



A clean lake reflects well
on all of us.

(final)

ONONDAGA LAKE PARTNERSHIP (OLP)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

September 24, 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 (Telecon)
Mr. David Coburn, Director, Onondaga County Office of the Environment
(Alt. for Ms. Joanie Mahoney, Onondaga County Executive)
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
Ms. Susan Miller, Outreach Committee Chair, Onondaga County
Mr. Steven Vriesen, OLP Program Manager, USACE, Buffalo District (VTC)
Ms. Lynn Greer, Outreach Committee, USACE, Buffalo District (VTC)
Ms. Julie Zielinski, OLP Recording Secretary, USACE, Buffalo District (VTC)

Committee Members Absent:

None

2. MEETING ARRANGEMENTS: The meeting was held on Wednesday, September 24, 2008 at 10:30 a.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 August 29, 2008 minutes: The minutes of the August 29, 2008 meeting were unanimously approved as amended. The April 28, 2008 meeting minutes were tabled until the next meeting for Mr. Lynch to verify information with NYS Dept. of Health.

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

4. CORRESPONDENCE: Ms. Zielinski reported that USACE had not received correspondence since the last committee meeting. USACE mailed Save-the-Date postcards for the 2008 Annual Progress Meeting. The other partner agencies had no correspondence to report.

5. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

a. Outreach Committee: Ms. Miller reported on the Outreach Committee meeting held on September 17, 2008. The following are highlights from the meeting:

- Upcoming Events: Onondaga Creek Cleanup scheduled for September 13 and 20, 2008; World Water Monitoring Day will take place in October 2008.
- Discussed final details for the 2008 Annual Progress Meeting and Annual Review Meeting.
- OLP Tabloid: The 2nd edition of the OLP tabloid is set to be published in December 2008 or January 2009. This edition will serve as the annual report that now reaches 85,000 households.
- OLP Website: The next effort for the committee is to recommend improvements and enhancement to the OLP website.

b. Project Committee: Ms. Peachey reported on the Project Committee Meeting held on September 18, 2008. The following are highlights from the meeting:

- Project of the Month: Honeywell gave a presentation on the Lake and subsite remediation status which was helpful prior to the APM in case questions come up.
- OLP video: The Project Committee reviewed the APM video.
- 2008 Goals: Reviewed the 2008 committee goals
- OLP Buoys: The buoys are in place. Maps indicating locations of the buoys will be available at the APM. LTC Snead congratulated NYSDEC in achieving the placement of the buoys in Onondaga Lake.
- Mudboil White Paper: The Project Committee recommended forwarding the white paper to the Executive Committee for their review and comments.
- Received monthly OEI update.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. 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. Final Agendas for both the APM and ARM will be emailed to all committee members later today.

The partners reviewed the final video for any last minute comments. Ms. Greer, Ms. Miller and the USACE videographer were congratulated on job well done. Ms. Greer reviewed the final logistics for the upcoming APM.

b. White Paper: Mr. Coburn included the latest version of the white paper in the meeting package for informational purposes. The white paper was drafted in response to the tasking of the Resource subcommittee to identify a long term funding source for the mudboil maintenance issue. The white paper will be sent to elected officials, foundations, and resource agencies to educate and peak interest on the resources needed to continue the maintenance of the Tully Valley mudboils. The white paper will be discussed in detail at the next meeting.

ACTION ITEM: All – Review and be prepared to discuss the OLP draft mudboil white paper. Send comments to Mr. Coburn and copy all partners.

c. Contact Recreation in Onondaga Lake: At the last OLP Executive Committee, 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 stated that it would not be a problem to collect samples prior to an event on Onondaga Lake but the challenge is then on what to do with the results. It may not be possible to get the DOH to establish criteria for recreational events. There does not seem to be a black and white answer. Presently, there is no tool available to make these hard decisions. Mr. Lynch concurred but added that the issue is not directly an OLP issue or a NYSDOH issue. The Partners did agree that a protocol should be considered to refer to when the bacteria levels rise prior to a recreational event. Timely data is needed to interpret the numbers accurately. There may be other water bodies that have policies in place to refer to. Establishing criteria numbers for recreational events that differ from those established for a bathing beach may not be possible. Mr. Silver reminded the partners that if this issue goes unaddressed the safety of the event participants and the community who may get sick from ingesting Onondaga Lake water will reflect poorly on the OLP Executive Committee.

The partners realized that this is a big issue that needs more research to come up with a better resolution on how to proceed. The partners will work with their individual agencies for further information.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

Review of 2008 Strategic Goals: The partners reviewed the 2008 OLP Executive Committee Goals at their last meeting. In light of the new format the goals are more readily viewed as objectives, it seems appropriate to rank the objectives using a pass/fail system. It was suggested

that the objectives be reviewed on a quarterly basis to stay on track. The OLP 2009 Executive Committee objectives will be drafted at the upcoming Annual Review Meeting.

8. OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Ausubel informed the partners that the 2008 New York State Section 303(d) List was approved by USEPA on September 18, 2008. Onondaga Lake has been de-listed for ammonia. Mr. Ausubel will forward this information to the partners for their information.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

10. ADJOURNMENT: The next meeting will is scheduled for November 12, 2008 as a VTC.

Adjourned at 12:15 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