

# Lake Erie Management Commission

## Meeting Minutes

9:00 AM Monday, February 22, 2016  
Lake Erie Research and Extension Laboratory  
Portland, NY 14769

### Call to Order

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

### Approval of Minutes

- The minutes for the last meeting were not available for approval.

### Public Expression

- Doug Richmond donated an American Flag to be used at future meetings for the Pledge of Allegiance.

### Chairman's Comments

- None

### Coordinator's Comments

- Dave McCoy noted that the 2% Lakes & Waterways Grant Program opens for applications on March 1. Applications will be received until June 1.
- The CFAs are likely to open soon. Last year they opened on May 1.
- The USACE's WRDA 7001 List was updated with the help of Senator Schumer's Office. Cattaraugus Creek Harbor's status was elevated.
- Treasurer's Report – there is balance of \$51,333 in the LEMC account.

### Committee Reports

- Education Sub-Committee
  - Fishing Brochure – Zen Olow noted that the map was getting closer to printing. Some edits are still required.
  - Leaf Brochure – Dave McCoy brought the most recent version to the meeting for the LEMC members to distribute.

### Member/Partner Reports

- Lake Erie Watershed Protection Alliance
  - Joanna Panasiewicz noted the next meeting is tomorrow in Perrysburg.
  - LEWPA's budget for projects is \$150k, or about \$50k per County.

- LEWPA is looking for projects that can leverage state money, potentially with Federal funds.
- Joanna passed out a list of Chautauqua County reports/documents and asked the group to provide any additional documents that they are aware of.
- Joanna also brought draft maps from the Watershed Management Plan for the group to review after the meeting.
- LEWPA anticipates to continue to receive \$250k annually from New York State
- Lake Erie Beaches
  - Bill Boria said that the NYSDEC is developing a plan to improve water quality at Pt. Gratiot. The plan uses the County Health Department's assessment and monitoring data. The City of Dunkirk will eventually implement the plan.
- Chautauqua County Soil & Water Conservation District
  - Dave Spann noted that his agency was implementing 7 projects funded by the NYSDEC and USF&W. Projects are located at the Greystone Nature Preserve, Canadaway Creek, with a large project in Arkwright involving nine landowners.
  - The Southern Tier Agricultural Enhancement Grant Program has \$4.5 million available in Chautauqua County for projects ranging from \$20-100k.
  - There is a \$22k balance of funds left in a grant for a drainage project at Fred Farms; however, an estimated \$10k is required to complete the project. The project is intended to protect Bourn Creek from manure contamination. Spann will better define the cost to complete the project and present the information at the next meeting.
- Sportfishing
  - Zen Olow gave the group a list of fishing tournaments scheduled for this summer.
  - The Great Lakes Experience is not being held in Dunkirk this summer. A similar event is scheduled for May 7 in "Silo City" on Buffalo's waterfront. He noted that Dunkirk would like to have an event and asked if there was any interest.
  - The Dunkirk Fishing Pier will be rebuilt this summer.
  - VIP Fishing Day is scheduled for August 10.

## **Old Business**

- Dredging at Dunkirk and Hanover
  - Dave McCoy noted that the Contractor was now expected to arrive in Dunkirk in March.
- Local Watershed Redevelopment Plan
  - PED is working on the budget and hopes to have a contractor selected soon.
- Microbead Law
  - George Borrello said that Chautauqua County's law took effect February 15 and there were no plans to repeal it in light of recent federal legislation. Bill Boria added that he has a presentation from the recent ORSANCO meeting concerning concentrations of microbeads in tributary streams that he will share with the group.

## **New Business**

- Quarterly meetings vs monthly meetings
  - After a brief discussion, the group decided to change the frequency of meetings from monthly to bimonthly.
- Nexus Government Relations
  - George Borrello and Dave McCoy discussed hiring a consultant to assist with developing USACE and other federally funded projects, such as dredging Cattaraugus Creek Harbor. Chairman Borrello brought forth a motion to share the cost for the consultant in thirds between the LEMC, Alliance and the 2% Reserve. Zen Olow made the motion, the motion was seconded by Doug Richmond and the motion was approved unanimously by the group, with the LEMC's contribution not to exceed \$5000.
- Donation to the Chautauqua County Fisheries Advisory Board
  - Zen Olow noted that the Chautauqua County Fisheries Advisory Board was again having its annual Fishing Essay Contest. Chairman Borrello brought forth a motion to provide \$500 to assist the Fisheries Advisory Board with contest awards. Dave Spann made the motion, Bill Boria seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously by the group.
- Great Lakes Small Harbors Coalition
  - Dave McCoy noted that the LEMC was interested in representing Chautauqua County in the Coalition and was drafting a resolution for the County Legislature's consideration.
  - Martha Bills said the Annual Great Lakes Shallow Draft Recreational Harbor meeting was scheduled for next week and offered to email the group information on the meeting.

## **Summary of Actions Taken**

- Meetings changed from monthly to bimonthly
- Resolution authorizing the LEMC to contribute up to \$5k for an agreement with NEXUS
- Resolution authorizing the LEMC to contribute \$500 to the Sport Fisheries Advisory Board

## **Schedule Next Meeting**

- The next meeting is scheduled for April 18 @ 9:00 am at the SUNY Fredonia Technology Incubator in Dunkirk, NY. An invitation to attend the meeting will be extended to Dunkirk Mayor Willie Rosas.

## **Adjourn**

- The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am.