

Lake Erie Management Commission

Meeting Minutes

9:00 AM Monday July 21, 2014
Lake Erie Research and Extension Laboratory
Portland, NY 14769

Attendees: George Borrello, Doug Richmond, Jacqueline Chiarot, Joe Galoti, Joanna Panasiewicz, Martha Bills, Bill Boria, Cassy Pinkoski, Dave McCoy, Breeanne Agett and Jessica Wuerstle

I. Call to Order

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

II. Approval of Minutes

- The minutes from the June meeting were approved.
- Bill Boria introduced Breeanne Agett and Jessica Wuerstle, who work with the Chautauqua County Health Department performing water quality monitoring on the various beaches in the County.

III. Public Expression

- None

IV. Chairman's Comments

- Chairman Borrello noted that the Lake Erie Experience event on June 21 in Dunkirk was a great success. He thanked the NYSDEC, Chautauqua County Soil and Water Conservation District and LEWPA for supporting the event.

V. Coordinator's comments

- Dave McCoy said that he has been involved with the following projects:
 - Dredging at Barcelona, Dunkirk and Hanover,
 - Completing the Macrophyte Management Study of Chautauqua lake,
 - Ranking the 2% Projects for review by the County Legislature, and
 - Preparing for the County Legislatures consideration resolutions related to the Chautauqua Lake and Watershed Management Alliance and funding for the Goose Creek Stream Restoration project.

VI. Committee Reports

- Education Sub-Committee:
 - Dave McCoy provided a hardcopy of the PowerPoint presentation by Lee Servatius. The group agreed that the presentation might need updating. Dave agreed to send PDFs of the document to the Commission members for review.
 - Dave was added to the Education Subcommittee.
 - Bill Boria noted that the LEMC should consider developing an exhibit that could be used at events such as the Chautauqua County Fair.

VI. Member/Partner Reports

- LEWPA:
 - Joanna Panasiewicz explained that the 2014 Lake Erie Watershed Survey was mailed out and she provided hard copies for the Commission members.
 - Joanna and members of the Commission discussed the GLRI grant opportunity. Dave recommended that if an application was made, it should focus the Invasive Species management and control component of the funding program. Joanna noted that Erie County DEP, the Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper and other Erie County agencies were considering an application focusing on invasives using a regional or partnering approach. Joanna agreed to forward the date and time for an upcoming meeting to discuss the joint opportunity.
 - The next LEWPA meeting is scheduled for August 26 at 12:30 pm at Sunset Bay
- Lake Erie Beaches:
 - Bill Boria, Jessica Wuerstle and Breanne Agett talked about a GLRI grant funded position to assess water quality at the various beaches throughout the County.
 - Bill, Jessica and Breanne explained the County Health Department's approach to monitoring public beaches for E.coli. They noted that they collect periodic water quality samples at public beaches in the County and that they have developed a predictive model for beach closings based on factors such as precipitation, wind, waves that predicts the presence of E.coli at levels that exceed NYSDOH standards.
 - Bill, Jessica and Breanne also noted that they have been sampling Lake Erie tributaries in an effort to locate potential sources of E. coli before it reaches Lake Erie. There have been relatively few failing septic systems located; however, some "hot spots" within the tributaries have been noticed. When it rains, the E.coli is flushed downstream and into the Lake.

VII. Old Business

- Dredging progress:
 - Martha Bills informed the Commission that the Barcelona project was now underway.
 - Dave McCoy noted the City of Dunkirk requested the NYSDEC to renew their permit and is waiting on NYSDEC review of the chemical analysis of the sediments.
 - Dave also noted that Hanover is working with the NYSDEC and ACOE to complete a permit application. Although land disposal is an option, the preferred and most cost effective method of disposal is in-lake disposal and the Town has proposed two in-lake sites.

- The group discussed the status of the CSX Railroad corridor between Hanford Bay and Silver Creek. Chairman Borrello indicated that CSX had reduced the speed of its trains in this area, but has not acknowledged that there is a safety concern. Jacqueline Chiarot noted that Congressman Reed's office would follow up with CSX.
- Scott's funding:
 - Joanna Panasiewicz noted that the paperwork for the Scott Paper Company funding was being advanced.
- Chautauqua Creek Fish Ladder:
 - Joe Galati indicated the US Fish and Wildlife Services funded fish ladder project should be ready for construction during the summer of 2015.

VIII. New Business

- None

IX. Summary of Actions Taken

- None

X. Schedule Next Meeting

- The next meeting is scheduled for August 18, 2014 at 9:00 at the Lake Erie Extension and Research laboratory, Portland, NY

XI. Adjourn

- The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am