

Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council – Watershed Inspection Committee  
February 27, 2018 – Monthly Meeting

Members present: Ed Wagner, Aileen McNabb-Coleman, Debbie McCormick

Technical Advisors present: Dave Eckhardt

Others present: Drew Snell, Doug Kierst, Bruce Natale, Seth Jensen, Ellen Cotter, Eileen O'Connor

Drew Snell presented a new format for his monthly report that includes a map showing the general location of issues investigated. It was decided that for future meetings the map will include only those activities from the current month. Pictures were taken of debris and sediment at the southern part of the lake. NYSDEC had cleaned the inlet last year. Ed Wagner will check with Matt Marko to see if his agency can help with this issue. Mr. Wagner said the inlet can rise 10 ft. during a rain storm and the amount of sediment from streambank erosion is staggering. Mr. Snell said he issued a press release regarding this problem and the Citizen did a story about it.

The WIP received a complaint regarding a shoreline project on FL 19 in Scipio. The property owner will need to remove his seawall and other material out of the lake. He said this property owner complained about septic odors in the area at times. Mr. Snell will return when other properties are occupied to see if this is an issue that needs to be address.

The Town of Niles has a new CEO who has agreed to send site plans to Mr. Snell for review. He was notified in this way of a new house that was being built and was able to review the sediment and erosion plan.

An erosion complaint was received regarding new home construction on Bevier Rd. This is an approved subdivision and probably has a SWPPP that Mr. Snell will try to locate.

Mr. Snell contacted Tompkins County Soil and Water regarding the plugged DOT culvert in Groton, but has not heard back. He has not yet contacted DOT, but plans to at some point.

Bruce Natale provided an update on the sluiceway. Tom Gabak is working with a vendor to obtain an attachment that can clean out the sluiceway. Small permanent cleanouts may be installed to allow for on-going maintenance.

The 2018 goals will be discussed at the next meeting. Mr. Wagner asked that the group send him ideas and he will put together proposed goals.

The farmer recently profiled in the Citizen who was disposing human waste into his manure lagoon was discussed. The Health Department is requiring that the farmer hire a design professional to prepare a plan for an appropriate septic system. DEC may also be involved since he apparently should be regulated as a CAFO but currently is not.

Mr. Wagner said the Town of Owasco is working with DEC to address issues with their water treatment plant backwash lagoon.

Debby McCormick made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 23, 2018 meeting. Aileen McNabb-Coleman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Minutes prepared by Eileen O'Connor, March 1, 2018