



Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council
September 21st 2021, 10:00am

Meeting of the Directors

Directors

Owasco - Ed Wagner, **Cayuga County**- Aileen McNabb -Coleman, **City of Auburn** - Debby McCormick

Niles – Joan Jayne, **Locke** – Thane Benson, **Scipio** – Vivian Cunningham, **Fleming** - Don Oltz, **Moravia** – Terry Baxter, **Village of Moravia** – Gary Mulvaney, **Village of Groton** – Nancy Niswender, **Summerhill** – Charlie Ripley, **Sennett** – Tom Gray, **Executive Director**- Adam Effler

Presiding: Adam Effler:

A. Board of Directors- Roll call

Owasco - Ed Wagner, **City of Auburn** - Debby McCormick, **Niles** – Joan Jayne, **Scipio** – Vivian Cunningham, **Fleming** - Don Oltz, **Moravia**– Gary Mulvaney

Ex Officio Attending: Dr. Dana Hall, Steve Lynch, Daniel Welch, Michele Wunderlich, Dr. John Halfman, John West, John West, Rick Nelson, Rick Pickering, Ally Berry, Dillon Schultz, Dan Fessenden, Amy Fitzgerald, Seth Jensen

B. Approval of the Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda made by on Don Oltz. Seconded by Joan Jayne. Unanimously approved. Motion carried.

C. Approval of Minutes from the August 17th meeting, distributed via email. Motion to approve the minutes made by Joan Jayne. Seconded by Don Oltz. Unanimously approved. Motion carried.

D. Public to be Heard: None Heard. Welcome Rick Pickering from Evidn “Our Owasco” Project.

E. Director’s Summary- Adam Effler (distributed for review prior to meeting). Please see refer to the distributed Director’s Summary.

i. Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs):

- City of Auburn drinking water intake, on August 18th, 2021, cyanotoxins levels were measured above 5 ppm, the highest level ever observed in the raw, untreated, water. The City of Auburn and Town of Owasco are actively running their carbon treatment systems for toxins removal.
- Article appeared in the Citizen, led by Ms. Ally Berry, spotlighted best management practices (BMPs) of large dairy farms based on a recent tour provided by Partners for Healthy Watersheds.

ii. Watershed Response, Projects, and Programming

- Owasco Lake watershed response by the Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection and Protection Division (OLWIPD) has been active over the last month due to calls to the field related to storm surges and flooding in August.
- Watershed Inspectors will again assist the Tompkins County Soil and Water Conservation District (TCSWCD) with sediment rock installations along exposed ditches in Tompkins County.
- Cayuga County Parks Commission approved moving forward with a collaborative rain garden installation project at Emerson Park planned for October 24, 2021. The planting event is poised to attract community involvement and volunteerism for beautifying Emerson Park and will demonstrate a recommended practice for lake protection.
- On September 27, 2021, a public meeting will be held to provide an update on the process to incorporate the EPA Nine Key Elements into the Owasco Lake Watershed Management and Waterfront Revitalization Plan. The public will be able to review and comment on the Watershed Management Recommendations.
- In October 2021 OLWMC staff will be moving to a new location on West Lake Road, adjacent to the Fleming Fire House. We are grateful for the provision of office furniture and supplies from both the City of Auburn and the Town of Owasco. According to the original Three-Party Agreement between the City of Auburn, Town of Owasco, and Cayuga County for the development of the OLWMC, Cayuga County committed to providing office space to program staff. We are working with the county on meeting staff office space costs for 2022.

iii. Grants and Programs

- In partnership, the Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District (CCSWCD) is assisting a watershed farmer in finalizing their application for the installation of a conservation practice according to the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI).
- Conservation Kick Program. OLWMC staff have helped guide progress for this project. The City of Auburn has invested the required cost share for the grant award. Project funding will meet the implementation costs of installing a water and sediment control basin(WASCOB) on a selected watershed producer's property.
- We will resubmit a project proposal through the Natural Resource Conservation Service's(NRCS's) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) to drive federal funding towards our efforts to advance watershed farm planning for improved soil health and conservation. Representatives from the American Water Works Association (AWWA) will offer proposal support again.
- Crystal Creek Organics is currently a finalist in Grow New York, seeking funds to advance their agricultural technology that processes de-watered cow manure to create a storable soil amendment product.

iv. Watershed Rules and Regulations Update Project

- During their September 9th monthly meetings, the City of Auburn City Council and Town of Owasco Board passed resolutions in response to the NYS DOH bureau's letter. Both municipalities are asking Governor Hochul to work with the state agencies to allow local municipal participation in the

state four-agency review and setting a timeline with milestones to support the update community consensus Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations.

- On September 13th, at their monthly board meeting, the Town of Fleming Board approved an independent resolution and support letter for the updated community consensus watershed rules and regulations.

- F. Board of Directors/Municipality Representatives Feedback: Board members requested to keep informed of site development and permitting requests that might affect soil erosion/water quality affecting the watershed.
- G. Treasurer's Audit and Finance Report
- i. August Financials Approval – Joan Jayne reported as of the end of August total income as \$396,300 and the net income at \$226,335.62. Reserve fund artificially inflated due to funds allocated to grant projects. Motion to approve the financials made by Don Oltz. Seconded by Ed Wagner Unanimously approved. Motion carried.
- H. Evidn 'Our Owasco' project update- John Pickering discussed an overview of the 'Our Owasco' project which is Farmer-led/facts driven/flexible.
The slide presentation is available online @ <https://www.olwmc.org/news>
There has been an 18-month hiatus for the project during Covid, but they have returned to revitalize the process and will begin reconnecting with various stakeholders.
- I. Owasco Lake Research Updates- Dr. John Halfman provided updates on the recent post hurricane Ida flooding in August and what's coming with global warming. See slides online. He discussed the significant debris and turbidity. Dr. Halfman's presentation and discussion is available online on @ <https://www.olwmc.org/news>
- J. NYSDEC Hub Updates- Tony Prestigiaco. Working with various organizations to develop various plans for Finger Lakes water planning and oversight and surveillance and HABS mitigation and technical assistance for various projects that are ongoing.
- K. Watershed Rules and Regulations Revisions Updates – Steve Lynch, Director Cayuga Co Planning. First working group meeting for City of Auburn water protection plan met and the Consulting Group states the adoption of the updated WRR should be a component of the plan.
- L. Nine Element Watershed Plan Update Presentation– Michele Wunderlich presented a preview of the public meeting of the 9/27/21 *Nine Element Planning Framework* Presentation to meeting is available online @ <https://www.olwmc.org/news>
- M. The Nature Conservancy Updates - Olivia Green unavailable today. The Nature Conservancy recently closed on the Sempronius property.
- N. Owasco Watershed Lake Association Updates - Dana Hall, The Fall wooly adelgid hemlock campaign is underway, resuming watershed stream sampling program, OWLA working with Soil & Water to extend the successful ditch remediation program.
- O. Cornell Cooperative Extension Updates- Daniel Welch registration for hazardous waste program is now open, electronic recycling program this weekend.
- P. Partners for Healthy Watershed – Greg Rejman was unavailable.
- Q. Emerson Park Sluiceway Cleanout and Retrofit Updates- Seth Jensen
- R. Watershed Inspection Monthly Report–Ally Berry and Dillon Shults: Lots of flooding and culvert issues, discussed inspections and reviews, seminars at Camp Y-Owasco, Owasco Flats-Plant Survey, continue with Lake Friendly Living Signage, and flooding at Dutch Hollow Brook. The

Hyfi sensors demonstrated that it can provide an hour or two of warning of impending flooding.

- S. Lake Level Report – John West Lake level 712.6 feet. About a month away from the fall draw down. Keeping an eye on impending weather. Appreciate John’s diligence during the recent flooding
- T. Communications: Questions concerning flooding and debris at the Moravia inlet bridge and potential cleanout. This is something that is planned when the lake level is lower and ground is firmer.
- U. Issues of Concern: None Heard
- V. Schedule Next Meeting (3rd Tuesday of October is the 19th),
- W. Adjourned: Motion to adjourn made by Gary Mulvaney. Seconded by Ed Wagner. Unanimously approved. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned @11:20 am.

Respectfully Submitted:

Vivian Cunningham
Acting Secretary