

Minutes
Chautauqua County Water Quality Task Force
Frank W. Bratt Agricultural Center
February 16, 2017

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

WQTF Members Present: David Spann, Cassandra Brower, Joe Galati, Randall Perry, Peter Beeson, Bernie Klaich, Rhonda Lindquist, Peter George, Dave McCoy, Bob Pickett, Douglas Conroe, Jan Bowman, Bryan Nothdurft, Greg Hallberg, John Jablonski, Tom Pillings

Approval of Minutes: Motion by J. Galati to approve January's meeting minutes. Seconded. Carried.

Correspondence: None.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

1. Motion by D. Conroe for D. Spann to sign as chair of the WQTF a letter of support of the Smith Mills Dam Removal Project for the Sustain Our Great Lakes Grant 2017. See attached letter. Seconded. Carried.

Members Comments:

1. Soil and Water Conservation District – D. Spann shared that Jim from the Bemus Bay Property Owners organization come to the last Soil and Water Board Meeting. See attached handout. Discussion on proposed herbicide application of Bemus Bay. G. Hallberg said that the Town of Ellery did not make any action yet regarding being the lead agency on this, and requested more information on the project. D. Conroe shared that the CLA has met with the group, but does not draw a direct line between HAB's and macrophyte cuttings. The plan proposed by BBPA is to apply a liquid and granular herbicide via the company Solitude around May 31st. The CLA has agreed that they are working on improving shoreline collection procedures, one of the concerns of the BBPO. J. Galati said that while the DEC is not opposed to issuing spray permits, it is unlikely they would permit to spray for weed control in May. There are important fisheries in that bay.
2. Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy – J. Jablonski announced that the CWC will have a information session on the current Water Quality Improvement Projects on February 28th at 7 PM at the Stow Senior Center.
3. Jamestown Community College –J. Bowman shared some updates from JCC. They are working on planning the annual Earthfest event, and have an Endangered Earth film series taking place February 28th, March 30th, and April 26th. The department of environmental sciences is now posting internship opportunities for students on their website, so if you have any summer internships, forward the information to Jan. Also, they are looking for summer research program ideas, as well.
4. Chautauqua Lake Association – D. Conroe shared the CLA is looking to hire additional summer watercraft stewards, to please forward information to the Association if anyone knows of people looking for summer work. They are still trying to figure out how to staff the launches on Bear and Cassadaga Lakes for the 2017 season.
5. Chautauqua County Watershed Coordinator – D. McCoy announced that the Lake Erie Rally will be held on May 13th from 8:30/9 AM to noon with presentations on the north county LWRP, City of Dunkirk waterfront and an update on SWCD projects. The Findley Lake Dam is done except some "icing," including sidewalks and rails. He recently toured the NYS Fish Hatchery on Chautauqua Lake with staff from the Alliance, are going to go back in June where they have more

fish, and suggested holding a WQTF meeting there. The Chautauqua Lake Rally will be held on August 19th at the Bemus Point Casino, more information to follow. Southern Tier West will hold a regional water meeting on February 22nd. Chautauqua County 2% Bed Tax Grant Applications are due at the end of the month. The Planning Department is currently rehabbing their website. They will be hosting sewer information and LEMC meeting minutes. They could also host WQTF minutes as well.

6. Cassandaga Lakes Association: P. George shared that progress is continuing on the lake management plan with SUNY Oneonta. There was some problems due to the lack of ice on the lake this year, but he is confident he will get enough open water readings.
7. Western New York Crop Management Association: R. Lindquist updated on the 2 new DEC CAFO permits, issued January 25th that will become active on July 24th. Some changes include that CNMP's can have a public comment/hearing, farms need standard operating procedures form 100-year storm events (all practices will be designed for a 25-year storm event), and there is more record keeping, updates and reporting required. Also, the WNYCMA has two full time positions currently open.
8. Roger Tory Peterson Institute: P. Beeson provided an update on the pervious pavement test area that was installed at RTPI. It is working, but not the best looking. The company is coming back to fix it and make it look more presentable. He was contacted by a company that collect algae and digests it onsite to create biofuels and fertilizers. He is working on having the Florida Company come up here to test the algae collected from Chautauqua Lake to see if it is suitable. The company has a mobile digester and will skim algae off the top surface. Currently, there is a lot of research going into the dewatering of algae.
9. Chautauqua Lake and Watershed Management Alliance: R. Perry shared that the RFP's for the two projects on Dutch Hollow are still open, but will close next week. They got good interest and are hoping for competitive bids. They are working on the 2016 awarded grant projects contracts.
10. Village of Lakewood: T. Pillings said the Village is getting closer to the Crescent Creek Project in Lakewood that was funded in Round 11 of NYS DEC Water Quality Improvement Projects.
11. USDA NRCS: B. Nothdurft shared that NRCS currently has water quality projects underway, and if anyone knows of interested agricultural producers, to forward them to Bryan.

Public Comments: None.

Next Meeting:

Date: **March 23, 2017**
Time: **10:00 AM**
Place: **Frank W. Bratt Agricultural Center**

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

C. Brower – Recorder

Bemus Bay Photos - 2016

To CLA 020117

Soil + Water 2/14/17

