



## Otsego County Water Quality Coordinating Committee

### Minutes

**June 6, 2012, 1:00 – 3:00 pm**

The meeting was called to order by Darla Youngs, co-facilitator. Member organizations in attendance were the Otsego Lake Association, Richfield Springs, The Canadarago Lake Association, Otsego County Conservation Association, Otsego County Planning Department, Otsego 2000, ONC Boces, and the Soil and Water District.

The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed – no changes being suggested, a motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved. The treasurer's report was postponed until Scott Fickbohm's arrival.

The discussion moved on to Old Business. Darla Youngs reviewed plans for Lakes Festival. Fundraising letters and vendor registration forms were sent to approximately 100 organizations and businesses, and emails were sent to past exhibitors. To date, approximately \$600 - \$700 had been received in donations and vendor fees. Information was also sent to Earth Festival exhibitors.

Under New Business, Darla reported on the efforts to limit pesticide and herbicide use on village-owned properties. As the first community on the Susquehanna/at the headwaters of the Susquehanna, it's important that Cooperstown set an example. Win McIntyre has also written a letter to the NYSDEC and NYSDOT regarding the use of herbicides on Route 80.

Next, the discussion moved on to department reports.

*Canadarago Lake Improvement Association:* The State of the Lake report has been completed, as has the report on dam hydraulics. They are now in the process of getting Canadarago Lake named to the list of state lakes in order to be eligible for grants. They expect to be approved shortly, and are now looking into grant opportunities. They hope to use the Lake Management Plan as the basis for a waterfront revitalization grant. Finally, the CLIA board is transitioning from a small group of 5-6 people to a broader membership.

*Goodyear Lake Association:* GLA expressed gratitude to the Biological Field Station for completing the bathoscope sounding of the lake, which hadn't been done since 1978. It appears the lake has lost one meter of depth all around. They will be meeting again with the Field Station to evaluate the data collected and then try to get funding through the Clean Water Act. Secondly, they reported that GLA would be hosting a lunch following the Susquehanna Sojourn/OCCA water chestnut pulling (approximately 40-50 people). They also reported that the DEC's plans for a large boat launch site were finally tabled due to resident opposition and impractical lake access. Finally, GLA mentioned that Milford is working on its comprehensive plan and water quality appears to be a very strong theme.

*Otsego County Conservation Association:* Darla reported that OCCA provided a \$5000 grant to support the Soil & Water District's Tribes and Trees program, and is working with Mohican Farms to plant a riparian buffer. They will also be funding the third year of a zebra mussels study, providing \$2500, and also funding 2 interns at the Biological Field Station for the summer as well. She also reported that OCCA will be funding walleye re-stocking in the lake again, with the ultimate goal of having a self-sustaining walleye population eventually. As mentioned in the GLA report, OCCA is leading a service project with the participants in the Susquehanna Sojourn, doing water chestnut pulling in Goodyear

Lake, and will be conducting regular water chestnut pullings June through August. There is a big concern that the chestnuts are moving from the channel into Goodyear Lake itself. OCCA will be having an open house at their new offices at the end of July. Darla reported that the OCCA circuit rider planner program will be providing planning services to municipalities, not limited to environmental planning, and OCCA is also working on updating the gas lease map of the county.

*Otsego County Planning Department:* The Planning Department reported that they are moving forward with hazard mitigation plan, working with H2O Partners. The kick-off meeting will be July 17 and all town supervisors will be invited.

*Otsego Land Trust:* Marcie Foster reported that OLT had closed on four sites on Oaks Creek and is working on a purchase agreement on a fifth site. When the transactions are completed, OLT will own three of the five sites, allowing them to provide public access. Through private donors, the Land Trust is sponsoring a research project on Oaks Creek that will be studying aquatic life. So far, they have conserved 1400 acres along Oaks Creek, and are hoping that public access will be available as early as this summer. OLT is also participating in the Susquehanna Sojourn by sponsoring the group's stop at Comptons Bridge, and hosting the kick-off of the Sojourn at Brookwood. Finally, the Land Trust is sponsoring its photo contest again this year, with the theme "Water, Water Everywhere", to get the community focused on conservation issues around the county.

*ONC BOCES:* Boces reported that they have 33 seniors enrolled in their Natural Resources occupation class, and that they are offering a Water Operator Class D certification.

*Village of Richfield Springs:* Paul Lord and his team of divers explored Allens Lake looking for invasives, and none were found.

*Otsego 2000:* Ellen reported that O2K had been continuing its work on advocacy and outreach around gas drilling issues, managing the growing Cooperstown Farmers' Market, and historic preservation issues including moving forward with an update of the Waggoner Patent historic district nomination.

*Soil & Water District:* Scott Fickbohm reported that Soil & Water is working with the Canadarago Lake Improvement Association to complete a Lake Watershed Management Plan in order for the lake to be eligible for funding. He also reported that he pitched the idea of applying for a waterfront revitalization grant application to the Cooperstown Village Environmental Sustainability Committee and that it was fairly well –received. The Village just needs to come up with a concrete project and provide a minimum of funding as a match.

The department reports being concluded, the discussion returned to treasurer's report. Scott did not report on the committee's finances, but instead focused on the WQCC annual report. He has completed the report for 2010, and has done a draft of the 2011 report. He has assembled all the appendices, and requested one more time that member organizations submit their annual reports to him for inclusion in the final report. Once he has the reports completed, he will present them to the county board of representatives, and send copies to all of the municipalities in the county. The county board minutes providing proof that the report was presented will be submitted to DEC in order to receive the final balance in the grant. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.