

Minutes
Chautauqua County Water Quality Task Force
Frank W. Bratt Agricultural Center
January 19, 2017

Call to Order: by Chairman D. Spann at 10:02 AM

WQTF Members Present: David Spann, Cassandra Brower, Douglas Conroe, Tom Pilling, Bob Pickett, Peter George, Tom Erlandson, Randall Perry, Dave McCoy, Jonathan Townsend, Joe Galati, Bryan Nothdurft, Bill Boria, Jan Bowman, Rhonda Lindquist, Greg Halberg.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by D. Conroe to approve December's meeting minutes. Seconded. Carried.

Correspondence: None.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

1. Motion by J. Bowman to allow Chautauqua County Soil and Water Conservation District to pay the lunch bill from the existing WQTF account.

Current Water Quality Concerns & Issues from the Floor

1. Watershed Coordinator – Progress report on the Findley Lake Dam: the project is mothballed for the winter, but they did get the sheetpiling in and backfilled. Concrete work and armoring of the spillway is what's lined up for spring 2017 construction. The 2% funding will account for 40% of the total project cost. D. McCoy was finally able to secure NYS DEC contracts for Round 11 WQIP projects that were awarded when Diers was the watershed coordinator. These projects are for Goose Creek (Steinhoff Run) and Dewittville Creek. For the 2% local grant program, the applications will be available online starting February 1st. There is an earlier deadline this year (March 30th) to allow time for the ranking committee to review the applications and announce awards before the deadline of NYS CFA's. D. McCoy is hoping to be able to establish meeting dates for the ranking committee in the near future so the review process can go smoothly even with the shift in deadlines. This year's applications did not lend itself to include the "Request for Assistance" that was discussed previously, but it could be incorporated into 2019 funding.
2. Chautauqua Lake and Watershed Management Alliance – R. Perry gave an update on ongoing efforts of the Alliance. The RFP's went online last Friday (due at the end of February) for the two large scale projects on Dutch Hollow Creek. They are also available on PED's website. He acknowledged the grant awards for Celeron and Busti/Lakewood, and indicated the contracting for those grants will begin shortly. See attached update on the Chautauqua Lake buoy from Dr. Wigdahl-Perry, but note this is only preliminary data and needs to be reviewed before published.
3. Bear Lake/Cassadaga Lake Grant Update –no update from last month. Sampling is continuing by both SUNY Oneonta (Cassadaga Lakes) and SUNY Fredonia (Bear Lake).
4. D. Conroe shared that one neighborhood association along Chautauqua Lake recently approached the Town of Ellery to get a permit for herbicide treatment to address algal blooms. He is concerned this may open an old sore for the community. B. Boria questioned how this herbicide treatment would fit into the draft SAV plan. D. McCoy explained that originally the SAV plan was thought to be a regulatory document, but the County opted for a version more like an environmental impact statement for any potential treatments on any area of the lake at any time. NYS owns and regulates the lake, not Chautauqua County. The perception is that the County owns the lake and should pay to fix it. The SAV plan breaks down the lake into segments and

covers any potential legal treatment method. J. Bowman shared that there has to be an educational outreach to the referenced Association in regards to the ecology of the entire aquatic ecosystem.

5. B. Boria provided an update on the Findley Lake sewerage effort. There will be a public hearing on Saturday at 11 AM at the Community Center to discuss the creation of a sewer district. This will be voted on by the town board at a later meeting. The town would qualify for a 0% loan, but have been unsuccessful at getting grants. They will continue to pursue any grant opportunities.
6. At the last meeting of the LEMC, there was a discussion on interest/concerns regarding solar farms and stormwater management during construction. D. McCoy put together a letter that was sent out to all municipalities with things to consider when planning. J. Townsend questioned if a similar fact sheet was drafted for windfarms. D. McCoy said that the windfarm development is a lot more involved in terms of the permitting process, so more oversight is already given to stormwater on windfarm development.
7. LEWPA (Lake Erie Watershed Protection Alliance) has started their water quality sampling in the Lake Erie basin of Chautauqua County. With the finalized contract, work will be done to match 2% projects, provide hydroseeding to all Lake Erie municipalities, and manage invasive species. Discussion on adding boat stewards to future LEWPA work plans to manage for invasive species.
8. B. Northdurft from the NRCS – Jamestown Field Office provided an update on the staffing at the office. Currently is the only one in the office, but there is still a soil conservationist position left to fill. For 2017, the only thing Chautauqua County landowners are eligible for in terms of the RCPP (Regional Conservation Partnership Program) is the Young Forest Initiative for At-Risk Species. D. Spann commented on what he believes is a water quality concern in our area is poor forestry management. There are hundreds of failing forestry roads/trail systems contributing sediment loads to Chautauqua Lake.

Next Meeting:

Date: **February 16, 2017**
Time: **10:00 AM**
Place: **Frank W. Bratt Agricultural Center**

Adjournment: Motion by T. Erlandson to adjourn. Seconded. Carried.

C. Brower – Recorder