



A clean lake reflects well
on all of us.

(final)
ONONDAGA LAKE PARTNERSHIP (OLP)
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REVIEW MEETING
September 30, 2009

1. ATTENDEES

Committee Members Present:

Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Daniel B. Snead, District Commander, USACE, Buffalo District
Mr. Seth Ausubel, Chief, New York Watershed Management Section, USEPA Region 2 (tc)
Mr. Kenneth Lynch, Regional Director, NYSDEC, Region 7)
Mr. Charles Silver, Environmental Scientist, NYS Office of the Attorney General
Mr. David Coburn, Director, Onondaga County Office of the Environment
(Alt. for Ms. Joanie Mahoney, Onondaga County Executive)
Mr. William Owens, Contract Compliance Officer, City of Syracuse
(Alt. for Mayor Matthew Driscoll, City of Syracuse)

Others In Attendance:

Ms. Stephanie Harrington, Citizen Participation Specialist, NYSDEC, Outreach Committee
Ms. Susan Miller, Outreach Committee Chair, Onondaga County
Mr. Steven Vriesen, Program Manager, USACE, Buffalo District
Mr. Ron Kozlowski, DPM, USACE, Buffalo District
Ms. Julie Zielinski, Recording Secretary, USACE, Buffalo District
Ms. Lynn Greer, Outreach Specialist, USACE, Buffalo District, Outreach Committee
Ms. Mary Jane Peachey, Project Committee Chair, NYSDEC
Mr. Dave Kubek, CNYRPDB, Project Committee
Ms. Barbara Rivette, Outreach Committee
Mr. Chris Wiles, Attorney General's Office, Outreach Committee
Mr. Zachary Woodward, intern, Attorney General's Office
Mr. Vince Esposito, City of Syracuse, Project Committee
Ms. Anastasia Urtz, Executive Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Outreach Committee
Mr. Steven Eidt, NYS Canal Corporation, Project Committee
Mr. Chris Dere, Onondaga Lake Program Manager, USEPA, Region 2 (VTC), Project and
Outreach Committees

Committee Members Absent: (none)

2. MEETING ARRANGEMENTS: The meeting was held on Wednesday, September 30, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at WEP in Syracuse, New York.

3. AGENDA ITEMS: An Agenda was provided which included the following items:

a. **Opening Remarks:** LTC Snead welcomed everyone to the meeting.

b. **Approval of the August 17, 2009 Meeting Minutes:** A Motion to approve the minutes for the August 17, 2009 meeting, as amended, was moved by Mr. Coburn, seconded by Mr. Lynch, and approved unanimously.

c. **Review Open Action Items:** Ms. Zielinski reviewed the Action Item list. Action Items E09-6, 7 remain in progress. Action Items E09-3 and 4 were completed.

4. CORRESPONDENCE: Ms. Zielinski reported that USACE received committee member agreements from Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) and Atlantic States Legal Foundation (ASLF) appointing Ms. Anastasia Urtz and Mr. Alex Shisler as Outreach Committee representatives. USACE did not send any outgoing correspondence since the last Executive Committee meeting.

5. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

a. **Outreach Committee:** Ms. Susan Miller reported on the Outreach Committee's activities over the past year:

- **OLP Newsletter:** The next OLP newsletter will be published in January 2010 as the OLP's Annual report in the Neighbors section of the *Post Standard*. The newsletter reaches approximately 85k households and is a wise use of OLP funds.
- **OLP Mini-grants:** OLP mini grants were awarded to Upstate Freshwater Institute (UFI), Center of Excellence, and the Liverpool Elementary School District for a total of 13,013.00.
- **Family Fishing Days:** This year's event was held on June 27, 28, 2009. There was a good turnout for the Carp tournament which is always popular with amateur fishermen. On Sunday, the fishing derby attracted 90-100 participants this year.
- **Leadership of Greater Syracuse Boat Tour:** The boat tour was held on September 18, 2009 at Dutchman's Landing in Baldwinsville, New York. LTC Dan Snead (USACE), Ken Lynch (NYSDEC) and Joe Mastriano (Onondaga County) were among the speakers on the tour. The OLP co-sponsored the boat tour.
- **World Water Monitoring Day:** This year's event was held on September 16, 2009 with three city high schools: Nottingham, Fowler and Corcoran, and two middle schools: Danforth and Expeditionary Learning School.
- **OLP Website:** The OLP website has been refaced and is currently undergoing review by the website subcommittee. The website has a whole new look and is user friendly.
- **Speaker Bureau:** Members from the Outreach Committee spoke at seven events this past year.

- Joint Outreach/Project Committee meeting: This year's meeting was held on July 22, 2009. The annual event continues to be informative to both committees.
- Information Packet: The Outreach Committee compiled an information packet to distribute to members of the public who have an interest in the Onondaga Lake clean up effort. A summer intern hired by Onondaga County was tasked by Ms. Miller to catalog OLP, OEI, and Onondaga County outreach/educational materials. Under Ms. Miller's guidance, she compiled an information packet that can be distributed as needed and easily updated.

LTC Snead asked Ms. Miller if the Outreach Committee budget carries over from year to year. Ms. Miller replied that it does. There is approximately \$10k in the 2009 outreach budget reserved for outreach events. Since the Outreach Committee did not organize and hold an event this year nor use the funds, LTC Snead suggested that the Outreach Committee plan an event for FY2010 to get the story out. Unfortunately, there are still members of the public not aware of the great strides the OLP has been making. He also stressed reaching out on a nationwide level and to the "grass roots folks."

LTC Snead also asked if the attendance has improved at the monthly Outreach Committee meetings. Ms. Miller replied that they have had a quorum recently. The Outreach Committee will discuss inviting a new organization to the OLP as a replacement for the League of Women Voters.

b. Project Committee: Ms. Peachey reported on the Project Committee's progress made in the past year:

- Onondaga Creek Conceptual Revitalization Plan: The Project Committee is still working with OEI on completing the jurisdictional guide, the last component of the work plan.
- 2009 Project Committee Objectives: The Project Committee reviews their objectives on a monthly basis as part of their Agenda. The meetings are well attended.
- Microbial Trackdown Study: Funded with Environmental Benefit Funds (EBF) funds, this has been a worthwhile and rewarding project. The sampling data has given the OLP a good idea of what's going on in the creek during dry weather conditions.
- Onondaga Lake Water Quality Model: USEPA and NYSDEC are drafting a response to Dr. Effler regarding the role Upstate Freshwater Institute (UFI) will serve in lake model collaboration. The ACJ amendments include some ambitious milestones and will need a model to coincide with moving forward. The Project Committee will be looking to the partners for input on modeling scenarios.
- Project of the Month: A presentation on the HSPF Surface Water Watershed Model from USGS has been rescheduled for November.

- **Progress Assessment and Action Strategies (PAAS):** The final document is scheduled to be printed in November 2009.
- **State of the Lake Report:** The contract was awarded to CNYRPBD. The report will be useful on a nationwide level.
- **Mudboil White Paper:** The Project Committee developed a white paper to be sent to all elected officials to communicate the needs for resources to continue the operation and maintenance of the Tully Valley Mudboils.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Evaluate Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2009 Committee Objectives: Ms. Miller reported the status of the 2009 Outreach Committee's objectives. Approximately one half of their objectives were met. Others were not met as some events such as Onondaga Lake Day and the Annual Progress Meeting were cancelled. The Outreach Committee's budget is funded through USEPA and since resources are limited, the committee did not think either event was getting enough "bang for the buck" and recommended cancelling both events in 2009. Mr. Ausubel suggested that the Outreach Committee leverage "piggy-backing" on other scheduled events. Mr. Lynch emphasized the need to have a presence on the lake and added that the Partnership has enough members to assist with an event during the summer months. LTC Snead asked Ms. Miller her opinion on cancelling Onondaga Lake Day and the Annual Progress Meeting for 2009. Ms. Miller replied that she had different opinions about the value of Onondaga Lake Day, but acknowledged that the Annual Progress Meeting attracted a limited audience. Since the Outreach Committee did not hold any event, LTC Snead stated that some event is better than no event.

A discussion followed on holding contact recreation events on Onondaga Creek. The OLP has drafted a protocol for use in holding recreational events on the lake but has not addressed the bacteria levels in the creek and other tributaries.

Mr. Ausubel asked the committees to define the role of the OLP beyond the authorization of the partnership in 2014. USEPA grant funds expire in 2012. He suggested that the OLP develop a long term vision to communicate the ongoing needs beyond the life of Partnership.

Mr. Lynch added that the mudboil white paper has been useful to elected officials that will hopefully pay off in identifying resources to maintain the operations and maintenance of those efforts.

Mr. Vriesen reported that USACE received \$4m in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds for OLP projects. The authorization limit for USACE to receive funds is presently set at \$30 million. Congress has authorized the OLP through 2014. As it stands right now, USACE cannot accept additional Construction General (i.e., OLP project and GI) funds unless Congress passes legislation to increase the limit. USACE has communicated this capability to Congress to enable USACE to participate in the OLP.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

Develop FFY 2010 Committee Objectives: Mr. Vriesen distributed the draft 2010 Executive Committee Objectives for review. The objectives were divided into four categories derived from the Executive Committee's purposes in the OLP Bylaws: Support the OLP Mission,

Allocate Available Resources, Provide Public Outreach, and Provide Coordination Among Agencies. The committee agreed that the first objective, "By December 31, 2009, determine the level of involvement and collaboration with Upstate Freshwater Institute (UFI) in the development of the OLP lake water quality model to ensure the model's adequacy to assess scenarios necessary to meet final phosphorus standards in Onondaga Lake and establish TMDLs, LAs, and WLAs.", was too specific and subject to regulatory agencies timeframes. The committee suggested replacing this objective with No. 2 from the 2009 objectives. They also suggested adding an objective addressing contact recreation. The committee suggested adding to Objective No. 7 advising the public to avoid contact with creek waters after heavy storm events and/or incorporating verbiage on public health. The committee asked that the date for Objective No. 9 be revised as approving an outreach program by January 2010 was not realistic. Mr. Lynch suggested adding an objective to look at the future of the Partnership's efforts on a broader level. Mr. Lynch agreed to give the committees a presentation on the current status of the ROD/ACJ. Ms. Zielinski will coordinate a date with the three committees.

ACTION ITEM: Mr. Vriesen will revise the draft objectives for approval at the next Executive Committee meeting.

ACTION ITEM: Standing committee chairs to finalize the FY2010 committee objectives for Executive Committee approval.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT: Ms. Speer asked that the OLP keep the community involved in collaboration efforts. Mr. Stozik also asked what happens next after the Partnership's authorization expires. Will the environmental groups step up to keep the lake clean?

10. FUTURE MEETINGS: The next meeting will be scheduled in mid-November or December 2009.

11. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 12:17 p.m.

Number	Date of Origin	Due Date	Action Officer	Tasking	Status
E09-6	17-Aug-09	30-Oct09	Owens	Determine the number of creek users.	In-progress
E09-7	17-Aug-09	30-Oct-09	Ausubel	Draft/develop OLP position regarding primary contact recreation in the creek.	In-progress
E10-1	30-Sep-09	14 Dec-09	Vriesen	Revise draft FY2010 Objectives	Complete
E10-2	30-Sep-09	14-Dec-09	Peachey/Miller	Finalize FY2010 Standing Committee Objectives for Executive Cmte approval	Complete