

## The Process of Preparing the Draft Rules and Regulations

The process of revising the Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations commenced with the adoption of resolutions supporting the project by the Auburn City Council on May 4, 2017, the Owasco Town Board on May 11, 2017, and the Cayuga County Legislature on June 27, 2017.

In June, 2017, the Cayuga County Department of Planning and Economic Development began working with the Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council to determine how best to approach the task and a steering committee was created to direct the project. The members of the steering committee included representatives of the City of Auburn, the Towns of Owasco and Scipio, Cayuga County legislature, the agricultural community, the Owasco Watershed Lake Association, and the Cayuga County Board of Health.

Two general public meetings were held, one at the BOCES campus in Aurelius, and the other at the high school in Moravia. At these meetings and after, people expressed their concerns with causes of pollution and shared suggestions on what should be done to address them.

In September and October of 2017 two separate “stakeholder” meetings were held with members of the agricultural community and members of the Owasco Watershed Lake Association so that input on topics of specific interest to them could be obtained.

Also beginning in the fall of 2017, staff from the Cayuga County Departments of Health and Planning and Economic Development, the Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District, the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cayuga County, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the City of Auburn, and the Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection Program met periodically to work on drafting revised rules and regulations. They reviewed the existing rules, determined what was out of date or no longer relevant, and identified what needed to be reworded and what needed to be added based upon feedback received from the earlier public and stakeholder meetings as well as their own knowledge of issues that contribute to water quality problems in the Watershed.

Early in the summer of 2018 the staff presented a preliminary draft of the rules and regulations to the Steering Committee for review. Over the course of a series of meetings of the Steering Committee and the staff through February 2019 numerous revised versions of the draft were produced and reviewed. Several of the meetings of the Steering Committee were facilitated by a professional mediator from the Consensus Building Institute, a nonprofit organization specializing in helping people collaborate to solve complex problems.

In March of 2019 a draft of the revised Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations representing the results of the work of the staff and the Steering Committee was made available for public review.