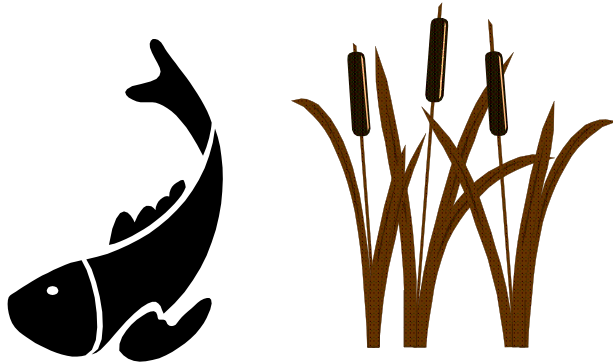


Oatka Creek Watershed Committee, Inc.
P.O. Box 181
Scottsville, New York 14546



NEWS FROM THE
OATKA CREEK
WATERSHED COMMITTEE
Winter 2003

Message from the Chairman

Rick VenVertloh

Activities for the New Year

A new year is upon us and we are excited about the prospect of continuing our watershed planning. There are a number of activities planned for 2003 and I would like to share them with you.

Our State of the Basin Report is completed and at the time of this writing is at the printers. This benchmark document helps set the stage to better understand the existing environment within the watershed. Copies will be distributed to communities and organizations throughout the watershed, probably within the next six to eight weeks.

Our municipal outreach programs will include four public meetings that will be scheduled for this spring. Our goal is to increase public awareness of the creek as a unique and valuable resource as well as solicit input regarding problems, concerns or threats to water quality. We anticipate partnering with the Genesee/Wyoming Counties Joint Flood Mitigation project when these meetings are held.

The committee is in the process of hiring a "steward" to help manage the affairs of our organization. The steward will be a part-time paid position. Some of the near-term responsibilities include managing the outreach program, reviewing existing and recommended best management practices in the watershed with soil and water district staff, developing model land use ordinances and model inter-municipal agreements.

The committee would like to commission several studies in the upcoming year. We are considering several possibilities such as a "Stressed Stream Analysis" and a "Biological Assessment". The first study is intended to help pinpoint pollution sources severity. The second study is intended to identify and quantify the unique natural attributes that are present in our own "backyard". Of course, our ability to progress with these studies is completely dependant on our ability to generate financial resources.

As always, we welcome anyone who is interested in participating on the committee. We generally meet the

second Tuesday of every month at 12 Noon at the Village Office in LeRoy. For more information call me at (585) 295-6226 (w).

Sincerely,



Richard T. VenVertloh

Chairman, Oatka Creek Watershed Committee

**Genesee/Wyoming Counties
Joint Flood Mitigation Project**

Elected officials throughout the Oatka and Tonawanda Creek Watersheds recently received notification of the Genesee/Wyoming Counties Joint Flood Mitigation Project. This is a very exciting opportunity for local officials within the Oatka Creek Watershed who have concerns regarding flood issues in their communities.

The goals of the Joint Flood Mitigation Project are to develop a watershed plan for mitigating and reducing flood hazards within the Oatka and Tonawanda Creek Watersheds, and to help participating communities adopt a specific set of goals for them to implement measures to eliminate or reduce the impacts of flooding.

The Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council (GFLRPC) has been

selected as the agency that will undertake this project. At this time, they are in the process of researching historical flood damage and economic impact over time in each of the watersheds. The results of the research will help to identify flood hazards and to assess the risks associated with those hazards. Long-term risk to buildings, homes, roadways and the environment will be determined, and appropriate mitigation measures will be identified.

The scope of this project is intended to complement existing municipal comprehensive plans by providing more flood management detail than is usually contained in a master plan. The project is designed to provide lasting, effective management of flood prone areas within our communities. The decision to be proactive through flood mitigation planning will prove valuable in times of need.

The Oatka Creek Watershed Committee encourages municipalities to participate in the Joint Flood Mitigation Project. There are many benefits to participation, including access to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Mitigation funding, and increased public awareness of risks associated with flooding. In addition, there will be opportunities for communities to participate in the Community Rating System and be eligible for reductions in National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) premiums.

By adopting a resolution and becoming a Participating Municipality in the Flood Mitigation Plan, your community will have access to these and other important benefits. Contact the Genesee County Emergency Management Services office at 585-344-0078, or the Genesee County Department of Planning at 585-344-2580 x5470 if you have questions about the Genesee/Wyoming Counties Joint Flood Mitigation Project.

OCWS Committee Information

When: 2nd Tuesday of month

Where: LeRoy Village Hall

Time: Noon - 2:00

To confirm meeting dates or to request handicap access, please contact Rick at:

(585) 295-6226 (work) or

(585) 889-5293 (home).

View our calendar on-line at
www.oatka.org

The mission of the Committee is to preserve the pristine character and water quality now present in Oatka Creek for future generations through the development, promotion, and implementation of an Oatka Creek Watershed Management Plan.