



A clean lake reflects well
on all of us.

(final)

ONONDAGA LAKE PARTNERSHIP (OLP)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

December 18, 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. Seth Ausubel, Chief, New York Watershed Management Section, USEPA Region 2 (VTC)
(Alt. for Mr. Mario DelVicario, Chief, New York Watershed Management Branch, USEPA
Region 2)
Mr. Charles Silver, Environmental Scientist, NYS Office of the Attorney General
Mr. William Owens, Contract Compliance Officer, City of Syracuse
(Alt. for Mayor Matthew Driscoll, City of Syracuse)

Others In Attendance:

Mr. Steven Vriesen, Program Manager, USACE, Buffalo District (VTC)
Mr. Christopher Dere, Onondaga Lake Program Manager, USEPA Region 2 (VTC)
Ms. Mary Jane Peachey, NYSDEC, Project Committee Chair
Ms. Sue Miller, WEP, Chair, Outreach Committee
Ms. Julie Zielinski, OLP Recording Secretary, USACE, Buffalo District (VTC)
Ms. Lindsey Speer, Office of Joe Heath

Committee Members Absent:

none

2. MEETING ARRANGEMENTS: The meeting was held on Tuesday, December 18, 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 wished everyone a Happy Holiday Season.

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

c. Approval of the October 9, 2007 minutes: The minutes of the October 9, 2007 meeting were unanimously approved. There was a recommendation to add verbiage referencing a discussion concerning swimming. Mr. Silver will provide language for the partners approval. Ms. Zielinski reviewed the Action Item list with the respective agencies for status updates.

4. CORRESPONDENCE: Ms. Zielinski reported that USACE received one item of incoming correspondence from Mr. LaValle and a response to the same to report. The other partners did not report any noteworthy correspondence.

5. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

a. Outreach Committee: Ms. Miller reported on behalf of the Outreach Committee. The following key items were discussed at the November 28, 2007 meeting, the committee did not meet in December:

- Discussed the success of the 2007 APM/AAR and the recommendations to change the location of both events
- Agreed to fund the four approved Mini-grants with a partial amount (\$7k) from the 2008 OLP Outreach Committee budget and the balance from the 2007 Mini-grant budget

Mr. Coburn asked Ms. Miller for a further explanation of the reason why the Outreach Committee approved the use of 2008 funds when there is a balance in the overall 2007 Outreach Committee budget. He expressed concern over setting a precedent in exceeding the approved total budget of \$25k per year for the OLP Mini-grant program. If this is not a one-time action or a unique set of circumstances, the Executive Committee should be apprised. Ms. Miller assured the partners that this year's round of mini grant recipients is unique in that all four Mini-grants were viewed as valuable. The next round of applications may not be approved in whole or if so only in lower amounts. That determination can not be made until the 2008 applications have been received and reviewed. Any requests for an increase in the Mini-grant budget will be forwarded to the Executive Committee if appropriate. The Outreach Committee has been requested to prioritize programs they deem worthwhile recognizing that USEPA funding has been limited and to provide recommendations to fund programs that will make the best use of these funds.

MOTION: To approve funding the four 2007 OLP Mini-grant applications totaling approximately \$19k from 2007 remaining funds and a portion (\$7k) of the 2008 OLP Mini-grant funds. The Motion was moved by Mr. Coburn, seconded by Mr. Owens, and approved unanimously.

- Development of the 2008 Outreach Committee goals are in progress
- Obtaining approval for the Watershed signs is ongoing
- Ms. Miller submitted a draft roll-out plan for the EcoLogic Visioning report that was approved by the Outreach Committee and then submitted to the Executive Committee for conceptual approval. The Executive Committee approved the plan but requested more details on the messages before its release.
- Mr. Al Daher attended the meeting and provided additional information on his request for funding for public service announcements (PSAs) on Onondaga Lake. The committee is still reviewing his request.

b. Project Committee: Ms. Peachey reported on the Project Committee Meeting held on November 15, 2007. Highlights from the meetings were as follows:

- Discussed in length the 2008 OLP Project Committee Goals, expect to finalize at the January committee meeting.
- Continued working the buoy issue with Canal Corporation and State Parks Department for placement and O&M.
- OEI Update
- Developing list of OLP projects that require funding to complete and the risks associated with not completing them for USACE Congressional visits.
- Project Committee vacancy recommendations

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

After Action Review (AAR): A copy of the After Action Review summary was included as a read ahead for informational purposes.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

OLP 2008 Executive Committee Goals: LTC Hurley, referencing recommendations made at the 2007 AAR, recommended that the Executive Committee goals for 2008 be more specific and measurable. Otherwise, there is no way to be held accountable. Mr. Ausubel stated that 14 goals will be difficult to accomplish in one year's time. He recommended merging similar goals and establishing subtasks for those goals. Mr. Lynch stated that in merging goals they may lose the ability to be measurable. Some of the goals may be incorporated into the PAAS study. While it is important to include units of measure, Mr. Lynch offered to establish quarterly deadlines. Mr. Owens agreed with the need to establish deadlines and suggested establishing a process to assess progress more often than once a year and adjust the goals as deemed necessary. Mr. Vriesen added that although time-related deadlines as units of measure are an easy way to gauge progress other suggestions are welcome. LTC Hurley reminded the committee that in some instances dates are critical such as milestones related to the APM and OLD. Mr. Coburn added that he

understands the need for out-year planning as stated in Goals 8-10, measuring success for projects that span multiple years may require spanning goals over multiple years as well. Success cannot be determined until the final products have been completed. Mr. Ausubel stated that although long term planning is important in that it keeps the partnership's eye on the end goal, he recommended establishing priorities for this year and focusing what's currently on our plates to make the best use of EPA funds.

ACTION ITEM: Mr. Vriesen will revise the 2008 OLP Executive Committee Goals as discussed and forward to the standing committees for their reference at their January committee meetings.

8. OTHER BUSINESS:

Syracuse Office of Creek Development Update: Mr. Owens informed the committee that there are many ongoing creek activities, he will update the committee on the details in the future.

9. ISSUES:

FY08 Federal Funding: LTC Hurley informed the Partners that the President's budget for 2008 has not been passed yet and USACE continues to operate under a Continuing Resolution Authority until the budget has been signed. Funding for the OLP program is still uncertain.

Mr. Ausubel informed the partners that USEPA has not received funding for Onondaga Lake again this year. There have been major cuts in their program. Mr. Ausubel will keep the Partnership informed.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

11. ADJOURN: The next meeting is scheduled for January 30, 2008.

Adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Number	Date of Origin	Due Date	Action Officer	Tasking	Status
E07-6	16-Jan-07	30-Jan-08	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
E07-12	18-Dec-07	30-Jan-08	USACE	Revise the 2008 Executive Committee draft goals.	In-Progress