



A clean lake reflects well
on all of us.

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

October 9, 2007

1. ATTENDEES

Committee Members Present:

LTC John S. Hurley, District Commander, USACE, Buffalo District
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. 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

Others In Attendance:

Mr. Christopher Dere, Onondaga Lake Program Manager, USEPA Region 2 (VTC)
Mr. Robie Anson, USEPA (VTC)
Mr. Jack Rintoul, DPM, USACE, Buffalo District
Mr. David MacPherson, OLP Program Manager, USACE, Buffalo
Ms. Mary Jane Peachey, NYSDEC, Project Committee Chair
Ms. Arleen Kreuzsch, Outreach Specialist, USACE, Buffalo
Ms. Julie Zielinski, OLP Recording Secretary, USACE, Buffalo District

Committee Members Absent:

Mr. William Owens, Contract Compliance Officer, City of Syracuse
(Alt. for Mayor Matthew Driscoll, City of Syracuse)

2. MEETING ARRANGEMENTS: The meeting was held on Tuesday, October 9, 2007 at 12:30 p.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 announced that USACE has assigned Ms. Arleen Kreusch, the current Outreach Committee representative, to the FUSRAP program within the district. Ms. Lynn Greer has been named as Ms. Kreusch's replacement on the Outreach Committee effective October 2007.

b. Executive Session: An Executive Session was not deemed necessary for this meeting.

c. Approval of the September 5, 2007 minutes: The minutes of the September 5, 2007 meeting were unanimously approved as amended. There were minor changes to the ACJ update under New Business.

4. Correspondence: Ms. Zielinski reported that USACE had neither incoming nor outgoing correspondence to report. The other partners also did not report any noteworthy correspondence.

5. Standing Committee Reports:

a. Outreach Committee: Ms. Kreusch reported on behalf of Ms. Miller for the Outreach Committee. The following key items were discussed at the September 19, 2007 meeting:

- Ms. Stephanie Harrington, who provided outreach support services for the Outreach Committee, has accepted a position at NYSDEC. Ms. Anne Saltman will replace Ms. Harrington in the interim.
- The Attorney General's office has been making progress on the watershed signs. There are three proposed locations for the signs; "You are Entering the Onondaga Lake Watershed." The signs will be posted on county roads once approved by county officials. Postings on state roads has not been approved yet.
- A budget of \$4,155.00 was approved for World Water Monitoring Day.
- The next OLP tabloid will be published on October 16, 2007 as an insert to the *Post Standard*.
- A budget of \$5000.00 was approved for the 2007 Annual Progress Meeting. Final plans are underway.
- The Speakers Bureau conducted two speaking engagements in September, one at the League of Women Voters and the second at the State Science Teachers Meeting.
- The Onondaga Creek cleanup event was held on September 8 and 15, 2007. This year's event was a success as expected.
- The Fisheries Subcommittee is conducting a "fish-in" event in September to determine if fishing is better in September when it's cooler rather than June when some species of fish are spawning.

b. Project Committee: Mr. MacPherson reported on the Project Committee Meeting held on September 20, 2007.

Highlights from the meetings were as follows:

- Ms. Peachey from NYSDEC transitioned into the chair position at the September meeting and will chair the October meeting.

- Passed a Motion to Accept the Lake Visioning Report as meeting the technical scope of services.
- The Onondaga Lake Watershed Progress Assessment and Action Strategies (PAAS) contract was awarded to CYNRPB on Aug. 31, 2007.
- Reviewed and graded the 2007 Project Committee Goals
- Reviewed the 2007 APM presentation and script for accuracy and clarity
- OEI provided their monthly update
- The Project of the Month was postponed until October due to time constraints.

6. Unfinished Business:

a. Annual Progress Meeting: Ms. Kreusch reviewed the final logistics for the upcoming 2007 Annual Progress Meeting and AAR. Ms. Kreusch will be forwarding a media schedule shortly to the partners for their availability for spots on local TV and radio stations. The live and taped shows haven proven valuable advertising for the OLP and the APM. The remaining portion of this Agenda item was devoted to the power point presentation. The partners reviewed each slide as a final run through for clarity and accuracy. The revised version of the presentation will be shared once again with the Project and Outreach Committees for their awareness. Thank you to all those who contributed to this year's presentation.

b. Lake Visioning Report Status: Mr. MacPherson informed the partners that the Project Committee passed a Motion at their last meeting to Accept the Lake Visioning report as completing the technical scope of services. The Outreach Committee will discuss and provide a recommendation to the Executive Committee on a roll-out plan. **FOR THE RECORD:** The partners accepted the recommendation made by the Project Committee as adequate and final.

7. New Business: OLP 2007 Executive Committee Goals: The partners reviewed each of the eight goals established in 2007. Each goal was discussed and given a letter grade average based on the progress made in the past year relating to that goal. The following discussion took place during that process:

- Goal No. 1: The partners agreed that the OLP continues to fervently maintain the momentum of achieving the lake clean up and gave themselves a B grade.
- Goal No. 2: The partners agreed that the OLP products and events have significantly continued to increase the public's knowledge of the lake's water quality and environmental improvements and graded themselves with a B+.
- Goal No. 3: Although the Strategic Communications Plan has not been updated, the Outreach Committee has worked closely with the local media to enhance relationships through such events Onondaga Lake Day and the OLP tabloids. They gave themselves an A-.
- Goal No. 4: This goal was difficult to grade because of the constraints of Federal funding and impediments that have limited alternatives. With the PAAS contract underway, the study will identify gaps. They graded themselves a B-.

- Goal No. 5: Mr. Lynch stated that the OLP has created numerous programs to increase public involvement and awareness of OLP projects such as the newly formed Speakers Bureau, the Teachers Fund, and the Mini-Grants programs. They graded themselves an A.
- Goal No. 6: The Project Development Process has been revised by the Project Committee recognizing that recent funding limitations have re-directed the focus to prioritizing projects according to strategic areas of concern. A B was given for this goal.
- Goal No. 7: The Project Committee undertook a multi-month exercise to review past OLP project lists to prioritize continuing projects and those related to the strategic planning areas. Although this goal seems to logically be a subset of Goal No. 4, the decrease in Federal funding over the past few years has had its impact on the cleanup effort. The partners graded themselves a B- for this goal.
- Goal No. 8: This goal originated with the Resource Committee and their role of identifying non-Federal match for Federal funds. At that time, Federal funds were appropriated in greater amounts. Since then, the OLP has re-focused their efforts with the existing funding. The OLP continues to cooperate and coordinate with other agencies and organizations to avoid duplicative planning efforts. The partners graded themselves a B-.

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 trying to schedule a meeting with the county Department of Health to further discuss the health risks associated with human contact in Onondaga Creek. This Action Item remains in progress.

E07-20: Remains in progress

E07-11: USEPA has completed this tasking in full.

b. Future Outreach and Project Committee Meetings: The next Outreach Committee meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2007 followed by the Project Committee meeting on October 18, 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 TBD.

Adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Number	Date of Origin	Due Date	Action Officer	Tasking	Status
E07-6	16-Jan-07	Nov-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)	Complete