

Minutes
Chautauqua County Water Quality Task Force
Frank W. Bratt Agricultural Center
February 12, 2013

Call to Order: by Chairman David Spann at 10:02 AM

WQTF Members Present: David Spann, Cassandra Pinkoski, Dave McCoy, Tom Erlandson, Kim Sherwood, Rhonda Lindquist, Peter Beeson, John Jablonski, Craig Butler, Joe Galati, Peter George, Pierre Chagnon, Jan Bowman, and Greg Hallberg.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by J. Galati to approve the January 15, 2013 minutes. Seconded. Carried.

Correspondence: None

Watershed Coordinator: See attached.

1. A spring 2% Projects Tour is tentatively scheduled for May 5th, with a backup date of May 7th starting at 10 AM. More details are to follow.

Old Business:

1. Changes to the 2% Bed Tax Clean Waterways Application – D. McCoy shared that the 2% Clean Waterways Review Committee met prior to this meeting, and will continue to meet to discuss changes to the application process for funding 2% Clean Waterways projects. No finalized changes have been made as of yet.
2. Brine Report to Chautauqua County Legislature – W. Boria emailed to the group the finalized copy of the report on brine to the Legislature.
3. Stormwater Letter to the Chautauqua County Legislature – D. Spann shared that a letter has been sent to the Legislature and has been referred to the environmental subcommittee, with the sole purpose of just review of the letter. D. Spann and D. Emhardt (Supervisor, Town of Chautauqua) were invited to discuss their concerns. The results of this meeting will be forwarded to the planning and economic development committee of the Legislature.

New Business:

1. NYSDEC Wetlands Updates – D. Spann informed on the proposed changes to the current NYSDEC wetland mapped boundaries in the County. Changes were made to wetlands in the Towns of Dunkirk, Pomfret, Sheridan, Mina, Sherman; the City of Dunkirk; and the Village of Fredonia. Notice was sent to landowners and adjoining property owners, with the chance to comment to Anne Rothrock on the proposed wetlands by February 20th.
2. NYSDEC Lake Erie Stream Assessment – C. Pinkoski shared that NYSDEC will be conducting assessments of Lake Erie tributaries in 2015 and 2016. If there is any stream segments that should be highlighted for sampling, let Cassie know at cpinkoski@yahoo.com.

Current Water Quality Concerns & Issues from the Floor

1. P. Beeson shared that he is currently employed as a research associate at the Roger Tory Peterson Institute. The Institute is hoping to expand on its research objectives, attracting graduate and government level research at its Jamestown facility. This initiative will attract grants, partner with other institutions, and employ local students. If you would like more information on the program, contact Peter at pbeeson@rtpi.org.
2. P. Chagnon provided updates on the Chautauqua Lake sewer systems. South and Center Sewer has agreed to a detailed report on the potential extension of service. The North Sewer has also

agreed to a detailed report about potential extension. Between these two reports, this will compensate for all unsewered areas around Chautauqua Lake.

3. P. Chagnon also provided updates on the status of the Chautauqua Lake Watershed Management Alliance. The entity has received 501(c)3 status from the IRS and has also hired an executive director. Look for a press release on Erin Brickley, the new director. She is scheduled to start a week from Monday.

Next Meeting:

Date: **March 19, 2015**
Time: **10:00 AM**
Place: **Frank W. Bratt Agricultural Center**

Adjournment: Motion by J. Bowman to adjourn at 10:41 AM. Seconded. Carried.

C. Pinkoski - Recorder



Chautauqua County
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Watershed Coordinator's Update 02/12/15

North County Activities

Dredging of the City of Dunkirk Harbor and Hanover Boat Launch

- Working with City of Dunkirk Engineer Randy Woodbury to draft technical specifications to support a request for proposals to dredge both harbors.
- Prepared Part 1 of the SEQR short form for the Town of Hanover.

Lake Erie Management Commission

- Attended the Lake Erie Action Agenda meeting in East Aurora on 2/4. Approximately 75 people were in attendance to hear presentations from the NYSDEC and SeaGrant concerning assessment work, projects and funding opportunities.

Lake Erie Watershed Protection Alliance

- The Chautauqua County Legislature has approved the inter-municipal agreement supporting the County's participation in LEWPA.
- Next meeting is scheduled for 2/24 in Gowanda, NY.

North County Local Waterfront Redevelopment Plan

- Public involvement activities were held on 1/28. 1:00 to 3:00 pm at Eason Hall in Westfield and 5:30 to 7:30 pm at SUNY Fredonia Incubator in Dunkirk.
- The Lake Erie Management Commission will have a session on the LWRP on 2/17.

South County Activities

Chautauqua Lake & Watershed Management Alliance (CLWMA)

- The Alliance selected Erin Brickley as the first Executive Director at the 2/6 meeting.

Macrophyte Management Plan for Chautauqua Lake

- The Review Committee met to further discuss the MMS on 2/10, where comments on Chapters 5-7 were vetted.
- The next meeting is scheduled for 3/4
- We are working to extend consultant contracts for the completion of the study.

Integrated Sewer Management Plan for Chautauqua Lake

- Both the S&CCLSD and NCLSD have received proposals for preliminary engineering reports to advance the recommendation of the ISMP.
- The S&CCLSD has engaged a consultant to prepare a Preliminary Engineering report to further define their project and assist in obtaining funding. A kickoff meeting was held on 2/10.

Chautauqua Lake and Waterways Website

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

General Interest

2% Occupancy Tax Program for Lakes and Waterways

- The Waterways Panel started discussions concerning potential revisions to the 2% Lakes and Waterways Grant Program. Potential revisions include opportunities focused on education, invasive species and O&M for past 2% projects.
- Finalized accruals of unspent 2% funding for agency allocations and 2014 Lakes & Waterways Grant program projects that were not advanced in 2014.
- Coordinating with the Chautauqua County Finance Dep. on the preparation of the 2015 2% Program budget

Invasive Species

- Considering adding an additional grant category to the 2016 2% Lakes and Waterways Grant Program to fund a local, collaborative invasive species management response effort.
- Responded to WYNPRISM Watercraft Inspection Steward Program Workshop – Survey on 1/26
- WNYPRISM is requesting participation in 5 working groups (Invasive species (aquatic, terrestrial & agricultural), education & outreach, and conservation targets). Indicated interest in participation in the aquatic invasives and education & outreach working groups on 1/27.

NYSDEC Activities of Interest

- The NYSDEC has announced updates of water quality assessment information for individual Waterbody Inventory/Priority Waterbodies List (WI/PWL). Most recently, WI/PWL Fact Sheets for the following Chautauqua County waterbodies have been revised/updated:
 - Chautauqua Lake Watershed;
 - Upper Conewango Creek Watershed;
 - Middle Conewango Creek Watershed; and
 - Lower Conewango Creek Watershed.
- NYSDEC has provided notice of Freshwater wetland Map Amendments in Chautauqua County.
 - The WQTF and EMC were provided with copies of the notice.
 - February 20th is the last day to comment on the map amendments.

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 by the Chautauqua Lake Association, and schematic design for restoration projects on Goose and Dutch Hollow Creeks.
- Great Lakes Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Program RFP released recently. In our area, only the Cattaraugus Creek Watershed is eligible. Deadline: Friday April 24, 2015 6:00 pm EDST. All projects must explicitly reduce particulate and/or dissolved phosphorus into the Great Lakes. It is anticipated about \$1,500,000 in funding will be available. Approximately 2-3 watershed-scale grants up to \$250,000 each and 8-10 small scale grants up to \$30,000 each may be funded. Funding levels will be based on the amount provided by the NRCS/GLC program agreement. Applicants must be nonfederal units of government (U.S.), or incorporated nonprofits. Eligible applicants include but are not limited to: conservation districts; county and municipal governments; regional planning commissions; and state agencies. Examples of nonprofit organizations include watershed organizations, stream and lake associations, citizen monitoring groups, environmental groups, conservation groups, and fish and wildlife groups.
- Prepared draft resolution for consideration by the Chautauqua County Legislature to accept NYSDEC/EPF Water Quality Improvement Program grant awards for Goose Creek (Steinhoff Run) and Dewittville Creek. Concurrently preparing work plans and related information for the grants.

Community Outreach and Events

- Initial planning for the second Chautauqua Lake Rally has begun.
- Attended an organizational meeting for the 2015 Great Lakes Experience event in Dunkirk on 2/11. The event is anticipated to draw approximately 2,000 people.