

Minutes
Chautauqua County Water Quality Task Force
Frank Bratt Agricultural Center
December 20, 2018

Call to Order: by Chairman David Spann at 11:03 AM.

WQTF Members Present: David Spann, Cassandra Pinkoski, Doug Conroe, Jan Bowman, Bernie Klaich, Tom Erlandson, John Jablonski, Bill Boria, Casey Miller, Randall Perry, Erin Brickley, Pierre Chagnon, Dave McCoy, Bob Pickett, Joe Galati, Brad Bentley.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by D. Conroe to approve the November meeting minutes. Seconded. Carried.

Correspondence: none.

Old Business:

1. Brine Report to the Legislature – See attached report and comments from B. Boria & M. Wilson regarding salt in the Cassadaga Valley Aquifer.

New Business: None.

Member Comments

1. Chautauqua Lake Association – D. Conroe shared that things are calm and quiet out on the somewhat-frozen lake. The Burtis Bay cleanup effort is currently on hold until Spring due to the weather conditions. Discussion over variability of what that nuisance weed mass will look like come spring and challenges with the cleanup. Discussion on using booms to catch weed mass before reaching the shoreline, but there is concerns over liability, costs, storage, maintenance. Potentially the use of leaving weed lines to act as a natural boom.
2. Bear Lake Association – B. Klaich shared Bear Lake is quiet and frozen. The draft of the management plan for the Lake is out and looks good. There has been no additional information regarding NYS DEC purchasing the private boat launch or on dredging efforts for the boat launch canal.
3. Chautauqua County Board of Health – T. Erlandson shared that the BOH have an emerging issue: wind towers. Landowners from the Arkwright area have been experiencing health concerns due to the introduction of the wind towers. Tom inquired if the group had any additional concerns over the wind farms (installation or maintenance) pertaining to water quality? J. Galati shared concerns regarding stream crossing and erosion and sediment control plans. D. Spann shared that there is the potential for accelerated erosion due to the increase in development through previously forested areas.
4. Chautauqua Lake and Watershed Management Alliance – R. Perry shared that the Ball Creek project has some more work to do with plantings in spring, but the invasive species management is wrapping up. The Lakewood-Busti Stormwater Study should be closed out soon. The Celeron Community Building is anticipated for construction in spring/summer 2019. The Mayville-Chautauqua Stormwater Study is working on the final list and to get to the level of conceptual design for the top six projects. E. Brickley added that the Alliance was awarded four of the six grants that were submitted through the NYS CFA program. Three of the six conceptual designed projects from the Lakewood-Busti Stormwater Study get funded through the CFA, promoting the importance of the stormwater assessments turning into funded projects.
5. Chautauqua County Watershed Coordinator – D. McCoy proposed we look back at what has happened in 2018 and what is being planned for 2019. The Dunkirk Harbor was dredged. There is

work being done to get a Federal Interest Study for waves in Dunkirk Harbor. The County is also still pursuing federal funding to address ice jam flooding in Cattaraugus and Silver Creeks. NYS recently awarded funding to Crooked Brook, Silver and Walnut Creeks for state studies on ice jam flooding. There has been and will continue to be discussions on sewerage Findley Lake. The Town of Chautauqua funded Chautauqua Heights to a pump station and formed a new district for the shoreline area. The 2% Bed Tax Grant Program is looking at spending \$230-240 thousand for 2020 projects. The 2020 applications are available January 1st and due April 1st. The Alliance is showing progress on the stormwater management through both the development of the assessments as well as receiving funding and implementing projects.

6. Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy – J. Jablonski shared that the CWC received a grant for \$90,000 to conserve land on Cassadaga Lakes (located between Lily Dale and Camp Gross). The Conservancy has already raised the \$65,000 needed to match the grant. There is a wetland on the property and the CWC is looking at developing the site into a nature park. The CWC is trying to get the word out to municipalities who did not adopt the stormwater regulations drafted by Don McCord. Five municipalities adopted the drafted stormwater regulations and two municipalities adopted a “watered-down” version. He also shared the concept of having a shared municipal code enforcement official for municipalities to reduce concerns over implementation. D. Spann shared other SWCD’s have stormwater programs, although they typically have MS4 communities. The Chautauqua County SWCD is still figuring out how a program such as this can be supported by the District. J. Jablonski emphasized that these efforts are more about prevention than enforcement. B. Boria shared the idea that the County should take over code enforcement.
7. Chautauqua County Department of Environmental Health – B. Boria introduced Casey Miller, a new addition to the DOH staff. Bill also outlined the report that is attached. Regarding the City of Jamestown Cassadaga Aquifer, the chloride levels in the 50-60s were tenfold less than the well that was drilled last year. Over 100 water wells around Findley Lake were tested for chloride levels in the 1990’s-2000’s, and there might be some additional groundwater data in that report. Bill cited a highway barn up gradient from a restaurant on Findley Lake had an uncovered salt storage for decades, and the wells down gradient have elevated NaCl concentrations. B. Bentley shared that the County has computerized trucks and an application rate for salt spreading. The drivers can control and there is no more continuous feed. This creates more efficient salt use, as salt savings does equate to cost savings. D. Spann inquired about outreach to NYS DOT for salt application, especially with the miles of state roads in close proximity to County waterbodies. Fund for Lake George is paying for DOT to do a pilot project to reduce salt application on a state road for a winter. P. Chagnon shared that yesterday, WNY Public Works Association announced the North Chautauqua Lake Sewer District upgrade to facilities was the 2018 Sewer Project of the Year.
8. Chautauqua County Department of Public Facilities – B. Bentley shared a proposal of a joint effort between DPF and the SWCD to manage woody debris found in streams, potentially posing a threat to culverts and bridges. This would work with municipalities and landowners to be proactive in addressing flooding concerns that are caused by blockage of road crossings. There would be a cost savings during prevention, as opposed to reaction following a storm event. This would be a County-wide problem being solved through partnership. Discussion on potential ideas for implementation and funding. Discussion on proper disposal of yard waste.

Motion for SWCD to pay the lunch bill through remaining WQTF funds by B. Klaich. Seconded. Carried.

Public Comments: None.

Next Meeting:

Date: **Thursday January 17, 2018**
Time: **10:00 AM**
Place: **Frank W. Bratt Agricultural Center**

Adjournment: Motion by E. Brickley to adjourn. Seconded. Carried.

C. Pinkoski- Recorder

DRAFT

From: Michael Wilson <Michael.Wilson@fredonia.edu>
Sent: Monday, December 17, 2018 10:28 AM
To: Boria, William <boriaw@co.chautauqua.ny.us>
Cc: David Spann <dspann@soilwater.org>; Cassandra Pinkoski <cpinkoski@soilwater.org>; Michael Wilson <wilson@fredonia.edu>
Subject: Re: Chloride Info

Thanks, Bill. This was a most generous use of your time to locate these resources and background. I recall that we had a Jamestown well field value a couple decades back that was 29 mg/L but I am not sure that was the same older well (I think it was), which makes me wonder if either road salt use or petroleum well leakage, or both, reached a steady state during the past couple decades. A possibility because chloride is so soluble and resists retention in soil and rock (its retardation value well established at about 1, as compared to PCBs that stick to clays and have a retardation value of 10,000), while the inputs to these two sources may have leveled-off (few added gas wells or roads).

Also, just a mention that I will likely miss WQTF this week; I had to reschedule dental work which in turn caused rescheduling another appointment which then conflicts with WQTF Thursday. Have a great holiday season and I'll see you next year.

Mike

On Mon, Dec 17, 2018 at 8:48 AM Boria, William <boriaw@co.chautauqua.ny.us> wrote:

Attached is an excerpt from a report that covers the issue of groundwater quality and salt (chlorides) for the Cassadaga Valley Aquifer. It includes a couple references that also cover the subject. File sizes are large but they can be downloaded here.

Crain: https://archive.org/details/usgswaterresourcesnewyork-nywrc_bull_58

Frimpter: https://archive.org/details/usgswaterresourcesnewyork-arb_2

A quick review of the Crain report that includes chloride levels from the City of Jamestown's Cassadaga well field and the most recent chloride levels measured in a new well that was just drilled at the same location tapping the same aquifer shows the following:

Samples collected on 6/11/47 and 2/5/52 show chloride levels of 2.6 mg/l

Sample collected on 4/19/18 show chloride concentration of 26.4 mg/l – a 10 fold increase.

As Mike Wilson Mentioned Eve Gaus wrote a report in 2002 which evaluated chloride levels in the Chadakoin River which was shared with the WQTF so you should have a copy.

Other information about chlorides in surface water is in the 2000 State of Chautauqua Lake Report and the benchmark reports from the 1970s. I did not have time to analyze these reports. Feel free to circulate this to WQTF.

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