

Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council
August 21, 2018

Meeting of the Members

Members Present: Debby McCormick, Aileen McNabb-Coleman

Debby McCormick made a motion to adopt the resolution adding the Town of Moravia, as represented by Terrance Baxter, Town of Moravia Supervisor, as a Director to the Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council. The motion was seconded by Aileen McNabb-Coleman and it passed unanimously.

Meeting of the Directors

Directors Present: Aileen McNabb-Coleman, Don Oltz, Debby McCormick, Leslie Baxter, Joan Jayne, Terrance Baxter

Ex-Officio Members Present: Eileen O'Connor, Steve Lynch, Bruce Natale, John West, Judy Wright

Others Present: Drew Snell, Tom Haag, Gavin Gretskey, Ken Kudla, Michele Wunderlich, Julie Lockhart, Ryan Franklin, Charlie Ripley, Dave Eckhardt, Seth Jensen, Tony Prestigiacomo, Jason Cuddeback

Leslie Baxter made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 17, 2018 meeting. The motion was seconded by Terrance Baxter and it passed unanimously.

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

A treasurer's report was not provided as Joan Jayne was not able to get the information this month. Don Oltz asked if the treasurer's report could be sent out when the agenda and minutes are distributed. Eileen O'Connor said she would do that.

Michele Wunderlich reported that a public meeting regarding the Owasco Lake Watershed Nine Element Plan project had over 65 attendees. Ms. Wunderlich distributed updated Vision and Goals for the project. As a result of input received at the meeting, the main goal of the 9E Plan was modified to include the word "restore" and two new goals were added as follows:

7. Secure resources to implement the plan.

8. Promote the strengthening of municipal controls to protect and preserve water quality in the watershed. Mr. Oltz said he thought goal #8 should have more clarification regarding municipal controls and Steve Lynch explained that the details would be outlined in the recommendation section of the plan in which the public will get another opportunity to comment.

Ms. O'Connor said that at the last meeting there was discussion about forming a subcommittee to pick a few priorities projects from the DEC HAB Action Plan that the Council can focus on trying to obtain funding. Mr. Lynch suggested the following be on the committee: Michele Wunderlich, Drew Snell, Tony Prestigiacomo, Doug Kierst, Judy Wright, and an OWLA, City of Auburn, and Town of Owasco representatives. Mr. Lynch said that the formation of the committee does not mean that individual agencies should not pursue funding for their own projects. Ms. O'Connor will set up a meeting of this group before the next Council meeting.

Mr. Lynch reported that a resolution is moving through the County Legislature to hire a neutral facilitator who can help bring the draft rules and regulations to the public to ensure that all parties have an opportunity to voice their opinions. Once the facilitator is obtained, a meeting of the steering committee will be convened.

Tony Prestigiacommo reported that the 2018 CSLAP is on-going with 2 sampling points similar to last year, however more nutrient parameters will be examined. The 2017 CSLAP report should be published very soon. In addition, Cornell and OWLA are currently collecting data that will be used in the modeling portion of the 9E plan. The impact of recent large storms was discussed and Mr. Prestigiacommo said that it would be helpful to have a “storm chaser” group that can immediately collect samples following these types of storm events.

Drew Snell reported that he visited 7 sites this month, four of which resulted in violations. Two of the violations were for storm water, one for failing septic system, and one for animal access to a stream.

He said he put together a homeowner’s guide, based upon the Wayne County guide, that outlines water protective practices that residents should follow. He will be handing this out at meetings and when he talks to the public. He also participated in the Asian Clam survey.

Ms. Jayne asked who should a resident contact if they see someone discharging fertilizer into the lake or stream while fertilizing their lawn. Ms. O’Connor said that the Watershed Inspector should be contacted as this is a violation of the rules and regulations. If a violator does not comply with the Watershed Inspector’s request to cease such an activity, he can refer the case to the County Health Department where a Board of Health hearing would be held. A discussion followed regarding commercial companies who may not follow good practices. Mr. Snell said he will reach out to these companies to encourage them to follow water protective practices.

John West reported that the lake is about 712.7 ft. He often has to take into consideration downstream work that is going on in the River when regulating the outflow.

Mr. Oltz reported a concern near Stone School and Silver Street where the hedgerows were taken out and field tiles will be installed. He is concerned that these actions will negatively impact Vaness Brook. Mr. Snell said he was aware of this situation but does not see a concern as the area is flat.

Ms. Baxter discussed a concern that the water stewards who are stationed at Emerson Park are not requiring boaters to check their boats when they enter Owasco Lake, only when they exit. Ms. Wunderlich said she will forward a name from the Finger Lakes Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM) who oversees the stewards to Ms. Baxter so she can follow-up.

Julie Lockhart said small HABs have been reported at various points in the northeastern and southeastern part of the lake. She expressed concern that the HAB monitoring program that she is working with DEC on is too overwhelming for a volunteer group to manage, that the messaging is not clear, that the notification chain is not working, and that samples can only be taken on a few days of the week per DEC. Ms. O’Connor confirmed that the message should be Know It, Avoid It, and Report It. The Health Department has been making a concerted effort to get this simple message out to the public. Questions from the public regarding health issues related to HABS should be sent to the Health Department. There

was discussion regarding the monitoring program and how it did not seem to be working. Ms. O'Connor said she would set up a meeting with Rebecca Gorney and Mr. Prestigiacomo from DEC, Ms. Lockhart, and herself to try to iron out the issues.

The next Council meeting will be Tuesday, September 18 at 10 am in the Chambers at the County Office Building.

Minutes prepared by Eileen O'Connor, August 23, 2018