



A clean lake reflects well
on all of us.

(final)

ONONDAGA LAKE PARTNERSHIP (OLP)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

December 19, 2006

1. ATTENDEES

Committee Members Present:

LTC John S. Hurley, District Commander, USACE, Buffalo District
Mr. David Coburn, alt. for Mr. Nicholas Pirro, County Executive, Onondaga County
Mr. Kenneth Lynch, Regional Director, NYSDEC, Region 7
Mr. William Owens, Contract Compliance Officer, City of Syracuse, alt. for Mayor Matthew Driscoll
Mr. Nicholas Pirro, County Executive, Onondaga County
Mr. Mario DelVicario, Chief, Community and Ecosystem Branch USEPA-Region 2 (VTC)
Mr. Norman Spiegel, Assistant Attorney General, NYS
Mr. Charles Silver, Environmental Scientist, Attorney General, NYS

Others In Attendance:

Mr. Seth Ausubel, Chief, Freshwater Protection Branch and Outreach Committee Chair, USEPA Region 2 (VTC)
Mr. Christopher Dere, Onondaga Lake Program Manager, USEPA Region 2 (VTC)
Mr. Steven Eidt, Chief Engineer, NYS Canal Corporation, Syracuse Division
Mr. Ronald Kozlowski, Deputy P3M, USACE, Buffalo District
Mr. Steven Vriesen, OLP Program Manager, USACE, Buffalo District
Ms. Julie Zielinski, Recording Secretary, USACE, Buffalo District
Ms. Katie Nadeau, Law Offices of Joe Heath, Onondaga Nation

Committee Members Absent:

2. MEETING ARRANGEMENTS: The meeting was held on Tuesday, December 19, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. at the Civic Center in Syracuse, New York.

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

Opening Remarks: LTC Hurley welcomed the partners and visitors to the meeting. At this time the Executive Committee partners thanked Mr. Eidt and Mr. Spiegel for their dedicated service to the OLP and wished them well. Mr. Eidt has been selected for a position with the NYS Canal Corporation and Mr. Spiegel will devote his efforts to other issues.

a. Executive Session: The Executive Session was held from 10:20-10:50 a.m.

b. Approval of the September 6, 2006 minutes: The September 6, 2006 minutes were unanimously approved with the following amendments. USEPA submitted comments in writing for page 3, last paragraph. Page 5, first paragraph, last sentence, add The message to EcoLogic was a request for scope of work for the time extension for further review by the Executive Committee.

c. Action Items: Ms. Zielinski reviewed the open Action Items and will revise the list as appropriate.

Action Item E06-29: Any non-OLP members requested to speak on behalf of the OLP Speakers Bureau will make known that they are

d. Correspondence: Ms. Zielinski reported that USACE sent letters of appreciation to the World Water Monitoring Day volunteers, Mr. James Murphy on his retirement, and Ms. Erika Clark, a former Outreach Committee member. A response to an inquiry on the OLP website was also outgoing correspondence. LTC Hurley wrote an article for the *Post Standard* (Letter to the Editor on November 15, 2006)

e. Standing Committee Reports:

(1) Outreach Committee: Mr. Ausubel reported that the Outreach Committee discussed the following at their October 18th and December 14, 2006 meetings:

(a.) **ASLF:** Mr. Richard Lee from ASLF has replaced Mr. Peter Thompson as an Outreach Committee representative.

(b.) **RFPs:** Bids for Outreach Support Services and the OLP Newsletter are under review with the respective subcommittees.

(c.) **OLP Website:** The subcommittee is considering proposals for the re-design of the OLP website homepage.

(d.) **Signage:** The Outreach Committee has requested that the Executive Committee provide input on the placement of signs stating that “you are entering the Onondaga County watershed.” The Outreach Committee is working with the Department of Transportation on their requirements for roadside signage. Funding remains the outstanding issue in addition to long term maintenance responsibilities. The Executive Committee offered support for a simple design and also recommended asking the Outreach Committee to provide more

specifics in addition to exploring signage for fish advisories with the Department of Health and NYSDEC.

(e.) **Videos:** Video presentations will be added to the January Outreach Committee Agenda (Onondaga County – Urban BMPs and Al Daher’s Fishing in Onondaga Lake a 2005 Mini grant product.)

(2) Project Committee: Mr. Eidt reported that the Project Committee discussed the following at their October 12th, November 16th and December 12, 2006 meetings:

October 12, 2006:

- OEI will provide a written read ahead for meetings
- World Water Monitoring 2-day event was a success and served over 250 students.
- EcoLogic presentation: lengthy discussion on media interpretation of data
- Motion to approve no further action on identifying alternative funding sources for the CCFE fish user survey proposal as it does not fall under the OLP mission.
- Passed Motion to approve change in scope for the PMIS project
- USEPA reported that Snavlin Farms ditch repair work falls under categorical exclusion from environmental review requirements

November 16, 2006:

- Reviewed the FFY2007 OLP project proposals and the need to prioritize projects that meet the OLP mission and Charter. By Executive Committee request, the Project Committee developed a schedule to align the project selection process closer to the Federal fiscal schedule.
- Revised the FFY2007 project list
- Discussed USACE re-programmed funds
- Passed a Motion to approve the amended FFY2006 OLP project list

December 12, 2006:

- OEI update on Onondaga Lake Water Quality Model panel comments
- Onondaga Creek Sub-basin Conceptual Revitalization Plan Project: Additional stakeholder meetings are scheduled.
- Reviewed the FFY2007 OLP project list for clarification purposes.
- Approved the 2007 OLP Project Committee Goals
- Discussion on Washington, DC’s notification system for CSO storm events. Mr. Owens held his position of urging public notification of CSO overflows during storm events as a possible health issue. Mr. Lynch suggested that Onondaga County contact the Health Department to get more information.
- Passed a Motion to recommend consideration of NYS Canal Corporation to fill the recently vacated HUD membership. Mr. Lynch added that NYS Canal Corporation has been involved in lake issues and also served on the previous Resource Committee. Once a formal response from HUD has been received on their position to replace Mr. Murphy, further consideration of alternates will be explored.

f. New Business:

(1) EcoLogic Presentation: Drs. Moran, Vawter, and Wagenet gave a power point presentation on the Onondaga Lake 2020 Visioning Project. The Executive Committee asked if the scope of work included a final product/deliverable. EcoLogic will submit a final report for approval by the OLP under their existing contract. The partners also discussed the Vision as formulated by EcoLogic as being viewed as the OLP vision. It was suggested to view EcoLogic's final Vision as the communities' vision for the OLP to refer to in setting their priorities. The OLP concluded that the Communities' Vision is not the OLP's vision. In formulating the next steps, the Executive Committee advised EcoLogic to exercise caution in rolling out their Vision to avoid misrepresentation among the media. EcoLogic also requested approval for a time extension and additional funding to do follow up outreach and education. In response to their request, the Executive Committee decided to review the draft report along with the Outreach Committee and provide any comments to EcoLogic prior to making a recommendation for the path forward.

ACTION ITEM: Executive Committee and Outreach Committee to review the EcoLogic draft Visioning report by the next committee meetings.

(2) Standing Committee Chair Assignments: Mr. Eidt, the Project Committee Chair, has taken a position at the NYS Canal Corporation which requires an action by the Executive Committee to fill the vacancy on a temporary or permanent basis. LTC Hurley requested input on recommendations for Project Committee Chair. LTC Hurley then proposed USACE as an interim Chair of the Project Committee until such time as Mr. Lynch fills the vacancy at NYSDEC at which time the OLP will determine how to fill the Chair position. It is also time to rotate the Chair of the Outreach Committee. LTC Hurley requested that the partners consider options for this action as well in the coming months. In addition to the affected positions described above, Mr. Jim Murphy retired from HUD who served on the Project Committee. Upon receipt of a response from HUD on the status of a replacement, the Executive Committee discussed the option of inviting NYS Canal Corporation to the Project Committee. NYS Canal Corporation also served on the previous OLP Resource Committee and was considered to fill the two vacancies on the Project Committee. The vacancies were filled by HUD and MDA. The Executive Committee agreed that NYS Canal Corporation would be a good fit if interested in the OLP effort. The following Motion was moved by LTC Hurley, seconded by Mr. Coburn and approved unanimously.

MOTION: To approve USACE to fill the Project Committee Chair position in the interim while NYSDEC hires a replacement for the Regional Water Engineer position.

(2) Draft OLP Resolution 2006-5 FFY2006 OLP Project List Amendment: Mr. Vriesen briefed the partners on this resolution as it includes a single revision to the FFY2006 OLP Project List deleting project No. **FY06-6 Onondaga Lake Watershed Data Identification, Acquisition, and Interpretation.** The Project Committee approved a Motion at their November 16th meeting recommending approval of the amended project list. The Executive Committee held a brief discussion on the reasoning behind the

recommendation. The Watershed Management Study has been re-scoped at the request of the OLP thus minimizing the need for data collection and analysis. The Executive Committee discussed the background information leading up to the decision to delete this project. The following Motion was moved by Mr. Coburn, seconded by Mr. Owens and approved with 6 Ayes.

MOTION: To approve OLP Resolution 2006-5 revising the FFY2006 OLP project list.

(4) Draft OLP Resolution 2006-6 – Lake Vision Project Public Outreach Plan:
Tabled until the draft report has been reviewed.

(5) 2007 Executive Committee Goals: LTC Hurley asked the partners to review the 2006 Executive Committee goals for a start off point in developing the goals for the upcoming year. The partners held a brief discussion on the OLP project development process. and how the process determines the need to go out for RFP. In response to the determination to go out for RFP, many OLP projects' scopes of work were approved but due to funding constraints were only able to complete portions of the work plans.

g. Other Business: None to Report

h. Issues: Mr. Lynch informed the partners that the public comment period for the Consent Decree has expired. NYSDEC is in the process of finalizing responses to the comments and submitting them to the court. Milestone changes to the ACJ were submitted to court this week and approved.

i. Public Comment: No comment.

4. Adjourn: The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 16, 2007 via VTC.

Adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Number	Date of Origin	Due Date	Action Officer	Tasking	Status
E06-09	28-Feb-06	30-Sept-06	Ausubel	Within two months Mr. Ausubel will prepare a write-up summarizing performance per the OEI performance plan improvements to date and include recommendations on the next steps and submit to the Executive Committee for review and comment.	Complete
E06-20	24-Mar-06	13-Oct-06	Ausubel	Mr. Ausubel will report monthly to the Executive Committee on the status and progress of the Annual Progress Meeting PowerPoint presentation to include the standing committees.	Complete
E06-29	13-Jul-06	20-Sep-06	Ausubel	Discuss and provide a recommendation for referring non-OLP members for Speakers Bureau requests on OLP issues.	Complete
E06-31	06-Sep-06	13-Oct-06	Ausubel	Forward monthly report of number of hits to the OLP public website.	Complete
E06-32	06-Sep-06	13-Oct-06	USEPA	Provide written explanation of the need for an environmental assessment for the erosion problem at the Snavlin Farms Diversion Ditch.	Complete
E06-33	06-Sep-06	13-Oct-06	Eidt	Discuss comments made at the September meeting on the SWAMP program Enhancement proposal and bring back a recommendation.	Complete
E06-34	06-Sep-06	13-Oct-06	Vriesen	Add the SWAMP Program Enhancement proposal to the October Agenda	Complete
E06-35	06-Sep-06	13-Oct-06	USEPA / NYSDEC	Discuss the issues brought forth at the September meeting regarding the SWAMP Program Enhancement proposal to further understand the scope and timeframe.	Complete
E06-36	19-Dec-06	16-Jan-06	All	Review the EcoLogic, LLC draft Visioning report and submit comments to Dr. Moran.	In-Progress