

Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations
Steering Committee
Tuesday, May 2, 2017 @ 1:30pm
5th Floor Conference Room, COB

Present: Ed Wagner
Kathleen Cuddy
Aileen McNabb-Coleman
Ken Post
Leslie Baxter
Greg Rejman
Deb McCormick
Steve Lynch
Mike Didio
Megan Bell

The meeting began at 1:33pm.

Everyone introduced themselves and shared what agency they were representing.

Resource folders were shared with members of the committee. The group reviewed what each document was and how it may help or apply to the work being done by the committee.

The group discussed what the expectation was for this committee and that the goal is to find a time/day that seems to work for everyone and attempt to make meetings fit in with everyone's schedule. Members will be responsible for acting as a liaison to the agency's they are representing and will be sharing the process and goals of this committee with them.

The group reviewed and discussed each item in the folder:

There is a copy of the NYS Public Health Law which specifically speaks to changing the Watershed Rules and Regulations. The copy of the Environmental Health Manual assists with laying out the process on how to change the Watershed Rules and Regulations. The Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations have been in place since the 1920s, but they have not been updated since 1984. Also included in the folder was a copy of the current Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations as well as a copy of the Skaneateles Watershed Rules and Regulations. There are also two maps outlining the Owasco Lake Watershed, often many people think it only encompasses those people who live on the shore of the Lake, the Owasco Lake Watershed actually spreads across three counties: Onondaga, Cayuga (the majority lies within Cayuga County) and Tompkins. The DEC also has some maps and information on their website reflecting streams/creeks that may be seasonal in nature. A page with various web-links was included and the group is working to have a page connected to the County's website with all the information being shared at this meeting on it and made available to the public. The county's IT department is working on that currently. The group would also like to utilize the web page as an option for two-way communication with the public and would discuss who would be responsible for monitoring and responding to questions or comments that may be submitted via that web page. The group discussed also asking the City of Auburn and the Town of Owasco to put the

link to the web page on their websites as well, also putting information regarding the web page on the local PSA channel (ARMA) through Auburn Public Theater as well. The Planning Office also put together two articles included in the folder based off information from some of the community groups that have been well attended: one being the 14 point County wide agenda and the other is from the Manure Management group. The last document is an outline describing the public process for updating the Watershed Rules and Regulations.

The group discussed who was responsible for enforcing the Watershed Rules and Regulations. There are Watershed inspectors who travel throughout the Watershed and identify any violations. If warranted a citation or violation letter is issued to the property owner or entity in violation. Those citations and violation letters then go to the Health Department for enforcement.

The group reviewed the outline for public participation throughout this process and while it is not written in stone it was shared with State Health Officials to ensure that all avenues are covered. The next step in the process is to develop the outlined stake-holder groups and verify that there are no stake-holders who may be being over looked. The current groups listed are: members of the Agricultural community, Lake Shore property owners, elected officials and commercial business owners. The stake holder groups may be all encompassing or only a few representatives, as the meetings develop and move forward details will be determined.

Project introductory meetings with local officials and the media are the next step in the project process. The City Council will be considering a support resolution at their next meeting. Steve Lynch will give a short presentation regarding water quality and updating the Rules and Regulations. The Town of Owasco will also be doing a support resolution at their next meeting as well. Once those entities approve their support resolutions a copy of the resolution will be shared with the steering committee and also posted on the webpage. The presentation will also be shared with the County Legislature specifically those legislatures who represent districts that are in the Town of Owasco, part of the Owasco Lake Watershed or other purchasers of water from the City of Auburn. The group will also be contacting the editorial staff of The Citizen to ensure that transparency with the public is being accomplished.

Then public meetings will begin. One will be held in the northern end of the Watershed at a location such as: BOCES and then one in the southern end of the Watershed either in Moravia or Groton area. The initial public meeting will be more of an educational forum, focusing on the challenges facing the Watershed, laying out what the current Watershed Rules and Regulations are and identifying any strengths or weaknesses within the current rules and regulations. The goal is to educate the public and make them aware of the current content. Also outline the public participation process for the public and share where information can be found regarding this project and then ask for any comments or feedback at this stage in the process from the public. Then generally outline the public participation process explain stake holder groups, outline number of meetings, info for public about project website, then feedback.

Next will be to set up meeting with the various stake holder groups and present the same information and gain their feedback.

The role of the steering committee at these public meetings will be to ensure that there is no bias and all groups are being included and feeling as though they are being heard. The steering committee will meet again after the public meetings and the stake holder meetings to share what they heard and summarize any feedback.

Then the second public meeting again one in the northern end of the Watershed and one in the Southern end to review the feedback from the both first public meeting and the various stake holder meeting and on line feedback and facilitate conversations about what appears to be priority areas from these sessions. There will be a second round of stake holder meetings as well.

The Steering Committee will then begin compiling all of the feedback and provide information to the Drafting group.

Once draft rules and regulations have been developed they will be circulated widely throughout the community, to all the stake holder groups and also the media. After the draft has been out in the public for a bit, another public meeting will be held while it is still fresh on the public's mind where they can comment on the draft and any questions regarding changes can be addressed.

Then the final draft will be developed and shared with the public so they can view the final version that will be submitted to the State. Then finalize the draft and submit to state and the timeline once it does get to the state level is unknown.

The local goal at this point is get the revisions made through the public process.

The group would like to begin the initial public meetings in June or July and then work from there. They don't want to drag it out too long and risk losing public interest. A tentative goal will be to get it to the State by the end of the year.

The State Health Department is the agency that adopts the revisions into Public Health Law. However, State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) may need to review as well and the State and Local levels are not in agreement for who should be responsible for submitting the SEQR. This is where the process could really drag on.

The group discussed if any other stake holders should be identified. The group felt that most groups were represented, however important to be sure information is shared with towns/villages who may be purchasers of water. Information can be shared with those communities through the clerk's office and/or through quarterly water bills.

The group also discussed adding a second agricultural member to the Steering Committee, target a mid-sized farm crop farmer on the East side of the lake. The group can reach out to Doug K. at Soil and Water and Judy Wright at Cornell Cooperative Extension for the names of potential farmers the group could contact.

The group also discussed attempting to include elected officials/representatives from Tompkins County and Onondaga County in the stake holder meetings so that they feel included in the process and can assist their residents with any questions or concerns they may have.

The group discussed having a second support resolution go through the Cayuga County Legislature, City of Auburn and the Town of Owasco once the final drafts are completed prior to submitting them to the State.

The group discussed what days and times would work for the next meeting. 4pm timeframe seemed to work for most people. Another doodle poll will be sent out with times for the week of May 22nd. Goals to have completed by the next meeting include outlining the presentation for the first public meeting. Also get documents from the folders received today up on the web page for the public to start viewing.

Meeting ended at 2:40pm.