

Lake Erie Management Commission

Meeting Minutes

9:00 AM Monday, June 22, 2015
Lake Erie Research and Extension Laboratory
Portland, NY 14769

Call to Order

Approval of Minutes

- The meeting was called to order by Chairman Borrello at 9:00 am.

Public Expression

- None

Chairman's Comments

- None

Coordinator's Comments

- See the attached Watershed Coordinator's Update

Committee Reports

- Education Sub-Committee
 - Fishing Brochure
 - The group planned to work with the Chautauqua County Visitor's Bureau (CCVB) to develop a large format fishing brochure. The group also decided that a smaller tri-fold brochure was also a good idea, something that featured the three harbors and local chambers of commerce, restaurants and businesses.
 - Leaf Brochure
 - The group planned to distribute the remaining 2014 leaf brochures and work with the other lake organizations for distribution of an updated brochure for 2015. Also, additional public service announcements on cooperation with the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy were discussed.

Member/Partner Reports

- Lake Erie Watershed Protection Alliance
 - Joanna Panasiewicz noted that the Great lakes Experience event went well with good attendance at the exhibit that was staffed with Cassie Pinkosky, Ashley _____ and herself.

- Joanna noted that good progress was being made to determine how the \$250,000 that was recently allocated to LEWPA from the NYSDEC EPF would be administrated and it is hoped that the funding would be continued each year at this level. She hoped that the baseline water quality sampling required in connection with the USEPA 9 Element Watershed Management Plan could be advanced with these funds.
- Lake Erie Beaches
 - Bill Boria noted that sampling had indicated relatively good water quality and that no beaches had been closed.
 - Bill also said that a diver had collected samples for analysis from the storm sewers in the City of Dunkirk in an effort to locate the source of E. coli contamination that impacts Lake Erie's beaches. The result of the analysis was negative, suggesting that the contamination is coming from upstream of the closed part of the collection system.
- Chautauqua County Soil & Water Conservation District
 - Dave Spann noted that Chautauqua Creek fish passage project was ready for construction, which should begin in August. He also noted that the projects on Canadaway Creek and Crooked Brook were nearly ready for construction this summer.
- Sportfishing
 - Zen Olow said that Sportsman's Federation would be exhibiting at the Chautauqua County Fair from 7/26 to 8/2.
 - VIP Fishing Day is scheduled for 8/5.
 - The 6/5 Take a Kid Fishing event was quite successful with approximately 60 kids participating.
 - The Larry Probst fishing platform will be rebuilt soon.
 - Zen also noted that he was talking with Andy Nixon of the CCVB and Erie County to jointly develop a fishing brochure.

Old Business

- Dredging at Dunkirk and Hanover
 - Dave McCoy noted that bid packages were available at Dunkirk and Hanover offices and the bid were Due on 6/30.
 - Martha Bill inquired about the NYS funding that was pledged to help with the cost of the work. Dave McCoy agreed to contact Senator Young to see when Westfield would be able to be reimbursed for the cost of their completed project.
- Local Watershed Redevelopment Plan
 - Dave McCoy noted the Chautauqua County Department of Planning and Economic Development was preparing an application to the NYS Consolidated Funding Application for the second phase of the LWRP.

New Business

- Chautauqua Rails to Trails
 - Jim Fincher, Executive Director of Chautauqua rails to Trails discussed the need to conduct a preliminary engineering study to assess the remedial options for a failing culvert in the Town of Portland. The culvert is an important to the long-term viability of the trail system and its failure will result in significant negative environmental and economic impacts. Jim requested financial assistance from the LEMC to assist with the cost of the study.

Summary of Actions Taken

- Chairman Borrello requested a motion to pledge \$1,500 from the LEMC to assist Chautauqua Rails to Trails with the cost of the preliminary engineering study for the failing culver with the stipulation that the LEMC have an opportunity to review and approve the study. The motion was brought to the floor by Joe Galati, seconded by Martha Bills and unanimously approved by the voting members of the LEMC.

Schedule Next Meeting

- The group agreed to forego the July meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for August 17th in Portland.

Adjourn

- The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am