



November 23, 2020

Subject: The Owasco Watershed Lake Association (OWLA) Endorses the Revised Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations

OWLA is an influential citizen volunteer organization. The organization has an extensive history dedicated to improving, preserving, and protecting Owasco Lake. OWLA is committed to facilitating the strategies and activities that restore and maintain our lake and watershed. The benefits of a clean Owasco Lake to the region's residents, businesses, economic competitiveness, recreation, and reputation are immense. Regional vitality, property values, taxes generated, and political support will be in substantial jeopardy without needed lake-protecting changes.

Owasco Lake is the drinking water source for tens of thousands of residents. Similarly, nearby Skaneateles Lake also provides drinking water for tens of thousands. The Skaneateles Lake Rules and Regulations have been in place for many years. Agriculture and other businesses in that watershed have successfully adapted and have continued to thrive. Owasco Lake, located just a few miles to the west, should not be differently governed.

The revised Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations are the result of numerous collaborations and inputs from representatives of all stakeholders within the Lake's watershed – farmers, property owners, public drinking water purveyors, county agencies, duly elected government officials, and a wide range of citizens. All of these parties have worked together for over three years to finalize the document. The revised Rules and Regulations contain provisions for phased compliance and for waivers, and we recognize that public funds, not just private funds, will be required for implementation.

OWLA firmly supports the revised Rules and Regulations. We are blessed to be located in a region that has more than 20% of the world's fresh water. Clean water is our most precious commodity. Owasco Lake can wait no longer. Please support getting more rigorous protective rules in place.

With the unanimous support of the OWLA Board of Directors, I duly provide this letter of endorsement.

Sincerely,

Dana L. Hall

Dana L. Hall, Ph.D.

President

The Owasco Watershed Lake Association