



A clean lake reflects well  
on all of us.

**(final)**

## **ONONDAGA LAKE PARTNERSHIP (OLP)**

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**December 18, 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)

##### **Others In Attendance:**

Ms. Mary Jane Peachey, Project Committee Chair, NYSDEC  
Ms. Susan Miller, Outreach Committee Chair, Onondaga County  
Mr. Thomas Switala, DPM, USACE, Buffalo District (VTC)  
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:**

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 Thursday, December 18, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.

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

**a. Opening Remarks:** LTC Snead welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished all Happy Holidays. LTC Snead briefed the committee on a recent conversation he had with Congressman Walsh. Congressman Walsh recommended that the Federal, state, and local

representatives and the OLP follow up with the incumbent Congressman Dan Maffei on OLP needs/issues.

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

**c. Approval of the April 28, 2008 and September 24, 2008 Meeting Minutes:** The minutes of the April 28, 2008 meeting were unanimously approved as amended. Approval of the September 24, 2008 meeting minutes was tabled until the next meeting in order for Mr. Silver to submit revised language.

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

**4. CORRESPONDENCE:** Ms. Zielinski reported that USACE had not received incoming correspondence since the last committee meeting. USACE sent a Letter of Invitation to SUNY-ESF to nominate a replacement for Tom Hughes on the Outreach Committee. USACE also sent a Letter of Appreciation to Mr. Robert Geraci of the Onondaga County Parks Department thanking him for his assistance in the tree planting to honor Congressman Walsh. The other Partner agencies had no correspondence to report.

## **5. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**a. Outreach Committee:** Ms. Miller reported on the Outreach Committee meetings held on October 15th and November 19, 2008. The following are highlights from the meeting:

- 2008 Annual Progress Meeting: The 2008 Annual Progress Meeting (APM) was a successful event. Good turnout, good publicity, and thank you to all involved. The Annual Review Meeting was a good discussion on OLP issues.
- OLP Tabloid: The next OLP tabloid will be published on January 22, 2009 which will reach 85k households. This edition will serve as the OLP's annual report.
- Tree Dedication to Congressman Walsh: The tree planting was held in early November, flowering serviceberry trees were planted in Onondaga County Park in the Wegmans Playground area. The OLP was disappointed that they were not involved as there were numerous conversations concerning this event. Spring photo op with Congressman Walsh and an OLP representative to be scheduled.
- 2009 OLP Outreach Committee Objectives: Outreach Committee objectives for FFY 2009 were drafted but not recommended for approval due to lack of a quorum at the December meeting.
- OLP Website: The Outreach Committee will devote the new year to revising/editing the OLP website.

**b. Project Committee:** Ms. Peachey reported on the Project Committee Meetings held on October 16<sup>th</sup> and November 20, 2008. The following are highlights from the meeting:

- OLP Project Committee Objectives: The Project Committee passed a Motion to recommend approval of their 2009 objectives.
- Scientific and Technical Program Integration Board (STPIB) Charge: The Project Committee held detailed discussions on the latest charge to evaluate the CADA-ECM

model and the HSPF model. The committee decided to invite Dr. Ted Endreny and Mr. Ron Entringer to their January 15<sup>th</sup> meeting for further discussion and explanation.

- FFY2009 Project Planning Worksheet: The Project Committee recommended approval of the FFY2009 project planning worksheet pending Federal appropriations/funding.
- No Discharge Zone: After much discussion and meetings with NYS Canal Corporation and NYSDEC, DEC is prepared to go ahead to request Onondaga Lake be classified as a No Discharge Zone (NDZ). Mr. Ausubel stated that USEPA has final approval authority for NDZ requests. Ms. Peachey was asked to forward the draft request through USEPA (Mr. Ausubel and Mr. Dere) for review.
- Bacteria Trackdown Study: The sampling for this season has been completed and a briefing has been scheduled for the project team to report the results at the February 2009 Project Committee meeting.
- Received monthly OEI update: Awaiting final Onondaga Creek Conceptual Revitalization Plan report.

Upon conclusion of Ms. Peachey's report, the following Motion was moved by Mr. Lynch, seconded by Mr. Ausubel and approved unanimously:

**MOTION:** The Executive Committee approves the Project Committee Objectives for FFY 2009 as submitted.

## **6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**a. Mudboil White Paper:** Mr. Coburn included the *Tully Valley Mudboils Long Term Management Needs* white paper as a read ahead for this meeting. Mr. Coburn asked the Executive Committee members if they had any final comments to submit before the white paper is released to local elected officials. A minor revision was made to the 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph under "Current Situation". As an item of awareness, Mr. Coburn met with USGS and OCSWCD to discuss another possible alternative to the Options listed in the white paper. The discussion included what would a "bare bones" program cost to address the mudboils. OCSWCD suggested that approximately \$50,000 per year would be sufficient to perform routine maintenance to keep the existing mudboil remedies operating. Mr. Coburn recommended considering this as a contingency if the white paper does not bear fruit and the OLP is forced to seek other options. Mr. Ausubel encouraged further discussion to consider the "bare bones" option, particularly if it could maintain what the OLP is currently doing for less cost. USEPA grants with OEI expire in 2012 and these grants may or may not be able to be extended whereby the OLP will have to consider using other funds. At the end of the discussion the following Motion was moved by Mr. Coburn, seconded by Mr. Ausubel and approved unanimously.

**MOTION:** The Executive Committee approves the *Tully Valley Mudboils Long Term Management Needs* white paper dated September 2008 to be made available to local elected officials.

**b. Contact Recreation in Onondaga Lake:** Mr. Silver did not have any further comments to add from the recommendations made to the previous months meeting minutes regarding this topic. However, Mr. Silver talked to Mr. Ron Heerkins from the NYS DOH earlier in the morning (18 December 2008) about his e-mail comments concerning waterskiing

in Onondaga Lake. Mr. Heerkins' e-mail comments reiterated that the NYS DOH does not regulate contact recreation with the exception of swimming at beaches. Mr. Silver agreed with his statement that boating and fishing involved incidental contact but disagreed that water skiing and wake boarding involved incidental contact. Mr. Silver discussed the USEPA definition of primary contact recreation as activities that could be expected to result in the immersion and ingestion of water. According to the USEPA, these activities include swimming, water skiing, and kayaking. In addition, Ms. Shari Barash from USEPA Headquarters and Mr. Wayne Jackson from USEPA Region II consider jet skiing to be a primary contact recreation activity. Mr. Heerkins and Mr. Silver also discussed developing a pre-event protocol to ensure that primary recreation participants (such as water skiers and jet skiers) were not unknowingly exposed to elevated levels of E. coli. This issue was brought up during the April 28, 2008 OLP Executive Committee meeting but did not appear in Mr. Heerkins' e-mail comments. This two step protocol that Mr. Silver is proposing involves: 1) collecting and analyzing water samples for E. coli from the Class B Onondaga County Ambient Monitoring Program sampling sites in Onondaga Lake 24 hours before the scheduled event; and 2) comparing the amount of rainfall, if any occurs, in the time interval between when water samples were collected and when the primary contact recreation event is scheduled to begin, to an established rain fall number specifically modeled for Onondaga Lake. Based on a statistical evaluation of E. coli and precipitation data at Onondaga Lake, the specifically modeled rain fall number would predict how much rain would need to fall to result in E. coli levels probably exceeding 235 counts per 100 ml. For example, if the specifically modeled number for OL is 0.5 inches of rain, and a 0.75 rain occurs within 24 hours prior to the scheduled event, the established precipitation number would be exceeded, indicating that elevated levels of E. coli were likely present in the Class B waters of Onondaga Lake, and the primary contact recreation event could be canceled. Mr. Heerkins agreed to review the protocol once it is drafted.

## **7. NEW BUSINESS:**

**a. Executive Committee Objectives for 2009:** Mr. Vriesen referred to the draft 2009 Executive Committee Objectives in the read ahead package and requested any further questions and/or comments. [LTC Snead had to leave the OLP meeting to attend another meeting; Mr. Switala chaired the meeting from this point forward.] Mr. Switala called for a Motion to approve the 2009 Executive Committee objectives. Mr. Lynch moved the motion, Mr. Coburn seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

**MOTION:** The Executive Committee approves the FFY 2009 Objectives as amended.

**b. FFY2009 OLP Recommended Project List:** Ms. Peachey referred to the OLP FFY2009 project list that was included in the read ahead package. The list was drafted by the Project Committee to prioritize OLP projects subject to the availability of FY09 funds. The Executive Committee recommended approving the list as a Motion versus an OLP Resolution until funding has been identified. Ms. Coburn moved the motion, Mr. Lynch seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

**MOTION:** The OLP Executive Committee approves the FFY2009 Recommended Project List.

## **8. OTHER BUSINESS:**

**a. Issues.** Mr. Vriesen explained that while briefing LTC Snead about the OLP, the appointment of standing committee members was discussed. LTC Snead signed his first letter of invitation to SUNY-ESF to replace Mr. Tom Hughes on the Outreach Committee. LTC Snead recommended that the standing committee Chairs perform “housekeeping” with their respective committees. Mr. Switala asked that the standing committee Chairs review their records for 2008 and report the following information at the next OLP Executive Committee meeting: 1) the number of meetings held in 2008, 2) the number of meetings a quorum was present, and 3) any standing committee members that missed 3 or more consecutive meetings. This will ensure that all the committee members are fulfilling their obligations to the Partnership and still have an interest in serving on the committees.

**9. PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**10. ADJOURNMENT:** The next meeting is scheduled for February 2, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. at the John H. Mulroy Civic Center. The meeting was adjourned at 11:38 a.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
E08-1	18-Dec-08	02-Feb-09	Peachey/Miller	Review 2008 committee meeting records for committee member attendance.	In-Progress