

Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations
Steering Committee
Tuesday May 22, 2017 @ 3:00pm
5th Floor Conference Room, County Office Building

Present: Steve Lynch
Kathleen Cuddy
Ken Post
Greg Rejman
Megan Bell
Ed Wagner
Leslie Baxter

Not in Attendance: Michael Didio
Deborah McCormick
Aileen McNabb-Coleman

Meeting began at 3:05pm.

Kathleen asked if people had a chance to review the meeting minutes from our first meeting. We are not an official board so there is no need to adopt them as part of an official record, but just wanted to be sure committee members were ok with the format and content.

Kathleen shared with the committee the names of a couple of farmers that are from the East Side of the Lake that the committee could contact to see if they would be interested in joining. Ed offered to contact the farmers.

Steve shared that the City of Auburn adopted a resolution supporting the updating of the Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations at their regular meeting on Thursday, May 4th. The Town of Owasco adopted a similar resolution supporting the updating of the Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations at their regular meeting on Thursday, May 11th.

A PowerPoint presentation to share with the public at our first public information meeting was developed. We do not have any dates set in stone yet, but are looking for the middle of June, hopefully one meeting in the Moravia area and one at BOCES.

Kathleen shared that the Health Department is doing a more in-depth evaluation of the septic systems within the Watershed since that is a fairly common question people ask when discussing water quality in the Lake. Nick from the Planning Department is doing some identifying and mapping of the systems within 100ft of the Lake and the age of each of those specific systems.

Greg asked Kathleen if the Health Department regulates when (time of year) a person is supposed to have their septic system inspected. Kathleen shared that typically the letters notifying the residents of the various towns that they will be due for an inspection this year go out in May and they have until November 1st to get their inspections completed. Most people have them inspected at some point over the late spring, summer or early fall. Greg thought if

they were required to get them done in the spring when everything is already pretty saturated it would be easier to find those systems that are failing. Kathleen shared that some people do end up doing theirs in the spring, if they didn't get it completed in the previous summer.

Ed asked who locally has to adopt the final version of the Watershed Rules and Regulations prior to sending it to the State Health Department for formal adoption into Public Health Law. Steve shared that there isn't a clear line stating who should be responsible for adopting the final version locally, so the thought was that the final versions would be presented to the City of Auburn, the Town of Owasco and possibly the Cayuga County Legislature for another resolution supporting the final draft version of the updates before sending them to the State Health Department.

Ed asked why when Canandaigua Watershed tried to update their rules and regulations did they not pass at the State level. Kathleen shared that it was her understanding that there was hierarchy at the State level who did not feel that the update was necessary therefore stopped the process before going any further in the approval process.

Ed asked if we should be sending the State informational updates as we move through the process to help keep them aware and engaged. Steve suggested that we send the State people information regarding the public meetings and suggested inviting them to attend the public meetings.

Greg asked if there are two sets of regulations imposed such as: CAFOs and Watershed Rules and Regulations which should property owners be following. Kathleen shared that the property owner should always follow the most stringent regulations.

Kathleen asked if the group would like a Facebook page on top of the website. Ed shared that the Town of Owasco Facebook gets lots of traffic and shares, so possibly ask Towns and Villages and other community agencies to share links and various information on their Facebook Pages and keep just the Webpage.

Steve shared a graphic of the potential website with the group. The County IT department is working on developing the page currently the link is active, but there is no content up. Steve thought it would be important to have a schedule of the public meetings, various project information, the steering committee meeting minutes and any other important documents available on the webpage, but also include a way for the public to communicate through the webpage.

The group discussed possible dates for the first public meetings. Targeted outreach to municipalities outside Cayuga County will need to be done as well specifically in Tompkins and Onondaga Counties. Greg asked who the moderator would be and Kathleen suggested possibly someone from the Planning Department.

Steve and Ed are going to meet with The Citizen to discuss marketing and media coverage of the project. Steve also mentioned having a couple spots on WAUB public radio to help get

information out as well. Kathleen stated that emailing information to contacts in the connected counties as well as the Town and Village clerks of those Towns and Villages who are water purchasers will be helpful as well. Leslie also mentioned that several of the Fire Departments have good signage and may be willing to advertise the meetings on their signs.

Megan will send out a Doodle poll for the Week of June 12th and will include both Watershed Inspectors.

Meeting closed at 4:00pm