateful to SUNY-ESF for their project partnership towards improved watershed resiliency and to create opportunities for SUNY-ESF students. A thank you letter was delivered to Wegmans Food Markets for their sponsorship of lunch for participants at the event. Cayuga County Parks and Trails partnered on this project by offering mulch and the assistance of seasonal staff, Matt Reed and Nick Indelicato, for mulching the installation.
- The OLWMC has completed the installation of LFL signage to Tributary Adoption and Identification Pilot Program (TAIPP) signposts throughout the watershed.

### **Hyfi Watercourse Level Project Update:**

- Staff will be installing an additional watercourse level sensor and assembly for a targeted stream monitoring location at Long Point Road that aligns with water quality monitoring efforts there.

### **Watershed Partner Collaboration**

Project Updates:

- The City of Auburn's NYS-awarded DWSP2 is finalizing its presentation of source water protection

recommendations that will be given to City Council on July 14, 2022.

- On May 26, 2022 the Cayuga County Department of Health (DOH) received official correspondence from the NYS DOH regarding the proposed community consensus updated watershed rules and regulations; the NYS DOH scheduled an Owasco Watershed Rules & Regs Technical Workgroup meeting for June 23, 2022.
- OLWMC endorsed, NYS environmental conservation law ([A6652/S4162](#)) would protect up to 41,000 miles of New York streams. Class "C" waterways, which are regularly used by people for boating, fishing, and other activities, would be afforded the protection that is provided to waterways classified as streams. This will require the need for permit for certain access/project(s) scenarios. The bill passed both NYS houses and will need to be signed into law.

### Land Holding

#### Project Updates:

- The OLWMC developed a land protection and management policy, adopted from TNC's plan, to ensure the OLWMC meets project responsibilities. The OLWMC's Land Protection and Management Policy for the new property references the OLWMC's proposed 'Land Stewardship' standard policy adopted from the 'Land Trust Alliance Standards and Practices.'
- A property liability insurance policy has been selected to cover the OLWMC's new exposure.

### Other Partners/ Projects

#### Project Updates:

- The OLWMC is collaborating with Wegmans Food Markets to promote LED flares as a safer and more environmentally friendly alternative to conventional incendiary flares. The OLWMC is underway, and under contract, with a profit-sharing initiative with Wegmans Food Markets. Similar to last year, starting May 22, 2022, Wegmans will be selling a 2pk and 6pk LED Flares at their Auburn, Geneva, Geneseo, Jamestown, Corning, Hornell, Canandaigua, Newark, and Webster locations. Wegmans has agreed to donate \$2.00 for each two pack and \$6.00 for each six pack LED flares sold at the Auburn store from May 22, 2022 to September 24, 2022 to be shared by the Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council, Skaneateles Lake Association and Otisco Lake Association.
- On June 8, 2022 OLWIPD staff enumerated shrub willow replacements required for a riparian buffer installation on a watershed farm along Veness Brook that took place in the spring of 2021. There was an apparent ~50% survival rate with ~700 shrub willow found growing vigorously. The same evening, SUNY-ESF partners assisted with the delivery and installation of replacements. Two Masters students from SUNY ESF planted 100 cuttings. They also further mulched the newly installed nursery in the Town of Owasco.
- OLWMC staff will be assisting water quality monitoring efforts for an advanced septic system installation at the Y Camp at the southern end of Owasco lake. The project, spearheaded by TNC, in partnership with the Cayuga County Department of Health, will evaluate the effectiveness of advanced phosphorus removal and will provide an educational opportunity for campers and staff.

### **Grant Projects and Programs Underway**

- GLRI Conservation Kick Project

Project Review: In partnership, the Cayuga County SWCD assisted a watershed farmland owner to finalize their application for the installation of a water and sediment control basin (WASCOB). The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) Conservation Kick Program will fund the project, in part. The City of Auburn invested the required cost share for the grant award administered through the OLWMC,

demonstrating the City's commitment towards supporting conservation advancements for local agriculture. Based on the Great Lakes Commission's upfront analysis, and relative to all other Conservation Kick projects planned across the Great Lakes Basin, the CCSWCD/OLWMC project will result in the greatest nutrient reduction outcomes. Project partners finalized contract details. Seneca County Soil and Water Conservation District Engineer and Auburn Director of Municipal Utilities have reviewed and approved the final WASCOD design.

- NRCS RCPP

Project Review: On April 13, 2022 the OLWMC submitted a project proposal through the Natural Resources Conservation Service Regional Conservation Partnership Program (NRCS RCPP). The OLWMC retooled last year's NRCS RCPP proposal, according to review comments, and requested federal funding intended to help advance the Cayuga County SWCDs' conservation farm planning and BMP implementations within the Owasco Lake watershed. The proposed project will help build local capacity for certified farm planning within the watershed and provide support for targeted conservation projects, a prospect intended to increase efficiencies for local agriculture that will benefit both farmers and watershed conservation.

Project Update: The deadline for NYS NRCS staff to provide proposal feedback prior to NRCS federal level review and approval was May 27, 2022.

### **Relevant Available Grant Programs Review**

#### NYSDEC:

- Water Quality Improvement Projects (WQIP): funds are available for the implementation of projects to improve water quality or aquatic habitat, or protect a drinking water source. Eligible project types include wastewater treatment improvement, non-agricultural nonpoint source abatement and control, land acquisition for source water protection, salt storage, aquatic connectivity restoration, and marine habitat restoration.
- Non-Agricultural Nonpoint Source Planning and Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Mapping Grant (NPG): funds production of planning reports for nonpoint source water quality improvement projects and mapping of Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems.
- New York Sea Grant, in partnership with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), announced \$400,000 in grant funding is now available for Great Lakes ecosystem-based management projects in support of New York's Great Lakes Action Agenda. Awards of up to \$50,000 per project. Applications are due

July 1, 2022. Proposed projects must address key water quality, natural resource, and resiliency priorities in New York's Great Lakes Action Agenda and should advance local priorities identified in existing community plans. Eligible projects may include planning, design, implementation, information management tool development, demonstration projects, and targeted educational outreach.

#### Other:

- Community Resiliency, Economic Sustainability, and Technology Program (CREST), capital grant program via NYS District 50.

### **Municipality Buy-In**

Project Review: The OLWMC continues to encourage participation and directorship 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, Skaneateles, and Lansing; we continue to encourage the Board of Directors to reach out to representatives from these towns to elicit municipality interest.

- F. Board of Directors/Municipality Representatives Feedback: None heard.
- G. Motion to approve the OLWMC Land Stewardship and Land Protection and Management Policy and the Management Policy for the Fillmore Road Parcel was made by Ed Wagner and seconded Gary Mulvaney. Vote was unanimously approved. Motion carried.
- H. Treasurer's Audit and Finance Report
  - i. May 2022 Financials Approval – Ed Wagner reported as of May 31, 2022, Total Liabilities & Equity \$278,293.97 and Reserve Checking \$ 242,000 Vote was unanimously approved. Motion carried.
  - ii. Completed Audit is posted on website.
- I. Watershed Rules and Regulations Revisions Updates – Steve Lynch. After over a year of WWR have been submitted a request for a meeting but not an approval or denial.
- J. NYS Lake Friendly Living Commemorative Resolution- Senator John Mannion
  - i. He discussed the importance of the water quality of the lake and the WWR and Class C Streams legislation, Crest Funding which allows for capital funding for 501(c)3s. He spoke to the challenges of the funding which require money upfront and then reimbursement for the monies spent. The RFP will be coming up quickly. Expect about \$50-250,000 in grants.
  - ii. Resolutions: Senator Mannion read NYS Senate Resolution 2000
    - NYS Senate Resolution 2000: Commemorate Lake Friendly Living
- K. Presentation on Advancements in Farm Planning and BMPs- Kirsten Workman Nutrient management specialist & Environment Sustainability Specialist Cornell University Pro-Dairy presented. Her presentation can be viewed at: <https://www.olwmc.org/news>
- L. Lake Monitoring Report- Dr. John Halfman-unavailable. Has started weekly sampling and is running the reports.
- M. The Nature Conservancy Update - Olivia Green-unavailable
- N. NYSDEC Hub Updates- Tony Prestigiacommo-unavailable.
- O. Nine Element Watershed Plan Updates– Michele Wunderlich-9 Element draft is

ready for the DEC and waiting for the modeling now.

- P. Owasco Watershed Lake Association Updates – New president Ann Robson-training for HABS volunteers underway, Wolly adelgid campaign is underway and a funding campaign is ongoing to treat critical trees.
- Q. Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District – Doug Kierst
- R. Cornell Cooperative Extension: Update Daniel Welch Tire collection event this Saturday at 11AM, Coming up on Soil Health Workshops on July 6.
- S. ‘Our Owasco’ Behavioral Change Project Update- John Pickering and Katri Haantera: Encouraging results from project. Planning to expand program to surrounding counties, continuing to expand training and development to community and influence communities. Katri specializes in behavioral change.
- T. Partners for Healthy Watersheds Updates – Greg Rejman-working with several different groups and have farm tours planned.
- U. Watershed Inspection Monthly Report–Ally Berry-2-6 inches of precipitation in past 30 days. For her report see: <https://www.olwmc.org/news>
- V. Lake Level Report – John West- Lake elevation is currently 712.7, continue to watch the weather closely for heavy rains and adjust outflow as appropriate.
- W. Communications: Bill Davis presentation planned for next meeting.
- X. Issues of Concern: Terry Baxter discussed the impact of geese on the water quality.
- Y. Schedule Next Meeting (3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of July 2022 is the 19<sup>th</sup>), Motion to Adjourn made by Ed Wagner, seconded by Ginny Kent. Vote was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Vivian Cunningham