

Steering Committee Meeting
Thursday August 10, 2017
3:00pm

Members Present: Leslie Baxter
Ken Post
Kathleen Cuddy
Deb McCormick
Megan Bell

Meeting began at 3:20pm

The group reviewed the previous meeting minutes and everyone at the meeting was okay with the content and format of the minutes. The minutes will be uploaded to the project website.

Kathleen shared the organized and categorized version of the comments from the public meetings, the comments and feedback that has been coming in from the project website and comments and suggestions from the expert group. The discussed the median high water mark for Owasco Lake and the group will get clarification on the accuracy of the number stated in the comments. Kathleen shared that appendix 75 that is referenced in the categorization is part of the NYS Codes and Regulations. The group also discussed some of the other documents that are referenced in the document and whether there is a more current version of the some of the dated ones and where they came from.

The group also questioned the whole farm plan as CAFO's are already required to have a plan in place. However, small farmers should have a plan in place as well, but often do not have the manpower complete one. The plan pertains to run-off and leaching of manure.

The group discussed where material from ditches that have been scraped is disposed. Leslie shared that their town will often post a notice to residents letting them know that scraping is taking place and that the fill will be available if they are in need of fill.

Deb asked if possibly having one of the members from the Finger Lakes Hub would be a helpful resource to have during this process. The group felt they would be helpful in the process and Deb offered to discuss it with Matt DeMarco from the DEC. A member of the Finger Lakes Hub, Scott Cook, has been asked to add input as part of the request for comments from subject matter experts.

The group discussed large scale rain events and what farms should be planning for, as well how storm ditches handle ran when the maintenance becomes a State DOT issues versus the responsibility of the town/village or county. Kathleen asked about varying pipe size and how that can play a part into effective drainage.

The group discussed have the whole steering committee look over the feedback and make any comments and possibly clean-up some of the language and get rid of some of the redundancy.

Megan will email the organized feedback document to the whole group so that everyone has an electronic version.

The group reviewed the Stakeholder groups. The town/municipal representatives group needs more participants and the group discussed sending a request to participate to each of the town/villages that are in the Watershed and hopefully some more representatives will volunteer to participate. The group discussed that it does not necessarily have to be a town supervisor, but that a member of the zoning board or the economic development board would also be a good asset to the group.

Steve did express to Kathleen that he would be willing to facilitate the various stakeholder group meetings and the group discussed having steering committee members as well as possible staff members to help the group with any questions or clarifications they may have or need.

The group also discussed possibly combining some of the stakeholder groups if numbers and subject expertise merited.

Megan shared with the group a few emails that bounced back when the initial stakeholder letter was sent out to those that expressed interest in participating. Leslie corrected one of the email addresses.

Megan also shared that Jim Sierzenga had spoken with her letting her know that he wouldn't be able to make today's meeting, but he had spoken with some of the other agricultural representatives who would like to participate in the stakeholder group. Jim stated the consensus was a desire to have their stakeholder meetings in the evening at a location like the Karpinski Center at the Ag Museum.

The group discussed that evenings will probably work best for most of the groups. The goal is to have the meetings take place in September.

Ken mentioned that the southern end of the watershed is not very well represented in any of the stakeholder groups. Kathleen thought that maybe reaching out to the Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce would be a good resource to help obtain some names of those who would be willing to participate.

The meeting concluded at 4:20pm