

Minutes
Chautauqua County Water Quality Task Force
Frank W. Bratt Agricultural Center
March 23, 2017

Call to Order: by Chairman D. Spann at 10:03 AM

WQTF Members Present: David Spann, Cassandra Brower, Joe Galati, Randall Perry, Peter Beeson, Bernie Klaich, Rhonda Lindquist, Peter George, Dave McCoy, Douglas Conroe, Tom Erlandson, Erin Brickley, Jane Conroe, John Jablonski.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by J. Galati to approve February's meeting minutes. Seconded. Carried. Motion to post minutes of Chautauqua County Water Quality Task Force to Chautauqua County Department of Planning and Economic Development's website was made by D. McCoy. Seconded. Carried.

Correspondence: B. Boria provided an email correspondence containing an article on brine spreading in New York State (<http://newsweek.com/oil-and-gas-wastewater-used-de-ice-roads-new-york-and-pennsylvania-little-310684>). He also wrote "it has a really cool interactive map at the bottom that shows what roads receive brine. A close examination suggests that several of the towns in our county quit spreading brine after our white paper on the issue came out. This is likely due to the fact that the county quit at that time and therefore wanted to transfer ownership of brine storage tanks to the towns (again) who may be smartening up and realizing they are a liability more than an asset. There are still 2 towns using it heavy (according to the map anyway) Clymer and North Harmony and NYS DOT. Last year I was told there was a shortage of brine, likely caused from the reduction in local gas production."

Old Business: None.

New Business:

1. The Bemus Bay Property Owners (BBPO) recently attended a Soil and Water Conservation District board meeting to discuss the potential herbicide application in Bemus Bay. There was no motion or action on the issue, but it was brought up should the WQTF make any action or statement. The challenge is there is no hard proposal presented to the group for review, everything is what was said in other meetings. E. Brickley suggested we requests specifics from the BBPO. Discussion on environmental review of an herbicide application. D. McCoy said it is hard to comment on something we don't have in front of us, and suggested WQTF invite the BBPO to come in and present on their proposal. E. Brickley also shared that comments should be based on the Macrophyte Management Strategy (MMS) document, which characterizes Bemus Bay as a low priority for herbicide application. Discussion on macrophyte community in Bemus Bay. D. Spann suggest the WQTF draft a letter to get more information on the proposed application, to be sent to the Town of Ellery and Village of Bemus Point, and cc the NYS DEC. Outreach will also be made to the DEC for any information already submitted. Motion by E. Brickley to send a letter to the Town and Village inquiring more information on the herbicide application of Bemus Bay. Seconded. Carried.

Members Comments:

1. Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy – J. Jablonski announced that the CWC is scheduling Courtney Wigdahl-Perry and Jenn Phillips-Russo from SUNY Fredonia for May 2nd to discuss algae and the impacts of nitrogen and phosphorus. He also shared that Jen Magruder has left CWC, and that they are looking for someone to fill the position pending Sheldon Foundation grant support. NYSFOLA will have its annual conference May 4-5th at White Eagle in Hamilton,

NY. J. Jablonski shared that the legislature support for the Great Lakes Programing is fantastic, but they should also comment on funding for environmental cuts across the board (federally). He suggested the legislature go on record to support the EPA and that clean water is a priority in Chautauqua County.

2. Chautauqua County Board of Health –T. Erlandson shared that the BOH meets 4 times a year, and recently met in January but did not have a quorum present. They were given reports regarding the mandatory septic inspections, but usually environmental issues are not at the top of the agenda. If there is anything this group would like to see brought back to the BOH, let Tom know. D. Conroe suggested that veterinarians offices and the emergency rooms be provided with information regarding harmful algae and if they question on swimming in the lake during algal bloom times. The CLA must supply this information to Albany for an impacts due to harmful algal blooms, and the health community needs to ask more questions to relay any pertinent information back to the CLA.
3. Chautauqua Lake Association – D. Conroe shared the CLA is planning its second annual Denim and Diamonds fundraiser (scheduled for late June). The Association is also looking at changing the format of their board meetings to have educational seminars before the formal meeting.
4. Chautauqua County Watershed Coordinator – D. McCoy announced that they will hold the annual partnership meeting with ACOE and DEC tomorrow, incorporating stakeholders to come in and talk about projects. After, a shorter meeting is scheduled to discuss lake levels and operation of the Warner Dam with ACOE from Pittsburgh. He is optimistic that the ACOE “Silver Jacket” program can do a watershed wide study on Chautauqua Lake. The Lake Erie Rally will be held on May 13th from 8:30/9 AM to noon with presentations on the north county LWRP, City of Dunkirk waterfront and an update on SWCD projects. The Chautauqua Lake Rally will be held on August 19th at the Bemus Point Casino, more information to follow. The MMS was finalized, and implementation will be a round table. T. Erlandson questioned if the MMS is completed, will it be accepted by the legislature? D. McCoy said that it has been presented to the PED Committee and sent to DEC. The 2% Bed Tax Grant Program’s applications closes on Friday, the 31st. The waterways panel is on track to complete the review process in April.
5. Cassadaga Lakes Association: P. George shared that progress is continuing on the lake management plan with SUNY Oneonta. The final project will end up being a lake management plan, with a status of the lake and a plan for the future.
6. Western New York Crop Management Association: R. Lindquist inquired about the use of LEWPA funds for Chautauqua County. In other counties, projects are brought up at the water quality coordinating committees. D. Spann said this could be done, and that projects are brought up at the Lake Erie Management Commission meetings.
7. Roger Tory Peterson Institute: P. Beeson is working on having the Florida Company come up here to test the algae collected from Chautauqua Lake to see if it is suitable. The company has a mobile digester and will skim algae off the top surface. The company is eager to do a demo on Chautauqua Lake. D. Conroe suggested mid-July as the optimal time, given the company preferred conditions. Bear and Cassadaga Lakes have little algae problems, so not as well as a fit.
8. Chautauqua Lake and Watershed Management Alliance: R. Perry shared the County and Alliance are very close to finalizing the Dutch Hollow contractor selection. The Lakewood and Celeron grants are making progress, but the focus is more behind the scenes for these.
9. Chautauqua County Legislature: P. Chagnon shared the meeting with EPA and ACOE in Albany on dredging in Lake Erie harbors and Chautauqua Lake water quality and dredging. The challenge is priorities vs. available funding, but they did express interest in Chautauqua Lake and its watershed for water quality. On April 4th, David McCoy, South and Center Sewer District and Vince Horrigan will travel to Albany for how to get funding for sewers around Chautauqua Lake.

Public Comments: None.

Next Meeting:

Date: **April 25, 2017**
Time: **10:00 AM**
Place: **Frank W. Bratt Agricultural Center**

Adjournment: Motion by B. Klaich to adjourn. Seconded. Carried.

C. Brower – Recorder