

Otsego County Water Quality Coordinating Committee

Otsego County Meadows Building

Wednesday, January 26, 2011



Members Present:

Matt Albright, Biological Field Station
Holly Waterfield, Biological Field Station
Carl Good Otsego Lake Association
Psalm Wyckoff, Otsego County Planning Dept.
Darla Youngs, Otsego County Conservation Association
Tavis Austin, Otsego County Conservation Association
Scott Fickbohm, Otsego County Soil & Water Conservation District
Vince Stayter, Goodyear Lake Association
Jill Eichler, BOCES

Holly called the meeting to order at 1:10pm.

- I. **Review of Minutes** – A motion was made by Darla and seconded by Carl to accept the October minutes as written. Unanimous approval.
- II. **Treasurer's Report** - Blanche Hurlbutt from SWCD was unavailable to provide an official Treasurers Report. However, it was communicated that the WQCC had received \$1,000 from the Village of Cooperstown for the Buoy Program and a \$100 check from OCCA for voluntary dues. Total funds in the WQCC are estimated at \$5k. The Committee requested a full report for the next meeting.
- III. **Election of Officers** – A motion was made by Carl and seconded by Jill to nominate the existing slate of officers; Holly as Facilitator, Darla as Vice-Facilitator, Scott as Secretary and Blanche as Treasurer. Unanimous approval.
- IV. **WQCC Old Business**
 - a. **Lake Festival** – Discussion revolved around the level of participation of members in last year's event – good turnout, but little effort in the preparation of the event except for a few members. Scott made a motion that WQCC sponsor the event again in 2011, seconded by Carl. Additional discussion around member participation and how to increase attendance. It was decided that additional information was needed and the motion was tabled until the next meeting after some additional information was
 - b. **Selection of Topic Meetings** – Discussion around possible topic meetings for Feb, Mar and May. The topic selected were 'Natural Gas Experiences in Bradford County PA' by Mike Lovegreen of the Bradford County SWCD (to be confirmed), 'Natural Gas Drilling & Water Resources by Steven Winky of the by New York Rural Water Assoc. and BOCES students presenting on micro-hydro power technology. An extensive list of potential topics and a draft schedule is available through Holly.
 - c. **WQCC Nonpoint Source Strategy** – Work has been done to update the Strategy based on comments received by Holly to date. Several sections need additional work. Darla, Scott and

Vince agreed to finish the effort in February and e-mail to members for review and additional comments. It is hoped that the draft will be finalized and reviewed by members by the April quarterly meeting when it can be voted on.

- d. **Snow Removal** – Action items in October minutes have not been completed. Discussion centered on attending a meeting of the County’s Highway Superintendents to present and distribute information accumulated to date.

V. WQCC New Business

- a. **2010 DEC WQIP Grant** – Scott informed the group that it has received a letter from DEC announcing that we have been awarded \$3,375 for tasks to be delivered during 2010 & 2011. Scott described the tasks as outlined in the grant. It is unclear whether the 2010 date will be the start date as we do not have a signed contract as of yet. SWCD is waiting for a call from the regional office to discuss the project schedule execution of the contract.

VI. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

- a. **Biological Field Station** - The renovations to the main BFS building are complete and the BFS has received a lot of new equipment. The Canadarago Lake field work is done and staff are working on the final State of the Lake Report. The BFS is still working on Phosphorus removal media with success (15g/kg removal). Testing is to precede in some of the BFS buildings.
- b. **BOCES** – Jill described a grant that BOCES has been awarded to develop alternative energy tools and outreach. The group is going to focus on micro-hydro and will give a presentation to WQCC and the public as part of our public presentation schedule.
- c. **Canadarago Lake Improvement Association** - not present to report
- d. **Cooperstown Village Water Committee** – not present to report
- e. **Cornell Cooperative Extension**- not present to report
- f. **Goodyear Lake Association** – 3rd Annual Polar Bear Jump is scheduled for Feb 19. GLA is running the concession stand and will donate half the proceeds to charity. GLA is expecting a \$20k grant through Senator Seward’s office for a nature walk, improved lake access and canoe/small boat launch. Appreciation was given to Erik M for his help in this; OCCA will administer the grant.
- g. **Natural Resources Conservation Service**- not present to report
- h. **NYCAMH**- not present to report
- i. **NYS Department of Environmental Conservation**- not present to report
- j. **NYS Department of Health**- not present to report
- k. **Otsego County Conservation Association - Seward GLA Award** –\$20,000 state contract received (\$10,000 to continue invasive species work on Goodyear, \$10,000 to improve Portlandville access Meeting w/ DEC). Coordinated with Scott Fickbohm of SWCD on job duties of monthly water sampling intern. Reviewing applicants. \$2,500 OCCA support dedicated. Received year-end report on Dr. Tom Horvath’s zebra mussel study. Received year-end report on Village of Cooperstown boat inspection program and clarified granting procedure/requirements for 2011. Followed up with Dr. Mary Allen re: report on Susquehanna River water testing project. Cross referencing of natural gas lease data files completed; revised gas lease map finalized; high-resolution (40mb) posted on OCCA website. Conference call and sit-down with Uni Blake, Gastem contractor, Aaron Sulkey, Gastem (included Martha, Erik, Darla, and

Tavis) regarding Gastem processes and information sharing. Mailing re: Circuit Rider Planner Program to all municipalities, including letter of introduction, description of services offered, bio information on Tavis. Working with Scott Fickbohm and industry representatives to arrange roundtable presentation by American Natural Gas Alliance. Provided insurance and sponsorship for Cherry Valley information gas drilling forum, 2/16. Earth Festival 2011, April 9. OCCA Garage Sale, April 30 and May 1 (donations accepted week leading up to sale).

- l. Otsego County Planning Department** – not present to report.
- m. Otsego County SWCD** – Scott reported on a new initiative by USGS to describe the ground water quality of Otsego County. A meeting was held in Oneonta that included the Planning Dept, DOH, Gastem, SUNY Oneonta, SUNY Binghamton and the District. Short term goals are to assemble all currently available information and transform it into GIS format for eventual inclusion on the NYS GIS Clearinghouse web site. Scott also reported ongoing efforts regarding stream monitoring around the County, closeout of Ag NPS grants, ag tax assessments, ag plastic recycling, the newly installed SRBC monitoring station in the Upper Cherry Valley Creek and the local Envirothon. Scott also reported the receipt of a DEC hydroseeding grant and several buffer projects that were completed late in the year and that a year-end report on District activities is available on the Districts website.
- n. Otsego Lake Association** - not present to report
- o. Otsego Lake Watershed Supervisory Committee**- not present to report
- p. Otsego Land Trust**- not present to report
- q. Otsego 2000**- not present to report

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 23rd at the Meadows Building in Cooperstown. The meeting is tentatively scheduled as a public presentation meeting on gas drilling experiences in PA given by Mike Lovegreen of the Bradford County Conservation District.

Respectfully Submitted by Scott Fickbohm, January 27, 2011