

Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council – Watershed Inspection Committee Meeting Minutes

Monthly Meeting – May 19, 2025

WIC Members present: Ginny Kent, Seth Jensen, Ed Wagner, Aileen McNabb Coleman

Technical Advisors present: Ani Fish, Doug Kierst, Greg Rejman

Others present: Adam Effler, Jesse Lloyd

Communications:

The next Owasco Lake Watershed 9E Coordination Committee meeting will be on June 25, 2025 at 1 pm at Auburn City Hall.

Old Business:

March 17, 2025 Meeting Minutes approved without discussion

April 14, 2025 Notes- no discussion

Watershed Inspector's Report for April 2025-May 2025:

New Issues—

- Jesse Reported-On March 5 and 6, 2025, thunderstorms dropped 3 to 4 inches of rain in northern Moravia and Niles
 - Town of Niles Repairing a ditch on Split Rock Rd.
 - Cayuga County Soil and Water repairing a ditch on Church St. Town of Niles hauled stone to the site
 - Jesse showed drone footage of a farm field along 38A that was damaged by recent storms, whereby sediment eroded and discharged to an adjacent field
 - NYSDOT dug a ditch to Decker Brook for better drainage
 - There was a crumbling building near a tributary for Dutch Hollow Creek during high water conditions. The water level did not reach the refuse, and thereby the refuse was not washed into the adjacent creek.
- The OLWIPD continues to assist OWLA with their annual Tributary Sampling
 - Included using the YSI water quality meter to get water quality readings at time of sampling
 - ESF joined the team to gather stream flow data
 - OWLA was able to collect a storm event round of sampling
- Terry Lattimore owns property where Sucker Brook flows into the Lake. He inquired if there is any pipes or tunnels that allow sediment to flow into the Outlet. Seth Jensen indicated that there exists a culvert at the north end of the lake intended for conveying sediment to the Owasco River

Ongoing Issues—

8. This site was closed due to stabilized disturbance.
24. This site was closed due to stabilized disturbance.

30. Inconsistency between turbid and clear water discharging from lot expansion-difficult to identify source. Greg Rejman asked whether there is a septic system or a well set up at this location. Ed Wagner asked Jesse to call the CCDOH.

34. 12239 Water Street, Locke. Miscellaneous/unknown chemical spill. Drums with waste oils were left on site. The NYSDEC has sampled some of the drums and soil. Results came back as nonhazardous. Jesse communicating with Thane Benson, Supervisor of Locke, who is checking with the town lawyer. OWLA is interested in funding site remediation/drum removal. Ginny Kent suggested a waste disposal service. Jesse mentioned that further testing is required prior to removal due to liability concerns. CCDOH wrote a sanitary code violation letter. There remains uncertainty about who would receive the letter and/or whether action will be taken by landowners.

36. Sediment and erosion controls seem adequate, and Jesse plans to close this site.

43. 5832 Cedar Swamp Rd, Owasco. New Construction/Stormwater. They are building a house and they spread spoils over the property and disturbed over two acres. Jesse contacted the NYSDEC. He stated that they stabilized the site at one time, but it needs work after the winter. The homeowner said that they will repair/improve the stabilization.

49. Melrose Road, West of O'Neil Road. Stormwater Checks/Land Clearing. Farmer tore out trees in a NYSDEC wetland. NYSDEC is still examining if he needs to replant trees. Site was stabilized with seeding and 4 to 6 inches of hay. Jesse continues to communicate with NYSDEC Habitat Division to determine whether they will require planting new trees as they had alluded to.

53. Melrose Road, Owasco. Stormwater Checks/Land Clearing. Same farmer as #49. Removed the trees and tore up a Class C stream and a NYSDEC wetland. There was a turbidity discharge as sediment migrated from the work area to the wetland/stream. Jesse contacted NYSDEC. Jesse issued a violation for sediment discharge. The Cayuga County Health Department looked at the map in the Watershed Rules and Regulations and the site is more than 500 feet from the protected stream on that map. They will be unable to take it to a hearing because they need a clear violation of the Watershed Rules and Regulations. Ani spoke to Aaron McKeon who stated that the 1994 map is the newest. The members showed support for the creation of a new watershed map and Jesse contacted Aaron McKeon. Local parties will work towards updating the protected streams map referenced within the Watershed Rules and Regulations. This site was not stabilized.

54. 5199 West Lake Road, Fleming. Miscellaneous. Jesse stated that he discovered brush and trees heaped both in the lake and along the shore, stretching for about 200 feet of lakefront. Jesse spoke to the homeowner who stated that he had a contractor clean out their beach front property. The homeowner had planned on burning it, but the burn ban was in place. Then the homeowner stated that they would take care of it. Jesse stated that it is still there. The brush is still in place and has not floated away.

55. 5610 Buck Point Road, Fleming. Demolition/Stormwater Check. House demolition is occurring, and it needed silt fence repair. The contractor is putting everything into the hole and nothing is coming out. Another contractor will do the rest of the work. The Fleming Code Enforcement Officer asked about what they could do in this type of occurrence. Jesse is working with Fleming Codes, and they are using site as a 'launching point' for Fleming to consider the OLWMC's draft Erosion and Sediment Control ordinance for Fleming that requires an erosion and sediment control plan for construction. Sediment log is restricting sediment mobility, but the barrier may be over-burdened. Jesse performed a dye test to attempt to determine the direction of water flow.

56. 6699 East Lake Road, Owasco. Residential Construction/Stormwater Check. House construction along Sucker Brook. Jesse had them repair silt fence and recommended silt logs in another location of the site.

Other Activities—

- The OLWIPD 2024 Annual Report has been printed and will be distributed
- May 8th, 2025 Auburn City Council OLWMC Staff Presentation
- Highway Department meeting at Sennett Firehouse
- Attending Town Board meeting in Niles on June 19th
- Calibrated YSI Water Quality Meter
- Spoke with Chester Crosby about potentially selling his property to the Finger Lakes Land Trust
- Wrote a Citizen Article on road trash
- Got rotating laser level, checked MHW at a site for Pat Doyle
- Participated In Moravia Gives Back Day
- Jesse attended the Town Board meeting in Scipio.
- Jesse attended the NYSDEC 4-hour Erosion and Sediment Control training at Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation Office.
- Jesse downloaded the program for YSI water quality meter and tested it out.

Next meeting:

Next meeting will be held on June 16, 2025 at 1:30 pm.

Minutes prepared on May 19, 2025