



## **Otsego County Water Quality Coordinating Committee**

### **AGENDA**

**Otsego County Soil & Water Conservation District Office**

**1:00 PM • Wednesday, September 2, 2015**

- 1) Introductions**
- 2) TREASURER'S REPORT**
- 3) REVIEW MINUTES**
- 4) WQCC OLD BUSINESS**
- 5) WQCC NEW BUSINESS**
  - Updates to the Otsego Lake Watershed Management Plan
  - Speaker Identification for the next 3 months
- 6) DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**
  - a) Arnold Lake Association
  - b) Biological Field Station
  - c) Canadarago Lake Improvement Association
  - d) Cooperstown Village Water Committee
  - e) Cornell Cooperative Extension
  - f) Dave Brandt Chapter, Trout Unlimited
  - g) Goodyear Lake Association
  - h) Natural Resources Conservation Service
  - i) NYCAMH
  - j) NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
  - k) NYS Department of Health
  - l) Otsego County Conservation Association
  - m) Otsego County Planning Department
  - n) Otsego County Soil & Water Conservation District
  - o) Otsego Lake Association
  - p) Otsego Lake Watershed Supervisory Committee
  - q) Otsego Land Trust
  - r) Otsego 2000
  - s) Richfield Springs Water Treatment Plant
  - t) Southern Tier East Regional Planning Development Board
  - u) Other
- 7) NEXT MEETING DATE: Wednesday, December? 2015**

**Otsego County Soil & Water Office**

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

Wednesday, June 3, 2015

Present:

Holly Waterfield, Biological Field Station  
Vince Stayter, Goodyear Lake Association  
Tony Capraro, Natural Resources Conservation Services  
Erica Cruden, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
Darla Youngs, Otsego County Conservation Association  
Kelly Byrnes, Otsego County Planning Department  
Jordan Clements, Otsego County Soil and Water Conservation District  
Mike Coryat, Otsego County Soil and Water Conservation District  
Ethan Rubenstein, Otsego Land Trust

The meeting was called to order at approximately 1:00 p.m. by Facilitator Jordan Clements.

1. REVIEW OF OLD BUSINESS

A. Previous Guest Speakers

- J. Clements distributed an agenda and asked D. Youngs to re-send the WQCC meeting agenda template to him for future use.
- J. Clements shared an overview of potential guest speakers and topic meetings compiled by D. Youngs and a tentative meeting schedule compiled by H. Waterfield.
- Previous speakers were also discussed.
- Clements said the May meeting had been cancelled due to a conflict with the Leatherstocking Envirothon. He suggested that perhaps the May meeting, moving forward, could become a volunteer opportunity for WQCC members to assist with Envirothon.
- It was decided that the regular date for WQCC meetings would remain the last Wednesday of each month.
- Clements encouraged anyone with ideas regarding topic presentations and/or WQCC in general to contact him.
- Youngs and Waterfield put forth the proposition that OCCA-sponsored interns working with the SUNY Oneonta Biological Field Station be the speakers for the July meeting. OCCA-sponsored interns are required to report to the OCCA Board on their work – it was agreed that opening up their presentations to the public would be in keeping with WQCC's mission and topic meeting format.
- Ryan Fagan of the Canadarago Lake Improvement Association was suggested by Youngs as the guest speaker for August. J. Clements said he would reach out to Fagan.
- SUNY Oneonta Lake Management Masters' Program student Caitlyn Stroosnyder, currently working on the Goodyear Lake Management Plan, was named as a possible future speaker.

B. Mini-grants

- J. Clements provided an update on the WQCC mini-grants awarded last spring. Having mailed checks recently to CLIA and Friends of Glimmerglass State Park, all mini-grants from 2014 have now been completed and closed out.
- The remaining \$2,000.00 that might have been used for mini-grants has been leveraged through a New York State Department of Environmental Conservation grant toward riparian buffer plantings, according to Clements.
- Clements said there is another round of DEC Water Quality Improvement Project grants for which applications come due at the end of July. He said it might be possible to leverage one of

these grants to expand/continue the WQCC mini-grant process. Clements said he would e-mail WQCC member groups the WQIP Request for Proposals by Friday, June 5.

- There was discussion of CLIA boat wash funding possibilities.
  - Clements also said he would like to restart the countywide surface water testing program again. Youngs said OCCA – which had provided funding for interns conducting the surface water testing – had never received a final report representative of the cumulative testing results.
  - H. Waterfield said she would check to see if the BFS had received such a report from former SWCD Director Scott Fickbohm.
  - Annual baseline monitoring does not make sense, Waterfield said. She is willing to provide recommendations as to what might type of testing would be most useful.
- C. Previous Meeting Minutes
- Minutes from the January 28, 2015 meeting to be circulated again along with the June minutes.

## 2. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

### A. Otsego County Planning Department

- Kelly Byrnes said there was nothing new to report, relative to water quality.

### B. Otsego Land Trust

- Ethan Rubenstein announced that the Land Trust's Deowongo Island Day is this Saturday, June 6, at Canadarago Lake. The event runs from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and includes a free barbecue. Shuttles from the NYS boat launch will transport visitors to and from the island.

### C. Natural Resources Conservation Service

- Tony Capraro said they have been really busy. Jeanine Harter is interested in taking Capraro's place at the WQCC meetings, he said.
- Regarding the first round for Environmental Quality Incentives Program, NRCS has 31 total contracts (24 new contracts in Otsego County). Seven more applications have been submitted for round two.
- Projects include stream bank restorations, farm roads, fields, etc.
- Capraro said it is "all programs all the time" and should be a good implementation year.
- Construction starts soon on a project in the Town of Morris (Unadilla side).

### D. D. Soil and Water Conservation District

- J. Clements said it has also been a busy year for SWCD. Four ag non-point source pollution projects are to be done by August 1.
- They are also working on two covered barnyard projects and a grazing project in Garrettsville.
- A very large manure storage project is to be completed in Cherry Valley this summer at what Clements referred to as a "growing dairy farm." There is another large manure storage project underway as well.
- Erica Cruden of DEC pointed out that there are seven medium CAFOs (Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations) in the county (including some on the border).
- SWCD has submitted four ag non-point grants put in for the next round of proposals covering eight farms, including six grazing projects, one leachate collection system and one covered barnyard.
- The recent WQIP round was very successful, Clements said, with three stream projects in Edmeston, Otego and Morris.
- They have received \$6,000 toward buffer projects and \$150,000 for hydroseeding over five years.
- Clements said Mike Coryat is doing AEM and stream work. Chris Andreassen is focusing on composting, ag plastics and hydroseeding.
- Sixty loads of hydroseeding is the target.

- Clements said they are extremely busy, there are lots of grants due and the new guys are working hard. He also announced the upcoming SWCD county tour in the second week of October. Last year was their first-ever county tour. He said the tour will continue to be planned annually.
- Other projects on tap or underway for SWCD: composting; rewriting of the county's Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan working with the county and other partners.
- SWCD is currently advocating for a three-way stream partnership (county-towns-landowners) mirrored after programs in Steuben and Chemung counties. Steuben implemented 155 projects last year alone, Clements said. Steuben County representatives are slated to speak at the County Board meeting in July.

E. Goodyear Lake Association

- Vince Stayter updated the group on progress with improvements to the Portlandville Fishing Access Site and a recent conference call with representatives of DEC, GLA, OCCA, etc. GLA has \$15,000 remaining from a legislative grant to put toward improvements to the car top launch site including dockage (part of \$24,000 total costs, with DEC to supply the remaining funding plus labor).
- This location has the potential to be a tremendous public access point, Stayter said, and is the primary access point for removal of water chestnut.
- Paperwork pursuant to purchase of the dock parts is expected to be completed this week. OCCA is the fiduciary agent for the project on behalf of GLA.

F. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

- Erica Cruden asked for a copy of Carter Bailey's report. H. Waterfield to send Cruden a link to Bailey's thesis.
- Cruden said she had inspected Richfield Springs yesterday and will suggest moving forward with an engineering planning grant promoting sewerage of Canadarago Lake, to look at whether it makes sense.
- Cruden asked whether residences around the lake used to be mostly camps but are now switching to year-round homes. It was agreed things seem to be moving in this direction.
- Cruden said Jennifer Huntington is ill and asked if WQCC might consider a letter of appreciation to Huntington for public outreach. Some discussion followed but no decision was made.

G. Otsego County Conservation Association

- Youngs said OCCA is supporting interns with BFS at \$9,250 this year, and interns with CLIA at \$1,800.
- Water chestnut pulling in the Goodyear Lake stump lot will begin in July.
- OCCA has launched an aquatic invasive species public education campaign with its "Clean, drain and dry or kiss the fish goodbye!" bumper stickers.
- OCCA's environmental planner is currently researching management plans for lakes similar in size and/or use to Otsego Lake, in preparation for updates to the "Plan for the Management of the Otsego Lake Watershed" by WQCC.
- OCCA has pledged \$7,500 in support of the boat wash station being proposed for Cooperstown's Lakefront Park by OLA.
- OCCA is supporting the Village of Cooperstown's boat inspection and septic system management programs at \$7,500 and \$10,000, respectively.
- Comments on the proposed Edic to Fraser transmission line were submitted to the Public Service Commission in April. PSC will hold a technical conference in July to discuss this and other projects. OCCA's recommendation was that Edic to Fraser not be considered further due to the amount of new right-of-way required and the potential environmental impacts thereof.

- In other announcements, H. Waterfield and husband Nathan will be in Oneonta this weekend for the Stihl Timbersports Qualifier at Damaschke Field. Admission is \$5.00.
- Youngs said she will write the press release for the July 29 topic meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

NOT PRESENT: Arnold Lake Association; Canadarago Lake Improvement Association; Cooperstown Village Water Committee; CCE; Dave Brandt Chapter of Trout Unlimited; NYCAMH; NYSDOH; Otsego Lake Association; Otsego Lake Watershed Supervisory Committee; Otsego 2000; Richfield Springs Water Treatment Plant.

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

Wednesday, January 28, 2015

Present:

Matt Albright, Biological Field Station  
Holly Waterfield, Biological Field Station  
Mike Empey, Dave Brandt Chapter, Trout Unlimited  
Danny Lapin, Otsego County Conservation Association  
Darla Youngs, Otsego County Conservation Association  
Nicole Mehr, Otsego County Conservation Association  
Kelly Byrnes, Otsego County Planning Department  
Chris Andreassen, Otsego County Soil and Water Conservation District  
Mike Coryat, Otsego County Soil and Water Conservation District  
Danny Lapin, Otsego County Conservation Association  
Marcie Foster, Otsego Land Trust

The meeting was called to order at 1:04 p.m. by Facilitator Darla Youngs.

I. TREASURER'S REPORT

- Mike Coryat distributed the Treasurer's Report on behalf of Treasurer Blanche Hurlbutt, Otsego County Soil and Water Conservation District, who was out of town.
- Facilitator Darla Youngs said she would check on the status of available mini-grant funds and whether the \$2,000.00 allocated in 2014 as possible grant leverage had actually been used.
- It was remarked that the mini-grant fund balance seemed higher than expected, even with the \$2,000.00 still intact. Youngs said she would check with Hurlbutt for an itemized report on the mini-grant funds.

II. REVIEW MINUTES

- D. Youngs said former Secretary Erik Scrivener had resigned due to staffing changes in the County Planning Department and increased work load. She said she would secure the minutes from the last business meeting from Scrivener for review and approval at a later date.

III. WQCC OLD BUSINESS

Mini-grant Funds

- Mini-grant funds were discussed previously during the Treasurer's Report portion of the meeting.

IV. WQCC NEW BUSINESS

Slate of Officers for 2015

- D. Youngs introduced the proposed slate of officers: Jordan Clements, SWCD, facilitator; Holly Waterfield, BFS, vice-facilitator; and Darla Youngs, OCCA, secretary.
- Youngs explained that, since WQCC is a subcommittee of SWCD, B. Hurlbutt remains the treasurer by default.
- **Upon confirming the presence of a quorum, a motion was made by Mike Empey to approve the slate of officers as put forth, seconded by Matt Albright. The motion to approve Clements, Waterfield, Youngs and Hurlbutt as WQCC officers for 2015 was unanimous.**

Updates to "A Plan for the Management of the Otsego Lake Watershed"

- D. Youngs explained that in working with her staff recently on review of a Department of Transportation project, and in speaking with H. Waterfield and M. Albright of the BFS, it had come to their attention that the Otsego Lake Watershed Management Plan is due for an update.

- The plan was last updated in 2007.
- Albright said he had written much of the narrative for the plan update in 2007, working with water quality partners. Updates at that time coincided with the need for a reprint.
- Youngs introduced OCCA Environmental Planner Danny Lapin, who explained why he thought the time was right for an updated plan and who advocated for revisions that will bridge the common gap that exists between science and policy.
- Among topics Lapin recommended that the new plan might address were: development projects, research, advocacy, outreach and climate change.
- Albright provided some background on the plan, explaining that as of the 2007 revisions the plan was 10 years old.
- At that time the goal was to bring the plan up to date. The first half of the document, he said, was an account of what had been accomplished in the first 10 years.
- Albright said the document outlines what was recommended to be done, what had been done, who did it, and where the funding came from.
- This, he said, was to demonstrate that it was an active plan.
- Albright said Lapin's suggestions about updates to the plan were good ones.
- Lake issues have been put on the back burner somewhat of late, Albright said. He suggested that public meetings associated with the LWMP updates might help get these issues back in the forefront.
- Youngs pointed out that updates to the LWMP would be a positive way to get the lake back in the public eye, referencing negative news coverage about DOT and Route 80 maintenance along the lake.
- Waterfield said updating the LWMP may be a good way to get DOT involved in a positive way as well.
- Albright said a lot of issues having to do with Otsego Lake and the Otsego Lake Watershed are changing very rapidly, particularly due to the introduction of exotics. The quality of the water in Otsego Lake has improved, he said, but the lake ecology is changing dramatically.
- Lapin said this would be an opportunity to coordinate with state-level initiatives.
- **H. Waterfield moved that a subcommittee be established to update and revise the Otsego Lake Watershed management plan, seconded by M. Empey. The motion was passed unanimously.**
- It was agreed that Youngs would send an e-mail to WQCC member groups offering to chair the committee and to garner input.

## V. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Prior to beginning the report segment of the meeting, Secretary Youngs asked that from now on short bullet-point reports be provided electronically to her by member organization representatives for the business meetings. This will enable Youngs to drop the reports into the minutes document and focus her attention on recording comments and dialogue.

### 1. Biological Field Station

- M. Albright said he and H. Waterfield have been spending time writing/editing reports for the BFS Annual Report.
- A call is out for college undergraduate and high-school interns. More at [bfs.oneonta.edu](http://bfs.oneonta.edu).
- A position will be opening soon for an aquatic ecologist faculty position. Time will be split between the main campus and BFS.
- Waterfield is working with Scott Wells (DEC Region 4 Fisheries) on a poster outlining ecological changes to Otsego Lake as related to exotic fish introductions.
- The most recent DEC gill netting survey of Otsego Lake collected several healthy-looking lake whitefish (Otsego bass) representing various year classes. Lake trout spawning studies collected a number of whitefish fry. It is possible that this historically abundant and important native fish may rebound following the successful management of the exotic alewife.
- Of note is the fact that the first class of Lake Management Masters' Program students is in the process of wrapping up their studies and most have professional jobs already lined up.

- Carter Bailey, project lead for the Canadarago Lake watershed management plan, is headed for a position in pond management in Cleveland, OH.
2. Dave Brandt Chapter, Trout Unlimited
    - M. Empey announced that there will be an ice fishing event at the Canadarago Lake boat launch held in conjunction with the upcoming Richfield Springs Lions Club's Winter Carnival.
    - Dates will be publicized in the Pennysaver.
    - TO is wrapping up DEC camperships for local kids. Otsego County probably sends more kids to DEC per capita than any other county in the state, Empey said.
    - Two young fly fishermen who work with Craig Buckbee will be attending DEC camp.
    - TO's riparian buffer project on the Upper Schenevus is moving forward. Improvements along a 6-7 mile stretch are planned; landowner contact will target dairy farmers first.
    - A meeting with Trees for Tribes representative Beth Roessler is planned for April.
  3. Otsego County Conservation Association
    - Darla Youngs distributed a poster for the upcoming agricultural plastic recycling pilot program. OCCA is partnering with Cornell Cooperative Extension, Otsego County, Otsego County Soil & Water Conservation District and Casella Waste Resources on this program.
    - Earth Festival has been set for Saturday, April 11 and Lake Appreciation Day at Glimmerglass State Park will be held on Saturday, July 11. Exhibitors and vendors will be sought for both events.
    - Youngs said OCCA had recently approved its budget for 2015. Line item allocations in 2015 particular to water quality are: \$1,000.00 toward riparian buffers, hydroseeding and/or surface water monitoring; \$3,000.00 toward barnyard improvement projects; \$10,000.00 toward the Otsego Lake septic system management system/watershed management; \$7,500.00 toward the Cooperstown boat inspection program; funding to BFS toward three summer interns and a Lake Management Masters' Program student; funding to Canadarago Lake Improvement Association toward its boat steward program; etc.
    - Youngs said OCCA is working to devise a concerted public education campaign to prevent the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species. The goal is to have a common message to be used by all the 21 groups who signed on to OCCA's letter to the Otsego County Board last year in favor of an AIS transport law.
    - The campaign would include radio and newspaper advertising. OCCA has set aside funds for this and will be approaching its partners and affiliates for support.
    - OCCA will be concentrating much of its efforts over the next couple of months on review of the proposed Edic to Fraser transmission line project. Comments/concerns on potential impacts to water resources along this route will be sought.
  4. Otsego County Planning Department
    - Nothing to report.
  5. Otsego County Soil and Water Conservation District
    - Mike Coryat said work had begun on WQIP grant work and three stream stabilization projects involving sites in Morris, Edmeston and on the Otsdawa Creek.
    - The sites have been assessed by the Upper Susquehanna Coalition and there is heavy work involved at all three.
    - \$6,000.00 is available for stream buffer and slope stabilization projects; \$3,000.00 available for woody debris removal. Contact SWCD with potential sites.
  6. Otsego Land Trust
    - Marcie Foster said OLT hopes to close on three new easements this week: two on Ouleout Creek in Delaware County and one on Decatur Creek.



- Pertaining to the Blueway, the parking area at the Parslow Road site has been completed and OLT is working with DEC on fishing access.
- Foster said she is looking for help this year to create a management plan for the Parslow Road property (86 acres).
- OLT will sponsor two BFS interns this year with projects specific to OLT.
- Grants associated with Brookwood Point are moving forward. They expect to open up the entry way this year and to have canoe and kayak access to the lake there.
- An AIS management plan for Brookwood and all of OLT's access sites with river frontage is in the works.
- OLT access sites are for car top watercraft only.
- OLT looks to create a comprehensive plan for AIS disposal and prevention, Brookwood being the most complicated of their sites to manage.
- Foster suggested that a standardized AIS plan be part of the revised Otsego Lake Watershed management plan.
- Albright recommended that OLT approach Gretchen Sorin, Cooperstown Graduate Program, for possible assistance with AIS signage.
- Foster said OLT Executive Director Virginia Kennedy is working on a grant proposal for AIS signage directed at boaters coming out of the water.

#### 7. OTHER

- None.

**Meeting adjourned at approximately 2 p.m.**

NOT PRESENT: Arnold Lake Association; Canadarago Lake Improvement Association; Cooperstown Village Water Committee; CCE; Goodyear Lake Association; NRCS; NYCAMH; NYSDOH; Otsego Lake Association; Otsego Lake Watershed Supervisory Committee; Otsego 2000; Richfield Springs Water Treatment Plant.