

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

Wednesday July 31, 2013

Present:

Tom Pritchard—Arnold Lake Association
Holly Waterfield—Biological Field Station
Bruce Shultis—Goodyear Lake Association
Vince Stayter—Goodyear Lake Association
Maria Isaacson—NYS DEC
Darla Youngs—Otsego County Conservation Association
Erik Scrivener—Otsego County Planning Department
Scott Fickbohm—Otsego County SWCD
Carl Good—Otsego Lake Association
Jen Gregory—STERPDB
Tony Capraro—USDA-NRCS
Tom Shypski—Village of Richfield Springs Water

The meeting was called to order at 1:08 PM. By Facilitator Darla Youngs

I. REVIEW OF MINUTES:

- Minutes were reviewed from the February 27, 2013 meeting.
- A motion was made by Tom Shypski to approve the minutes, with a second by Carl

II. TREASURER'S REPORT:

- Scott reported a budget line total of \$8,602.74 with designated funds discussed:
 - Buoy designated funds total \$1,871.60
 - Lakes Festival designated funds total \$2,182.71
 - Undesignated funds remaining total \$4,548.41

III. OLD BUSINESS:

- Topic Meeting Ideas:
 - BFS Student presentations (Caitlyn Stroosnyder/Carter Bailey) were discussed
 - Scott mentioned that Tony Capraro gave an idea for a meeting by the DEC/Ag & Markets on the new CAFO regulations
 - Bruce mentioned the ACOE and farm emissions and slurry from yogurt producers. Fage yogurt is generating electricity from excess whey protein
 - Jen mentioned a meeting regarding climate change initiatives possibly in February/April
 - Darla will be looking at the schedule to coordinate a meeting
- Annual Report
 - Scott discussed the \$4,800 annual report for the group. He mentioned it was presented to the County with guidelines and bylaws. There will be no strings on how the money will be spent
- Request For Proposal (RFP)
 - Darla asked who the grant funding will be available to: NPO's, schools?
 - Scott stated that it should be open to WQCC members. Scott also asked what the specific requests would be for the use of the funding
 - Scott stated that projects have a bigger impact than reports. Projects provide actual water quality benefits
 - Darla asked how the committee will prioritize the projects?
 - Scott said lets put them on the table and decide
 - Scott asked if we could use the funds to leverage other State/Federal grants

- Carl asked if the funds could be used to promote Lake Appreciation Day
 - Scott said yes
- Tony mentioned funding signage at lakes in the County discussing invasive species
 - Darla mentioned that OCCA has a sign discussing invasive species at Otsego Lake
 - Holly mentioned that there is nothing in place at private boat launches
- Darla discussed creating a form the committee could use for a grading mechanism
 - Darla will circulate a draft form to the committee.
- Scott mentioned the Otsego County Non-point Solution Plan for an example
- Bruce mentioned invasive species projects for funding—he stated that 'final kill' is the only way to eradicate zebra mussels
- Bruce also mentioned that weeds are an ongoing process—10 tons of water chestnuts have been removed
- Holly mentioned that invasive species change the character of the lake—undermine the efforts that have gone on to improve lake conditions
- Holly also mentioned public awareness is the key to prevention
- Jen mentioned that STERPDB may be able to fund a speaker to discuss invasive species
- Scott mentioned that he wanted to make a motion to work with what we have regarding the RFP
 - Funds are in-hand or match with another grant opportunity?
 - Darla asked when the deadline would be—September possibly?
 - No motion was made as discussions will continue
- Scott mentioned that money through the Water Quality Improvement Program is not guaranteed round-to-round, and it is unknown when the next RFP will be coming out.
- Holly mentioned a subcommittee for developing the scoring rubric
 - She will oversee the subcommittee

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

- SRBC is updating their Comprehensive Plan
 - Darla asked if any member groups are adding comments?
 - Holly stated that BFS is providing comments
 - Scott mentioned that SWCD is not providing comments, but he is concerned with the water monitoring locations—they need to be randomized to encompass the entire basin
- Scott mentioned that SRBC is approving withdrawals by Chobani without providing data to the public
 - According to the SRBD every well had water in South Edmeston

V. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

- Biological Field Station:
 - A new faculty member will be starting within the next week—limnologist (algae) expert
 - Teaching focus, but will perform research as well
 - A prototype project is developing—Phosphorus removal work. Over a 5-year long invasive species survey in Otsego County. Two interns have been collecting data at the locations where invasive species have been found
 - Zebra Mussel studies are ongoing
 - Normal monitoring of Otsego Lake and the Upper Susquehanna watershed are ongoing
 - Groundwater monitoring—drinking water monitoring pre-fracking for baseline data
 - Three other students are studying lakes throughout the State (2 in Otsego County)
 - Newsletter is available on the website
- Goodyear Lake Association:
 - August 17—Goodyear Lake festival day; 10 AM – 6 PM
 - Elly Mazeers is performing an aquatic species study on Goodyear Lake

- A 500-sample study has been performed throughout the lake
- Downstream municipalities received notification of the state of the dam
 - Dam is now 107 years old and is labeled 'at risk'
- Giant Parsnips have been discovered near the lake—a noxious species
- Natural Resource Conservation Service
 - 5-6 new contracts in the last round of funding
 - A manure pit was covered in Cherry Valley
 - Bruce mentioned the ACOE wetland projects—with a pre-existing grant number you are on the fast track for the money
 - Jen mentioned a funding opportunity that was closing at 5 PM today on the grants gateway website
- NYS DEC:
 - CAFO Regulations (200-299 Cows)--notices of termination of SPDES permit
 - Cooperstown, Richfield Springs, and Oneonta are significant facilities
- Otsego County Conservation Association
 - Finalized water testing parameters—83 wells tested County-wide
 - Went from 24 to 21 parameters
 - Working with Community Science Institute—Ithaca
 - Les Hasbargen worked with OCCA to choose the 83 sites
 - Testing will begin next week
 - Over \$80,000 raised for testing
 - Goal is to characterize the condition of groundwater pre-fracking
 - Decatur has no testing sites
 - Les is writing the technical report for the Delta Tox pilot program
 - Water Chestnut removal—OCCA working with BFS at Oneonta swamp
 - OCCA is sponsoring two BFS interns and one Masters student
 - Interns are from Hartwick College
 - Database management at CHRI
 - GIS internship—stipend available
 - Search will expand to local Community Colleges
 - Peter Manning is working on a number of projects
 - OCCA Octoberfest is October 5—Butterfly Conservatory
- Otsego County Planning Department:
 - Hazard Mitigation Letters of Intent for Hurricane Sandy funding have been submitted by a number of municipalities, stakeholders, and the County
 - Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event will occur September 13 and 14
 - Sept. 13—Unadilla Highway garage
 - Sept. 14—Meadows Office Complex
- Otsego County SWCD
 - Ag-wash for cleaning milk houses
 - Kickoff meeting for Ag & Farmland Protection happened
 - Bottom-up structure of the effort
 - 76,000 lbs of Ag-plastic have been collected—twice the amount of the previous two-years
 - Rotational grazing project in Gilbertsville

- Whey Hauler—Chobani
 - Spreading plans based on criteria of locations
 - Best practices approach
- Hydroseeding—45 loads throughout the County
- 12 Stream stabilization projects—funded through Empire State Development
- 6 projects have been submitted for Hazard Mitigation funding (Sandy Declaration)
 - Checking to see if ESD funding (State) can match Federal dollars for 25% match
- Chesapeake Bay Citizens Advocacy Council—3 committees that provide comments to principal staff (Governors)
 - Concern is a 'watering down' of the Bay agreement
 - NYS doesn't want to sign on to a Blue Crab goal—little-to-none in the State
 - DEC is monitoring protocols
- SWCD is waiting on the WQIP grant—USC has grants
- Hellbenders are being re-introduced at 50 sites throughout the County. Nutrient samples are being monitored as well
- Making the case that climate change is where it is at is the number 1 thing impacting water quality
- Otsego Lake Association:
 - Clark Association gave permission for the use of Camp Minnetoka for Lake meetings
 - The Association is looking for older pictures of the Lake or facilities
- Village of Richfield Springs Water:
 - Paul Lord performed some dives in Canadarago Lake
- Arnold Lake Association:
 - BFS training on invasive species
 - Tom Pritchard attended training on protocols for reporting invasive species
 - An invasive species kit is being put together at the Arnold Lake boat launch
 - There is no speed limit on the Lake—there is a 100 ft. perimeter from shorelines regulating speed
 - Dye tablets were handed out to determine which septic tanks were leaking
- STERPDB
 - The CFA and ARC funding cycles are active
 - WQCC meeting for all STERPDB Counties will be happening again with DEC support

NOT PRESENT: Canadarago Lake Improvement Association; Cooperstown Village Water Committee; CCE; NYCAMH; NYS DOH; Otsego Lake Watershed Supervisory Committee; Otsego Land Trust; Otsego 2000

V. OTHER

- No other business

A motion was made by Jen to adjourn the meeting, second by Carl. Officially adjourned at 3:12 PM