



A clean lake reflects well
on all of us.

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

September 5, 2007

1. ATTENDEES

Committee Members Present:

LTC John S. Hurley, District Commander, USACE, Buffalo District (Teleconference)
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. Roby Hanson, USEPA (VTC)
Mr. David MacPherson, OLP Program Manager, USACE, Buffalo
Ms. Arleen Kreuzsch, Outreach Specialist, USACE, Buffalo
Ms. Julie Zielinski, OLP Recording Secretary, USACE, Buffalo District
Ms. Lindsay Speer, Joe Heath's Office, Onondaga Nation Representative

Committee Members Absent:

None

2. MEETING ARRANGEMENTS: The meeting was held on Wednesday, September 5, 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 August 1, 2007 minutes:** The minutes of the August 1, 2007 meeting were unanimously approved as amended. There were minor changes to the Action Item E07-6.

d. Action Items:

Action Item E07-6: Remains in-progress. See Agenda Item 7.a. below.

Action Item E07-10: Remains in-progress

Action Item: E07-11: Remains in-progress

4. Correspondence: Ms. Zielinski reported that USACE sent out four letters of invitation for the 2007 Annual Progress Meeting to Senators Clinton and Schumer, Congressman Walsh, and Chief Powless of the Onondaga Nation. There was no incoming correspondence to report.

5. Standing Committee Reports:

a. Outreach Committee: Ms. Kreuzsch reported on behalf of Ms. Miller for the Outreach Committee. The following key items were discussed:

- No formal meeting of the Committee was held during August.
- 2007 Annual Progress Meeting:
 - It has been rescheduled to Monday, October 22
 - The after action review will be held in the Atrium on the 23rd.
 - Dan Cummings of WSYR-9TV has agreed to serve as the narrator of the power point presentation and the facilitator of the question and answer time.
 - We continue to work on the power point presentation.
- Committee voted by email to allocate \$4,155 to support OLP sponsorship of the annual World Wide Monitoring Day(s) activities to take place along Onondaga Creek on October 3 and 4. Joan Cope Savage from OEI will be coordinating the program this year.
- The Committee's Mini-Grant Sub-committee has received four grant requests for funding and the applications are currently under review.
- The Committee is waiting to hear from the Project Committee (after they receive Ecologic's Vision Report) on whether or not they feel its appropriate and would like the Outreach Committee to propose a plan to disseminate and publicize the report.
- Next Scheduled meeting of the Committee will be on Wed. September 19th at 10am at WEP.

b. Project Committee: Mr. MacPherson reported on the joint Project/Outreach Committee Meeting held on July 24, 2007.

Highlights from the meetings were as follows:

- The Lake Visioning Report was completed on August 10, 2007. The Project Committee will review the deliverables for completeness at their September 20, 2007 meeting and provide a recommendation to accept the final product.
- The Project Committee's Standard Operating Procedures have been posted to the OLP internal website.
- The Watershed Management Study status will be discussed under Agenda Item 6.a.
- The August Project of the Month, Ambient Monitoring Program will be shifted to the September 20th meeting.
- The next Project Committee meeting is scheduled for September 20, 2007.

6. Unfinished Business:

a. Lake Visioning Report Status: Mr. MacPherson informed the partners that the deliverables from the Lake Visioning report technical scope of services will be reviewed for completeness at the September Project Committee meeting. A discussion was held on providing guidance and/or direction to EcoLogic, LLC on the roll out plan to the public. The OLP has communicated their intention to use the roll-out plan in future planning areas and decision making for future projects. The obvious coordination of the roll-out plan should come from the Outreach Committee. The degree of emphasis, however, is the question at hand. Once the Outreach Committee has discussed the path forward on a rollout plan and provides a recommendation on the best way to use the plan to accomplish the OLP goals, the Executive Committee will have final approval on the recommendations.

b. USGS Project Expenditures under OEI/CCWI Grants Status Report: Mr. Dere explained that the read ahead spans USGS projects from 1998 EPA grants through 2006. The Executive Committee discussed the dilemma of spending additional funds to maintain the mudboils or face the situation that in spite of all the dollars spent to date the mudboils may revert back to existing conditions. There are monies in the OEI grants in escrow for mudboil closure (to seal the monitoring wells and remove the dam) if necessary. Approximately \$200-250k is required annually to maintain the mudboil activities. The existing USEPA grant with OEI is scheduled through 2012. The OLP partners discussed the option of keeping the escrow funds in an interest bearing account. Mr. Dere will discuss the option with the USEPA grant specialist staff. Mr. Owens asked to see an accounting of the USGS grants prior to 1998. Mr. Dere will provide that report to the Executive Committee as soon as possible.

c. Project Committee Chair: Mr. Lynch informed the partners that NYSDEC is prepared to resume the chair position on the Project Committee and will coordinate a transition schedule.

7. New Business:

a. Watershed Management Study Update: Mr. MacPherson reported that USACE staff awarded the contract for the Watershed Management study to Central New York Regional Planning Board on August 31, 2007. The project will be completed over a two-year time frame. The project has been re-named as the Onondaga Lake Watershed Progress Assessment and Action Strategies (PAAS). The scope of work has been developed in three phases which will be reviewed by the OLP after each phase. Updates will be provided as the study progresses.

b. ACJ Update: Mr. Lynch reported that NYSDEC received correspondence regarding the high bacteria levels during dry weather conditions in Onondaga Creek. The Onondaga Nation and others have requested a moratorium on future CSO projects. They have also requested further sampling to determine the source of the bacteria and to include a more comprehensive assessment of the entire watershed area in the creek. The Nation and others are claiming that the County is meeting the standards set forth in the ACJ for CSOs and they do not see the need for the Clinton and Harbor Brook projects. The ACJ has strict milestones that the county must meet. If these projects are put on hold, Onondaga County could incur extensive construction costs and penalties associated with the delays. NYSDEC staff is in the process of reviewing the Ambient Monitoring Program data, the ACJ, and will coordinate their efforts with the parties of the ACJ and the OLP. A decision needs to be reached soon as the Clinton project is nearly underway.

c. Annual Progress Meeting (APM): Ms. Kreusch reviewed the logistics for the 2007 APM with the partners. The 2007 APM will be held on October 22, 2007 at the Genesee Grande Hotel in Syracuse, New York. The AAR will be held the following morning at the Atrium. The script for the APM was included as a read ahead and the power point presentation was distributed as a CD. Ms. Kreusch recommended reviewing the script along with the accompanying slides for clarity and accuracy. The partners reviewed each slide and made recommendations for major revisions to slides on water quality and remediation. The Project and Outreach Committees will review the power point presentation at their September meetings for final concurrence.

d. Project of the Month: Mr. MacPherson requested recommendations for Projects of the Month for November and December 2007. Projects of the Month are presentations given at the Project Committee meetings. Honeywell and USEPA were suggested as possible options for the vacant slots.

8. Other Business:

a. Review Action Item List: Mr. MacPherson walked the partners through the Action Item list that included E07-6 – E07-11. Ms. Zielinski will update the Action Item database accordingly once the meeting minutes have been completed.

E07-6: Mr. Lynch reported that NYSDEC is scheduling a meeting on September 14, 2007 with the county Department of Health to further discuss the health risks associated with human contact in Onondaga Creek.

b. Future Outreach and Project Committee Meetings: The next Outreach Committee meeting is scheduled for September 19, 2007 followed by the Project Committee meeting on September 20, 2007.

c. FY08 Federal Funding: LTC Hurley informed the partners that the President's budget for 2008 has not been passed yet.

d. Issues: none.

9. Public Comment: None.

10. ADJOURN: The next meeting is scheduled for October 9, 2007 at the NYSDEC office in Syracuse, NY.

Adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Number	Date of Origin	Due Date	Action Officer	Tasking	Status
E07-6	16-Jan-07	9-Oct-07	Lynch	Contact the State Department of Health for further information on the health risks associated with human contact with Onondaga Creek.	In-Progress
E07-10	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	9-Oct-07	Project Committee	Provide a status report on total dollars spent on mudboil projects to date prior to 1998. (OLP)	In-Progress