

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

Wednesday November 20, 2013

Present:

Matt Albright—Biological Field Station
Holly Waterfield—Biological Field Station
Vince Stayter—Goodyear Lake Association
Darla Youngs—Otsego County Conservation Association
Erik Scrivener—Otsego County Planning Department
Scott Fickbohm—Otsego County SWCD
Carl Good—Otsego Lake Association
Tom Shypski—Village of Richfield Springs Water

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 PM. By Facilitator Darla Youngs

I. REVIEW OF MINUTES:

- A copy of the minutes from the meeting held on 07/31/13 will be emailed and approved at the next meeting.

II. TREASURER'S REPORT:

- See attached document for a copy of the report.

III. OLD BUSINESS:

- Darla mentioned that the STERPDB presentation was going to be today, but it fell through. Darla will continue to work on getting presenters.
- A CAFO presentation was discussed by Maria. Darla will talk to Kevin.
- Caitlyn Stroosnyder was mentioned as a potential presenter.
- Darla asked Scott if there have been any Mini-Grant applications.
 - Scott said that no there has not been any applications
- A scoring rubric needs to be identified; Darla has done research on similar grants.
- Holly mentioned developing the rubric.
- Carl asked if the criterion is for projects actually in the water. Carl is interested in removing deposits in shallow areas caused by boat throttle.
 - Matt said that is more of a recreational project than a water quality project.
 - Scott mentioned signage at lakes regarding invasive species—a drop box for invasive species where the public can view the invasive species. This is a low-cost project according to Jordan.
- Scott motioned leveraging \$2,000 of WQIP funding to another grant.
 - A second was made by Carl. All were in favor—7 ayes, 0 nays.
 - Vince asked if the funding will be returned is the grant is not funded? Scott replied yes.
- Darla returned the conversation to the scoring rubric. Scott asked when this will be worked on.
 - It was determined that committee members will meet in December to discuss the rubric.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

- Darla stated that there is \$2,183.72 in funds that can be used towards the Lakes Festival.
- Darla also mentioned that further fundraising and planning is needed.
 - Vince asked how many vendors? Darla replied that she is unsure, but there will be more than any other Lakes Festival.
 - Darla mentioned \$50 vendor fee, \$25 NPO vendor fee.
- Scott suggested that crowd sourcing be looked at as a source of fundraising. Further opportunities will be explored.
- Holly mentioned that the anticipated date of the Lakes Festival is July 12.
- Carl mentioned that the OLA is looking into a 4th of July boat parade.
 - Vince said the GLA boat parade is a lot of fun with boat decorations and prizes.

- Darla stated that if anyone is interested in working with the committee, please let her know.
- Darla opened up discussion about the 2014 WQCC Officers
 - Elections will be in January, and Darla asked if anyone is interested in serving on the Executive Committee.
 - Scott asked what positions were needed to be filled.
 - Darla will email everyone about interest in the Executive Committee.
- Vince stated that he will be gone January—March.
- Scott said the EPA Region II Coordinator had called him regarding the WQCC.
 - The EPA is looking into committees around the State and Country.
 - Scott said the EPA was impressed with the Otsego County WQCC and that the organization may be in line for a National recognition, which may potentially lead to money.
 - Scott said he sent a list of By-Laws, information on water quality monitoring and other documents the WQCC has produced.
 - Darla asked Scott to include a list of speakers.
- Matt asked if we could update the summary the EPA has produced.
 - Darla agreed that it is not very compelling. Scott said yes we could edit this.
 - Projects, programs, and other documents will be added. Vince stated that the speakers and accomplishments are very important to the summary.
- Scott brought up invasive species in regards to the EPA summary.
 - Matt mentioned a bulleted list of all projects including BFS student projects.
 - Matt also mentioned including the winter road maintenance mini-grant.
 - Scott also mentioned Clark Pond for inclusion.
- Tom asked where the EPA heard of the WQCC.
 - Scott is not sure, maybe they looked at the money.
- Darla said that language from the strategy should be included, and she is worried about ranking.
 - Scott asked if the document is not important, then we aren't going to edit it, everyone agreed.
 - Holly mentioned making it less marginalized; include updates from the last few years.
- Vince asked if this determines increased funding, should we tie this to existing funds.
 - Carl thought that wastewater treatment in wetlands would be a great tie-in.
 - Scott mentioned that the WQCC is not involved in wetlands.
- Darla stated that we will wait to hear from the EPA representative before doing anything.
- Vince asked about pulling any money out of the Dept. of Tourism, Economic Development, or the bed-tax.

V. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

- Biological Field Station:
 - Holly said it has been years since Alewife have been found.
 - This has not been demonstrated anywhere else, the Lake Trout are hungry.
 - Vince asked about Smelt.
 - Matt stated that things will balance—forage fish will replenish.
 - The BFS is currently catching up on reports.
 - Holly mentioned treatment wetlands
 - Wetland has been reducing ammonia and nitrogen by ½ and has been functioning normally except for a few muskrats that keep plugging up the hole.
 - Scott mentioned the Wetlands Society annual meeting will be upcoming.
 - Scott said the Wastewater Treatment Plan came to mind. Any thoughts on publishing.
 - Matt said probably not since it is not unique.
- Canadarago Lake Association (Not Present):
 - Darla has been working to get a representative for the CLA.
- Cornell Cooperative Extension (Not Present):
 - Holly had an announcement printed regarding CCE Otsego County office in Cooperstown will identify invasive species.
- Goodyear Lake Association:
 - Vince stated that there has been a change of Officers recently
 - Caitlyn Stroosnyder completed a night time fish survey—no fish were harmed.
 - She is currently assessing the data and will provide her findings.
 - Re-certification of Colliers Dam is underway, a two-page paper has been sent out.

- Annual inspection of the dam passed (it is still at-risk).
- Natural Resource Conservation Service (Not Present):
 - Scott informed the WQCC that Tony was promoted and is now covering Delaware and Sullivan Counties.
 - He does not anticipate a lot of grant funding.
- Otsego County Conservation Association
 - Darla informed the WQCC that the well testing program has 84 private and municipal wells.
 - Becky Simms (CSI) is testing—many people are thankful for the program. For every one (1) person who would have had their water tested, three (3) would not be able to afford it.
 - Current results are that the water is good, a few with high iron levels and turbidity.
 - Les will write the final report.
 - Darla said that eighty-eight (88) people were at the OCCA annual dinner.
 - Budgeting is upcoming for OCCA, and the annual report will be on the website within a week.
 - Scott mentioned that the budget talk should be sooner than later. Local dollars may be able to match State grants.
- Otsego County Planning Department:
 - Erik informed the WQCC that forty (40) projects were accepted into the application phase of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.
 - Many were projects from the County, municipalities, and the SWCD.
 - Over twenty (20) projects completed the application; many withdrew due to the lengthy application process.
- Otsego County SWCD
 - Scott is meeting with the Village of Cooperstown to lower their environmental impact.
 - He is promoting MS4.
 - SWPP investigators and Village officials will be meeting 12/03 at 8:30 AM.
- Otsego Lake Association:
 - Carl stated that there is a new Director—Emily Dickinson
 - Discussions about the yearly annual meeting were very successful and membership has nearly doubled.
 - Boat parade is scheduled for the 4th of July, but Carl thinks the Lakes Festival may be a better day.
 - There is difficulty with a large mound near the boat launch. Boats are power up throttle and piling the debris behind.
 - Stewards are not a problem during the week; they are operating on two shifts each day. No one wants to work on the weekend.
 - It was noted that Paul Lord has interns that may be able to work the weekend shifts.
- Village of Richfield Springs Water:
 - No report

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

V. OTHER

- Darla noted that Tom Pritchard of the Arnold Lake Association would like to be added to the Committee.
 - Holly made a motion, Vince second.
 - All were in favor, 7 ayes, 0 nays.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, second by Carl. Officially adjourned at 2:43 PM