



Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council
October 19th, 2021, 10:00am Meeting

Meeting of the 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, **Cayuga County**- Aileen McNabb -Coleman, **City of Auburn** - Debby McCormick, **Niles** – Joan Jayne, **Scipio** – Vivian Cunningham, **Fleming** - Don Oltz, **Moravia** – Terry Baxter, **Village of Moravia** – Gary Mulvaney,

Ex Officio Attending:

Brandon Wong, Michele Wunderlich, Ally Berry, Daniel Welsh, Greg Hutnik, Dr Halfman, John West

Presiding: Adam Effler

- B. Approval of the Agenda: Motion to approve by Debbie Mc Cormick. Terry Baxter seconded the motion. Unanimous vote, Motion carried.
- C. Approval of Minutes from the September 21, 2021. Meeting minutes were distributed via email. Motion to approve by Joan Jayne. Seconded by Don Oltz. Vote was unanimous. Motion carried.
- D. Public to be Heard: none heard
- E. Director’s Summary- Adam Effler (distributed for review prior to meeting): Dr. Effler reiterated the salient points.

- City has reduced treatment of HABs in the water treatment plant. Please visit NYHABS, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (NYSDEC's) online tracking and notification website, for mapping and information related to HABs conditions for Owasco Lake.
- OLWMC staff are finalizing their move to a unified commercial office space located at 6073 West Lake Road (Fleming), Auburn, NY 13021. The City of Auburn and Town of Owasco have generously provided the use of some of their office furniture and equipment at the new location.
 - According to the original Three-Party Agreement between the City of Auburn, Town of Owasco, and Cayuga County pertaining to the development of the OLWMC, Cayuga County committed to providing office space to program staff. Accordingly, a letter prepared September 29, 2021, requests that Cayuga County consider the provision of OLWMC staff office space as part of their 2022 budget year. The letter will be shared with the Cayuga County Planning Oversight Committee in October.
 - Watershed Inspector, Dillon Shults, has taken a new job with the Tompkins County Health Department. We are recruiting a Watershed Inspector. Please direct candidate recommendations to, or request a position job description from, OLWMC Executive Director, Adam Effler.
 - This fall, OLWMC staff will assist the Tompkins County Soil and Water Conservation District with sediment sock installations along exposed ditches in Tompkins County.
 - On September 27, 2021, a public meeting was 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 was able to review and comment on the Watershed Management Recommendations.
 - OLWMC staff and project partners finalized project-specific signage that was installed, with the assistance of the Scipio Highway Department, along a roadside ditch on Hicks Road, Scipio October 12, 2021. The sign spotlights the installation of concrete sediment traps installed by the Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District (CCSWCD) and funded by NYS and the Owasco Watershed Lake Association (OWLA).
 - The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) have announced the acquisition of 161 acres in the town of Sempronius in the Owasco Lake watershed.

The OLWMC partnered with Wegmans Food Stores on a LED Flares Promotional program underway throughout the Finger Lakes Region. A portion of the sales of LED flares at Wegmans stores through the duration of the project period was donated to the identified watershed steward organization with jurisdiction. Wegmans included an additional donation of \$1000 to each organization to support efforts for Finger Lakes watershed protection. Wegmans will be donating \$1095 to the OLWMC this fall.

- Conservation Kick Program. OLWMC staff have helped guide progress for this project, and 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.
- The OLWMC 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 preparation support again.

Projects, Planning, and Programming

The OLWMC is finalizing plans for a collaborative rain garden installation project at Emerson Park to be held October 23, 2021,

at 9AM. The planting event is poised to attract community involvement and volunteerism for beautifying Emerson Park and will demonstrate a recommended practice for capturing runoff and settling sediments. All are welcome.

- F. Board of Directors/Municipality Representatives Feedback: OLWMC holds monthly watershed inspection meetings. We will continue to encourage planning boards to include watershed inspectors on issues that impact the watershed.
- G. Treasurer's Audit and Finance Report
- September 2021 Financials Approval – Joan Jayne reported as of September 30, 2021, current assets \$372,231.49 Liabilities & Equities and \$407,671.49 and Motion to Approve Terry Baxter Vote Unanimous. Motion Carried
 - In process of drafting a budget proposal for next fiscal year to bring to December meeting.
- H. Hyfi Watershed Water Level Sensors, Project Update- Brandon Wong CEO. Hyfi Group presented the development of the Hyfi project. We have 14 Hyfi sensors located throughout the Owasco watershed associated with OWLA nutrient loading collection sites. See the presentation at <http://olwmc.org/news>

- I. Owasco Lake Research Updates- Dr. John Halfman. Stream collection at Dutch Hollow, Buoy still in. and collecting data.
- J. NYSDEC Hub Updates- Tony Prestigiacomio has a meeting conflict. Same update as last month. Small working group stretched over Finger lakes
- K. Watershed Rules and Regulations Revisions Updates – Steve Lynch no new updates and unable to attend.
- L. Nine Element Watershed Plan Updates– Michele Wunderlich shared results of updates. Meeting with DEC and will be making public meeting available online to the public. If anyone has suggestions, please share them.
- M. The Nature Conservancy Updates - Olivia Green is unavailable
- N. Owasco Watershed Lake Association Updates - Dana Hall is unavailable. OLWA is finishing up treating 1500 Hemlock Trees for Woolly Adelgid infected trees making it 4,000 trees treated this year. OLWA received US Forest Service grant for \$140,000 for insect mitigation which will take them through 2024 for tree treatment.
- O. Cornell Cooperative Extension Updates- Daniel Welch -working Cayuga County planning 300 people attended event for hazardous waste disposal.
 - Workshop on 10/26 for leasing land for solar power Farmers needing more information for land leasing for solar development.
- P. Partners for Healthy Watersheds Updates – Greg Rejman- unable to attend
- Q. Emerson Park Sluiceway Cleanout and Retrofit Updates- Seth Jensen design phase underway.
- R. Watershed Inspection Monthly Report–Ally Berry- 5 inches rain in past 30 days. Five HABs reported in early October. Working with Soil and Water with inspection violations.
- S. Lake Level Report – John West: After the rain on Saturday the lake level was up to 713 feet. Goal to have water down about one foot and goal to have lake level to 710 by the end of December.
- T. Communications: None
- U. Issues of Concern: None heard.
- V. Schedule Next Meeting (3rd Tuesday of November is the 16th). Adjourn: Motion to adjourn made by Debbie McCormick and seconded by Joan Jayne. Unanimously approved. Motion carried at 11:15 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vivian Cunningham