



A clean lake reflects well
on all of us.

(final)
ONONDAGA LAKE PARTNERSHIP (OLP)
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

April 27, 2007

1. ATTENDEES

Committee Members Present:

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

Others In Attendance:

Mr. Christopher Dere, Onondaga Lake Program Manager, USEPA Region 2 (VTC)
Mr. Steven Vriesen, OLP Program Manager, USACE, Buffalo District
Ms. Diane Carlton, NYSDEC, Outreach Committee, rep. for Ms. Sue Miller, Onondaga County,
Outreach Committee Chair
Ms. Julie Zielinski, OLP Recording Secretary, USACE, Buffalo District
Ms. Sarah Eckel, Citizen

Committee Members Absent:

None

2. MEETING ARRANGEMENTS: The meeting was held on Friday, April 27, 2007 at 10:00 a.m.

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

- a. **Opening Remarks:** LTC Hurley welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- b. **Executive Session:** An Executive Session was not deemed necessary for this meeting.
- c. **Approval of the March 26, 2007 minutes:** The minutes of the March 26, 2007 meeting were unanimously with revisions.

MOTION: To approve the draft March 26, 2007 meeting minutes as amended. The Motion was moved by Mr. Coburn, seconded by Mr. Lynch and approved unanimously.

d. Action Items:

Action Item E07-6: In-progress. Mr. Lynch is scheduled to meet with Mr. Don Hughes of NYSDOH on May 7, 2007 to review the existing data on bacteria loads.

Action Item E07-7: In-progress. The position of Project Committee Chair remains under discussion with NYSDEC.

Action Item E07-8: Complete. Draft OLP Resolution 2007-1 for approval of the FFY2007 OLP project list was included in the meeting package.

4. Correspondence: Ms. Zielinski reported that USACE sent a Letter of Appreciation to Mr. Dick Elander congratulating him on his retirement. There was no incoming correspondence to report this month.

5. Standing Committee Reports:

a. Outreach Committee: Ms. Carlton reported on behalf of Ms. Miller for the Outreach Committee meeting held on April 25, 2007:

The following key items were discussed:

- Upcoming Onondaga Lake Day program and publicity details
- The program for this year will be similar to last year's without Dr. Wow from USEPA and the mudboil tours. The boat tours will be narrated by Steve Eidt this year
- Press release event scheduled for 12:00 noon, details TBD
- Onondaga Lake Day budget approved
- OLP tabloid will be published prior to Onondaga Lake Day as an insert in the *Post Standard* on 5/29/07
- Approved the updated Mini Grant application program form
- Discussed the lake visioning report comments. The committee will review the roll out plan outlined the Technical Scope of Services before deciding on a path forward
- Speakers Bureau has been well received. Six speaking engagements were scheduled in a four week timeframe.

b. Project Committee: Mr. Vriesen reported on the Project Committee Meeting held on April 19, 2007.

Highlights from the meeting were as follows:

- Reviewed the responses to comments submitted by EcoLogic. In general, the committee found the responses satisfactory. However, there were two outstanding issues and one new comment discussed at the April meeting. The two issues concerned the wording regarding cold water fishery and inclusion of a disclaimer statement explaining that the report reflects the vision of the community and not necessarily that of the OLP. A new comment was submitted by USEPA regarding the correct definition of a Class C water body. Once the issues are resolved the comments will be re-submitted to EcoLogic. The Project Committee hopes to have this resolved by their May 17th meeting.
- FFY2007 OLP Recommended Project List – The Project Committee recommended approval of OLP Resolution 2007-1 approving the FFY2007 OLP project list.
- Reviewed and updated the Project Committee’s Standard Operating Procedures.
- Received a monthly update from OEI describing their OLP-related activities.
- Projects of the Month: The Project Committee was given two presentations: one on the Onondaga Creek Revitalization Plan and the second on the Hydrologic and Water Quality Characterization and Modeling of the Onondaga Lake Basin.

The Executive Committee discussed the timeline for completion of the Hydrologic and Water Quality Characterization and Modeling of the Onondaga Lake Basin project in conjunction with the ACJ and TMDL schedule. The Hydrologic and Water Quality Characterization and Modeling of the Onondaga Lake Basin project is scheduled to be completed in 2010. USGS is subject to internal peer review that adds additional time to the project scope. Both this project and the Onondaga County lake model data will provide data to help determine revisions to the TMDLs for the re-writing of the TMDLs. Mr. Lynch is closely watching timing of the models assured the committee that the timing of the models had been established months ago to ensure that their schedules coincided with the ACJ and TMDL timelines.

Mr. Ausubel informed the Executive Committee that USEPA is preparing a proposal for a pilot project in the tully valley. The project proposes using windmills to pump water out of sink holes in the southern end of the Tully Valley to reduce to amount of water feeding the mudboils. The project would will be funded by USEPA and coordinated with the OLP. Operation and maintenance of the mudboils has been an ongoing issue due to the availability of USEPA funds. The challenge is to find a recommendation for a long term funding source to address the mudboils.

Mr. Kappel expects to submit the total costs to date for mudboil projects for the next meeting at the prior request of Mr. Owens.

- The next Project Committee meeting is scheduled for May 17, 2007.

6. Unfinished Business:

a. Draft OLP Resolution 2007-1: FFY2007 Recommended Project List. The Executive Committee approved the resolution unanimously.

MOTION: The Executive Committee approves OLP Resolution 2007-1 for the FFY2007 OLP Recommended Projects. The Motion was moved by Mr. Coburn, seconded by Mr. Lynch and approved unanimously.

b. Project Committee Chair Assignment: Mr. Lynch informed the partners that the position of the Project Committee Chair remains under discussion at NYSDEC. LTC Hurley agreed that USACE would continue to Chair the Project Committee for the short term.

7. New Business:

Urban Best Management Practices (BMP) Video: The Executive Committee viewed the Urban BMP video titled "How I Can Help Reduce Non-point Source Pollution" completed by Onondaga County as part of OLP Grant No. 4. The partners agreed that the video was well done. It will be shown on Onondaga Lake Day and will be available as a tool for the Speakers Bureau. The Outreach Committee requested feedback on incorporating the video into the 2007 Annual Progress Meeting program. The Executive Committee requested additional information on the content of the Annual Progress Meeting program before a decision is rendered.

8. Other Business:

a. Syracuse Office of Creek Development Update: None to report.

b. Issues: None to report.

c. Onondaga Nation: Mr. Ausubel informed the Executive Committee that USEPA Mr. Ausubel informed the Executive Committee that USEPA received a Notice of Intent to Sue (NOI) under the Clean Water Act from the Onondaga Nation. The NOI involved the listing of certain Onondaga Lake tributaries on New York State's Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list of impaired waters requiring TMDLs. USEPA met with counsel from the Onondaga Nation, and had discussions with NYSDEC. Agreement was reached to put some tributaries that had been de-listed back on the list, and not to de-list others, as had been proposed. The five tributaries involved are Onondaga Creek, Harbor Brook, Ley Creek, Nine-mile Creek and Geddes Brook, which will be listed for phosphorus and/or ammonia. USEPA has also agreed to jointly explore with the Onondaga Nation further assessment and monitoring to evaluate the impairment status of Onondaga Lake tributaries for phosphorus and other pollutants. NYSDEC has agreed to be involved with this effort. The Onondaga Nation has requested that existing USEPA grants to OEI that are in place to assist the Nation with

environmental monitoring and cultural awareness be applied for these assessments. Mr. Ausubel assured partners that USEPA, NYSDEC and OEI will coordinate the effort with OLP for their situational awareness and to help further OLP's watershed management planning efforts. Mr. Ausubel will provide the Nation's NOI letter and EPA's response to the Executive Committee.

9. Public Comment: No public comment.

10. ADJOURN: The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 1, 2007 at the Onondaga County Civic Center in Syracuse, New York at 10:00 a.m.

Adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Number	Date of Origin	Due Date	Action Officer	Tasking	Status
E07-6	16-Jan-07	1 June-07	Lynch	Contact the State Department of Health for further information on the health risks associated with human contact with Onondaga Creek.	In-Progress
E07-7	16-Jan-07	May-07	Lynch	Provide a recommendation for Project Committee Chair.	In-Progress
E07-9	27-Apr-07	1-Jun-07	USACE	Contact Bill Coon of USGS for status update on calibration of the The Hydrologic and Water Quality Characterization and Modeling of the Onondaga Lake Basin data	In-Progress
E07-10	27-Apr-07		Resource Subcmte	Provide a recommendation for a long term solution for funding the continuing operation and maintenance of the tully valley mudboils.	In-Progress
E07-11	27-Apr-07	17-May-07	Project Committee	Provide a status report on total dollars spent on mudboil projects to date.	In-Progress