

Minutes

Chautauqua County Water Quality Task Force

Frank Bratt Agricultural Center

August 28, 2019

Call to Order: by D. Spann at 10:03 AM.

WQTF Members Present: David Spann, Cassandra Pinkoski, Bill Boria, Rhonda Lindquist, Dave McCoy, Pierre Chagnon, Claire Quadri, Bernie Klaich, Peter George, Taylor West, Randall Perry.

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve the amended July minutes as presented by B. Klaich.

Seconded. Carried.

Correspondence: None.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Member Comments

- 1.) Chautauqua County Dept of Environmental Health – B. Boria shared that there will be a September webinar on pharmaceuticals in streams. Currently, all beaches on Chautauqua Lake are closed, but due to a lack of life guards, not blue green algae recordings. The Health Department has started collecting water samples for harmful algal bloom testing from two public water supplies. Detection is done at the Erie County Health Department lab. Samples are of raw and treated water, and so far no detections. Discussion on beach closures for Lake Erie beaches in PA and HAB detection limits.
- 2.) Western New York Crop Management Association – R. Lindquist wanted to share road ditching information as follow up from the previous meeting. See attached. She questioned how many municipalities participate in “Street Smart” training, but there were no highway representatives to clarify. She also shared the i-tree benefit calculator program that is available free from the US Forest Service and can be found online.
- 3.) Chautauqua County Watershed Coordinator – D. McCoy shared that the County sewer agency is now focusing on sewerage Findley Lake and the different options to of where to connect to existing treatment infrastructure. The LEMC is getting contracts together to help cost share upgrades to the fish grinder at the Dunkirk Harbor. The LEMC is also looking at helping pursue funding for a comprehensive feasibility analysis for Northern Chautauqua County (Lake Erie shoreline) sewer extensions. B. Boria added that the Department of State shared services grant funded the creation of a cooperative of municipal water/wastewater operators. He will be mapping the extent of water/wastewater services currently covered through this grant, and that

will be helpful in looking at existing infrastructure for a study on Lake Erie sewer extensions. The County and Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy are partnering to produce PSA announcements for yard waste management, riparian buffers, household hazardous waste and plastics. D. McCoy also shared that the County has been working with Southern Tier West for drone video from early June. It took multi spectral imaging which can see where plants are at the surface. Now, the County is looking at a “mapping mode” of the South Basin to supplement the MMS.

- 4.) Chautauqua County Legislature – P. Chagnon shared that the Alliance has received a Lenna Foundation grant to extend the CLA season into September. Hopefully, the CLA will be to send out two more crews. If the funds are not used this fall, they can be carried over to start clean up operations earlier in the spring. B. Boria asked on the progress with the Mobitrac’s in the North Basin. D. McCoy shared that the operators are still learning how to use them. They have been operating through the Town of Chautauqua since the beginning of July (mostly in the North Basin), and there is talk of other municipalities making similar purchases in the future.
- 5.) Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy – C. Quadri provided an update on the drain marking campaign in the City of Dunkirk. The project will mark drains with a spray paint stencil as well as hang door hangers on area houses to advertise the effort. The tentative date is September 28th for marking. The Chautauqua Lake tributary sampling is underway. Samples were taken during low flow, with a planned storm event sampling in the future. Four tributaries will be samples three times. Discussion on updating Chautauqua 2000 Plan with a 2020 update.
- 6.) Bear Lake Association – B. Klaich updated that Bear Lake is looking good in terms of algae. The original plan for dredging the canal at the boat launch of Bear Lake is on hold. D. Spann shared that there was some issues with the landowner and the results of the bid for the dredging work.
- 7.) Cassadaga Lakes Association – P. George shared that the CLA managed weeds with one harvester this season and have not had reports of blue green algae. The zebra mussel presence is high this season though. The CLA is meeting with an engineer to discuss the high water levels and the function of the outlet. Cassadaga Nature Park is almost finalized. Funding is secured for the purchase and the start of some of the improvements planned.
- 8.) Chautauqua Lake and Watershed Management Alliance – T. West shared that on August 2nd, Prism conducted a water chestnut survey in the Chautauqua Lake outlet and collected two grocery bags full of water chestnut. It was found growing among the water lilies. Roger Tory Peterson Institute and the Alliance partnered for an identification and training paddle, and did find one water chestnut plant, removed and disposed of it. Anyone out on Chautauqua Lake or the outlet are cautioned to be diligent and make sure to pull any water chestnut plants if they are spotted. Maple Hurst Golf Course has a large, dense stand of water chestnut in the #7 pond. Audubon volunteers went out to hand pull. There has also been reports of water chestnut on the Rails 2 Trails Network on Titus Road. R. Perry shared that the Alliance currently has a request for applications out for its annual grant funding. The format is a fillable word document and Alliance staff will be available to assist with any questions on the grant application. The applications are due September 19th. This month’s public board meeting will be held on Thursday Septemeber 12th at 4:30 PM at the Stow Senior Center and will include a presentation by Princeton Hydro on the report for the third party analysis of the herbicide application on

Chautauqua Lake in 2019. The Village of Celeron amenities building is scheduled to break ground soon, and an RFP for the Chautauqua Avenue Green Infrastructure project went out. The RFP for Chautauqua Lake Skimmers is already out and due back September 5th.

Next Meeting:

Date: **Thursday September 19, 2019**

Time: **10:00 AM**

Place: **Frank W. Bratt Agricultural Center**

Adjournment: Motion by B. Boria to adjourn. Seconded. Carried.

C. Pinkoski- Recorder

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