



A clean lake reflects well
on all of us.

(final)

ONONDAGA LAKE PARTNERSHIP (OLP)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

June 1, 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

Mr. Jack Rintoul, DDPM, USACE, Buffalo District

Ms. Sue Miller, Deputy LIPO, Outreach Committee Chair

Mr. David MacPherson, USACE, Buffalo

Ms. Julie Zielinski, OLP Recording Secretary, USACE, Buffalo District

Ms. Lindsay Speer, Joe Heath's Office

Committee Members Absent:

None

2. MEETING ARRANGEMENTS: The meeting was held on Friday, June 1, 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. LTC Hurley informed the partners that Mr. David MacPherson has returned from his tour of duty in Europe and will replace Mr. Vriesen as the OLP Program Manager.
- b. **Executive Session:** An Executive Session was not deemed necessary for this meeting.
- c. **Approval of the April 27, 2007 minutes:** The minutes of the April 27, 2007 meeting will be approved via an email vote.

d. Action Items:

Action Item E07-6: In-progress. The NYSDEC staff met with Mr. Don Hughes of NYSDOH and discussed the next steps, looking at further sampling and bacteria sources during wet and dry level events. Mr. Owens is still concerned that the health risks remain unaddressed.

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

Action Item E07-9: Complete.

Action Item E07-10: In-progress

Action Item: E07-11: In-progress

4. **Correspondence:** Ms. Zielinski reported that USACE had neither incoming nor outgoing correspondence to report. The Agenda package included a letter from USEPA responding to the Onondaga Nation's Intent to Sue.

5. Standing Committee Reports:

- a. **Outreach Committee:** Ms. Miller reported for the Outreach Committee meeting held on May 23, 2007:

The following key items were discussed:

- OLP tabloid will be published prior to Onondaga Lake Day as an insert in the *Post Standard* on 5/29/07
- A news release was sent out announcing the July 1 date for the second round of applications for OLP Mini Grants
- Speakers Bureau has been receiving requests regularly
- The Free Fishing Weekend will be held on June 23-24, 2007 sponsored by the Izaak Walton League
- A joint Project/Outreach Committee meeting is scheduled for July 24, 2007

b. Project Committee: Mr. Vriesen reported on the Project Committee Meeting held on May 17, 2007.

Highlights from the meeting were as follows:

- **Lake Visioning Report:** At the last Project Committee meeting there were three outstanding issues remaining to be resolved by EcoLogic. The Project Committee agreed to the revisions except for minor wording in the cold-water fishery statement. Dr. Ferrante opposed the use of the wording “tends to limit use..” Since the revised language was approved the various agencies legal counsel, the language was kept in tact. A Motion was passed to conditionally accept the report, with satisfactory resolution of all comments and to recommend to EcoLogic be instructed to complete the remaining tasks.
- **SOPs:** Reviewed the updated the Project Committee’s Standard Operating Procedures.
- **OEI Update:** Received a monthly update from OEI describing their OLP-related activities.
- **Project of the Month – Phase I Valley Drive Sewer Improvement project:**
- **Groundwater Reduction Interception Project (GRIP):** Mr. Kappel gave the Project Committee an update on the scope of the project which has been developed in response to the Executive Committee’s discussions on the long maintenance and funding of the mudboils.
- **Watershed Management Study:** USACE has received approximately \$300k in FFY2007 to continue work on the Watershed Management Study
- The next Project Committee meeting is scheduled for June 21, 2007.

6. Unfinished Business:

a. Onondaga Lake Day Schedule of Events: Ms. Miller reviewed the program for the 2007 Onondaga Lake Day event and reminded the Executive Committee that the open Q&A and Press Conference is scheduled for 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Congressman Walsh will be in attendance.

b. Lake Visioning Report – Response to Comments: Mr. Vriesen informed the partners that the Project Committee approved a Motion to conditionally accept the lake visioning report and re-submit to EcoLogic for final revisions. Mr. Vriesen recommended that the partners approve the Motion submitted by the Project Committee. The following Motion was moved by Mr. Coburn, seconded by Mr. Lynch and approved unanimously.

MOTION: The Executive Committee approves acceptance of the draft EcoLogic Lake Visioning Report and requests that EcoLogic complete the remaining tasks in the scope.

- 7. New Business:** Annual Progress Meeting (APM): Ms. Miller reminded the partners that the 2007 Annual Progress Meeting will be held on Thursday, November 1, 2007. Ms. Miller

reviewed the read ahead in the meeting package and requested approval of the theme, format, and program for this year's event. The event will be held at the same location with a similar format to last year's event with fewer break out sessions and a Q&A session scheduled at the end of the evening. The Executive Committee approved the format. The APM subcommittee will continue to work on the upcoming event and keep the partners informed.

8. Other Business:

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

b. Issues: Mr. Ausubel reported that USEPA Region 2's water program units are reorganizing and expecting an effective date in the next several months. The reorganization will not impact USEPA staff responsibilities to the OLP. A functional statement is available if anyone is interested.

c. Onondaga Lake Fish Advisory Update: Mr. Lynch reported that New York State has issued a new fish advisory for Onondaga Lake regarding large and small mouth bass over 15 inches. The fish advisory warns the public not to eat either species due to high levels of mercury. The cause of the high levels of mercury are merely speculative and may be caused by the sediments. Until remediation is underway, the sediments will not be addressed and it is unlikely that the mercury levels will not decrease. Better insight may be found in the monitoring data but it may not a definitive answer. It is a complicated issue.

9. Public Comment: Ms. Speer commented that since Honeywell is monitoring their own project, the validity of the results may be questionable. It was suggested to study the mercury issue further.

Mr. Lynch responded that the DEC has a protocol in place to ensure that there is no self interest served by PRP clean-up. The state does additional sampling to ensure QA/QC. Mr. Ausubel added that the Federal agencies have an interagency review panel in place for the same reason.

0. ADJOURN: The next meeting is scheduled for DEC

Adjourned at 11:45 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	Complete
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 (OLP)	In-Progress