



Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council
January 18, 2022, 10:00am

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** – Don Oltz, **Moravia** – Terry Baxter, **Village of Moravia** – Gary Mulvaney, **Village of Groton** – Nancy Niswender, **Summerhill**-Charlie Ripley, **Sennett** – Tom Blair
Executive Director- Adam Effler

Presiding: Ed Wagner, Chairman Wagner welcomed three new Board Members: Ginny Kent of Auburn, Tom Blair of the Village of Moravia, and Melinda Pitman of the Town of Scipio.

- A. Roll call: **Owasco** - Ed Wagner, **Cayuga County**- Aileen McNabb-Coleman (remote), **City of Auburn** – Ginny Kent, **Niles**-Joan Jayne, **Fleming** - Don Oltz, **Moravia** – Terry Baxter (remote), **Village of Sennett** –Tom Blair (remote).
Ex Officio attending: Rick Nelson, Eileen O’Conner, Michele Wunderlich, Dr. John Halfman, Ken Kuda, Greg Hutnik, Ron Kuck, John West, Tony Prestigiaco, John West, Olivia Green
- B. Approval of the Agenda: Motion made to approve the agenda by Don Oltz. Seconded by Joan Jayne. Unanimous vote. Motion carried.
- C. Approval of Minutes from the December 21, 2021, meeting as corrected and submitted via email. Motion made by Don Oltz. Motion seconded by Joan Jayne. Unanimous vote. Motion carried.
- D. Public to be Heard: None heard.
- E. Director’s Summary- Adam Effler (distributed for review prior to meeting).

Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection and Protection Division (OLWIPD) and Staff Administration

- The OLWIPD of the watershed management council remains active in the field, keeping a keen eye on winter construction site stabilization needs.
- The most promising candidate recently accepted the vacant Watershed

Inspector position within the OLWIPD. Jillian Aluisio will begin, starting January 31st.. She will be reporting directly to Lead Watershed Inspector, Ally Berry.

Recognition, Awareness, Education and Outreach

- The OLWMC's staff January recognition article with the Citizen spotlighted watershed stewardship by a local hunter.
 - OLWMC staff will begin their 2021 annual report preparation for distribution at municipal offices and presentation to the City of Auburn City Council.

Lake Friendly Living

- The Lake Friendly Living Coalition (LFLC) of the Finger Lakes is collaborating on planning the LFL awareness week for the spring of 2022. Information on the 2022 webinar series will be forthcoming.
- The January 13, 2022 LFLC meeting covered welcoming and introduction of new participants, preparation for the 2022 May LFL Awareness week presentations, new alignment with climate resiliency and funding (e.g., NYSERDA Climate Smart Programming), the coordination of a NYS Assembly LFL Endorsement

Resolution for 2022 and brainstorming unified project proposals for marketing behavioral change.

Hyfi Watercourse Level Sensors

- Project Review:
 - OLWMC staff have installed, and maintain, 15 watercourse level sensors throughout the watershed, targeting locations that align with modeling sites for the Nine Key Element (9E) watershed plan's Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) model. The sensors are used for guiding flood and asset management, as well as for flow monitoring. With project support from OLWMC staff, the Owasco Watershed Lakes Association's (OWLA's) 2021 sediment and nutrient sampling program aligned with sensor locations. A project goal is to provide invaluable constituent loading information for continued calibration of the SWAT model using level (and thereby estimated discharge) information and suspended solids and nutrient concentration information. OWLA completed the fall sampling program and associated project data was shared with the Cayuga County Planning Department for continued calibration of the SWAT model.
 - Hyfi has completed their development of correlation and regression analysis for the relationships between the watercourse level sensors and conventional USGS streamgauging. A highly significant relationship between long-term data sets helps make the case for continued use and funding of the more spatially robust watershed watercourse level sensors.

Watershed Partner Collaboration- Project Updates

- The Cayuga County Department of Health was informed by the NYSDOH that the *ad hoc* committee (i.e., DEC, Dept. of State, DOH, Dept. Ag and Markets) has convened for reviewing the community consensus updated Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and regulations, and each department has reviewed and provided comments. The committee is planning to convene again this month to prepare their formal response. We were made aware that the formal response may be released as soon as the end of this month.
- The OLWMC awaits guidance and project funding opportunities from NYS based on the completion and approval of Cayuga County's 9E Watershed Plan for Owasco Lake.
- The OLWMC offers partnership and support for the City of Auburn's NYS-awarded Drinking Water Source Protection Program (DWSP2). The working group is identifying objectives and considering calculating 9 Element Watershed Plan project cost estimates to prepare for associated grant proposals. We look forward to relevant data outcomes that will support forthcoming grants and projects implementation. The next group meeting for this planning project is scheduled for January 26, 2022.
- OLWMC staff are coordinating with SUNY ESF on a collaborative willow planting project at the OLWMC's nursery in the Town of Owasco with the intent that the nursery can act as a long-term source of willow canes for the installation of future riparian buffers within the watershed. This project may also host an opportunity for a student undergraduate internship and/or capstone project.
- The OWLA-coordinated and OLWMC-sponsored annual Bob Brower Scientific Symposium will be held Saturday, March 19th.

Grants and Programs

- Following a nearly month-long process to change the corporate office address through the NYS Comptroller's Office, the OLWMC subsequently gained the address change through the NYS Grants Gateway platform and, therefore, remains well-positioned administratively to apply for NYS grants.
- GLRI Conservation Kick Project
 - Project Review: In partnership, the Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District (CCSWCD) assisted a watershed farm land owner to finalize their application for the installation of a water and sediment control basin (WASCOB). The project will be funded, in part, by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) Conservation Kick Program. The City of Auburn invested the required cost share for the grant award to be administered through the OLWMC, demonstrating the city's commitment towards supporting conservation advancements for local agriculture. 17,258 'water quality credits' will be generated by the practice installation. This reflects an estimated 17,721 pounds of nitrogen and 1,262.5 pounds of total phosphorus reductions over the

course of the project period. 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 Update: Project partners have finalized the project contract and MOU for a 2022 conservation practice installation.
- The OLWMC plans to submit a project proposal through the Natural Resources Conservation Service Regional Conservation Partnership Program (NRCS RCPP). The request for proposals is expected in January 2022. The OLWMC and project partners from the American Water Works Association will retool the OLWMC's 2021 proposal, according to reviewer feedback. The proposed project would draw upon federal NRCS dollars for building local capacity for certified farm planning within the Owasco Lake Watershed, a prospect intended to increase efficiencies for local agriculture to benefit both farmers and watershed conservation.

F. Board of Directors/Municipality Representatives Feedback: None Heard

G. Treasurer's Audit and Finance Report

- i. Joan Jayne reported that of December 31, 2021 the Total Liabilities and Equities was \$352,111.81. Motion to Approve Don Oltz. Vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

H. "2021 Owasco Lake Monitoring Report Presentation- Dr. John Halfman" /Status of Owasco Lake/Watershed 2021 Research" supported by Cayuga County. Presentation can be accessed at <https://www.olwmc.org/news>

presentation also will be available at the Bob Brower Scientific Symposium on March 19, 2022.

- I. The Nature Conservancy Update - Olivia Green from Our *Owasco*- initiative. The community workshops have been completed. The project continues to work with interested landowners in the watershed. We are encouraged by the great public support for the work in the watershed.
- J. NYSDEC Hub Updates- Tony Prestigiacomo: continuing winter/spring monitoring programming.
- K. Watershed Rules and Regulations Revisions Updates – Steve Lynch. Not available. Eileen Mc Nabb-Coleman anticipates comment on the updates within the next month, but it is difficult to be sure of an exact date.
- L. Nine Element Watershed Plan Updates– Michele Wunderlich continuing to review the draft and make alterations for a public meeting in March.
- M. Owasco Watershed Lake Association Updates - Ken Kutch: working on a plan for 2022 and working on identifying HWA in the watershed.
- N. Cornell Cooperative Extension Updates- Daniel Welch-not available

- O. 'Our Owasco' Behavioral Change Project Update- Bryson Cochran: not available
- P. Partners for Healthy Watersheds Updates – Greg Rejman: not available
- Q. Emerson Park Sluiceway Cleanout and Retrofit Updates- Seth Jensen: not available. Engineering team is redesigning the sluiceway and bringing the plans forward for approval.
- R. Watershed Inspection Monthly Report–Ally Berry; 3-4 inches of precipitation in past 30 days which is within a normal range. Deer carcass removals from waterways have been done, reported on 2021-22 site inspections, Ms. Berry's report may be accessed at <https://www.olwmc.org/news>
- S. Lake Level Report – John West. Water altitude level 709.8 feet and will be dropping it to 709.5 ft and holding it there for the remainder of the winter. With the current snowpack he does not foresee a problem with filling the lake in the spring.
- T. Communications: none heard
- U. Issues of Concern: none heard
- V. Next Meeting: February 15, 2022, at 10:AM at Memorial City Hall, Auburn, NY.
- W. Adjourn: Motion to Adjourn made by Don Oltz. Unanimous vote. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:19 AM.

Respectfully Submitted.

Vivian Cunningham