



Meeting Minutes
9:00 AM Monday, January 14, 2019
Lake Erie Research and Extension Laboratory
Portland, NY 14769

Attendees: Z. Olow, D. McCoy, M. Bills, D. Richmond, J. Panaciewicz, C. Quadri, B. Boria, C. Brower, C. Quadri, L. Earhardt, J. Joy, R. Bankoski, J. Panasiewicz

Call to Order: The meeting was opened by Chairman Zen Olow at 9:00 am.

Public Expression: None

Chairman's Comments: Chairman Olow said that he was concerned about the proposed improvements to the Dunkirk Pier; including reduced parking, public fishing access and handicap accessibility. A discussion ensued regarding the outcome of the public participation process. The LEMC agreed to send a letter to the City that expresses its concerns.

Coordinator's Comments:

- Dave McCoy noted that the 2020 Round of the Chautauqua County 2% Occupancy Tax Grant Program opened on January 1 and that applications will be received until April 1.
- Treasurer's Report – The unobligated balance of the LEMC account is currently \$71,792.
- McCoy noted that the County is continuing to participate in Great Lakes One Water initiative; however, he is somewhat disappointed with the direction of the group. At this point, there is not much being considered that will be useful to Chautauqua County.

Committee Reports:

- Education Sub-Committee:
 - Dave McCoy said the Yard Waste Management Campaign, Riparian Buffers, Plastics & Microplastics and Household Hazardous Waste Collection/Disposal campaigns are in progress. These initiative will begin to move forward once the 2% Agency Allocation contract with the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy is executed.
 - Pharmaceuticals Disposal, Septic Systems and Stream Process brochures are still in progress
 - The March meeting of the LEMC is anticipated to include a tour of the City of Dunkirk Wastewater Treatment Plant.



Member/Partner Reports:

- Joanna Panasiewicz said the Lake Erie Watershed Protection Alliance (LEWPA) presented at the CFAs and applied for funding to complete the Lake Erie Watershed Management plan and for funding to purchase sampling equipment. She also distributed a fact sheet for LEWPA.
- Lake Erie Beaches – No report; however, Bill Boria said the Health Department was interested in the feasibility of extending public sewers to residents along the Lake Erie Shoreline. A sewer district extension could extend from a recently formed district in Ripley. The LEMC agreed to discuss the initiative at a later date.
- Chautauqua County Soil & Water Conservation District – No report
- Sportfishing – Zen Olow said that he would be participating in the 6th Annual Greater Niagara Fishing and Outdoor Exposition that is scheduled for January 18-20. A discussion ensued concerning the need for new and better fish grinders at the County's Lake Erie Harbors and the LEMC voted to contribute 50% up to \$5,000 for each harbor. Olow also asked the LEMC to again consider funding for the Chautauqua County Sport Fisheries Advisory Board Fishing Essay Contest. **After a brief discussion the LEMC voted to contribute \$750 to help with the cost of awards.**
- Clair Quadri said the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy was looking to fund future projects, especially projects that improve public access to conserved properties. Zen Olow noted that the NYSDEC also wants to improve public access to Lake Erie tributaries.

Old Business:

- Dave McCoy advised the LEMC that the NYSDOS recently changed Project Managers for the NCC Local Waterfront Revitalization Program.
- The LEMC discussed the need to continue the Lake Erie Rally. The group decided that participating in the Dunkirk Observer's Outdoor Show and the City of Dunkirk Great Lakes Experience Event would reach more stakeholders than the LEMC's event; therefore, the LEMC event would be discontinued.
- Dave McCoy said the City of Dunkirk Comprehensive Planning effort was progressing and that steering committee meetings and public workshops were scheduled for January and February.

New Business:

- Dave McCoy said the City of Dunkirk was working with the US Army Corps of Engineers Buffalo District Office to collect data for a Federal Interest Determination for Dunkirk Harbor Breakwater Improvements. He noted that this determination was important to help justify additional federal investment in the harbor.



- Drain Marking Campaign update – McCoy said that the County’s Law Department determined that the County Executive has the authority to execute contracts on behalf of the LEMC. This was a very encouraging development because it is not necessary to have the County Legislature vote to approve a contract with the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy to implement the campaign.
- McCoy discussed the LEMC again providing support for the NEXUS agreement for services. The cost would be split, with \$5,000 from the LEMC and \$10,000 from the 2% Occupancy Tax Reserve. The County Legislature voted to approve the Occupancy Tax Reserve contribution during the December meeting. After a brief discussion, the LEMC voted to approve.
- McCoy discussed the proposed \$1,000 LEMC contribution in support of Washington DC Advocacy Trip. The effort focuses on advocating to members of Congress and Federal agencies for funding the County’s water resource projects. Visits are planned with Senators Schumer & Gillibrand, Congressmen Reed & Collins, the USEPA and the USACOE.
- Dave McCoy said that he received a call concerning debris accumulations and erosion on Tupper Creek, in the Village of Forestville. McCoy and Dave Spann have scheduled a visit to the site in January.
- Martha Bills said the annual USACE Small Harbors meeting will be held in the next few months. She will forward the information to those who may want to participate.

Summary of Actions Taken:

- Chairman Olow asked for a motion for the LEMC to contribute 50% up to \$5,000 for new fish grinders for each harbor. The motion was made by Bob Bankoski, seconded by Bill Boria and was approved unanimously.
- **Chairman Olow called for a motion for the LEMC to provide \$750 to help fund the Chautauqua County Sport Fisheries Advisory Board Fishing Essay Contest. The motion was made by Doug Richmond, seconded by Bob Bankoski and was approved unanimously.**
- Chairman Olow asked for motion for the LEMC to provide \$5,000 to support the County’s advocacy efforts with NEXUS Government Relations. Martha Bills offered the motion, Bob Bankoski seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.
- Chairman Olow requested a motion for the LEMC to provide \$1,000 to support the advocacy trip to Washington DC. Bob Bankoski made the motion; it was seconded by Lance Earhardt and approved unanimously.

Schedule Next Meeting:

- March 18th (3rd Monday) would be the next meeting date at the Dunkirk Wastewater Treatment Plant (tentative)

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.