



Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council
May 21, 2024, 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** – 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** –
Anne Clark
Executive Director- Adam Effler

Presiding: Dr. Adam Effler

- A. Board of Directors – Roll call: **Owasco**-Ed Wagner, **Cayuga Co**-Aileen McNabb-Coleman, **City of Auburn**-Ginny Kent, **Niles**-Joan Jayne, **Scipio**-Nancy Hart, **Fleming**-Karen VanLiew, **Summerhill**-Charlie Ripley. Ex-officio attendees: Ann Robson, John West, Olivia Green, Tony Prestigiacomo, Frank Clarke, Joseph Decker, Ani Fish, Michele Wunderlich, Seth Jensen
- B. Approval of the Agenda. Motion to approve the agenda made by Joan Jayne, seconded by Ginny Kent. Motion unanimously carried. Dr. Effler noted that no watershed inspection report is on the agenda as both inspectors have taken other positions but recruitment for inspectors is underway.
- C. Approval of Minutes from the April 16, 2024, Board Meeting. Motion to approve made by Ginny Kent and seconded by Joan Jayne. Motion was unanimously approved.
- D. Public to be Heard: None heard
- E. Director’s Summary – Adam Effler (distributed for review prior to meeting): Dr. Effler discusses updates during the meeting. To view the video and audio of this presentation, visit <https://www.olwmc.org/news>.

Recognition, Awareness, Education and Outreach Projects Updates

- Sponsored by Senator May and Assemblymember Kelles, the NYS Senate and Assembly are poised to renew the annual NYS commemorative resolution, celebrating May Lake Friendly Living (LFL) Awareness Month. Assemblymember Kelles plans to present the resolution to the LFL Coalition at the June 14th Finger Lakes Regional Watershed Alliance forum.
- The OLWMC’s staff feature article published with the Citizen on May 4, 2024, contributed by former Lead Watershed Inspector, Abigail Hai, provided encouragement for the continued advancement of Owasco Lake watershed protection programs and projects. OLWMC staff will continue publishing feature articles that spotlight watershed protection efforts, including residents and programs making positive strides in watershed protection.
- OLWMC staff have finalized the 2023 annual report, which highlights both statistics and outcomes concerning watershed inspections, as well as OLWMC driven projects. The report was printed and distributed to all watershed and key partner offices and was given

in the form of a presentation to City of Auburn City Council on May 9, 2024. The presentation aligned with the City's annual mayoral proclamation in support of Lake Friendly Living.

Land Holdings Project Updates:

Fillmore Nature Preserve Project

- Highway Departments for the Towns of Moravia and Summerhill trucked gravel to create the public access lot. The Town of Owasco cut a 10' wide perimeter around the gravel lot that OWLA will use for the creation of an adjacent perennial pollinator wildflower garden. The implementation of the wildflower garden will act as an OLWMC/OWLA collaborative Lake Friendly Living public event to be held May 25, 2024.
- Cornell's Design Connect has been actively working with the OLWMC on trail map and educational kiosk panel revisions. The map and panels are nearly final and ready to print.
- The Finger Lakes PRISM Crew Assistance Program (CAP) accepted the OLWMC proposal to work on a Fillmore Nature Preserve project this summer. The proposal requested PRISM's support to conduct a 'species of interest' inventory at the preserve and the preparation of associated pictures and blurbs concerning both invasive species and sensitive native species present there. The content will be included on signage for attachment to the educational kiosk. PRISM plans to do their survey work on July 8-July 10, 2024.
- With the help of CC Planning for the submission of an additional application through PRISM, the OLWMC applied for a 'boot brush station' to be installed with the educational kiosk to support visitor education and efforts to reduce the spread of invasive species.

SOGL Project Updates:

EA Engineering completed revisions to the permit documents, including adjusting the site locations and figures presented in the application packages. They started pulling together LiDAR data for the areas surrounding project sites and setting up the CAD model. Additionally, they started setting up the hydrologic model to estimate flow conditions that will inform designing. They have two of seven sites surveyed so far, and are awaiting the additional site survey data from CCSWCD. The next project team meeting will be held on June 11, 2024.

Invasive Species Job Opportunities:

The Finger Lakes Partners for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM) and Finger Lakes Institute (FLI) announced the 2024 recruitment process for regional watercraft inspection stewards and aquatic invasive species technicians. There will be employment opportunities for both aquatic and terrestrial stewards. Please find PRISM watercraft steward job opportunities here:

<https://www.hws.edu/offices/hr/employment/summer.aspx>

From the NYSDEC:

1. The deadline for the Water Infrastructure Improvement (WIIA) and Intermunicipal Water Infrastructure Grant (IMG) programs is just one month away! Grant applications and

required supporting documentation must be submitted by 5 p.m. on June 14.

2. Reminder: Applications Now Open for DEC's Municipal Zero-Emission Vehicle Rebate Program. On Thursday, April 25, DEC announced the next round of its Municipal Zero-Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Rebate Program with \$750,000 available for municipalities to purchase or lease all electric, plug-in hybrid, and hydrogen fuel cell vehicles for their municipal fleets. Municipalities can apply for funding, which is available on a first-come, first-served basis through Sept. 27, 2024. Rebates are available to municipalities across the State that purchase or lease for a minimum of 36 months an eligible vehicle placed into municipal service at a dealership in New York State between Sept. 30, 2022, and Sept. 27, 2024. More details can be found in the Request for Applications (RFA) posted on the DEC website. Applications are available through the New York State Statewide Financial System Grants Management System. Of the funding awarded to date, \$1.2 million went to municipalities that contain disadvantaged communities, as identified by the Climate Justice Working Group's final criteria. Under the Climate Act, New York is required to direct at least 35 percent with a goal of 40 percent of the benefits of investments on clean energy and energy efficiency programs toward disadvantaged communities. Since its inception in 2016, the ZEV Rebate Program has awarded a total of more than \$1.5 million toward the purchase or lease of 114 plug-in hybrid vehicles and 182 all-electric vehicles. More information about DEC's Municipal ZEV Rebate Program, as well as Municipal ZEV Infrastructure Grants is available on DEC's website. For questions regarding the program, email ZEVrebate@dec.ny.gov or call DEC's Office of Climate Change at 518-402-8448.

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. Dr. Effler met with Lansing supervisor, Lindsay Roth, who expressed an interest in speaking with her Board about potential representation on OLWMC.

- F. Board of Directors/Municipality Representatives Feedback: Dr. Effler thanked Charlie for support with
- G. Treasurer's Audit and Finance Report
 - i. April 2024 Financials Approval – Joan Jayne reported as of April 30, 2024, total current assets are \$283,622.20 and total liabilities and equity and \$347,712.72. Motion to approve the financial report made by Nancy Hart and seconded by Ed Wagner. Motion unanimously carried.
 - ii. 2023 Financial Audit Approval – Adam Effler announced the annual financial audit is completed and was circulated to directors prior to the meeting. Motion to approve the financial audit was made by Ed Wagner and seconded by Joan Jayne. Motion unanimously approved.
 - iii. 2024 Proforma Approval – Adam Effler presented the proforma budget projection through 2027. Motion to approve made by Nancy Hart and seconded Ginny Kent. Motion was unanimously carried.
- H. Lake Level Report – John West reported he will be slowing down flow through the weekend and maintaining an eye on the weather. Current lake elevation 712.71 feet.
- I. OLWMC/OLWIPD 2023 Report Presentation – Adam Effler presented the report given to the City of

Auburn and reported the 2023 Annual report is available-for the audio and visual presentation, visit <https://www.olwmc.org/news>

- J. NYSDEC FL Hub Update – Tony Prestigiacomio: unavailable-updates pertain to DEC rule making for triannual water quality standards. Environmental justice impact grants are now available.
- K. Owasco Watershed Lake Association Update – Ann Robson: OWLA is active in tributary sampling and HABS surveillance and reporting, building the Fillmore Nature Preserve nature garden, a June 5th, woolly adelgid program, 6/26 will be Business After 5 with OWLA at the Owasco yacht club.
- L. Cornell Cooperative Extension Update –Frank Clarke: May 30 through October 10 is a pumpkin growing contest for youth-, Master gardeners are back in for consultation, Cooperative extension is working with Cornell on variety trials, testing Eastern European crops. There is a compost bin sale-Cayuga Co residents-\$40 presale through May 30. Thank-you to Nucorp for the discount.
- M. Communications: The project between OLWA and Town of Scipio for remediation of storm damage to Fire Lane 19 has been completed.
- N. Issues of Concern: Discussed shifting to a bimonthly meeting during the summer especially considering the fact there are no watershed inspectors.
- O. Next Meeting is Tuesday July 16, 2024, at 10:00 AM in Auburn City Memorial Hall.
- P. Adjourn. Motion to adjourn made by Nancy Hart, seconded by June Jayne. Motion unanimously carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:15 AM.

Respectfully submitted.

Vivian Cunningham

