

Minutes
Chautauqua County Water Quality Task Force
Frank Bratt Agricultural Center
May 17, 2018

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

WQTF Members Present: Joe Galati, Jan Bowman, John Jablonski, Doug Conroe, Claire Quadri, Rhonda Lindquist, Bernie Klaich, Peter George, Mike Wilson, Tom Erlandson, Randall Perry, Peter Beeson, Dave Spann, Dave McCoy, Cassandra Brower.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by J. Galati to approve the February and March meeting minutes. Seconded. Carried.

Correspondence:

1. NYS HAB Initiative – The steering committee for the Chautauqua Lake HAB Action Plan has been distributed the draft plan for comments. There was an anticipated release in May for the final plan. J. Jablonski indicated that he was concerned over the over estimation for internal loading that he read in the draft action plan.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Member Comments

1. Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy – J. Jablonski updated that the CWC is currently working to establish a source water protection program, including easements and management, a focus on tributaries, site control for erosion mitigation (without having to rely on landowner buy in) and buffers on fields and pastures.
2. Chautauqua Lake Association – D. Conroe shared that debris removal started on the lake the previous say and have already removed two truckloads of material. Saturday, the CLA donated equipment (barge, dredge, trucks) and employee time to the Conewango Watershed Association's Chautauqua Lake Outlet Clean-Up event. Doug mentioned that even after so many years, there is still a lot of stuff to clean up. The Watercraft Stewards will start their program Memorial Day weekend. The CLA will be 1 of 12 entities piloting a NYS database for boat steward surveys. On the topic of the 2018 herbicide application, Doug indicated concerns over the permit that was issued by the DEC and concerns over public notification and how that will affect seasonal property owners.
3. Bear Lake Association – B. Klaich said that they have not seen anything from the DEC after they were out surveying the public launch site two months ago. There has also been no word regarding the other boat launch that is under private ownership currently. The management plan is on schedule to be completed by the end of the year. Dave Spann is still trying to work with the Masiker family about dredging Muskee Point and concerns over the outlet. B. Klaich also shared some photos of the flooding that occurred this spring.
4. Cassadaga Lakes Association – P. George updated that their management plan is also on track, with Joey (SUNY Oneonta master's student) coming back twice in May to finish up electroshocking. That should complete the data to put together the draft (due this fall). The dredging that was conducted in 2017 did help with flooding, but beaver dams and vegetative constrictions are still a concern in the outlet.
5. Chautauqua Lake and Watershed Management Alliance – R. Perry gave an update on a number of projects underway by the Alliance. The Dutch Hollow and West Dutch Hollow construction

projects were awarded to Rock of WNY out of Mayville. The invasives grant from Senator Young will partner the Alliance with Roger Tory Peterson Institute to do educational events inside and also out on the Lake on native and invasive plant species. The Lakewood-Busti stormwater assessment is under review, with a final anticipated late May/early June. The Mayville-Chautauqua stormwater assessment's RFP for engineering went out last week and will be due mid-June. The 5-Year Implementation Plan was presented at the May member meeting, with the anticipation that it will be the tool used for ranking potential 2018 grant projects.

6. Chautauqua County Watershed Coordinator – D. McCoy shared some of the events the Department of Planning is gearing up for, including: June 9th the Great Lake Experience at Memorial Park in Dunkirk; June 16th the Lake Erie Rally at the Conservation Club in Dunkirk; and August 18th the Chautauqua Lake Rally at the Casino in Bemus Point. If anyone is interested in presenting at the Lake Erie or Chautauqua Lake Rallies, send Dave an abstract on the presentation. For the 2% Bed Tax Grant Program, there was 29 applications. Initially, it appears about 8 will be recommended for funding, which will go in front of the Legislature in June meetings.
7. Chautauqua County Soil and Water Conservation District – D. Spann shared with the group that the call volume for technical assistance in the County has increased significantly this year. With recent storm events, we have experience an accelerated rate of erosion, deposition and flooding. Mother nature is changing stream corridors, infrastructure is undersized, and there is a need for climate resilient approaches. The District is still pursuing an emergency stream intervention program for off road right-of-way following what Steuben County SWCD has been successful in implementing. Julie Gibson was the new hire to the District staff, filling a water quality technician position and will be focusing on stormwater concerns in the County. This is more of a liaison position than a regulatory enforcement role.

Public Comments: None.

Next Meeting:

Date: **Thursday June 14, 2018**
Time: **10:00 AM**
Place: **Frank W. Bratt Agricultural Center**

Adjournment: Motion by J. Bowman to adjourn. Seconded. Carried.

C. Brower- Recorder