

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

Wednesday, January 30, 2013

Present:

Holly Waterfield, Biological Field Station
Tony Capraro, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Darla Youngs, Otsego County Conservation Association
Psalm Wyckoff, Otsego County Planning Department
Scott Fickbohm, Otsego County Soil and Water Conservation District
Tom Shypski, Village of Richfield Springs Waste Water Treatment Plant
Approximately 15 members of the public

The topic meeting guest speaker was introduced at approximately 1:15 p.m. by Facilitator Darla Youngs. The late start was necessary to accommodate set-up for WUTR-TV coverage.

I. GUEST SPEAKER, SCOTT FICKBOHM, SWCD:

“The Importance of Baseline Monitoring in the Protection of Water Resources”

The business portion of the meeting was called to order at 2:20 p.m. by D. Youngs.

II. REVIEW OF MINUTES:

The minutes from the November meeting were not available. By consensus, review of the minutes was put off until the February meeting.

III. TREASURER’S REPORT:

The Treasurer’s Report was not available. By consensus, review of the Treasurer’s Report was put off until the February meeting.

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Update, topic meeting schedule for 2013
 - Les Hasbargen of Catskill Headwaters Research Institute is the tentative February speaker.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Election of officers
 - D. Youngs introduced the proposed slate of officers: D. Youngs (OCCA), facilitator; Matt Albright (BFS), vice-facilitator; Erik Scrivener (OC Planning Dept.), secretary; and Blanche Hurlbutt (SWCD), treasurer. **A motion to approve the slate of officers for 2013 was made and followed by a second; the motion passed.**
2. Water quality related studies: Request for support
 - Monies are currently available by which to fund countywide water quality related studies and/or projects.
 - D. Youngs asked that the committee consider a request from OCCA for funds toward its groundwater testing program and circulated the related newsletter.
 - It was agreed that a procedure for the solicitation and consideration of funding proposals is needed. D. Youngs said she would write a draft to be submitted to the full committee for review.
 - Among the information to be required as part of the Request for Proposals are program description and budget.
 - There will be a word limit on the RFP as well as a funding limit (\$500-\$600 suggested).

VI. DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

1. Biological Field Station
 - Holly Waterfield reported that graduate students have been assigned lakes throughout the county for which they will help create lake management plans and are serving as acting watershed coordinators.

- Graduate projects were suggested as the subject of a future WQCC public topic meeting. H. Waterfield suggested late summer/early fall as an appropriate time for scheduling such a talk.
- 2. Canadarago Lake Improvement Association
 - Not present to report.
- 3. Cooperstown Village Water Committee
 - Not present to report
- 4. Cornell Cooperative Extension
 - Not present to report.
- 5. Goodyear Lake Association
 - Not present to report.
- 6. Natural Resources Conservation Service
 - Tony Capraro explained that NRCS is going through a major restructuring, dropping from four to three regions with a reduction of 17 full-time employees.
 - There are currently 60 applications in progress by NRCS, across all programs.
 - Three high-ranking livestock waste applications may be funded.
- 7. NYCAMH
 - Not present to report.
- 8. NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
 - Not present to report.
- 9. NYS Department of Health
 - Not present to report.
- 10. Otsego County Conservation Association
 - D. Youngs gave an overview of OCCA's ongoing involvement in the Mohawk Valley Region Cleaner, Greener Communities program.
 - OCCA has signed on with Cornell University as the Recycling Agricultural Plastics Program education/outreach agent for Otsego County.
 - Environmental planner Rima Shamieh has left OCCA for a position with the Cayuga County. Youngs has posted the job and will begin interviews soon.
- 11. Otsego County Planning Department
 - Psalm Wyckoff reported briefly on the activities of the department.
- 12. Otsego County SWCD
 - S. Fickbohm informed the group that the DEC will not offer the Water Quality Improvement Program grant this year.
 - He said that the Village of Cooperstown came very close to being partially funded through its Local Waterfront Revitalization grant application submitted in July. Fickbohm plans to meet with the granting agency to discuss how the application might be improved.
- 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
 - Not present to report.
- 17. Village of Richfield Springs Waste Water Treatment Plant
 - Tom Shypski reported briefly on related activities.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m.