

**OATKA CREEK WATERSHED COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING**

DATE: June 17, 2019
PLACE: Woodward Memorial Library, LeRoy, NY
TIME: 6:30 PM
RE: Regular OCWC Meeting

IN ATTENDANCE:

Peter Lent, Jim Seiler, Rick VenVertloh, Adam Henne and Lisa Compton

I. Call to Order and Welcome:

- The meeting was called to order at 6:37 PM. Welcome to Adam Henne, the new Director of the Genesee Country Village & Museum Nature Center.

II. Approval of Draft Agenda for June 17, 2019

- As there was no quorum; the presented agenda was followed without modifications or official approval.

III. Approval of Draft Minutes for April 15, 2019 and May 20, 2019

- There was no quorum present, so approval is tabled until the next meeting.

IV. Old Business:

A. Update on Watershed Management Plan (WMP) Implementation/ Outreach activities:

- **Materials preparation for municipal outreach: *Pete still has to assemble the digital municipal booklets.** Adding to the three that he was working on (i.e. Village of LeRoy, and the Village and Town of Caledonia), he will add the Town of LeRoy. Pete explained that he has to find and organize the components, and that the booklets differ from those given out at our 2017 workshop. He asked if Rick had any of the printed copies from the recent Wheatland or Scottsville presentations, but Rick did not; he had given them all to the municipalities. When **Pete recently spoke to Shannon Dougherty about printing the materials, she indicated that she is ready for the documents at any time.** Rick and Lisa said that the erosion risk maps that Shannon and Tiffany provided were really helpful - though Rick did modify them a bit by giving additional emphasis (thicker red line) to the boundaries between the two watersheds, making it a little easier to distinguish between the two. **Could Pete also ask Shannon if we could get more of the watershed wide maps, as well as subwatershed assessment ones for the next batch of communities? How about the grants page?** The maps were a really good tool for helping clarify local position in the watershed and local conditions vis-a-vis flood plains and erosion. And of course the grant sheet was

extremely helpful, and both municipal boards presented to so far indicated appreciation for grant information.

- **Genesee Cornell Cooperative Extension Grant Proposal:** Pete had received an email from Executive Director, Chris Crawford, informing him that **they have decided to not pursue a grant** from the RIT New York State Pollution Prevention Institute this year for the **Watershed Education for Municipal Officials (WEMO) proposal** due to a number of other pressing concerns at the Extension. Mr. Crawford has completed much of the work for it and hopes to apply next year.
- Maureen reported via email that she had also received this news when she met with Mr. Crawford recently. **She offered him OCWC's support for future work.**
- Coincidentally, during the past weekend at Genesee River Watch's Trees for Tribes planting session in Allegany County (June 15), Pete happened to find himself working next to a person from the RIT Pollution Prevention Institute. She told Pete that the subject of the application has made them think about the importance of watershed outreach, and it is an area where the Institute could strengthen support.
- **County Intermunicipal Agreement (IMA):** At the May 30th Green Infrastructure Champions Workshop, **Pete had lunch with a group of agency personnel from all four of the Oatka Watershed Counties**, one being Bill Daley from Wyoming County Planning. **Pete had the opportunity to talk about the IMA**, and explained to them it's purpose, and also that the document had been introduced in each county, but was in different stages/locations. He also spoke about the OCWC's offer to have interested county agencies meet together to discuss the document and have any questions they have for the OCWC answered.
- **Clarification/Correction by Maureen June 27: There was misunderstanding regarding status reported at meeting. IMA has not been signed at this time by Monroe County. They are waiting final edits from other counties.** original report
Maureen also sent an update: She met with Steve Brew of the Monroe County Legislature about the status of the IMA in the County. He tracked it down and informed her that it looked like had been passed and signed in Monroe County. Maureen called the Legislature clerk in Genesee County, who **tracked it down to the Genesee County SWCD**. Maureen called them, and Tim and Molly told her that **the board was meeting Friday morning on the 14th and they would review it then**. She also called a friend who is on that board and explained our intent with it so Maureen hopes this friend has championed it for us.

- **Village of LeRoy Mill Street Development and Park Project:** Regarding the apartment structure, the **Village's engineer, Rick Henry, looked up the information** for the Committee. He says they "have 24" perforated pipe along the boundary (detention trenches) that connect into the existing storm sewers (two connections) that go across into the Creek. There is a 15" pipe about mid property and an 18" pipe on the north end of the property."
- Maureen had taken pictures of the work being done on Mill St., and a couple of the images show show a cylindrical tank of some sort - perhaps to regulate the flow rate? *Rick Venvertloh will take a look at the images and see if he can recognize what is going on there. *Lisa will also visit the zoning office to see if she can actually find the site plan. Rick V. says a copy should be there.
- As far as the park area, Lisa is still having difficulty tracking down who is actually in charge. She is waiting for responses from a couple of emails that she had sent. *She will continue to pursue this. Rick says there might also be a site plan for the park, however, the park project might not necessarily require site plan review; that depends on how the Village code is written. *Lisa will also check into whether a plan exists for the park. Pete is curious if there is a maintenance plan? There was some further discussion on existing park features (benches, trees, etc). It appears that the work going on there now is on a bocci ball court. Maureen had reported that there has been a sizable patch of vegetation removed.
- **Comments for Town of LeRoy environmental zoning :** On May 29, **Rick sent the OCWC Board a document that he had put together that summarized his comments regarding the proposed zoning code changes. Pete would like to add a few things** to the document before sending it to the Town Supervisor. He plans to add some information **elaborating on what the Green Genesee Road Map'(GGRM) represents** and that it is now a layer in Genesee County's GIS Mapping System. Now it is possible to zoom in on project sites to better see their relationship to "Natural Asset Cores" and water resources like streams and federal & state wetlands. However, he would like to **urge caution in relying solely on that map's boundaries indicating sensitive areas, as those boundaries might not include critical drainage information.** Understanding drainage at the catchment level is important for reliable protection of the Road Map's 'Natural Asset Cores' and the 'Ecological Networks' areas. Disturbances in land outside these 'green' areas indicated on the map could have negative impact if the land contains drainage critical to the Core/Network areas.
- Pete went into a little more detail describing the method used in making the GG map. They looked at natural assets throughout the County and, using criteria described in the GGRM document, identified critical natural areas (e.g. stream

corridors, wetlands, areas with natural storm water management aspects to them, wildlife habitat). Around these " Natural Asset Cores", a buffer of 500ft was applied to create a natural resource "Hub" (indicated on map by dark green). Those boundaries were connected (connectivity analysis is also described in the report) into corridors to which was applied additional buffer to established the "Ecological Network"(medium green). As an example: In the Village of LeRoy, this "green" area essentially describes the Oatka Creek stream corridor and the wetlands and head waters of Mud Creek. **What Pete thinks is missing is sufficient assessment of catchment drainage from outside the protected Ecological Network boundaries**; there could be a scenario where a proposed development outside the boundary disturbs drainage to or from the protected areas without these projects receiving the proper scrutiny. He discussed this briefly with Felipe at the May 30th GI workshop.

- To get **catchment level information, he recommends that municipalities should make use of the ARCGIS assessment tool** that was described in last month's May 12 meeting. It was originally developed for use with the Trees for Tribes program, but is now statewide. <http://nynhp.org/treesfortribesnny> and <https://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=db102402c7bb45c5b1cf21e93db0f4e5&extent=-74.2969,42.4351,-73.4447,42.8422>
- There are two scales that can be used, one is at HUC 12 level and the other is at the catchment level. HUC 12 areas are delineated by taking the stream in a watershed and drawing lines perpendicular to the flow, so it breaks out 'squared off' sections or 'subwatersheds'. These can contain water sources with drainage that extends into another unit, and the tool at this level is not especially useful for the type of information a municipality would need in evaluating drainage for a local project. However the more detailed **catchment tool shows drainage patterns within the HUC 12s that can enhance the data already in the GGRM**. While the on-line catchment tool is adequate for viewing, if a municipality has GIS, they could use this tool to more fully examine drainage patterns on project sites. If the project location would affect a Core or the Natural Asset Network, they would follow the recommended GGRM checklist that is used for projects in the 'green areas' (though it really should be applied to any review!). In the GIS catchment program, there is also the opportunity to compare and contrast catchment attributes: e.g resiliency, water quality, runoff risk. * **Pete will make a copy of the GGRM check list** and send to OCWC board.
- **Areas of concern should be expanded to drainage areas that feed and/or drain the natural core that you are trying to protect**. Other items he wants to address: **This plan (GGRM) is set up to deal with future projects, and does not cover existing projects**. But it also **gets into the area of WMP recommendations**; not only the regulatory ordinance but **also non- regulatory**

which can mean outreach to citizens on what property owners can do.

Understanding how to get information about where the water goes on your property would be good education.

- He also announced there are **public meetings coming up in Genesee County for a three year review on the Genesee County Smart Growth Plan.** They are soon! One is this evening, and there is one tomorrow evening. **Rick said what he would like to see is for the County to develop a model ordinance that everyone can use with the GGRM.** He observed that generally, local laws take years to approve. ***Pete will finish up his edits to the letter to the town. He hopes to have it done in week.**

V. **New Business - 2019 Plans:**

- **LeRoy Oatka Festival.** **The festival will be held before our next regular meeting.** Lisa has not heard anything from the Festival yet. **We submitted the application for this year** during last summer's event. She also noted that she would not be available for much assistance this year, beyond setting up and breaking down the tent and tables. Pete and Jim wondered if we could only do one day? Lisa says as far as she knows, the policy is that vendors must do both days. Perhaps we could share with another group? Pete asked her to ask Nikki to feel out the Festival committee on the matter. ***She will do that and after hearing back from here, *she will mail out a sign-up sheet.** It was observed that at least two people at a time are needed to successfully manage the booth, so ***she will indicate that on the sign up.**

VI. **Officers Reports & Review Action Items & Announcements:**

A. Chairman (Pete):

- He was wondering if he should make an account for access to bank statements considering Jennifer's current health issues? He is an authorized user, so it shouldn't be too difficult. ***He will get a card to send to her.**
- **Green Infrastructure (GI) Champions workshop:** As mentioned earlier, Pete attended. The event was sponsored by the Great Lakes Commission (GLC). G/FLRPC Senior Planner, Jayme Thomann, who is also a GI Champions mentor for the GLC, was one of the primary developers of the workshop (the workshop development team is mentioned in April 2019 minutes). Pete noted one of Jayme's **goals is to promote GI programs and education in New York State** and that the workshop came out of that goal.
- **Session descriptions:**

- Andy Sansone of Monroe County introduced GI topics and gave an overview from Monroe County - Pete noted that that County has the largest variety of GI in the two watersheds, most likely because they are an MS4 area. MS4s are based on population and are required to follow more regulations for storm water management. Monroe County also has more examples of GI urban designs. Mr. Sansone offered a specific example of the method the County used to assess a particular stream relative to storm water issues. Pete observed this was a tool that could be standardized and used anywhere.
- Mr. Sansone did a later session about the master plan for riparian restoration and retrofit in Monroe County.
- One theme throughout the workshop was that if you have GI practices in place, maintenance is important, and there should be a plan for it.
- Shannon Dougherty, Watershed Coordinator for the Great Lakes Watershed Program at DEC, talked about GI programs that might be useful for Black & Oatka Creek watershed communities.
- The GLC's Margo Davis spoke about their GI related programs and their need for mentors/mentees.
- Felipe Oltramari of Genesee County talked about the GGSG Natural Asset Mapping.
- There was an hour long session with panel discussion on GI funding options.
- They ended the workshop with field tours, first going across street to view a bank stabilization project and then Pete thinks they went to Ballantyne Road near the RIT campus? He did not attend the field tours, so wasn't entirely sure.
- Initially, the registration was restricted to persons from and agencies that serve the Black and Oatka Creek watersheds, but closer to the event, the sign up it was broadened to include other areas. There were a little over forty attendees. **All Oatka Watershed Counties were represented in attendance.** He noted that besides Bill Daley from Wyoming County Planning attending, so did Eileen Hansen, the Mayor of Scottsville. Pete said that unfortunately, he did not get a chance to speak with her. He wasn't sure what agencies or other communities everyone was associated with, as the sign in sheet did not require listing affiliation. Sea Grant, Andy Sansone, and Jayme had all requested a list of attendees from workshop, but Pete hasn't seen anything yet.
- **Great Lakes Action Agenda meeting SW Lake Ontario:** Pete attended this meeting on June 6, about a week after the GI workshop. These meetings are sponsored by DEC and run by Shannon Dougherty who is Regional Coordinator for the SW Lake Ontario group. Generally, attendees include agencies that are involved in water issues as well as two or three watershed groups. Over the last couple years, local emphasis has been to use Black and Oatka watersheds as "proving grounds" or "service units" for the other groups' programs: e.g. DEC's

Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM), development of culvert designs by US Fish & Wildlife, as well as other projects that help realize elements of the Black and Oatka Creek Watershed Management Plans (WMPs). Shannon's main task as regional Coordinator is to find and implement projects to reach targets in the Great Lakes Action Agenda for Lake Ontario. Notably, the Action Agenda has categories very much the same as our local WMPs.

- At this meeting, in attendance were a lot of the same people that had spoken at the GI workshop, as well as representatives from Sea Grant. **Andy Sansone told Pete that he had spoken with the Scottsville mayor about infiltration in the Village's sewer system.** He was going to have a follow-up meeting. Pete inquired if he could show up for it? Pete also reported to attendees that the OCWC is doing educational outreach at this time.

B. Vice Chair (Maureen) via email:

- **Macro Invertebrate education in Scottsville:** She hasn't heard any additional information. She did meet the director at the Wheatland presentation, so she expects to hear from her soon.
- **Village of Caledonia presentation (to come):** She discussed with Alan the possibility of him helping Pete present at the outreach meeting.

C. Treasurer (Jennifer) via email June 18

- Transactions last month:
 - none
- Balance as of 6/12/19:
 - Balance: \$3,203.13

D. Secretary (Lisa):

- She had found an interesting **international stormwater BMP database** developed by the Water Research Foundation, the National Corn Growers Association, and the United Soybean Board. She wonders if the data bases discussed at the last few meetings might want to be integrated into this data? The database seems to have been developed a number of years ago (2011 start date) in the midwestern US. see: <http://www.bmpdatabase.org/agBMP.html> or <http://www.bmpdatabase.org/index.htm> and http://www.bmpdatabase.org/Docs/AgBMPDB UserGuideV1.1_Nov2016.pdf

E. Other news (Jim)

- There has been **record flooding on agricultural lands in the midwest**, preventing the planting of crops. It has exceeded the records from 1993. He is surprised it is not being covered more closely in the national news.

VII. Adjourn:

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM

Action Items:

- Pete still has to assemble the digital municipal booklets and get them to Shannon. And he will ask about erosion risk maps, municipal subwatershed assessment and grant page.
- Lisa will visit to LeRoy zoning office to see if there is a storm water site plan for the DePaul project and also see if there was a site plan for the park.
- Rick will look at the pictures of the Mill St. project, to see if he can understand what is going on there.
- Lisa will continue looking for a contact for the Mill St. Park upgrade.
- Pete will finish and submit the comments for the Town of LeRoy environmental code. **Target date one week.**
- He will send the GG zoning 'check list' to OCWC board
- Lisa will contact Nikki regarding questions about the LeRoy festival. She will also post a sign-up sheet for the booth. She will keep Committee updated.
- LeRoy Oatka Festival is June 13 & 14

Next meeting: July 22, 2019. Location Leupold's Yellow Barn, 3130 Oatka Creek Rd (Oatka Trail), Churchville, NY 14428. Start time 6:30PM.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa M. Compton