

**Minutes**  
**Chautauqua County Water Quality Task Force**  
**Frank W. Bratt Agricultural Center**  
**December 17, 2014**

**Call to Order:** by Chairman David Spann at 10:00 AM

**WQTF Members Present:** David Spann, Cassandra Pinkoski, Dave McCoy, Tom Erlandson, Kim Sherwood, Rhonda Lindquist, Peter Beeson, John Jablonski, Douglas Conroe, Craig Butler, Jonathon Mayr, Joe Galati, Jan Bowman, Mike Wilson and Bill Boria.

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion by D. McCoy to approve the November 20, 2014 minutes. Seconded. Carried.

**Correspondence:** None

**Watershed Coordinator:** See attached.

**Old Business:**

1. WQTF Newsletter – D. Spann suggested a quarterly report to Chautauqua County Legislature as an update on water quality issues and actions in the County. For outline of newsletter, see attached. Forward any comments of concerns to C. Pinkoski.
2. Stormwater Code Enforcement Letter – Letter has been drafted supporting the creation of a multi-municipal water and erosion control enforcement officer. C. Butler suggested looking for input by municipal code enforcement officers in order to get them on board and move forward with this process. K. Sherwood added that ordinances, like the one generated by Chautauqua County Planning, need to be in place to authorize enforcement and create authority in the position. D. Spann stated that this initiative is to get the conservation started and trigger discussions. See attached draft letter. Forward any comments or concerns to C. Pinkoski.

**New Business:**

1. Brine Report to Legislature – B. Boria presented the draft brine report intended for the County Legislature. He has received some comments on the report since he sent the draft to the WQTF members, and will address the commented he received. There was a discussion on the difference between flowback and production fluids. K. Sherwood went over his comments to the report. There was no consensus on what Chautauqua County agency should be in charge of maintaining the brine guidelines.
2. Lake Erie LWRP Focus Groups – C. Pinkoski shared that the LWRP steering committee was looking for suggestions on participants for the water quality focus group. This group will meet on January 29, 2015 with the time and place still to be determined. If interested, please contact C. Pinkoski at [cpinkoski@soilwater.org](mailto:cpinkoski@soilwater.org).
3. Chautauqua Lakes SPDES Permits – D. Spann received correspondence from Jim Vogel at NYS DEC stating that he has been working on modifying SPDES permits for PCI facilities that discharge treated wastewater into the Chautauqua Lake Watershed. So far, Chautauqua Auction House, Bayberry Landing Condominiums, Crosswinds Subdivision, and Maple Grove Jr.-Sr. High School have been modified. Mr. Vogel is working on modifying the remaining 12 permits, and hopes to be done by March 31, 2015.

**Current Water Quality Concerns & Issues from the Floor**

1. D. Conroe brought up concerns over relaxing timelines for upgrades. Regulators need to maintain that actions are still taken between extended timelines in order to achieve results for the benefit of Chautauqua Lake.
2. B. Boria shared that there is an engineering consultant for Chautauqua Lake that is putting in a specialized system (which includes a package plant for phosphorus). This system has a “bio-barrier” and includes a phosphorus reducing media.
3. B. Boria informed the group that he will present to the County Legislature and the Board of Health on mandatory septic inspections based on a watershed basis approach. The presentation will be on January 15, 2015 at 6 PM in the Hall R. Clothier Building

***Next Meeting:***

Date: **Thursday January 15, 2015**  
Time: **10:00 AM**  
Place: **Frank W. Bratt Agricultural Center**

***Adjournment:*** Motion by J. Galati to adjourn. Seconded. Carried.

***C. Pinkoski - Recorder***



*Chautauqua County*  
**DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

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**Watershed Coordinator's Update 12/17/14**

**Macrophyte Management Plan**

- The MMS document remains in the hands of the review committee while they undertake a detailed review. Written comments are due 1/09/15.

**Integrated Sewer Management Plan**

- Met with Tom Walsh at the South & Center Sewer District on 11/26
- Met with Tom Carlson at the North Chautauqua Lake Sewer District on 12/4.
- Next meeting planned is 12/17 with the stakeholders to assist them with developing their projects.

**North County Local Waterfront Redevelopment Plan**

- No update

**Chautauqua Lake & Watershed Management Alliance (CLWMA)**

- The Alliance met on 11/17 to discuss its role in implementing projects, the search for an Executive Director and to elect officers.
- Attended the 12/5 Alliance meeting. The discussion focused on reviewing the funding requests of member organizations and reviewing resumes for the Executive Director's position.

**2% Occupancy Tax for Lakes and Waterways**

- Processed the first invoices for the Camp Merz project and visited the site on 12/15 to take construction photos.
- Processed the final invoices for the Village of Lakewood Green Infrastructure Baseball Field project.
- Resolved contract and insurance issues between SAREP, 4-H and the Cornel Cooperative Extension. We are waiting for Cornel Cooperative Extension to voucher the invoices for payment.
- The Village of Silver Creek (Walnut Creek) streambank stabilization and North Harmony's Bly Hill ditch improvement projects have been pushed back until spring 2015. Contract extensions are being pursued.
- Received for processing the invoices for the Bear Lake 2% Agency Allocation and the work by Racine Johnson.
- Preparing a letter to the County Attorney for his opinion on allowing the 2% Lakes and Waterways Grant Program to include funding opportunities focused on education, invasive species and O&M for past 2% projects.

**Invasive Species**

- The Conewango Creek Watershed Commission is preparing a educational brochure concerning water chestnut.

**Chautauqua Lake and Waterways Website**

- CCPED now has administrative privileges to add/edit content.

**Lake Erie Management Commission**

- Attended the LEMC meeting on 11/24. The meeting focused on the north county dredging projects, education & outreach activities and planning for the Lake Erie Experience event.

**Lake Erie Watershed Protection Alliance**

- Attended the 12/9 quarterly meeting in Brant, NY
- LEWPA has drafted and is circulating the supporting inter-municipal agreements for Erie, Cattaraugus and Chautauqua Counties for consideration.

*Kevin M. Sanvidge, Director*  
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*Vincent W. Horrigan, County Executive*  
[HorriganV@co.chautauqua.ny.us](mailto:HorriganV@co.chautauqua.ny.us)

**Grants**

- Working to close out the NYSDOS Ellicott Grant (Chautauqua Lake and Watershed Management Plan Implementation) which provided funding for the Dredging Feasibility Study, Educational and Outreach Activities by the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy and Chautauqua County Soil and Water Conservation District, Macroinvertebrate Study, Shoreline Cleanup, and schematic design for restoration projects on Goose and Dutch Hollow Creeks.
- Submitted a proposal on 12/3 to the USACE for inclusion on the 2014 USACE Work Plan. Areas of concern include outlets of Silver and Cattaraugus Creeks, and the Chautauqua Lake watershed.

**Community Outreach and Events**

- Worked with a number of stakeholders to develop a series of “end of the Year” articles in association with Jamestown Post Journal writer Jim McCarthy. Jim plans to write about the Integrated Sewer Management Plan, the Alliance, recent grant awards, the Macrophyte Management Strategy and other items of interest.
- Attended the Lake Erie Management Commission meeting on 11/24.
- Attended the Chautauqua County Environmental Management Committee meeting on 11/24.
- Met with the Cornell Cooperative Extension on 11/24 to discuss agency allocations for 2015 and ag district updates.
- Met with a Chautauqua County resident on 12/2 to discuss concerns about Bemus Creek.
- Attended the Chautauqua Regional Community Foundation annual luncheon with the charitable foundations (Gebbie, CRCF, Sheldon, Lenna and others) on 12/4. Participated in presentations regarding the various initiatives for Chautauqua Lake.
- Attended the Lake Erie Watershed Protection Alliance meeting on 12/9.
- Scheduled a meeting with Dean Marine, the dredging contractor for the Barcelona project for 1/7. The meeting is to discuss scheduling and contracts for the Hanover and Dunkirk projects.
- Initial planning for the second Chautauqua Lake Rally, most likely in March has begun.



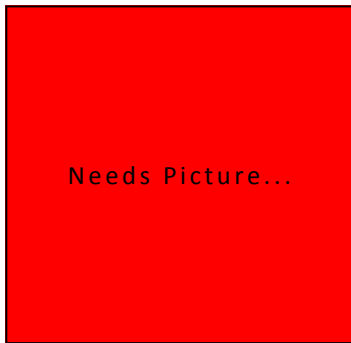
**220 Fluvanna Ave, Suite 600  
Jamestown, New York 14701  
716-664-2351**

**Member Agencies:**

- Bear Lake Association
- Cassadaga Lakes Association
- Chautauqua County Department of Health
- Chautauqua County Department of Planning
- Chautauqua County Department of Public Facilities
- Chautauqua County Environmental Management Council
- Chautauqua County Soil & Water Conservation District
- Chautauqua County Town Hwy. Superintendents Association
- Chautauqua County Watershed Coordinator
- Chautauqua Lake Association
- Chautauqua Region Professional Wastewater Operators Association
- Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy
- Chautauqua Waterworks Association
- Conewango Creek Watershed Association
- Cornell Cooperative Extension
- Findley Lake Watershed Foundation
- Jamestown Community College
- NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
- Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission
- Seneca Trail RC&D
- Southern Tier West Regional Planning & Development Board
- SUNY Fredonia
- The Nature Conservancy
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- USDA Farm Service Agency
- Western New York Crop Management Association

# Water Resources Update

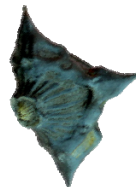
Winter 2014-2015



**Southwestern Drive, Town of Busti.** Concerns for stormwater violations on a construction site in the Town of Busti created frustration for local code enforcement officer. With personnel restrictions in state offices, the effectiveness of stormwater enforcement has decreased. Substantial

money has been invested to restore and maintain the Chautauqua Lake Watershed, but if local and state rules and regulations are not being adhered to, our investment into the lake can fall short. Regulations created to maintain water quality is not an impediment on development and businesses, yet it is working to keep in line both public and private efforts to maintaining water quality in our county.

## Have you seen this invasive?



The Water Quality Task Force is working in part with stakeholders groups across Chautauqua and Cattaraugus Counties and into Pennsylvania to coordinate a protocol for treating the invasive water chestnut. An invasive species is categorized as an organism that can have a detrimental effect upon the native communities and biodiversity we find across the region. This aquatic invader was first

spotted in Jamestown Audubon's "Big Pond" in 2006. Populations have also been found in Chautauqua Lake and at Akeley Swamp, adjacent to the Conewango Creek a tributary to the Alleghany River System. Information on any sightings can currently be directed to the Jamestown Audubon Center or the Conewango Creek Watershed Association.



## Chautauqua County 2% Bed Tax Project Updates

The 2014 construction season is winding down, as is progress on projects selected for funding through Chautauqua County's 2% Bed Tax Program for clean waterways. SAREP programming and a stabilization project at Goose Creek have been completed this season. Due to weather conditions this spring, construction has to be extended to 2015 to complete the project along Walnut Creek in the Village of Silver Creek and also a ditch stabilization in the Town of North Harmony. Progress was moving forward on Boy Scouts of America's Camp Merz shoreline stabilization, but it appears that this project will require an extension into 2015 as well. Contract extensions are currently being pursued by the County Watershed Coordinator, Dave McCoy.

For 2015, seven projects are scheduled to be completed to reduce sedimentation in our County lakes and waterways. SEQR Review and permitting has already been put into motions to ensure the necessary steps are in place for these projects to be completed in next construction season. This round of grant administration has selected projects across the County. Projects include the Chautauqua Lake, Lake Erie, and Findley Lake Wa-

tersheds. Grant money totaling \$205,062.60 will be put towards projects, with a total value of projects being \$261,782.60.



**Above: Before and during construction of the project on Goose Creek in Ashville. Failing sheetpiling was removed and the streambank was graded and armored. Willow plantings and hydroseeding was added to the project after construction was completed.**

**Right: Construction is scheduled to repair a failing streambank along Canadaway Creek near Bard Road in the Town of Arkwright due to grant funds from the 2% Bed Tax Program.**



## NYSDEC WQIP Grant Funding



Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced \$39.5 million in grants that provide funding for 134 local and regional projects across New York State. The projects are aimed to improve water quality, reduce polluted runoff and restore water bodies and aquatic habitats in each region of the state. "Improving and protecting the state's abundant water resources is vital to the quality of life for all New Yorkers," Governor Cuomo said. A total of 134 grants are being awarded through the State's Water Quality Improvement Program this cycle.

Chautauqua County has received \$467,204 in grant funds for water quality improvement. Projects range from aid to sewer districts to streambank and ditch stabilization. Chautauqua County Department of Planning received \$132,750 to implement 2 projects, one along Dewittville Creek and the other on Goose Creek. Chautauqua County Soil and Water Conservation District was awarded \$50,000 for materials to stabilize eroded ditches in the Chautauqua Lake Watershed. The Village of Lakewood received \$100,000 to construct a wetland at Crescent Creek, a tributary to Chautauqua Lake.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation supports water quality improvements through the Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) Statewide Grant Program. The WQIP program is a competitive, reimbursement grant program that directs funds from the New York State Environmental Protection Fund to projects that reduce polluted runoff, improve water quality and restore habitat in New York's waterbodies.

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