



A clean lake reflects well
on all of us.

(final)

ONONDAGA LAKE PARTNERSHIP (OLP)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

January 30, 2008

1. ATTENDEES

Committee Members Present:

- Mr. Jack Rintoul, DDPM, USACE, alt. for 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 (teleconference)
- Mr. William Owens, Contract Compliance Officer, City of Syracuse
(Alt. for Mayor Matthew Driscoll, City of Syracuse)

Others In Attendance:

- Mr. Steven Vriesen, OLP 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 Wednesday, January 30, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.

- 3. AGENDA ITEMS:** An Agenda was provided which included the following items:
- a. Opening Remarks:** Mr. Rintoul chaired the meeting on behalf of LTC Hurley. Mr. Rintoul welcomed everyone to the meeting. As an administrative issue, Ms. Miller asked the Executive Committee to look into establishing a policy for the OLP to receive donations from private entities.

ACTION ITEM: The Resource Subcommittee will convene to discuss and/or provide a recommendation as to the legality of the OLP accepting donations from organizations and if so the procedure to follow.

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

c. Approval of the December 18, 2007 minutes: The minutes of the December 18, 2007 meeting were unanimously approved as amended.

Ms. Zielinski reviewed the Action Item list with the respective agencies for status updates.

- 4. CORRESPONDENCE:** Ms. Zielinski reported that USACE had not received any items of correspondence since the last committee meeting.

5. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

a. Outreach Committee: Ms. Miller reported on behalf of the Outreach Committee. The following key items were discussed at the January 23, 2007 meeting:

- The OLP Speakers Bureau continues to draw interest. Most recently, the Cub Scouts, who found the county's DVD most interesting. The next invitation is from the Tully Rotary in February.
- The OLP Mini-grant subcommittee is in the process of reviewing 10 applications received from the December announcement.
- The Newsletter subcommittee recommended to the Outreach Committee that the OLP not renew the 2 year option with Koenig. The Outreach Committee passed a Motion to formalize their decision. They also recommended that CNYRPDB take over the publication of the OLP newsletter and tabloid under their existing contract.
- The Outreach Committee approved two ads and an article for the Progress Edition of the Post Standard that will be published on February 11, 2008.
- The Outreach Committee passed a Motion to NOT endorse or support the request for funding for a PSA as requested by Mr. Daher as the OLP would not have creative control over the content of the message, in addition to concerns about the perception of a conflict of interest over the OLP working with Honeywell to produce PSAs.
- Established dates for the 2008 Onondaga Lake Day: June 7, 2008 and the 2008 Annual Progress Meeting (APM) and AAR: September 17 and 18, respectively.
- The 2008 Family Fishing Event will be held on June 28-29, 2008.
- The 2008 Outreach Committee goals are under review. The 2008 Outreach Committee budget, the lake visioning roll-out plan, and subcommittee assignments will be discussed at the February committee meeting.

b. Project Committee: Ms. Peachey reported on the Project Committee Meeting held on January 17, 2008. The following are highlights from the meeting:

- The Project Committee passed a Motion to recommend approval of the 2008 goals
- Mr. Vriesen drafted an At-Risk Project list for committee concurrence for upcoming USACE Congressional visits to communicate the needs for additional OLP funding
- A Motion was passed to recommend to the Executive Committee to invite ESF to fill the vacancy left by Ms. Brooks (NYSDEC Albany, Bureau of Habitat) on the Project Committee
- Continued to discuss funding and placement of the buoys in Onondaga Lake
- Phase 1, the Onondaga Lake Background, of the Onondaga Lake Watershed Progress Assessment and Action Strategies (OLWPAAS) is under review.
- Received monthly OEI update.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. Executive Committee Strategic Goals for 2008: The Executive Committee reviewed the revised version dated January 24, 2008 of the 2008 goals. The revised list has been divided into categories in accordance with the OLP By-laws. Mr. Owens pointed out that the goals read more as objectives rather than goals. Ms. Miller requested to move out two dates and the committee agreed to approve the 2008 goals as amended. The partners agreed it would be proactive for the advocates to report out on the status of their goal at monthly committee meetings that correspond to the dates established for that specific goal. The Motion to approve the goals as amended was moved by Mr. Lynch, seconded by Mr. Ausubel, and approved unanimously.

MOTION: To approve the Executive Committee Strategic Goals for 2008, as amended. (Aye 6/Nay 0).

ACTION ITEM: Mr. Vriesen will revise goals as agreed to and send back out to the Executive Committee for tracking purposes.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

a. OLP Impacted Project List: Mr. Vriesen distributed the project list dated January 29, 2008 as a read ahead for further discussion and/or review. USACE requested that the Project Committee prepare a list of projects that would have severe impacts if not funded in the future. The Project Committee provided their recommendations of priority OLP projects for Executive Committee action. USACE will communicate the OLP needs during their February Congressional visits for use as a script for internal use only.

It was suggested to add the Outreach Support Services to the project list recognizing that the list is not the full gambit of OLP projects.

ACTION ITEM: Mr. Vriesen will revise the OLP Impacted Project List as recommended by the Executive Committee.

b. Swimming in Onondaga Lake: Mr. Silver requested that the swimming issue in Onondaga Lake be added to the meeting Agenda but agreed with Mr. Lynch that the issue should be addressed by the Department of Health. This item will be added to the next meeting's Agenda.

c. 2008 Annual Progress Meeting: Mr. Rintoul explained that there are stricter limitations being placed on the carryover of Corps funds from one fiscal year to the next. Funds that are not scheduled to be obligated and expended in a given fiscal year are considered to be excess to the program's needs. As such, there is a need to schedule the 2008 Annual Progress Meeting (APM) to be held in September of this year.

8. OTHER BUSINESS:

a. Syracuse Office of Creek Development Update: Mr. Owens informed the committee that he will update the committee at the next meeting.

b. Issues:

Onondaga Lake Tributary Assessment Update: Mr. Ausubel reported that OEI has prepared a report synthesizing available data on water quality for Onondaga lake tributaries. The report includes OEI's assessment of water quality impairments. OEI is conducting this effort under an existing EPA grant in support of the Onondaga Nation. EPA and DEC have been meeting with OEI to discuss the information in consideration of New York's water quality assessment report and the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list of impaired waters. Mr. Ausubel said that he also expects that the information will be useful to OLP in its continuing watershed planning efforts. EPA will ask OEI to share the report with the OLP.

Onondaga Lake – No-Discharge Zone: Mr. Coburn asked the Executive Committee to consider designating Onondaga Lake, the outlet, and portions of the 3-river system as a no-discharge zone. It only makes sense to look into this process as there have been millions of dollars spent on the lake cleanup. Mr. Lynch and Mr. Ausubel will look into what requirements/processes are needed to apply for this designation.

ACTION ITEM: NYSDEC/USEPA will check with their respective agencies to see what requirements are needed to designate Onondaga Lake, the outlet, and portion of the Three River system as a no-discharge zone for the April committee meeting.

c. Onondaga Lake: Mr. Coburn brought forth the issue that upon researching the internet, the search engine results still describe Onondaga Lake as the most polluted lake in the country despite all the efforts to clean up the lake. There has been a great deal of progress made but the perception is still negative. He requested that the Outreach Committee begin with revising the text on the OLP website which also still states the lake is the most polluted in the U.S. If possible, to also contact the search engines to revise the same description of Onondaga Lake. The Outreach Committee is in the process of reviewing the OLP website. Mr. Silver recommended that the Department of Health be involved on this issue and define the current public health status of the lake.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

11. ADJOURN: The next meeting is scheduled for March 5, 2008. Adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Number	Date of Origin	Due Date	Action Officer	Tasking	Status
E07-6	16-Jan-07	05-Mar-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
E07-13	30-Jan-08		Resource Subcmte	Convene to discuss the legality of the OLP to accept donations from private entities and if so the procedure to follow.	In-Progress
E07-14	30-Jan-08	31-Jan-08	USACE	Revise 2008 Executive Committee Goals as amended	In-Progress
E07-15	30-Jan-08	01-Feb-08	USACE	Revise OLP Impacted Project List for upcoming congressional visits to use as a script to communicate OLP future needs.	In-Progress
E07-16	30-Jan-08	Apr-08	DEC/EPA	Check with respective Agencies for requirements or process to designate Onondaga Lake, the outlet and portions of the 3 River system as a no-discharge zone.	In-Progress