

Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council
June 16, 2020

Meeting of the Directors

Directors Present: Terry Baxter, Ed Wagner, Joan Jayne, Debbie McCormick, Mary Alice Stetz, Don Oltz

Ex-Officio Members Present: Bruce Natale, Eileen O'Connor, Steve Lynch

Others Present: Drew Snell, John Halfman, Adam Effler, Michele Wunderlich, Kaitlyn Shanahan, Dana Hall, Thomas Gray, Doug Kierst, John West

Debby McCormick made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Ed Wagner and it passed unanimously.

Ed Wagner made a motion to approve the May minutes. The motion was seconded by Debby McCormick and it passed with one person abstaining.

Joan Jayne gave the treasurer's report. There was no motion to adopt the report due to errors. It will be fixed and brought to the Board in July.

John Halfman stated that he is on schedule as proposed. He is sampling streams and the lake and the auto-sampler is working well on Dutch Hollow Brook. He is working on getting permissions to install weather and water temperature equipment on four docks this summer.

Adam Effler reported that the Finger Lakes Hub held training in identifying harmful algal blooms. The only sampling that will be done this summer is CSLAP. The volunteers have been very good at identifying harmful algal blooms visually so there will be no sampling this summer and any HABS identified by a trained volunteer will be considered confirmed.

Steve Lynch reported that Watershed Rules and Regulations Project Transmittal Packages have been prepared for transfer to the Town of Owasco and the City of Auburn when the ability to hold a joint public meeting of the Town and City is determined. Mr. Lynch has been in touch with the City and Town, and they are aware of the plan to hold the joint public meeting as soon as can be arranged.

Michele Wunderlich reported that Cornell calibrated the 9E model for flow and is now working on TSS. The calibration process should be completed in about a month. The Department of State approved a one year extension on this project.

Bruce Natale reported that the final phase of the Flats project, to install a 3rd basin, should go out to bid next week. This basin will have a greater capacity than the 1st and 2nd combined. It is anticipated that the contract will be awarded by the end of the month for around \$400,000. Mr. Natale reported that it appears the current basins captured about 36 to 50 cubic yards of silt from the storm in May that otherwise would have made it to the lake.

Dana Hall reported that OWLA is interested in seeking funding to address the woolly hemlock adelgid, but additional information is needed regarding where hemlock trees are located within

the watershed and the presence of the adelgid. The loss of hemlocks in the watershed would be devastating to the environment as they currently hold soil on steep areas. Ms. Wunderlich said there is training available on how to ID the adelgid.

Seth Jensen said that the Town of Owasco plans to take pictures of the sluiceway interior. With this information he will get an estimate from the firm working on the City's water intake on the cost to vacuum the sediment out of the sluiceway.

Kaitlyn Shanahan and Drew Snell reported that this month they inspected four residential construction projects, an eroding culvert, an algae mat complaint, a downed tree in the lake, and a farmland drainage modification. Mr. Snell said they want to highlight property owners who are doing positive things in the watershed. The sonde has been used to collect baseline data in streams within the watershed. This data will be published on their website.

John West reported that the lake level is 712.6. The State Street bridge project has started but should not impact the operation of the outflow.

A Lake Friendly Lawn sign has been created by Ms. Shanahan that can be used by property owners who take the pledge to reduce lawn fertilizer. There was discussion regarding expanding this to include more than just lawns.

The next meeting is scheduled for 10 am on July 21.

Minutes prepared by Michele Wunderlich and Eileen O'Connor, June 22, 2020