



A clean lake reflects well
on all of us.

(final)

ONONDAGA LAKE PARTNERSHIP (OLP)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

August 29, 2008

1. ATTENDEES

Committee Members Present:

LTC Daniel B. Snead, District Commander, USACE, Buffalo District (VTC)
Mr. Kenneth Lynch, Regional Director, NYSDEC, Region 7
Mr. Seth Ausubel, Chief, New York Watershed Management Section, USEPA Region 2 (VTC)
Mr. Charles Silver, Environmental Scientist, NYS Office of the Attorney General (Telecom)
Mr. William Owens, Contract Compliance Officer, City of Syracuse
(Alt. for Mayor Matthew Driscoll, City of Syracuse)

Others In Attendance:

Ms. Mary Jane Peachey, Project Committee Chair, NYSDEC
Mr. Steven Vriesen, OLP Program Manager, USACE, Buffalo District (VTC)
Ms. Julie Zielinski, OLP Recording Secretary, USACE, Buffalo District (VTC)

Committee Members Absent:

Mr. David Coburn, Director, Onondaga County Office of the Environment
(Alt. for Ms. Joanie Mahoney, Onondaga County Executive)

2. MEETING ARRANGEMENTS: The meeting was held on Monday, Friday, August 29, 2008 at 1:00 p.m.

3. AGENDA ITEMS: An Agenda was provided which included the following items:

- a. Opening Remarks:** LTC Snead welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- b. Executive Session:** An Executive Session was not deemed necessary for this meeting.

c. Approval of the April 28, 2008 minutes: The minutes of the April 28, 2008 meeting were tabled until the next meeting for Mr. Lynch to verify information pertaining to contact recreation.

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

4. CORRESPONDENCE: Ms. Zielinski reported that USACE had not received nor initiated correspondence since the last committee meeting. The other partner agencies also had no correspondence to report.

5. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

a. Outreach Committee: Ms. Miller was not present for the meeting to present the Outreach Committee's status report.

b. Project Committee: Ms. Peachey reported on the Project Committee Meeting held on August 21, 2008. The following are highlights from the meeting:

- The committee is in the process of providing comments to OEI on the Onondaga Creek Conceptual Revitalization Plan project.
- State Parks will be placing hazard buoys on September 3, 2008 in Onondaga Lake. A map of the locations will be available at the 2008 APM.
- Recommended approval of OLP Resolutions 2008-3, and 2008-4.
- Approved the Bacteria Track down project, sampling is set to begin next week.
- Resource Subcommittee is finalizing the "white paper" addressing the mudboil issue.
- The peer review provided comments on the Mechanistic Water Quality Model.
- The Progress Assessment and Action Strategies (PAAS) project is on track.
- The 2008 Annual Progress Meeting annual report take away is progressing.
- Received monthly OEI update.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. 2008 Goals – Advocate Report Updates: The partners discussed the status of OLP Executive Committee Goals 4, 5, 6, 11 and 13:

Goal No. 4: By December 31st, ensure that OLP modeling efforts for the watershed and lake have been completed, have undergone peer review, and have developed and assessed scenarios necessary to meet final phosphorus standards in Onondaga Lake and establish TMDLs, LAs, and WLAs. Mr. Lynch advised the committee that this goal may need to be extended as the model has added three phases to the project. The output from the model is critical to the decision points that could impact the ACJ. Further discussion will follow as the model progresses.

Goal No. 5: By December 31st, ensure that a sustainable funding source and program is available to ensure that sediment input from mudboils is minimized. The Resource Subcommittee is in the process of developing a "white paper" that outlines the issues at hand regarding the maintenance

of the mudboils. This paper will be sent to elected officials to communicate to them the funding needs. A new date is likely to be suggested as this date is not realistic at this point.

Goal No. 6: By September 30th, approve an out-year plan to address OLP project needs and estimated Federal and non-Federal resource requirements. It was suggested to concentrate on determining the needs of the existing projects in light of the limited OLP funds. An out-year plan at this time is subject to future Federal appropriations.

Goal No. 11: By July 31st, evaluate the success of the 7th annual Onondaga Lake Day event and provide recommendations to the Outreach Committee for future improvements. This goal has been set as an Action Item for the next committee meeting as Ms. Miller was not in attendance to report on this goal.

Goal No. 13: By September 30th, review the draft Onondaga Creek Conceptual Revitalization Plan and direct follow-on actions. Mr. Owens reported that this goal is on track.

b. Annual Progress Meeting: Ms. Greer reiterated that the 2008 Annual Progress Meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 29, 2008 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. It will be held at the Lakeside Fire Hall on State Fair Blvd in Lakeland. The following day, September 30, 2008, the Annual Review Meeting will be held at the WEP phosphorus building at 9:00 a.m.

Advertising: will include mailing Save-the-Date cards sent to local libraries, OLP website and Onondaga Creek list serve, and Enviromails. Advertising will also be seen on Electronic ticker boards in local towns in the watershed, the Starz calendar, and a paid ad in the Scotsman Penny saver.

Exhibits: Exhibits will be limited to the applicable partner agencies and agencies that have a critical role in the last year's clean up effort. It was suggested to place the exhibits around the perimeter of the fire hall.

Annual Report: A brief pamphlet will be given as a take away that provides additional details on OLP progress made in 2008.

Congressman Walsh is still on the schedule to attend in person whereas time has been allotted on the Agenda to pay tribute for his tireless efforts in cleaning up Onondaga Lake.

Mr. Owens asked how will the OLP track attendance to get an accurate accounting of the public that attended the event. Ms. Greer replied that the comment cards distributed in the past did not accurately account for attendees as it is difficult to get folks to fill them out. It is much easier to get attendees to sign in to get a more accurate head count. He also suggested adding public service announcements (PSAs) to advertise the event as had been done in the past.

The upcoming Holiday, Rosh Hashanah may affect attendance at the APM.

The OLP partners then listened to the sound track of the 2008 APM video for their review and comment. No major comments for revisions were recommended.

c. Contact Recreation in Onondaga Lake: At the request of Mr. Silver, this item was added to re-visit the topic of contact recreation in Onondaga Lake. At the last OLP Executive Committee Meeting the partners met with the Onondaga County and State Health Departments to discuss the safety issues associated with contact recreational events. There were no conclusions drawn at the end of the discussion, but there was general agreement that exposure to elevated levels of E. coli after a storm event is not safe for human contact. Mr. Silver requested that Onondaga County consider testing for levels of E. coli prior to recreational events. Onondaga County routinely samples the water quality through the Ambient Monitoring Program (AMP) and Mr. Silver requested that routine AMP bacteria sampling be scheduled prior to events to notify the event sponsor if necessary. Mr. Coburn was not present at this meeting and could not provide a response to the State's request. Mr. Silver will make this request at a future meeting.

Mr. Lynch responded that it may not be possible to get the Department of Health to commit to a bacteria count of where contact recreation is safe for human contact. Who will set that criteria limit? The partners then discussed the role of the OLP on who has the authority to cancel events if necessary and cannot make statements on behalf of the regulatory agencies. If such documentation is obtained then what would the OLP do with the results? Mr. Owens suggested that the county and state Departments of Health establish a protocol to address such issues for recreational events. The discussion will continue when Mr. Coburn is present.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

a. OLP Resolution 2008-3: This OLP Resolution has been developed as an administrative item to include the county AMP project in the approved OLP project lists. The resolution was recommended by the Project Committee for approval.

MOTION: To approve OLP Resolution 2008-3 as final. The Motion was moved by Mr. Lynch, seconded by Mr. Ausubel, and was approved with 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, and 0 Abstentions.

b. OLP Resolution 2008-4: This OLP Resolution provides funding for Tully Valley Mudboil projects through FY2009. The resolution was recommended for approval by the Project Committee. A discussion followed on the best use of OLP remaining funds for the mudboils. Since there are no alternative funding sources identified at this time, the project Committee recommends using USEPA project support line item to fund this work for another year.

MOTION: To approves OLP Resolution 2008-4 as final. A motion was moved by Mr. Lynch, seconded by Mr. Ausubel, and approved with 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, and 1 Abstention (City of Syracuse).

c. Onondaga Nation Meeting: Mr. Vriesen informed the partners that USACE met with the Onondaga Nation in early July for the purposes of discussing opportunities for habitat restoration along Onondaga Creek and alternatives for long term management of the Onondaga Creek dam.

8. OTHER BUSINESS:

a. Issues: Mr. Lynch informed the partners that State Parks will be placing hazard buoys in Onondaga Lake on September 3, 2008. This is an OLP project and a good news for area boaters. A suggestion was made to send out a press release to the public to inform them of this latest OLP accomplishment. NYSDEC will coordinate with the Parks Department to development a press release.

b. Green Technology Grant: Mr. Ausubel informed the partners that USEPA has been awarded \$100k for a project in the Tully Valley to reduce infiltration into the lake.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

9. ADJOURN: The next meeting will is scheduled for September 24, 2008 as a VTC.

Adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Number	Date of Origin	Due Date	Action Officer	Tasking	Status
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