



# Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council

February 20, 2024, 10:00-11:30 AM – Agenda

## 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** – TBD (Chris Fulton Supervisor),  
**Village of Groton** – Theodore Skibinski, **Summerhill** – Charlie Ripley, **Sennett** – Tom Blair, **Dryden** –  
Anne Clark  
**Executive Director**- Adam Effler

- A. Board of Directors – Roll call
- B. Approval of the Agenda
- C. Approval of Minutes from the January 16, 2024 Board Meeting
- D. Public to be Heard
- E. Recognition of Terry Baxter
- F. Director’s Summary – Adam Effler (distributed for review prior to meeting)
- G. Board of Directors/Municipality Representatives Feedback
- H. Treasurer’s Audit and Finance Report
  - i. January 2024 Financials Approval – Joan Jayne
- I. Lake Level Report – John West
- J. 2023 In-Lake Water Quality Monitoring Presentation – Lisa Cleckner, Director Finger Lakes Institute
- K. 2023 Watershed Projects Implementation and Outlooks for 2024 – Tim Schneider, District Field Manager, Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District
- L. NYSDEC FL Hub Update- Tony Prestigiacomo
- M. The Nature Conservancy Update – Olivia Green
- N. Owasco Watershed Lake Association Update – Ann Robson
- O. Cornell Cooperative Extension Update – Daniel Welch or Frank Clarke
- P. Watershed Inspection Monthly Report –Joseph Decker
- Q. Communications
- R. Issues of Concern
- S. Schedule Next Meeting (3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of March, 2024 is the 19<sup>th</sup>)
- T. Adjourn

## 2024 OLWMC Goals

1. Increase participation of municipalities that have yet to join the Council.
  - a. Formal directorship request letters will be delivered to the remaining watershed municipalities and their responses (if any) will be documented. OLWMC staff will make a concerted effort to visit municipal offices to directly communicate organizational objectives and elicit interest and buy-in.
2. Community Outreach
  - a. Increase awareness of the Lake Friendly Living Pledge Program, boundaries, and tributaries of the watershed through signage
  - b. Advocate for NYS approval of community consensus Updated Watershed Rules and Regulations
    - i. Mobilize an outreach campaign for eventual rollout of Updated Watershed Rules and Regulations
      1. Plan distribution methods for supportive materials for guidance on watershed programs and lines of supportive funding
  - c. Continue to advance engagement with watershed farmers
  - d. Coordinate watershed science programming and education in schools
3. Continue to look for funding opportunities.
  - a. Advance funding support for project initiatives through collaboration for funding and partnership among agencies
  - b. Use adaptive strategies for project priorities list based on watershed planning and funding availability
  - c. Seek watershed support as a line item on the NYS Environmental Protection Fund (EPF)
4. Provide new and relevant programmatic opportunities to watershed municipal leaders
  - a. Offer support and guidance to assist municipalities with advancing resource protection and climate smart initiatives
5. Work with the Towns' and Villages' elected officials, highway superintendents, and county soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs) to improve ditching practices
  - a. Support communication between highway departments and SWCDs
6. Support the coordination and implementation of the NYS Nine Element (9E) Watershed Plan
  - a. Facilitate needs and communication for the 9E Project Coordination Committee that will:
    - i. Interpret 9E Plan information to target watershed project implementation based on recommended projects/practices and prioritized 'hot spots'
    - ii. Present relevant information for managers, municipalities, and implementers to support priority projects
    - iii. Utilize NYS approved (9E) Plan to advocate for external project funding through grants
7. Participate in the on-going NYSDEC harmful algal bloom monitoring and surveillance program, the purpose of which is to identify priority areas for health and safety and ultimately develop mitigation strategies for HABs
  - a. OLWMC/NYSDEC/OWLA (Owasco Watershed Lake Association) collaboration is essential
8. Develop Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection and Protection Division (OLWIPD) program requirements according to the rollout of Updated Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations
  - a. Advance programmatic needs and SOPs for updated watershed rules and regulations, including for the proposed variance process
9. Support oversight, growth, and guidance for the OLWIPD
  - a. Foster outreach and guidance for stakeholders through the OLWIPD
10. Continue supporting monitoring the lake and watershed to assess water quality
  - a. Ensure transferrable and accessible datasets between multiple groups, including scientists, planners, and managers
  - b. Work with the DEC Finger Lakes Hub and other partners to reduce watershed-sourced nutrient loading to Owasco Lake
11. Preserve natural ecosystem functions that protect watershed water quality through stewarding land preserves