

Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council – Watershed Inspection Committee
October 16, 2018– Monthly Meeting

Members present: Ed Wagner, Seth Jensen, Aileen McNabb-Coleman

Technical Advisors present:

Others present: Drew Snell, Bruce Natale, Doug Kierst, Eileen O'Connor

Seth Jensen made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 18, 2018 meeting. Aileen McNabb-Coleman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Drew Snell reported that very few issues were seen in the watershed this past month. He did note that visible erosion from farm fields after the crops have been removed have been seen. He will begin to send letters to the owners of property where this is occurring with pictures and ask them to contact Soil and Water for assistance to address the problem.

Mr. Snell helped a certified septic system inspector inspect a septic system located on lake shore property. He sent a letter to a property owner leasing their land at which sediment runoff was seen. Copies were sent to the Town and Code Enforcement Officer. If he gets no response he will reach out to DEC to see if they can assist. Mr. Snell has been observing a retaining wall installation, but thus far no water quality issues have been seen.

A culvert under an old railroad bed is failing causing erosion issues. Mr. Snell has referred the issue to OWLA to see if they would help fund a portion of the repair. The project would also address erosion caused by the force of the outfall.

More time is being spent in Tompkins County, however the meeting that was planned with Soil and Water and the Health Department did not occur. Liz Cameron from the TCHD requested a written proposal regarding a septic system inspection grant. Mr. Snell did discuss the fields in Groton that generated significant sediment plume in the lake with Angel from TCS&W. She has been too busy to look into the issue at the present time. It was suggested that representatives from TCS&W and TCHD be invited to the next meeting.

Mr. Snell visited the Flats to see how the project is wrapping up. He also visited a site in Groton that used to be an old landfill near the ice cream place. Garbage and junk are now exposed due to erosion. He will contact DEC to follow up. He has met with a farmer adjacent to a creek that is being monitored by OWLA and has elevated levels of nutrients to see what can be done to address this problem.

Eileen O'Connor reported that the Health Department discovered a septic violation that Mr. Snell referred to her office due to odors he detected. In addition, the Health Department and the Town of Locke are taking action against the property owner who installed an RV with an illegal wastewater discharge. Also, the privy that Mr. Snell referred to the Health Department has been filled with inert material.

Mr. Snell is concerned with the pond at the Cayuga Lake Estates Mobile Home Park. The water is always very turbid. Doug Kierst said it may be due to carp as they tend to stir the bottom sediments up. Ed Wagner said the Tidd Farm was ordered by the Town to gut the building in which he illegally housed farm workers. Mr. Jensen said he will contact Bruce Natale and Mr. Snell to discuss the sluiceway. Mr. Kierst suggested that the monthly summary be sent out before the meeting. Mr. Wagner will contact John Mizro to see if he wants to continue as a technical advisor to this committee and Ms. O'Connor will check with Don Bowen.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be 9 am on November 20, 2018

Minutes prepared by Eileen O'Connor, September 21, 2018