

Minutes
Chautauqua County Water Quality Task Force
Frank Bratt Agricultural Center
November 15, 2018

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

WQTF Members Present: David Spann, Cassandra Pinkoski, David McCoy, Doug Conroe, Michael Wilson, Bill Boria, Bernie Klaich, Rhonda Lindquist, Tom Erlandson, Peter George, Randall Perry, Greg Hallberg, Tom Pillings, John Jablonski.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by G. Hallberg to approve the October meeting minutes. Seconded. Carried.

Correspondence: none.

Old Business:

1. Road Salt Application – A copy of the brine report was emailed out with the October meeting minutes and November agenda. At the time of the report, DOT was utilizing gas well brine, since then, DOT have switched to making homemade brine (from rock salt). The DOT does have facilities to make this in Mayville. D. Conroe shared that at the NALMS Conference, there was a study on the impact of brine on lake ecology. B. Boria shared that the Adirondack's are experiencing a greater impact due to a thin soil layer, however, that is not the geology we have in Chautauqua County. There is some data from the City of Jamestown's aquifer regarding chloride tests in the water supply, but no recent data (he will find this and send the information to the group). NYS DOH does not have any max contaminant levels, but there are action levels. G. Hallberg shared that NYS is changing the BUD (beneficial use determination) regulations, yet they have not been finalized yet. The old permits continue through spring and then highway departments will need to reapply (this is just for gas well brine). D. McCoy suggested that now that there isn't a large problem is the time to start looking into the potential effects of salt/brine on our water ecosystems. He suggested that we gather more data on drinking water wells and lake chemistry on the chloride levels to update the previous brine report. Also, we can look at other areas throughout the state on what has been seen and what has been done. If anyone know of any links to data, feel free to forward them to Dave McCoy and he can compile.

New Business: None.

Member Comments

1. Chautauqua County Watershed Coordinator– D. McCoy informed the group on the recent fish kill in Burtis Bay. The County is looking into what can be done this year to alleviate the issue. There was a meeting out at the site (Chautauqua County, CLP, CLA, Town of Ellicott representatives). NYS DEC will treat the issue as a shoreline clean up, so no permits will be needed. The bigger challenge is the access and hardened shorelines. Discussion on weed management. In Findley Lake, the sewer was voted down and the Village of Sherman is faced with an aging sewer plant. There was a draft report on a Findley-Sherman system, it not cheap but is feasible (will be sent to EFC for funding next year). Discussions are still ongoing. Early December, Chautauqua County will be purchasing a Mobitrac machine for shoreline clean up efforts. It will be leased to the Town of Chautauqua for implementation but will be available to other municipalities as a shared service. Discussion on Mobitrac machine and operation. Working with the ACOE, the WRDA Bill passed with a Chautauqua Lake project listed. This will be a study that can open the door for federal funding. There was also an application to the ACOE Silver Jackets program for

nonstructural flooding mitigation and operation of Warner Dam. That proposal was rejected, and the County will receive a debrief on how to improve the application.

2. M. Wilson considered a potential grant resource available to look at the current operations and any other options for the management of Warner Dam. For example, removing bedrock to maximize efficiency of the dam and/or total dam replacement. T. Erlandson added that John Lundstrom looked at the ledge of rock below sixth street bridge that was hypothesized to impede flow more than the Warner Dam.
3. Chautauqua County Department of Environmental Health – B. Boria shared that the County DOH and SWCD are partnering with Southern Tier West on a proposal for source water protection in the North Basin Watershed of Chautauqua Lake. This effort is partnered with representatives and projects for Cattaraugus and Allegany Counties as well.
4. Bear Lake Association – B. Klaich shared the kayak launch and parking lot look great and was finished in early November. There has been no word on the sale of the private boat launch to NYS DEC. The community anticipated flooding due to the rainfall amounts, but there was no shoreline flooding. Bernie checked the culvert at the outlet/County Route 380, and it appeared that debris was cleared out.
5. Cassadaga Lakes Association – P. George shared that the CLA hosted a reception last week to purchase and conserve a parcel of land into the Cassadaga Nature Park by the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy.
6. Chautauqua Lake and Watershed Management Alliance – R. Perry shared that the Mayville-Chautauqua Stormwater Management Plan will be having an open meeting. They invite the public to bring in any project information or existing data. The consultant came up with 40 or so potential projects at a high scale overview, but only 6 will make it to the 20% design level in the report. The large list, however, will still be included in the report.

Public Comments: None.

Next Meeting:

Date: **Thursday December 20, 2018**
Time: **11:00 AM**
Place: **Frank W. Bratt Agricultural Center**

Adjournment: Motion by R. Lindquist to adjourn. Seconded. Carried.

C. Pinkoski- Recorder