



*Owasco Lake Watershed Rules & Regulations Project*

# PUBLIC MEETING #2

JUNE 21, 2017 | MORAVIA HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM | 6pm

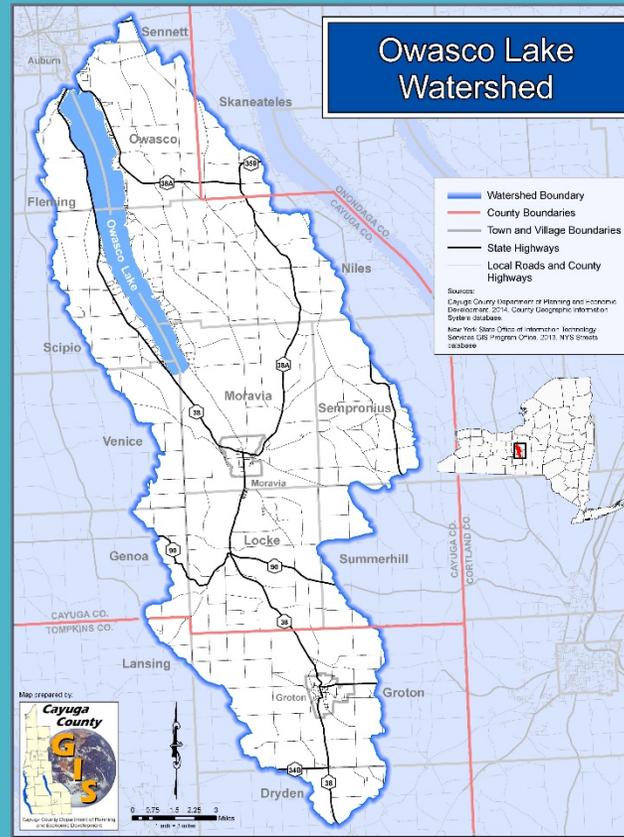
# Tonight's Agenda:

- Introduce the Watershed Rules & Regulations Project
- Overview of Current Watershed Rules & Regulations
- Outline the Public Participation Process
- Encourage Community Involvement



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# THE OWASCO LAKE WATERSHED



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# THE PROJECT AT A GLANCE

- **PART 1: Review and Revise the 1984 Watershed Rules & Regulations**
  - Public Education, Participation and Feedback
  - Draft Revised Regulations for Local Consideration by City of Auburn and Town of Owasco
- **PART 2: Submit Draft Regulations to NYS Health Dept. for Review**
  - State Department of Health Bureau of Public Water Supply Protection
    - *Review and Changes as needed – coordinated with local water suppliers: Auburn & Owasco*
    - *Circulation and Publication*
    - *Inter-Agency Review at State: Bureau of Management Services; Legal; Ag & Markets;*
    - *Publication in State Register*
    - *Approval of State Health Commissioner*
    - *Adoption by Local Suppliers of Water (Auburn & Owasco)*
    - *Local Publication & Filing*



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# PROJECT INTRODUCTION

UNPRECEDENTED WATER QUALITY ISSUES IN OWASCO LAKE AND ITS WATERSHED



*Harmful Blue-Green Algal Blooms and  
Microcystin Toxins Impacting our Primary Public Water Source*

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# PROJECT INTRODUCTION

UNPRECEDENTED WATER QUALITY ISSUES IN OWASCO LAKE AND ITS WATERSHED

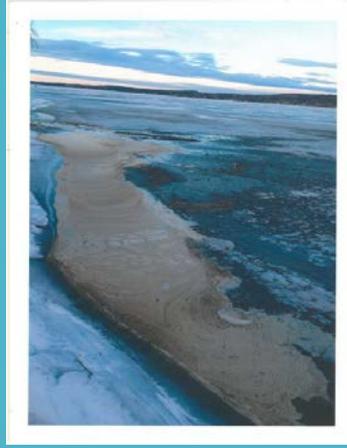


*Failed Septic Systems and Poor Roadway Practices  
Impacting our Primary Public Water Source*

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# PROJECT INTRODUCTION

UNPRECEDENTED WATER QUALITY ISSUES IN OWASCO LAKE AND ITS WATERSHED



*Erosion and Sediment Runoff from Multiple Sources and Manure Spills Impacting our Primary Public Water Source*

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# PROJECT INTRODUCTION

- *Our Water Quality Pollution Is Coming from Many Sources...*



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# PROJECT INTRODUCTION

- *Our Water Quality Solutions are also Coming from Many Sources...*

County has Developed and Adopted Manure Management Guidelines



Our Farmers are Adopting Cover Crop, No-Tilling and Other Best Practices

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# PROJECT INTRODUCTION

- *Our Water Quality Solutions are Coming from Many Sources...*

## Septic System Inspection Program Improvements



Your **SEPTIC SYSTEM** affects your lake

Don't let your septic system spoil your lake.

Schedule routine inspections every three years.

*Make Clear Choices for Your Lake*

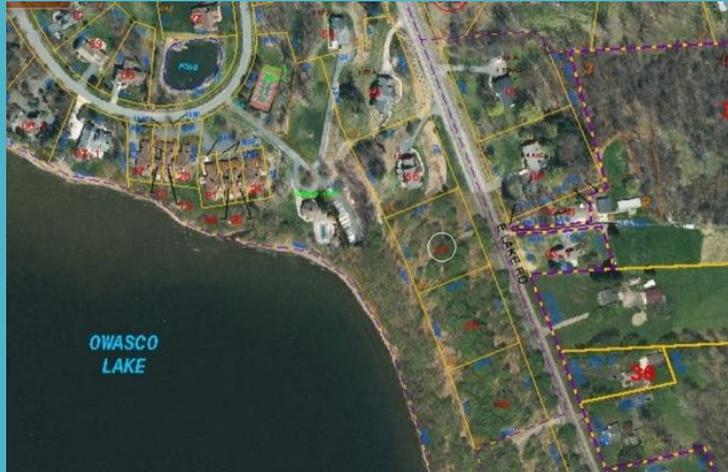
Dutch Hollow Brook Protections are being Put in Place

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# PROJECT INTRODUCTION

- *Our Water Quality Solutions are Coming from Many Sources...*

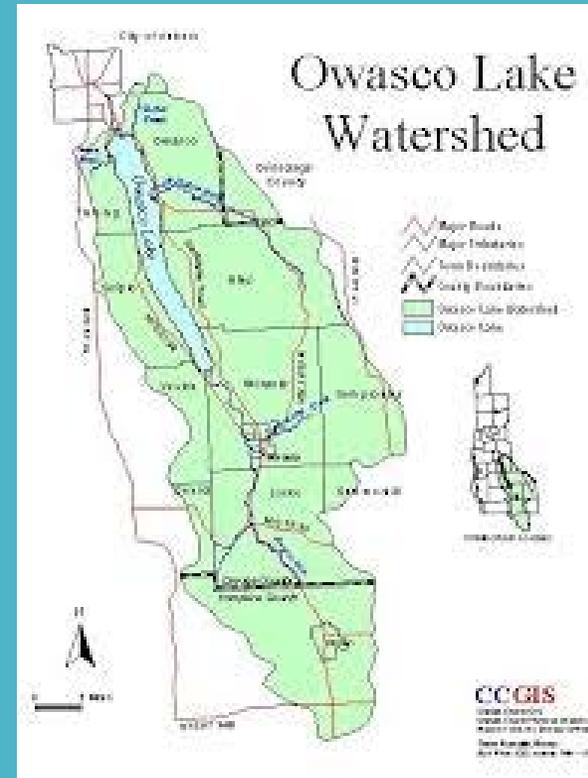
Preparation of EPA Nine-Elements Plan



Adoption of Town and Village Lakeshore Overlay Protection Districts

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WATERSHED RULES &  
REGULATIONS ARE  
ANOTHER TOOL TO  
PROTECT OWASCO LAKE  
AND OUR PRIMARY  
DRINKING WATER  
RESOURCE



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# GENERAL STRENGTHS OF WSRR:

- Authority and ability for Watershed Inspectors to enter any property within the Owasco Lake Watershed to make inspections;
- Provides protections not identified or regulated through other state and federal regulations – a greater degree of local control over impacts to water quality;
- Provides protections against the deposit of human waste anywhere within the watershed – protections that would not be in place without local WSRR

*OTHER WSRR STRENGTHS WILL BE IDENTIFIED THROUGH  
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK*

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# GENERAL WEAKNESSES OF THE WSRR:

- Maps identifying protected watercourses within the watershed were developed in the 1960's and need to be reviewed and updated;
- Language in the WSRR contains contradictory clauses that can confuse rather than clarify provisions and therefore hinder enforcement efforts– this content needs to be reviewed and updated; and
- Current regulations do not include protections against erosion and sediment runoff associated with construction sites under one-acre.

*OTHER WSRR WEAKNESSES WILL BE IDENTIFIED THROUGH PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK*

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# AUTHORITY AND HOW THEY WORK...

STATE LAW ALLOWS NYS HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO ESTABLISH WATERSHED RULES & REGULATIONS ON BEHALF OF MUNICIPALITIES TO PROTECT PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES

THE STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT ESTABLISHED THE CURRENT OWASCO LAKE WATERSHED RULES & REGULATIONS IN 1984 ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF AUBURN AND THE TOWN OF OWASCO

OUR WATERSHED RULES & REGULATIONS PROVIDE THE LEGAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK UNDER WHICH OUR WATERSHED INSPECTORS DO THEIR JOB

IF NEEDED, THE WSR&R INCLUDE ENFORCEMENT MECHANISMS THAT INVOLVE THE WATERSHED INSPECTORS AND COUNTY-LEVEL DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

An aerial photograph showing a large body of water (Owasco Lake) surrounded by green fields and some buildings. The sky is clear and blue.

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# FOCUS AREAS OF THE WSR&R:

- AGRICULTURE: FERTILIZER, PESTICIDES & MANURE MANAGEMENT
- SEWAGE DISPOSAL AND SEPTIC SYSTEMS
- SOLID WASTE & HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

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# SUMMARY OF THE RULES & REGS

## AGRICULTURE

- Animal Waste Storage Areas cannot be located within 250 feet of the lake or a watercourse
- Manure cannot be spread within 75 feet of the lake or watercourse unless plowed underground on the day it is spread
- Herbicides and Pesticides cannot be stored, discharged, applied or allowed to enter the lake or watercourse without an appropriate agency permit

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# SUMMARY OF THE RULES & REGS

## SEWAGE

- The discharge of sewage into the lake or watercourse is prohibited
- Land spreading of sewage is prohibited
- The burial of sewage is prohibited unless deposited in specified trenches or pits located greater than 250 ft. from the lake or watercourse
- Privies are prohibited within 100 ft. of the lake or watercourse unless it is watertight or discharges to an approved septic system
- An absorption area shall not be placed within 100 ft. of the lake or watercourse unless an exemption is granted by the Health Department for a repair of an existing system.



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# SUMMARY OF THE RULES & REGS

## SEWAGE

- Watertight privies must be emptied when filled within 6 inches of the top and care shall be exercised
- Care must be exercised when pumping sewage from a watertight receptacle and the waste disposed of properly
- Septic systems must be approved by the Health Department before installation, repair, or modification
- Failing septic system must be inspected and evaluated in a manner approved by the Health Department prior to modification
- No sewage or polluted liquid shall be discharged or allowed to flow beneath the surface of the ground except to an approved septic system or watertight holding tank
- Composting toilets are acceptable provided that the proper disposal of gray water is provided



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# SUMMARY OF THE RULES & REGS

## SOLID WASTE & HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

- Chloride salt cannot be stored within 500 ft. of lake or watercourse unless in weatherproof buildings
- Refuse disposal areas cannot be located within 500 ft. of the lake or watercourse
- The deposition or burial of refuse within 250 ft. of the lake or watercourse is prohibited
- The burial of containers used for the storage of toxic substances within 500 ft. of the lake or watercourse is prohibited
- Human remains cannot be interred within 250 ft. of the lake or watercourse
- Junkyards are prohibited within 100 ft. of the lake or watercourse
- The deposition or burial of radioactive material is prohibited
- Buildings or structures not allowed on the water or ice within 500 ft. of the water supply intake

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# SUMMARY OF THE RULES & REGS

AND FINALLY...

- NO OTHER POLLUTANT OF ANY KIND SHALL BE DEPOSITED INTO THE LAKE OR WATERCOURSE

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# THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

HOW STAKEHOLDERS, THE PUBLIC AND LOCAL  
OFFICIALS CAN LEARN MORE & PROVIDE FEEDBACK

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# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT A GLANCE...

## FOUR (4) KEY ELEMENTS OF THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN:

- PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE;
- STAKEHOLDER FOCUS GROUP MEETINGS;
- PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETINGS;
- PROJECT WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA OUTREACH

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# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT A GLANCE...

## 9-MEMBER PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE:

- Two (2) County Legislators;
- One (1) Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council Member;
- One (1) Owasco Watershed Lake Association (“OWLA”) Member;
- Two (2) Agriculture & Farmer Representatives (Dairy & Crop; Large and Small);
- One (1) County Department of Health | Board of Health Member;
- One (1) Owasco Town Board Member; and
- One (1) Auburn City Council Member.

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# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT A GLANCE...

## STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH:

- AGRICULTURE & THE FARMING COMMUNITY;
- LAKE SHORE OWNERS AND LAKE ADVOCATE GROUPS;
- MUNICIPAL AND STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS; and
- BUSINESS COMMUNITY AND COMMERCIAL CONTRACTORS.



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# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT A GLANCE...

## PUBLIC MEETINGS FOR PARTICIPATION AND INPUT:

- TWO (2) PUBLIC INFORMATION & PROJECT KICK-OFF MEETINGS:
  - Project Introduction & Public Education on WSRR
  - Monday, June 19 at BOCES and Wednesday, June 21 at Moravia HS Auditorium – 6PM
- FOUR (4) PUBLIC MEETINGS WITH IDENTIFIED STAKEHOLDERS;
- TWO (2) PUBLIC WORK-SESSION MEETINGS:
  - Review Public & Stakeholder Input to Date;
  - Solicit and Document Additional Public Input
- PREPARATION & PUBLIC CIRCULATION OF DRAFT REVISIONS
- PUBLIC MEETINGS ON DRAFT WSRR FOLLOWING RELEASE & CIRCULATION
- THIRTY-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
- FINAL PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS TO TOWN OF OWASCO & CITY OF AUBURN

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# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT A GLANCE...

## PROJECT WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA OUTREACH:

- [WWW.CAYUGACOUNTY.US/COMMUNITY/OWASCO-WATERSHED-PROJECT](http://WWW.CAYUGACOUNTY.US/COMMUNITY/OWASCO-WATERSHED-PROJECT)
  - Project Meeting Schedules
  - Steering Committee Minutes
  - Summaries of Public Input
  - Informational Documents & Important Links
  - Opportunity of Project Input and Feedback via Website
- MEDIA OUTLETS FOR PROJECT INFORMATION:
  - FIND US ON FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/Cayuga-County-Health-Department-135752779832241/>
  - MEDIA COVERAGE AND PUBLIC NOTICES IN the CITIZEN NEWSPAPER
  - ONGOING RADIO COVERAGE ON FINGER LAKES NEWS RADIO – WAUB 98.1 FM

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# FEEDBACK AND PUBLIC COMMENT

- HOW DO THE WATERSHED RULES & REGULATIONS IMPACT YOU?
- WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE INCLUDED OR CHANGED IN THE 1984 WATERSHED RULES & REGULATIONS?

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# NEXT STEPS

- BUILDING THE STAKEHOLDER GROUPS
- LET US KNOW IF YOU WANT TO ATTEND!
  - AGRICULTURE / FARMING
  - LAKE SHORE OWNERS & LAKE ADVOCACY GROUPS
  - LOCAL MUNICIPAL AND STATE/FEDERAL ELECTED OFFICIALS
  - BUSINESS COMMUNITY AND COMMERCIAL CONTRACTORS



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# PROJECT WEBSITE

[WWW.CAYUGACOUNTY.US/COMMUNITY/OWASCO-WATERSHED-PROJECT](http://WWW.CAYUGACOUNTY.US/COMMUNITY/OWASCO-WATERSHED-PROJECT)

An aerial photograph showing a large body of water, likely Owasco Lake, surrounded by a mix of green fields and some buildings. The sky is clear and blue.

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