

Minutes
Chautauqua County Water Quality Task Force
Frank W. Bratt Agricultural Center
November 20, 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, and Pierre Chagnon.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by K. Sherwood to approve the October 15, 2014 minutes. Seconded. Carried.

Correspondence: None

Watershed Coordinator: See attached.

Old Business:

1. Bear Lake TMDL Comments to DEC- B. Klaich could not attend the meeting, but he emailed Chairman Spann an update on the Bear Lake TMDL. B. Klaich reported that Steve Gladding of the NYSDEC Division of Water informed him that a briefing was prepared at the end of October to brief the Executive on the document to gain approval to move forward. Included in this briefing is a recommendation to discuss the changes made to the document with interested parties prior to sending it to the EPA. However, S. Gladding has yet to hear back on if this an acceptable path.

New Business:

1. NYSDEC WQIP Grants- D. McCoy reported that Chautauqua County has received 6 grants through this funding source. Planning Department received two, one for stabilization along Dewittville Creek and also along Goose Creek. The Soil and Water Conservation District received one for roadside ditching in the Chautauqua Lake Watershed.
2. Local Working Group ,Priority Watershed for EQIP – Discussion surrounded the French Creek Watershed, but no suggestion was agreed upon by the group.
3. NYSDEC PWL- Concern over the need to update the waterbodies listing. D.Spann shared that the NYSDEC WAVE Program is a part of classifying impaired waterways, and efforts will be continued to participate in this program and collect data for waterways in Chautauqua County.
4. Chautauqua County Legislature Water Quality Motions- Discussion on current policies of septic system inspections. J. Jablonski shared the frustration with local code enforcement officers not getting the support requested from the NYSDEC. Development on Southwestern Blvd prompted concerns over timeliness of NYSDEC response time. J. Jablonski suggested effort be made to have a code enforcement officer that is County or multi-municipal wide. D. Conroe made a motion for the WQTF to draft a letter of support to the County Legislature for a code enforcement officer with jurisdiction over multiple municipalities. Seconded. Carried. A letter will be drafted for the next meeting.
5. Road Salt- D. Spann shared with the group a publication from the fall 2014 edition of *Nuggets and Nibbles* on current road salting practices around the state. See attached.

Current Water Quality Concerns & Issues from the Floor

1. K. Sherwood shared that the County Legislature needs to utilize local advisory commissions for discussion on issues. Environmental regulations are not about stifling development, but need to

be consistent with all the other investments made for/in the Chautauqua Lake Watershed over the last 10-15 years.

2. A newsletter was suggested to report to the County Legislature what was discussed at monthly WQTF meetings to keep the Legislature informed on current issues. Discussion on the timing of newsletters, quarterly/monthly. A draft newsletter will be put together for a future meeting's discussion.

Next Meeting:

Date: **Wednesday December 17, 2014**
Time: **10:00 AM**
Place: **Frank W. Bratt Agricultural Center**

Adjournment: Motion by C. Butler to adjourn. Seconded. Carried at 11:00 AM.

C. Pinkoski - Recorder



Chautauqua County
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Watershed Coordinator's Update

Macrophyte Management Plan

- The review committee met on 11/18 to discuss chapter 15, which focuses on implementation.
- The MMS document remains in the hands of the review committee while they undertake a detailed review.

Integrated Sewer Management Plan

- PED hosted a meeting to discuss potential funding opportunities for projects recommended by the ISMP on 11/10. Representatives from funding agencies, including the NYSDEC Environmental Facilities Corp and USDA Rural Development were on hand to gain familiarity with the potential projects, meet the stakeholders and explain their respective funding programs.
- Additional meetings are planned with the stakeholders to assist them with developing their projects.

North County Local Waterfront Redevelopment Plan

- Peter J. Smith is in the data collect phase of the project and a meeting is tentatively scheduled for December 4th.

Chautauqua Lake & Watershed Management Alliance (CLWMA)

- The acting board of Alliance held a work session on 10/30. Items of discussion focused on the search for an Executive Director, the selection of officers and composition of the permanent board.
- The Alliance met on 11/17 to discuss its role in implementing projects, the search for an Executive Director and to elect officers.

2% Occupancy Tax for Lakes and Waterways

- Visited the 2014 Goose Creek-Ashville project site on 10/24. The project is essentially complete, with the plantings and hydroseeding doing well. Also visited the Camp Merz project site and took pre-construction photos. The Camp Merz shoreline stabilization project is projected to be complete this fall; however, construction has not yet begun.
- Processed the final invoices for the Chautauqua Lake Association's 2014 contract for weed harvesting activities.
- The Contract and insurance issues between SAREP, 4-H and the Cornell Cooperative Extension were resolved and the contract was signed. We are waiting for Cornell 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.
- Met with Dave Spann from Chautauqua County Soil and Water Conservation District on 11/5 regarding the District's contracts for 2015.

Invasive Species

- Met with John Jablonski of the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy and Ruth Lundin from the Jamestown Audubon regarding a regional effort to manage invasive species on 10/27.
- Met with a larger group of stakeholders, including the Chautauqua Lake Association, Jamestown Audubon, Conewango Creek Watershed Association, Cattaraugus and Chautauqua County Soil & Water Conservation Districts, and others concerning invasive species management on 10/28.
- Reviewed the NYSDEC's Draft Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan.

Chautauqua Lake and Waterways Website

- No new activity.

Lake Erie Management Commission

- The Educational Subcommittee produced a brochure in association with the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy regarding disposal of yard waste in streams. Public service announcements were aired in the Dunkirk area.

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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.
- Reviewing a potential opportunity through the BoatUS Foundation for a grant that would foster safety and clean boating practices. Grants up to \$10k are available.
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grants have been announced. DLM watched a webinar on the grant program on 11/18.
- Reviewing an opportunity to secure eligibility for WRDA funding via a response to a RFP announced by the US Army Corps of Engineers. The proposal is due 12/3

Community Outreach and Events

- Attended the Chautauqua County Soil and Water Conservation District Board meeting on 10/21.
- Attended the Southern Tier West Regional Planning and Development Board stormwater conference in Ellicottville on 10/23.
- Worked with stakeholders to coordinate a press release for the 6 NYSDEC Water Quality Improvement Project grant awards; including Chautauqua County Soil and Water Conservation District, South and Center Sewer District, Chautauqua Utility District, Towns of North Harmony and Chautauqua and the Village of Lakewood.
- Met with Congressman Tom Reed and his staff on 11/7 to discuss a recent US Army Corps of Engineers request for proposals for WRRDA funded projects.
- Reached out to the Chautauqua County Cornell Cooperative extension regarding their interest in participating in a region invasive species management program.
- A Chautauqua County resident with property located near the mouth of Bemus Creek expressed his concerns about potential flooding, environmental and navigation issues. A site visit is scheduled for 12/4.
- DLM and Dave Spann met with Jamestown Post Journal writer Jim McCarthy on 11/18. Jim plans to write an article on the recent WQIP awards in Chautauqua County.
- Met with John Mayr from Southern Tier West Regional Planning and development Board on 11/19 regarding regional water quality and invasive species management initiatives.
- Attended the Chautauqua County Water Quality Task Force meeting on 11/20.
- Attended the Lake Erie Management Commission meeting on 11/24.
- Met with Cornell Cooperative Extension on 10/24.
- Attended the Chautauqua County Environmental Management Committee meeting on 11/24.