

Otsego County Water Quality Coordinating Committee Minutes
967 Co. Hwy. 33, Cooperstown, NY 13326
(607) 547-8337, ext. 4

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Present:

Matt Albright, Biological Field Station
Holly Waterfield, Biological Field Station
Amy Chamberlain, Cornell Cooperative Extension
Bruce Shultis, Goodyear Lake Association
Anthony Capraro, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Maria King, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Kevin O'Connor, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Jill Eichler, ONC BOCES
Rima Shamieh, Otsego County Conservation Association
Darla Youngs, Otsego County Conservation Association
Psalm Wyckoff, Otsego County Planning Department
Ellen Pope, Otsego 2000
Tom Shypski, Town of Richfield

The meeting was called to order shortly after 1:00 p.m. by Facilitator Holly Waterfield.

I. REVIEW OF MINUTES

There were no minutes to review.

II. TREASURER'S REPORT

No Treasurer's Report was submitted.

III. OLD BUSINESS

1. Grant Deliverables & Timeline

Scott Fickbohm was not present to report on the status of the DEC grant. Deliverables include reporting to DEC and presentations to the Otsego County Board of Representatives.

2. Update on February Topic Meeting (WQ Business Roundtable)

Vice-facilitator Darla Youngs reported that representatives from Allied Biological (Steve Wilson), Applied Ecological Services, Inc. (Bryan Quinn) and Templeton Landscape Architecture & Planning (Michele Palmer) will discuss emerging water quality issues and the regulatory and best management practices which address these challenges at the February WQCC meeting. That meeting will take place on Thursday, February 23.

3. Future Topics

Future presentations on lakescaping (Rebecca Schneider), permitting for shoreline projects (DEC), composting (Jordan Clement, SWCD), native plants (Master Gardeners, CCE), stream restoration (Carl Schwartz, U.S. Fish and Wildlife) and the Susquehanna Sojourn (Erin Heard, Upper Susquehanna Coalition) were discussed.

4. Voluntary membership dues were discussed. According to the bylaws, payment is due on or about October 1 of each year. H. Waterfield confirmed that \$100 is the suggested amount and reiterated that membership dues are

entirely voluntary. Ellen Pope asked for some sort of e-mail reminder and/or paper trail. Waterfield said she would circulate a reminder to all WQCC membership organizations.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. Nomination and Election of Officers

- a. Facilitator: H. Waterfield nominated D. Youngs, with a second by E. Pope.
- b. Vice-facilitator: E. Pope nominated H. Waterfield, with a second by D. Youngs
- c. Secretary: H. Waterfield nominated E. Pope, with a second by D. Youngs

A vote was taken, and all candidates were unanimously approved. Current Treasurer Blanche Hurlbutt will remain in that position.

2. Lakes Festival Planning Committee

Discussion of the Lakes Festival – a. Committee Members and b. Tentative Date – included:

- 2021 is an "on" year for this bi-annual event.
- There seems to be lots of interest in hosting the event but not as much in participating. The Lakes Festival has a lot of potential but we would like to have more commitment from WQCC member organizations in planning as well as on the day of the event.
- H. Waterfield, D. Youngs and are willing to continue on the Steering Committee. E. Pope also volunteered to serve on this committee. We would like more committee members from WQCC organizations, and recruiting community members to serve on this committee was also discussed. Five to six active committee members would be ideal.
- Sponsor and donor recruitment will need to include the solicitation letter plus follow-up phone calls and personal visits.
- Bruce Shultis said the Goodyear Lake Association hosts its own event in August so it is difficult to commit time to the Lakes Festival.
- Matt Albright volunteered his services the weekend of the event. Albright also suggested that member groups unable to participate in the planning and/or the event itself should abstain from voting on the event, as they will not be the ones called upon to do the necessary work.
- **A vote was taken on whether or not the WQCC should hold the Lakes Festival in 2012 provided the necessary funds are secured, with some abstentions. The motion to hold the Lakes Festival in July 2012 (tentative date Saturday, July 14) was passed.**
- H. Waterfield estimated that there is somewhere in the vicinity of \$1,600 in the WQCC account reserved for the Lakes Festival.

3. Other New Business

H. Waterfield said she would like to see WQCC highlight action items from the Water Quality Strategy that we wish to act on as a committee. People should take a look at the document and identify goals that we, as a group, can work toward, e.g. projects and educational outreach, and then try to make some progress on these items in particular.

V. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

1. Biological Field Station

- H. Waterfield and M. Albright are wrapping up the state-of-the-lake report for Canadarago Lake.
- BFS has received an NSF grant to build a field lab on the upper site.
- Waterfield and Albright are looking to become ELAP certified for certain testing parameters.

2. Canadarago Lake Improvement Association

Not present to report, however Tom Shypski, Town of Richfield, provided an update:

- The wastewater treatment plant upgrade has been completed.
- Filters are working well and processing overall has been good.

3. Cooperstown Village Water Committee

Not present to report.

4. Cornell Cooperative Extension

- Amy Chamberlain is CCE's farm business and market development educator since August, 2011, focusing on educational outreach and programming.
- "Annie's Project – Empowering Women in Agriculture" is a new program through CCE which offers business management courses for women in agriculture, including maple production workshops. Those with programming ideas are asked to please contact Chamberlain.
- CCE's Master Gardeners offer workshops open to the public every second Saturday.
- CCE will have a presence at the Otsego Lakes Festival.

5. Goodyear Lake Association

- B. Shultis said GLA has been in conversation with Scott Wells of DEC regarding a proposed boat ramp off Silliman Road. DEC is considering revamping the current access site because the previous public access site (which is privately owned) has been closed.
- Paving of the Portlandville access site is set for 2012. GLA is partnering with OCCA and DEC on this project which, when completed, will include an educational boardwalk.

6. Natural Resources Conservation Service

- Anthony Capraro reported that signup is underway for all programs right now, among them ag management programs, energy audits, comprehensive nutrient management plans and other ongoing initiatives including the conservation stewardship program, which pays producers to keep doing a good job.
- NRCS has been busy with flood work and with the Emergency Watershed Protection Program, through which \$250,000-\$300,000 in funding is possible. Kevin O'Connor of DEC alerted Capraro to a recent e-mail confirming that more money will be available for ag.

7. NYCAMH

Not present to report.

8. NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

- Kevin O'Conner said he is here to get back into the flow of coming to the WQCC meetings.
- O'Connor introduced Maria King, who was hired by DEC in October to fill the new Chesapeake Bay position.
- Discussion included: wastewater treatment plant inspections; Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs); stormwater; the number of inspectors; and the EPA mandates for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.
- The EPA's Total Maximum Daily Load targets for 2017 and 2025 were suggested for a future topic meeting. O'Connor said he would see what he can do.

9. NYS Department of Health

Not present to report.

10. Otsego County Conservation Association

- D. Youngs, OCCA's new executive director, introduced OCCA's new environmental planner, Rima Shamieh.

- Youngs provided an update on OCCA's initiatives related to water quality, including water chestnut pulling on Goodyear Lake, OCCA-sponsored interns through SWCD, Otsego Lake programs for 2012, etc.
- B. Shultis said the canoe trailer, which is being stored on GLA property, needs some work and TLC. Shultis said he had stenciled both sides of each canoe with "OCCA."
- OCCA is looking now to hire a program director.

11. Otsego County Planning Department

- Psalm Wyckoff reported that the Planning Department is hosting an upcoming workshop on comprehensive plans at FoxCare Center which will be conducted by Department of State staff.
- The county has been very active in flood-related grants and FOMA flood mitigation projects.
- Discussion included: culvert replacement; DEC flood recovery grant funds; the Community Development Block Grant Program; and the hazard mitigation plan five-year update.

12. Otsego County SWCD

Not present to report, however A. Capraro said:

- 20+ Agricultural and Community Recovery Fund applications have been completed through SWCD.
- \$400,000 in recovery funds was approved; the money stayed local for contractors.

13. Otsego Lake Association

Not present to report.

14. Otsego Lake Watershed Supervisory Committee

Not present to report.

15. Otsego Land Trust

Not present to report.

16. Otsego 2000

- E. Pope said Otsego 2000 has been busy commenting on the revised draft SGEIS and helping others craft their comments.
- The Cooperstown Farmers' Market is growing every year, with an estimated attendance of 42,000+ in 2011.
- They are exploring an online market and hoping to coordinate with the county.
- Otsego 2000 is working to raise awareness regarding agriculture in our area. Pope announced the upcoming Food & Farm Series films: "Small Farm Rising" in February, "Food Stamped" in March and "American Meat" in April.
- Pope has joined the Village of Cooperstown Sustainability Committee, which is working on a draft climate action plan.
- This year's historic preservation awards will be held at Hyde Hall.

17. Other

- Jill Eichler, representing ONC BOCES, reminded the group of the water operators certification program for Class D distribution. She said there are never enough operators out there. T. Shypski said rural water plants are in jeopardy of losing circuit riders and training opportunities.