

Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council – Watershed Inspection Committee
April 24, 2018 – Monthly Meeting

Members present: Ed Wagner, Aileen McNabb-Coleman, Debby McCormick, Seth Jensen

Technical Advisors present:

Others present: Drew Snell, Eileen O'Connor

Debby McCormick made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 23, 2018 meeting. Aileen McNabb-Coleman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Drew Snell gave his report. A manure pile off of Bird Cemetery Rd is not a violation of the Rules and Regulations, however, when it rains, manure effluent can run down the tire tracks and enter a ditch. Mr. Snell will contact the farmer and point out the concern. Also, he will visit when it is raining to document any discharge into the ditch. A gravel pit operation in Moravia does not need a permit from DEC. Allegedly, however, during rain events the sediment enters a trib. Mr. Snell will visit the site while it is raining to verify. Mr. Snell investigated a stair installation project that has caused erosion. He will contact the Town of Owasco CEO as this may be a code violation. Due to equipment malfunction, an oil spill occurred from a County Highway vehicle. Mr. Snell recommends that County vehicles carry spill response kits and that County highway employees should receive education on dealing with spills. A manure compost pile in the Town of Niles was determined to be a violation of the Rules and Regs. Mr. Snell spoke with the landowners who said they will move the pile as soon as weather allows. An RV on Tollgate Hill Rd may be used for housing and there is concern that there is sewage piping exiting the vehicle. Mr. Snell will contact Locke's CEO and will forward the address to the Health Department. Mr. Snell investigated a complaint regarding stockpiling yard waste on residential property in Owasco. He will provide education to the homeowners regarding the Town of Owasco's yard waste pick-up program. Ed Wagner said he will be sure that all Town residents are aware of the Town's program. Eileen O'Connor reviewed two cases that were referred to her office by Mr. Snell. Two RVs located on the beach off of Fire Lane 21 in Scipio were investigated and no indication of any water source, waste piping discharge or occupancy of the dilapidated units was found. Mr. Snell will visit this summer to see if the units are occupied at that time. Health Department staff also investigated the concern regarding steam emanating from a storm catch basin in the Town of Locke. The Health Department found no issues. Reportedly, the NYSDOT did work in this area recently and Mr. Snell was encouraged to contact them regarding any illegal connections into their storm water system.

Mr. Snell reported that he hopes to have a presence in Tompkins County soon. The WIC suggested that he put together an outreach plan and schedule a meeting with Tompkins County Health Department and Soil and Water before the next WIC meeting.

The WIP annual report distributed copies of the Annual Report. He will be distributing these to municipal offices within the watershed. He will also include a copy of the ditch assessment report that was prepared last year by Kathryn Vellone.

The proposed goals for 2018 are as follows.

1. Make regular and thorough inspections of the watershed to ascertain compliance with the rules and regulations.
2. Provide education and public outreach to watershed residents on drainage, erosion, septic systems, and yard and pet waste issues.
3. Annually attend a legislative session at Owasco, Auburn and Cayuga County, attend board meetings at some of the other towns within the watershed, and meet with CEOs within the watershed.
4. Prepare monthly status reports for the Citizen outlining inspections performed and violations found.

5. Visually monitor and periodically sample streams in area of concern during runoff events to determine impact of adjacent land uses.
6. Expand capabilities to allow for better monitoring of the watershed.
7. Prepare an annual report by the end of February that will be incorporated into the OLWMC's annual report card.
8. Assist NYSDEC with HABs identification.
9. Assist and provide technical guidance in the Rules and Regulations revision.
10. Work with partners to collaborate on grant funding opportunities and assist where needed.

Debby McCormick made a motion to adopt the goals. Aileen McNabb-Coleman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The WIP 2016-2018 expense report was discussed. The members were encouraged to review these to make sure there are no discrepancies that need to be addressed before the transition occurs.

Ed Wagner is currently working on transferring title of one vehicle to the City and then the City will transfer it to the Council. He is working on obtaining insurance and said that OWLA has approached him to see if their volunteers could be covered in the Council's insurance. He said he is looking into it. Also, he is investigating if the Council became an authority would the employees be eligible to participate in the State Retirement System.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be May 22, 2018

Minutes prepared by Eileen O'Connor, April 26, 2018