Owasco Watershed Rules and Regulations State-Local Technical Workgroup Report

For OLWMC Monthly Meeting: Oct 18, 2022

General Update:

Since the last OLWMC meeting, the State-Local workgroup met once to discuss the nutrient management provisions of Owasco's proposed regulations. This was the first of several meetings on this topic. The meeting's focus was on high-level concepts and programs rather than line-by-line revisions. Exact language for the revised regulations will be discussed in detail during the next meetings.

Summary of 10/5/2022 Meeting: Nutrient Management #1

The State-Local workgroup began by revisiting the State Interagency Report drafted in June 2022 to refresh concepts and acknowledge the amount of work being done in the watershed. The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) provided a brief presentation of the Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) in the Owasco watershed. DEC also gave an overview of the approved and final 9-Element Watershed Plan and the Department of Agriculture and Markets (AGM) provided an overview of the Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) framework and associated funding opportunities. Workgroup members had productive questions and feedback on the state programs. The discussion highlighted the need for increased capacity at the Soil & Water Conservation Districts.

Revised Meeting Schedule for Remaining Provisions:

Follow up meeting on Pesticides   October 18, 2022 (virtual)

Additional Nutrient Management   November 4, 2022 (in person)

Variances   November (virtual)

Legal meetings   November/December (virtual)

Conclusion/Wrap Up   December/January (virtual)

*Overall Process Timeline:

- State Interagency Workgroup meets with Owasco Technical Committee – June 2022
- New Workgroup will meet approx. 6 times - June to Oct 2022
- DOH publishes proposed amendments to WRRs- Nov 2022
- Three-month public comment period- Feb 2023
- DOH submits response to comments- Mar 2023
- DOH publishes amendments to WRRs - May/June 2023

    *will likely have to be updated based on revised meeting schedule