



A clean lake reflects well
on all of us.

(final)
ONONDAGA LAKE PARTNERSHIP (OLP)
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
February 1, 2010

ATTENDEES

Committee Members Present:

Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Daniel B. Snead, District Commander, USACE, Buffalo District (vtc)
Mr. Seth Ausubel, Chief, New York Watershed Management Section, USEPA Region 2 (vtc)
Mr. Kenneth Lynch, Regional Director, NYSDEC, Region 7)
Mr. Charles Silver, Environmental Scientist, NYS Office of the Attorney General (tc)
Mr. David Coburn, Director, Onondaga County Office of the Environment

Others In Attendance:

Mr. Steven Vriesen, Program Manager, USACE, Buffalo District (vtc)
Mr. Ron Kozlowski, DPM, USACE, Buffalo District (vtc)
Ms. Julie Zielinski, Recording Secretary, USACE, Buffalo District (vtc)
Ms. Mary Jane Peachey, Project Committee Chair, NYSDEC
Mr. Bj Adigun, Outreach Committee Chair, Onondaga County
Mr. Chris Dere, Onondaga Lake Program Manager, USEPA, Region 2 (tc)
Mr. John Davis, NYS Office of the Attorney General (tc)

Committee Members Absent:

Representative (vacant), City of Syracuse

MEETING ARRANGEMENTS: The meeting was held on Monday, February 1, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. at NYSDEC in Syracuse, New York.

1. OPENING REMARKS: LTC Snead welcomed everyone to the meeting. LTC Snead requested an addition to the Agenda to revisit the discussion on developing an OLP vision.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION: An Executive Session was not deemed necessary for this meeting.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE

a. Approval of the December 14 and December 18, 2009 Meeting Minutes: A Motion to approve the minutes for the December 14 and 18, 2009 meetings, as amended, was moved by Mr. Coburn, seconded by Mr. Lynch, and approved unanimously.

b. Review Open Action Items: Ms. Zielinski reviewed the Action Item list. Action Items E09-6 has been deleted. E09-7 remain in progress. Mr. Lynch expects to have a draft ready for review this week.

c. Correspondence: Ms. Zielinski reported that since the last Executive Committee meeting USACE received an e-mail from Mr. Lloyd Withers regarding long term goals within the draft Onondaga Lake Watershed Progress Assessment and Action Strategies (PAAS) Supplement. A response was sent on January 26, 2010.

4. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

a. Project Committee: Ms. Peachey reported on their meeting held on January 21, 2010:

- Microbial Trackdown Study: NYSDEC is waiting for the report from the data collected. Onondaga Environmental Institute (OEI) has undergone cutbacks in their staff. Dr. Michalenko will complete the report and requested an extension until March 1st. The request for an extension will not impact the project as the USEPA grant to NYSDEC is still under review. Mr. Ausubel will follow up on moving the funds forward by elevating this issue in EPA through the Performance Partnership Agreements (PPA) process.
- Lake Model Collaboration: The peer review panel is reviewing the value of adding a sediment phosphorus redox study to the Onondaga Lake Mechanistic Water Quality Model (OLWQM). Dr. Michalenko is obtaining a cost estimate for remaining peer review panel tasks from Dr. Atkinson to ensure sufficient funding is available.
- Hdyrologic Simulation Program Fortran (HSPF) Model: An additional meeting in April has been scheduled to continue discussing scenarios for the HSPF model and to gain consensus.
- Progress Assessment and Action Strategies (PAAS): The final draft document is moving forward along with the state of the lake report.

b. Outreach Committee: Mr. Adigun reported on the standing committee meeting held on January 20, 2010:

- OLP Key Messages: Mr. Adigun will hold an ad hoc meeting to develop draft key messages for the partnership.
- Committee Vacancy: The Outreach Committee recommended filling the existing vacancy by inviting the Towns of Geddes and Salina, or the Center of Excellence. At Lynch's suggestion, a general letter of interest was mailed out to the above agencies.
- Sub-Committees: The committee re-established subcommittees to handle various outreach programs/activities.
- OLP Outreach Committee Budget: The budget sub-committee met on January 29, 2010 to review the budget for 2010 and ensure that the program uses the funds wisely.

- OLP By-laws: Mr. Adigun revisited the request by the Outreach Committee to revise the by-laws to increase membership and change the quorum from 2/3 to 1/2. The reasoning behind the request is that it may stimulate greater attendance. Mr. Adigun added that as the new chair of the Outreach Committee he will strive to re-new the momentum to improve attendance.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. OLP Resolution 2009-6: This resolution was brought back to the table after a brief discussion at the December 18, 2009 Executive Committee meeting. Mr. Ausubel stated the purpose of the resolution is to reallocate budget tasks where funding is not needed or from projects that have not been moving forward and to ensure adequate funding for essential priority tasks. At this time, priorities should include funding the mudboils, modeling peer review, public outreach and OEI's management and administration of USEPA grants. The standing committees should identify only priority work that can be completed by the expiration date of the USEPA funds on September 30, 2012 otherwise the money will be lost.

A discussion followed on the amount of funds being requested, approximately \$905,000.00 to fund OEI's administration. It was noted that the amount apparently does not fund OEI's entire request through September 30, 2012. While the Executive Committee supports providing adequate funding for OEI project management and administration, all agreed that a further discussion of the budget and support provided is needed. It was further noted that the budgets for one or more additional projects e.g. the modeling peer review) may still include funding beyond what is needed; and also that the Outreach Committee has not provided a revised budget to the Executive Committee. As discussed on December 18, 2009 the Executive Committee would like to review all the needs prior to determining how to reallocate funds. It was therefore decided to once again table the Motion. Mr. Ausubel recommended that Dr. Michalenko be invited to the next Executive Committee meeting to further discuss OEI's request, or that a special meeting be scheduled if needed.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Onondaga Lake Watershed Progress Assessment and Action Strategies (PAAS): Mr. Kubek gave a presentation on the draft PAAS to the Partners for their review and/or approval. However, since comments are still being submitted, Mr. Kubek asked the Partners to provide their input rather than approve the document. Some outstanding questions include the following:

- The public may be looking for an update to the goals in the PAAS that restate the 1993 Plan for Action management goals.
- The document concentrates on the lake but not the tributaries
- NYSDEC expressed concern over Appendix A (cost estimates)
- A cost estimate for maintaining only basic mudboil maintenance by OCSWCD stated at \$50k per year versus the \$165k presently budgeted each year. Will ask OCSWCD and USGS to further outline their cost estimate.
- USEPA submitted an additional Action Strategy that addresses the phosphorus TMDL, is the additional strategy needed.

A discussion followed on the need for an additional Action Strategy that addresses implementation of the phosphorus TMDL. Mr. Lynch suggested adding language to the narrative and/or link to other strategies in lieu of adding another strategy. Mr. Coburn cautioned the Partners to be careful on how the amendment may be construed by others.

Ms. Peachey added that the OLP needs to be careful not to over commit. A reduction in phosphorus may still not provide adequate year around dissolved oxygen levels to support a coldwater fishery. The lake may never be able to support a coldwater fishery. The Partners concluded that a sub-group will meet to further discuss adding Action Strategy 12 along with the Project Committee at their next meetings.

b. OLP Impacted Project List: Mr. Vriesen reminded the Partners that USACE uses this tool to communicate their capabilities during the annual Congressional visits. The Congressional visits are scheduled for the end of February this year. The Partners were also encouraged to use the tool when communicating with local officials. Mr. Vriesen asked the Partners to review and add any additional projects that may be missing.

ACTION ITEM: Mr. Vriesen to revise the OLP Impacted Project List as directed.

7. OTHER BUSINESS:

a. 2009 State of Onondaga Lake Update: Mr. Vriesen informed the Partners that, to date, the Partner representatives of the Project Committee have reviewed the first draft, and the Project Committee has reviewed the second draft State of Onondaga Lake report. The Outreach Committee along with the Project Committee will be asked to review the third draft on February 9, 2010. The final draft is expected to be ready for Executive Committee review by March.

b. OLP Vision: LTC Snead continued the discussion on the need to develop an OLP vision to figure out where the Partnership is headed. He also suggested incorporating the Outreach Committee's key messages and the OLP products to frame a unified vision. Mr. Coburn added that there are OLP documents coming out to be considered as we move forward, such as: the Lake Visioning report, the PAAS, and the Onondaga Creek Conceptual Revitalization Plan. These documents should figure prominently in shaping the future OLP program. Mr. Lynch agreed that we should look at the PAAS and then look at what's left to be done. He added that in looking at what's left to be done, we need to determine where we will get the best bang for the buck. Mr. Ausubel added that the OLP should also define what we can and will do based on known resources. This would define the value of continuing the Partnership beyond its authorization. Mr. Coburn asked LTC Snead if USACE has received an extension on the current authorization limit. Mr. Kozlowski replied that USACE has not but that language could be added in the next Water Resources Development Act or other authorizing legislation. USACE feels confident that they have expressed the need for such action but cannot state when or if it may occur.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

9. FUTURE MEETINGS: The next meeting will be scheduled via Doodle in March 2010.

10. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Number	Date of Origin	Due Date	Action Officer	Tasking	Status
E09-7	17-Aug-09		NYSDEC	Draft/develop OLP position regarding primary contact recreation in the creek.	In-progress
E10-1	01-Feb-10	28-Feb-10	USACE	Revise OLP Impacted Project List	In-progress