

Lake Erie Management Commission

Meeting Minutes

9:00 AM Monday June 16, 2014
Lake Erie Research and Extension Laboratory
Portland, NY 14769

Attendees: George Borrello, Doug Richmond, Dave Spann, Joe Galotti, Joanna Panasiewicz, Martha Bills, Lance Erhardt, Bill Boria, Cassy Pinkoski, Jim Joy

I. Call to Order

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

II. Approval of Minutes

- The approval of meeting minutes was deferred until the next meeting.

III. Public Expression

- None

IV. Chairman's Comments

- Chairman Borrello introduced Dave McCoy to the group. Dave McCoy noted he was pleased to represent Chautauqua County Planning and Economic Development at the LEMC meetings.
- Lake Erie Experience:
 - The event is scheduled for this Saturday (June 21) in Dunkirk.
 - This is the second time for this event and the attendance is anticipated to be nearly 1000 people.
 - The NYSDEC, Chautauqua County Soil and Water Conservation District and LEWPA will have tables at the event.
 - Lance Erhardt stated the Chautauqua County Federation of Sportsmen will offer youth fishing at the pier or at the yacht club.

V. Coordinator's comments

- Dave McCoy informed the group that he has been involved with the following projects:
 - Dredging at Barcelona, Dunkirk and Hanover,
 - Completing the Macrophyte Management Study of Chautauqua lake,
 - Evaluating the 2% Projects, which were due today

VI. Committee Reports

- Education Sub-Committee:
 - Chairman Borrello expressed concern that not much has been happening with this committee and that he hoped to revive the effort. He asked Dave McCoy to look through his files to see if the PowerPoint presentation by Lee Servatius could be located

VI. Member/Partner Reports

- LEWPA:
 - Joanna Panasiewicz stated that she had sent a letter to the ACOE requesting dredging in the commercial channels of the Dunkirk Harbor and at Hanover; however, the ACOE responded that there was no funding available at this time. The Barcelona Harbor was funded through monies earmarked for Hurricane Sandy relief.
 - Joanna also commented on the status of legislation regarding elimination of coal tar and micro-plastics.
 - Joanna also noted that the Bi-National Lake Erie Forum was looking for bloggers to add content to their website. Also that the draft 2014 Lake Erie Watershed Survey was available as a hard copy and that comments would be received until the end of June.
- Lake Erie Beaches:
 - Bill Boria said that intern Jessica Weurstle had been re-hired again this year for a grant funded position to assess water quality at the various beaches throughout the County. He hopes to have water quality data available by the next LEMC meeting.
 - Bill also noted that there was funding available to inspect three storm sewers in the City of Dunkirk for potential sanitary sewer interconnections. Some of the sewers are large enough to be walked through; others will be inspected by video.

VII. Old Business

- Dredging progress:
 - Dave McCoy, Martha Bills and Chairman Borrello explained that Barcelona has their permit and that work was scheduled to begin next week with completion of the project expected by the end of July. The City of Dunkirk is negotiating with the NYSDEC to renew their permit and is waiting on the results of the chemical analysis of the sediments to assess if in-lake disposal is feasible. Hanover is working with the NYSDEC and ACOE to complete a permit application. They have also collected sediment samples for chemical analysis and are expecting the results later this week. Although land disposal is an option, the preferred and most cost effective method of disposal is in-lake disposal.
- Scott's funding:
 - George Borrello and Joanna Panasiewicz noted that the Scott Paper Company had made funding available for various New York State agencies, and as a result, LEWPA received \$5,000. \$1,500 of the money is earmarked for a project in Brocton on Slippery Rock Creek.
- Chautauqua Creek Fish Ladder:
 - Joe Galati stated that \$75,000 had been made available for the fish ladder project on Chautauqua creek from the US Fish & Wildlife Service. USF&W is currently working on the grant contract.

VIII. New Business

- New projects and opportunities
 - Chairman Borrello noted the CSX Railroad corridor between Hanford Bay and Silver Creek is a concern. Severe streambank erosion on an unnamed tributary to Lake Erie is threatening the stability of the railroad embankment. The concern is further magnified due to the close proximity of the area of concern to Lake and the tank cars containing oil, ethanol and other hazardous materials. CSX has been contacted by Congressman Tom Reed and they have not expressed a sense of urgency regarding the concern. County Executive Vince Horrigan and Emergency Services Coordinator Julius Leone have visited the site. Joe Galati also noted another CSX crossing a tributary to (Chautauqua Creek??) is crumbling; however, CSX has resisted taking any corrective action.

IX. Summary of Actions Taken

- None

X. Schedule Next Meeting

- The next meeting is scheduled for July 21, 2014 at 9:00 at the Lake Erie Extension and Research laboratory, Portland, NY

XI. Adjourn

- The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am