



Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council
November 15, 2022, 10:00-11:30 AM

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: Ed Wagner

- A. Board of Directors – Roll call- **Owasco**-Ed Wagner, **Cayuga County**-Aileen McNabb Coleman, **City of Auburn**-Ginny Kent, **Niles**-Joan Jayne, **Fleming**-Karen VanLiew, **Village of Moravia**-Gary Mulvaney, **Dryden**-Anne Clark, **Executive Director** Dr. Adam Effler
 - i. Ex officio: Olivia Green, Ally Berry, Greg Rejman, Ann Robson, Frank Clark, John West, Rebecca Schneider, Marissa Breault, John Halfman, Steve Lynch, Michelle Wunderlich
- B. Approval of the Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda made by Karen VanLiew seconded by Joan Jayne. Unanimous vote. Motion carried.
- C. Approval of Minutes from the October 18, 2022, meeting as distributed via email. Motion to approve the minutes made by Gary Mulvaney seconded by Joan Jayne. Unanimous vote. Motion carried.
- D. **Resolution No. 03-22: RESOLUTION TO CREATE THE NINE ELEMENT (9E) PLAN PROJECT COORDINATION COMMITTEE**
Motion to approve 9E Plan committee creation via OLWMC Resolution No. 03-22 made by Joan Jayne seconded by Karen VanLiew. Unanimous vote. Motion carried.
- E. Public to be Heard: none heard
- F. Director’s Summary – Adam Effler (distributed for review prior to meeting) Send via email.

Watershed Rules and Regulations

Project Update:

Since the last OLWMC meeting, the state-local workgroup met once to discuss the nutrient management provision of Owasco’s proposed regulations. This was the second meeting on this topic. The meeting’s focus was on NYS-provided alternatives to community consensus regulations proposed for watershed nutrient management. Further details are outlined within the NYSDOH’s project update report (11.15.2022 Monthly Owasco WRR Update for OLWMC) delivered to the OLWMC Board of Directors, Ex Officio Partners, and engaged members of the public prior to the November 15, 2022 OLWMC public board meeting.

Revised Meeting Schedule:

State Agency Legal Meetings for Pesticide, Nutrient Management & Variances	November and December 2022 (if necessary)
Follow up with State-Local Workgroup	December 2022

Revised Overall Project Timeline:

- State Interagency Workgroup meets with Owasco Technical Committee – June 2022
- Series of State-Local Workgroup meeting - June to Jan 2023
- DOH publishes proposed amendments to WRRs- Mar 2023
- Three-month public comment period- Jun 2023
- DOH submits response to comments- Aug 2023
- DOH publishes amendments to WRRs - Sep/Oct 2023

NYS Tributary Legislation Project Review

An 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. The new law would offer permit-based protections that are currently provided to waterways with higher classifications. That is, if passed, the law will require the need for permit for certain stream access and project(s) scenarios. The bill passed both NYS houses and will need to be signed into law.

Municipal Codes and Ordinances Update

The Village of Moravia has adopted the Sediment and Erosion Control Plan, and associated Appendix E, prepared and proposed by the OLWMC for advancing municipal control requirements for new construction activities.

Nine Element (9E) Watershed Plan Review

Cayuga County received a New York State Department of State grant to implement a high priority recommendation from the 2016 Owasco Lake Watershed Management

and Waterfront Revitalization Plan, which was to incorporate the EPA Nine Key Elements into the Plan. This project was led by the Cayuga County Department of Planning and Economic Development and the consultant on the project was Ecologic, LLC.

The Owasco Lake Watershed Nine Element Plan for Phosphorus Reduction was approved by the New York State Department of State and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/water_pdf/owasco9e.pdf). This Clean Water Plan advances efforts to restore and protect the water quality of Owasco Lake and its watershed. This collaborative effort identified focused strategies to ensure the lake water supply, aquatic habitat, and recreational uses are protected.

The development of the plan focused on understanding and managing phosphorus and sediment inputs from the Owasco Lake watershed to provide for recommendations that will drive watershed protection and remediation projects. The OLWMC will provide a coordination role for future projects and programming according to the recommendations of the 9E Watershed Plan.

NYS-awarded Drinking Water Source Protection Program (DWSP2)

Project Review:

- Consultants for the City of Auburn’s NYS-awarded Drinking Water Source Protection Program (DWSP2) have convened with City of Auburn water resource managers and partners to identify potential sources of Owasco Lake water quality contamination and provide recommendations for resource protection. Project consultants provided recommendations to Auburn City Council on July 14, 2022. At recent meetings, the DWSP2 committee reviewed and edited the draft plan. The NYSDEC and NYS Department of Health (DOH) are also reviewing the plan and will provide comments. Barring any changes based on agency feedback, the plan can be finalized. At that point, Auburn City Council will be asked to endorse the plan and name the implementation team. During the last meeting, the committee discussed implementation steps and expressed support desired from consultants and NYSDEC/NYSDOH to help maintain momentum.
- The Town of Owasco’s application for the DWSP2 was received and reviewed by NYS agencies. A program award to the Town of Owasco from NYS would piggyback on the City of Auburn’s plan and extend resources to target continued and more detailed planning, facilitated by the NYS-funded consultants, to coordinate and propose specific projects. The proposed projects and programming would represent the broad recommendations of the overall watershed-based plan.

Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) Identification and Reporting

Project Update:

This year, as of November 10, 2022, there was one HAB report on NYHABs that had been reported in the previous two weeks and 24 archived reports more than two weeks old. On an annual basis, observations of HABs are increasing

throughout the eastern Finger Lakes Region, and associated cyanotoxin levels in Owasco Lake's raw water have been elevated from previous years.

Recognition, Awareness, Education and Outreach Projects Update

Project Update:

- The Town of Dryden Conservation Board is considering its recommendation to the Dryden Town Board for the Town to resolve to take the Lake Friendly Living Pledge at the municipal level.
- On October 24, 2022 the Owasco Watershed Lake Association (OWLA) and OLWMC staff collaborated on fall maintenance of the Emerson Park raingarden.
- On November 29th, 2022 the OWLA plans to use the OLWMC's educational watershed model for youth education at Seymour Library.

Land Holding

Project Update:

- Concerning the property transfer of the Fillmore Nature Preserve from TNC to the OLWMC, project partners are working with real estate attorneys to finalize required documentation to close. The group continues to target closing in November of 2022.
- Property signage will be installed with the help of TNC, following closing. The associated field trip will also accommodate TNC's insights and recommendations on effective property inspection protocols to meet the OLWMC's annual property inspection commitment.

Watershed Lake and Tributary Monitoring

Project Update:

- Projected for 2023, NYSDEC is pairing down its funding of the Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP) in the Finger Lakes Region by nearly half. Local lake stewards will be responsible for covering the costs and sampling for any additional samples.
- Lake and watershed monitoring partners prepared a comprehensive budget for review by the Cayuga County Planning Department that includes costs for 1) a new Owasco Lake monitoring role by the Finger Lakes Institute, Hobart William Smith Colleges, 2) laboratory analysis for watershed tributary samples collected by OWLA, and 3) the continuation of watercourse level monitoring using Hyfi sensors.
- Monitoring partners will convene November 18, 2022 to further discuss the details of monitoring plans for 2023, outlining responsibilities, expectations and funding.

Hyfi Watercourse Level Sensors

- The two-year pilot project grant period is officially complete.

Project Update:

- Hyfi's project dashboard was updated and is linked within the OLWMC website. The new landing page was created for the purposes of improved navigation and data access.
- The Cayuga County Planning Department is drawing upon their remaining 2022 FLOWPA funding balance to cover the continued operation and maintenance costs of the Hyfi watercourse level sensors through the remainder of 2022. Cayuga County is evaluating continued funding for the project in the context of the overall lake and watershed monitoring programming for 2023.

Programs, Funding, and Related Opportunities

Project Review:

- Water quality funding from federal and state governments depends partly on feedback from local governments on their anticipated needs. The NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) has extended the deadline for municipalities to submit their Clean Watersheds Needs Survey to December 23, 2022. Local governments are asked to submit documentation about their anticipated water quality infrastructure project needs.
- Staff from the Cayuga County Departments of Health and Planning and the Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District (CCSWCD), as well as City of Auburn Municipal Utilities, are preparing a collective response to the needs survey.

Project Update:

- The CCSWCD completed their installation of Water and Sediment Control Basins on a watershed farm, funded by a collaborative Great Lakes Commission Conservation Kick grant and associated cost share provided by the City of Auburn. The CCSWCD also completed hydroseeding an adjacent section of ditch along Mobbs Road. The CCSWCD was recently awarded two NYS Agricultural Nonpoint Source grants that will help fund an on-farm nutrient storage liner cover and flare.
- The OLWMC endorsed, via a letter of support, a Finger Lakes Institute and Finger Lakes Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM) grant proposal to the USDA Forest Service that would fund the treatment of hemlock forests for hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) in Finger Lakes region Watkins Glen, Fillmore Glen, Buttermilk Falls, and Robert H. Treman State Parks. This proposed project would also provide education and outreach about the project, and about the negative impacts HWA can have on the important natural resources that make up these state parks.

Municipality Buy-In

Project 7.12 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.

- G. Board of Directors/Municipality Representatives Feedback
 - i. Recommended 2023 OLWMC Objectives- please let Dr. Effler know for additional objectives or feedback.
- H. Treasurer's Audit and Finance Report
- I. October 2022 Financials Approval – As of October 31, 2022 Joan Jayne reported Total Liabilities and Equities as \$417,242.44 and Total Current Assets as \$363,047.24. Motion to approve report made by Ginny Kent seconded by Karen VanLiew. Unanimous vote. Motion carried.
 - i. 2023 OLWMC Budget Approval – Adam Effler presented proposed 2023 OLWMC Budget for approval. Budget was presented at budget meetings during month. Motion to approve budget made by Ginny Kent and seconded by Gary Mulvaney. Discussion: Planning a \$25,000 deficit but have money in cash checking account and above threshold for cash fund balance. Appreciate municipalities increasing contribution. Vote unanimous. Motion carried.
- J. Keynote Presentation, Managing Watershed Ditches –Professor Dr. Rebecca Schneider from Cornell University. Her informative presentation can be viewed at: <https://www.olwmc.org/news> at a video of the November meeting.
- K. Lake Level Report – John West- Lake elevation 7.11.87 ft.
- L. 'Our Owasco' Behavioral Change Project Update –Marissa Breault: developing a short online webinar. Everyone welcome.
- M. Lake Monitoring Report – John Halfman done sampling for year and working on data. On future working with Emerson Foundation for extension for summation of the data next year and manuscripts for scientific literature.

Proposal put in for putting in the buoy in for next summer.
- N. The Nature Conservancy Update – Olivia Green-Wrapping up reports of the Y camp performance of the septic tank nitrogen trapping. Getting started to convene property owners of Owasco Flats and see what their vision is for the area.
- O. NYSDEC Hub Update – Tony Prestigiacommo-not available.
- P. Owasco Watershed Lake Association Update – Ann Robson-2022 treatment season of the Woolly Aldelgid has come to an end with the treatment of 9000 trees. Will have a December forum of the 9E plan for the public with Michelle Wunderlich. March 11,2023 Bob Bower Scientific Forum on Climate Change with dynamic form.

- Q. Cornell Cooperative Extension Update – Frank Clark, new educator introduced himself.
- R. Partners for Healthy Watersheds Update – Greg Rejman-Farmers planting cover crops and CAFOs planning for December. Farming community is disappointed they are not invited back to table for proposed Updated WRR. Ed Wagner replied that this was discussed with the State regulators, but it did not happen that they were included.
- S. Watershed Inspection Monthly Report – Ally Berry. To view her report, visit: <https://www.olwmc.org/news>
Ms. Berry reported on several workshops she attended and how to fill out a SEQR report.
- T. Communications: None Heard
- U. Issues of Concern: None Heard
- V. Next Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday of December 20, 2022.
- W. Motion to adjourn at 11:11am made by Gary Mulvaney seconded by Joan Jayne. Unanimous vote. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Vivian Cunningham