

Agricultural Representatives Stakeholder Group  
1<sup>st</sup> Meeting  
Thursday, September 21, 2017 at 7:00pm  
Karpinski Center

The meeting began with introductions.

Members of the Steering Committee shared the background for the work being completed and what has been done so far. The purpose of the Stakeholder meetings was discussed and what the Committee was hoping the process would be. The committee wants members of the Stakeholder group to go back and discuss the process with other members of the Agricultural community. The Steering Committee once again reiterated that the documents that they received and have brought with them are only a draft and are created directly from the public comments received.

Discussion began by asking the Stakeholder group members if they have any familiarity with the current Watershed Rules and Regulations. They are new to many people. Questions were asked regarding whether they were enforced on a routine basis and how would they know they exist. Many people have seen them on the website.

The group compared/contrasted some of the aspects of the Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations and the Skaneateles Watershed Rules and Regulations.

Discussion began about how Skaneateles Watershed developed their rules and regulations by engaging farmers, timelines and acreage that could come out of OP and reimbursement. The whole farm plan and BMP. Skaneateles and Syracuse provided planners to develop whole farm plan, often team not managing plant farms. Many came from Soil and Water. Reinforced the need to be comfortable with the people they are working with.

Whole Farm plans in the Skaneateles Watershed are updated approximately every 5 years. They have the option to do whole farm plan if exempt can then go to BMP as part of plan.

The Whole Farm plan assesses the uniqueness of each farm-acre by acre. City of Syracuse writes grants to spend toward farms- with little direct cost to the City of Syracuse.

References in the Skaneateles Rules and Regulations are more detailed. There is currently no incentive for Cayuga County Farms to develop a whole farm plan. Often changes to farms are done by the owner rather than wait for grants.

Watershed Rules and Regulations help level field for all farms versus some that are regulated, some not by agencies. Some sentiment- if not going to get some grant assistance, may not use BMP.

Concern about combined sewer and water drains- get flooded with big rain events

With regards to Ag:

What do you expect from Watershed Inspection Program?

Concerned about developing an adversarial relationship. Skaneateles Watershed Inspection Program initially had badges, etc.

A lot more farms in Owasco Watershed. Skaneateles Watershed Inspection Program-complete like an annual survey-(how much fuel, pesticides used, etc.) May take soil samples- up to \$2,000.

Owasco Watershed Rules and Regulations show language that is dated. (i.e. "plow")

Skaneateles refers back to DEC regs-don't want contradictory regs.

Definition of farm in the Skaneateles Rules and Regulations is based upon \$10,000 income. If you do not have whole farm plan-then need to comply black and white by regs.

Intent of rules and regulations is to level field and get compliance. A whole farm plan can cost thousands and implementation may cost much more for farms without CAFO plan.

Questions regarding concerns about storm that could flood municipal wastewater. (e.g. Groton, Moravia).

Are there any aspects of farming practices that are not addressed?

Methods of farming evolve, codes may not, a whole farm plan allows for that.

Owasco is 205 square miles- more than half is agriculture

Is Whole Farm Plan a feasible approach?

Building permits should go to municipal water supplier. Who would look at them?

For example- if Whole Farm Plans are completed who reviews them?

If we reference tributaries than need to reference same updated map of the Watershed.

Ideal to see NYS set rules and regulations for all watersheds. Need to have a long view of impact for lake.

Concern about stream bank erosion- WQMA working on roadway ditch best management practices.

Whole Farm plans-provide consistent standards and other rules and regs aspects aside agriculture

Rich Abbot and Mark Berger can speak to Skaneateles. Bear Swamp-acts as a massive filter at the base of Skaneateles.

Approximately 50% of the water to Owasco Lake comes through the flats.