

Lake Erie Management Commission

Meeting Minutes

9:00 AM Tuesday, February 17, 2015
Lake Erie Research and Extension Laboratory
Portland, NY 14769

Call to Order

- In the absence of Chairman George Borrello, the meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by Dave McCoy

Approval of Minutes

- The approval of the January 12, 2015 meeting minutes was deferred until the next meeting.

Public Expression

- None this month.

Chairman's Comments

- None this month.

Coordinator's Comments

- Dave McCoy noted that he attended the Great Lakes Action Agenda meeting in East Aurora on February 4th and the planning session for the Great Lakes Experience event in Dunkirk on February 11th. See the attached Watershed Coordinator's Update for additional details.

Committee Reports

- Education Sub-Committee
 - No report this month.

Member/Partner Reports

- LEWPA
 - Joanna Panasiewicz summarized the February 4th Great Lakes Action Agenda meeting and noted the NYSDEC is planning a meeting in April to gather stakeholder input for the NYSDEC's Rotating Integrated Basin Studies (RIBS), which will encompass the Great lakes/Niagara River Basin in 2016.
- Lake Erie Beaches
 - No updates this month.

Old Business

- Dredging at Dunkirk and Hanover
 - Dave McCoy noted that the County was in contact with Dean Marine and was hopeful that he will be able to return to Western New York to complete the Dunkirk and Hanover projects.
 - Martha Bills said that the Small Harbors Coalition typically meets in Buffalo during March and she will try to determine the location and date of the meeting for the group.
 - Jacqueline Chiarot stated that Congressman Tom Reed's Office has been in contact with the USACE in connection with potential federally funded projects in the area and potential funding opportunities related to WRRDA.
- Local Watershed Redevelopment Plan Discussion.
 - Mark Geise, Chautauqua County Deputy Director of Planning and Economic Development gave an overview of the North County LWRP (See the attached fact sheet) and lead a discussion to identify community needs and potential water quality-related projects for the plan. The group identified needs related to invasive species management, regulation of fill from off-site sources, streambank stabilization, riparian buffers, coastal management, best management practices for highway ditch maintenance and beach cleaning. The group also discussed the need for regular maintenance dredging of small harbors, improved code enforcement and shared services (i.e. inter-municipal water and sewer). Lastly, the group discussed the possibility of establishing a not-for-profit corporation that would further the goals and objectives of the LEMC, similar to the newly established Chautauqua Lake Watershed Management Alliance.

New Business

- Joe Galoti noted that the NYSDEC was planning to conduct Angler Surveys in the Lake Erie watershed in early 2016.

Summary of Actions Taken

- No updates this month.

Schedule Next Meeting

- The group discussed March 16th as the next meeting date; however, it was later learned that the Lake Erie Research and Extension Laboratory may not be available on that date. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 23 at 9:00 am.

Adjourn

- The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.