

Otsego County Water Quality Coordinating Committee

Cornell Cooperative Extension, Cooperstown, NY 13326

Wednesday, October 27, 2010

Members Present:

Holly Waterfield, Biological Field Station

Blanche Hurlbutt, Otsego County Soil & Water Conservation District

Darla Youngs, Otsego County Conservation Association

Tavis Austin, Otsego County Conservation Association

Carl Good, OLA

I. Called to order: Holly called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

II. Treasurer's Report

Blanche Hurlbutt provided the treasurer's report. There was No action taken on October Treasurer's report.

Darla inquired what the \$25.00 Lake Festival fee was. Blanche stated it was the Lake Festival Village permit fee. Darla stated she had received \$50.00 from the Biological Field Station for the exhibits fee.

Carl stated that OLA has donated \$700-\$800 to the buoy fund. Carl has made a motion with OLA for additional funds to be provided to next year's buoy fund.

Holly stated that she felt the balance in the Lake Festival account should not be moved into the Undesignated funds since the funds were raised for the Lake Festival. Holly felt this was something that would need to be discussed with the whole committee in January.

III. New Business:

Holly inquired if WQCC should do outreach for snow storage outreach again this year to municipalities. It was determined that a letter with a follow-up phone call should be sent to all municipalities on snow storage outreach. It was suggested that we ask the municipalities & highway departments, if they would like to have a workshop. If so, the workshop would be to share current practices, location areas, and provide useful information on ways to reduce impact. This could be a direct tie to Road Preservation/Replacement, reclaim salt/sand and save funds. Holly provided a little history as to the reason providing snow removal. It was suggested that this could be the topic meeting in December or February. Holly inquired as to funds for the mailing. Blanche stated there would be enough undersigned funds to cover the cost of mailing.

Holly provided WQCC potential topics for inter-quarter meetings. The committee reviewed the list. Holly will mail a copy of the potential topics to the committee members not present.

Strategy Plan Review was discussed for the November meeting. Holly will advise the committee on the next meeting date & a copy of the present 2005 Strategy Plan. Holly will request that the committee members review the Strategy Plan and make comments in advance of the November meeting. Things to be discussed would be the action plan for each problem, action items in our mission. Darla stated she feels that the committee should identify what WQCC does as opposed of what memberships do. Darla stated Scott Fickbohm is working on a grant to rewrite the strategy plan.

2010 remaining meetings were discussed and what December meeting topic might be. It was discussed that maybe the NYS Water Group on gas be invited to present to the committee. Holly will follow-up with this group. Also, discussed was Jordan Clements presenting composting &/or Wetland project in May 2011.

January meeting is the general meeting and election of officers. ***Committee members please let Holly know if you have any topics for upcoming meetings.***

A question was asked about the TMDL for New York State. Blanche stated that Scott was at a meeting in Binghamton at the present time discussing the TMDL for NYS. Blanche will ask that Scott give an update at the next WQCC meeting.

IV. Committee Reports:

Biological Field Station: Holly reported they have been monitoring Canadarago and Otsego Lake through grants.

The hop house and main lab unsure of time frame at present time. The BFS staff is expected to expand back to main lab shortly. The main offices will be at main building. The Thayer farm for the summer will be the same as in the past.

There is a position opening up with person working ½ times at field station & ½ times on main campus. This position should be filled by late fall early winter.

Canadarago Lake Association: No one present & no report provided. Holly stated that Don stepped down and there should be someone present at the next meeting.

Cooperstown Village: No one present & no report provided.

Cornell Co-Op Extension: No one present & no report provided.

Goodyear Lake Assoc.: No one present & no report provided. Holly stated that the BFS will be visiting with GLA to discuss sedimentation layers and provide data in two weeks.

Natural Resource Conservation Services: No one present & no report provided.

Otsego BOCES: No one present & no report provided.

Otsego SWCD: Blanche reported that things at SWCD are moving along as expected at the present time. Round 17 Non-Point Source Grant RFP's are out and grants are expected to the NYS Committee by December 6, 2010. The Leatherstocking Envirothon will be solely Otsego County teams, since Montgomery has decided to focus locally. This year's event will be held at Gilbert Lake State Park on April 27, 2011. The NYS Envirothon will be held May 25 & 26, 2011 at Hobart William Smith Colleges. Jordan is preparing the tree order form for the annual tree sale and will be offering fruit trees.

Otsego County Conservation Association: Darla reported there are several events upcoming; Rail Trail Walk, November 6-7, which is a self guided tour through railway bed. There will be vendors selling their wares. November 14 there will be a hike at the Leatherstocking Golf Course.

November 12th is the Annual Dinner at the Lake House, Richfield Springs. OCCA will be honoring James Herman as the 2010 Conservationist of the Year for his environmental educational efforts. Sarah Mac Arthur, OCCA volunteer nominated James Herman for his role in educating municipal officials and the community at-large on the possible environmental risks of current high impact of environmental threats.

Tavis J. Austin was hired to fill the OCCA newly-created environmental planner position. Tavis is a native of Hartwick and a 1996 graduate of Cooperstown Central School.

Tavis reported he visited the Ross 1 Well site and found it very interesting as they were installing the casing. Tavis appreciated the opportunity to witness hydraulic fracturing firsthand. Tavis was impressed with the safety being performed at the site through-out the installation. He stated that NYS DEC was present and inspected all the steps of operations.

Otsego Lake Association: Carl reported they have held their last meeting for 2010. The next meeting will be held in January 2011.

V. Old Business:

No old business to be discussed at this time.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m. The next meeting will be Monday, November 22, location to be determined at a later date. Possible meeting site could be The Meadows.

Respectfully Submitted by

Blanche L. Hurlbutt