

Lake Erie Management Commission

Meeting Minutes

9:00 AM Monday, June 20, 2016
Lake Erie Research and Extension Laboratory
Portland, NY 14769

Attendees: G. Borrello, D. McCoy, D. Richmond, J. Magruder, J. Fincher, J. Chairot from Congressman Reed's Office, L. Earhart, Z. Olow and J. Panasiewicz

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 AM by Chairman George Borrello.

Chairman's Comments

Chairman Borrello noted that everyone was pleased that the dredging work in Dunkirk and Hanover was completed and that he has received a lot of positive comments about the two projects.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Borrello asked for a motion to approve the April meeting minutes. The motion was made by Zen Olow and seconded by Chairman Borrello.

Public Expression

None

Coordinator's Comments

- The application period for the 2% Occupancy Tax Lakes & Waterways Grant Program closed June 1. Twenty-six applications were received.
- CFAs – Applications are due July 29.
- Treasurer's Report – There is \$45,833.00 in the Commission's budget.

Committee Reports

- Education Sub-Committee
 - Fishing Brochure – Zen Olow said the brochure is now available and provided copies for the group.
 - Plastics Brochure – Dave McCoy said he had started the brochure but was reaching out for a source of photos that could be used without copyrights.
 - Septic Systems – Dave McCoy offered that the NYSDEC had recently published a brochure that could be used by the Commission.

- Riparian Buffers Initiative – The Citizen’s Campaign for the Environment probably has materials available for distribution.

Member/Partner Reports

- LEWPA - Joanna Panasiewicz noted that USGS establishes a “zip code” for watersheds and identified the west portion of Lake Erie as being within the Lake Erie Central Basin, which was something the NYSDEC was not aware of. There will be public meetings on this topic sometime in 2017. Panasiewicz also asked if anyone was aware of any Chautauqua County water resources reports that could be referenced for the Lake Erie Watershed Management Plan. She also noted that the NYSDEC’s Trees for Tribs program was looking to expand into the Lake Erie Watershed.
- Lake Erie Beaches – No report.
- Chautauqua County Soil & water District – No report.
- Zen Olow spoke about his efforts to provide special needs children with fishing poles and the thank you letters that were received. Zen also noted that the perch population in Lake Erie was dropping and the NYSDEC was considering lower creel limits; however, walleye fishing remains quite good. He also noted that VIP Fishing Day was scheduled for August 10th. Lastly, he noted that Chautauqua County was hosting the Association of Great Lakes Outdoor Writers (AGLOW) conference at the Peak n Peak Conference Center in September.

Old Business

- Dave McCoy said that the Chautauqua County Department of Planning and Economic Development was negotiating with the New York State Department of State to establish a scope of work for the second phase of the North County Local Waterfront Redevelopment Program project.

New Business

- Joanna Panasiewicz stated that the Environmental Protection Fund line-item funding for LEWPA should be available soon. There is \$250,000 from 2015 and another \$250,000 for 2016 that should be available.

Summary of Actions Taken

- None

Schedule Next Meeting

- August 15 (3rd Monday) Lake Erie Research and Extension Laboratory, Portland, NY (to be confirmed).
- The Next LEWPA meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 23 at Sunset Bay.

Adjourn

- A motion to adjourn was made by Zen Olow and seconded by Lance Earhart.

DRAFT