

Minutes
Chautauqua County Water Quality Task Force
Frank W. Bratt Agricultural Center
September 23, 2014

Call to order: by Chairman David Spann at 10:01 am

WQTF Members Present: Dave Spann, Rhonda Lindquist, Cassandra Pinkoski, Tom Erlandson, Joe Galati, Jonathon Mayr, Kim Sherwood, Pierre Chagnon, Bernie Klaich, John Jablonski, Peter George, Peter Beeson and Dave McCoy.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by J. Galati to approve the August 19, 2014 minutes. Seconded. Carried.

Correspondence: W. Boria sent a letter to NYSDEC regarding creation of draft TMDL for Bear Lake. See attached.

Watershed Coordinator: See attached.

Old Business:

1. Request to DEC for Chautauqua Lake PCI dischargers- D. Spann reported that no correspondence has been received regarding the letter send to the DEC regarding phosphorus monitoring and the 16 PCI dischargers on Chautauqua Lake. P. Chagnon reported that the Chautauqua County Legislative Environmental Subcommittee requested a copy of the letter sent out in behalf of the WQTF, and will send out a follow up letter next month.
2. 2014 2% Grant Project Status- D. McCoy reported that all 2014 contracts had been signed and returned to the planning department. SAREP's have already allocated their grant. The Goose Creek Project in Ashville is underway. The ditch design submitted by North Harmony will have to be extended to the 2015 season due to personnel constraints. Silver Creek will also need an extension to the 2015 season due to permit restrictions. Camp Merz is scheduled to be completed in 2014, however no construction has started yet.
3. Legislature Field Day- D. Spann reported that the field day designed to bring awareness to Chautauqua County legislature was a success. This program showcased 2% Bed Tax Grant and NYS Agricultural non-point source grant projects. The turnout of the county legislature was not as good as hoped, but the attendee that did come had a positive response to the day.
4. Chautauqua Creek Fish and Wildlife Grant- D. Spann shared that a the Soil and Water Conservation District was notified that \$135,000 has been received for the reconstruction project of the failed engineered rock riffle on Chautauqua Creek in the Town of Westfield. The project is expected to start construction in 2015.

New Business:

1. Water Chestnut- K. Sherwood reported that water chestnut has been found in Conewango Swamp. For Chautauqua County, this is the farthest north the plant has been found. It should be recognized as both an ecological and economic threat to the region. K. Sherwood talked to Paul McKeown from NYSDEC; they may send DEC staff out to assess the situation.
2. Fish and Wildlife- D. Spann reported that the Soil and Water Conservation District was approached by US Fish and Wildlife Service to address a resident's concern on Crooked Brook in the City of Dunkirk. The District will work on creating a proposal for this project and one on Canadaway Creek with potential for Fish and Wildlife funding.

Current Water Quality Concerns & Issues from the Floor:

1. R. Linquist informed that the comment period for Bear Lake draft TMDL was extended to September 5th. B. Klaich reported that the Bear Lake Association has submitted their comments and data to the DEC, yet have heard no feedback. B. Klaich also added that he has seen the improvement in the water quality of Bear Lake over the past 2 years after management activities were introduced, yet the DEC data is ~10-13 years old.
2. J. Jablonski shared the observation of NYS DOT ditching work on Route 430 outside of Bemus. P. Chagnon added that he had walked the stretch of ditches and has seen that vegetated sections were left between scoured sections.
3. J. Mayr reported that Southern Tier West will be holding its second annual stormwater management conference on October 23, 2014 at Holiday Valley Resort in Ellicottville, NY. Registration is required by October 16, 2014. For more information, contact Jon at jmayr@southerntierwest.org or **view** the flyer online at <http://www.southerntierwest.org/pdfs/conferences/2014/stormwater/stormwater%20registrstion.pdf> .
4. J. Jablonski reported that NYS Federation of Lakes Association will be holding a workshop. More information is available on their website.
5. P. Beeson shared his observation of a Google boat mapping the bathymetry of Chautauqua Lake.
6. R. Lindquist reported that there will be a CAFO workgroup on writing of SPDES permits.

Next Meeting:

Date: **Tuesday October 15, 2014**
Time: **10:00am**
Place: **Frank W. Bratt Agricultural Center**

Adjournment: Motion B. Klaich to adjourn. Seconded. Carried at 11:05 AM.

C. Pinkoski – Recorder