

**OATKA CREEK WATERSHED COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING**

DATE: February 25, 2019
PLACE: Woodward Memorial Library, LeRoy, NY
TIME: 6:30 PM
RE: Regular OCWC Meeting

IN ATTENDANCE:

Peter Lent, Maureen Leupold, Jim Seiler, Steve Leupold, Alan Garrett, Rick VenVertloh, Nikki Calhoun and Lisa Compton

I. Call to Order and Welcome:

- The meeting was called to order at 6:37 PM. Again welcome Alan Garrett of the Village of Caledonia.

II. Approval of Draft Agenda for February 25, 2019

- Maureen made a motion to approve the draft agenda and Lisa seconded the motion. All were in favor and the draft agenda was approved.

III. Approval of Draft Minutes for December 17, 2018 and January 28, 2019

- Maureen made a motion to approve the December 17, 2018 minutes; Jim seconded the motion.. All were in favor and the December 17, 2018 minutes were approved.
- Maureen made a motion to approve the January 28, 2019 minutes for the 2018 Annual Meeting of the Corporation. Nikki seconded the motion; all were in favor and the minutes were approved.
- Maureen made a motion to approve the January 28, 2019 regular meeting minutes. Jim asked for some language changes to clarify and give fuller context to issues in the discussion on manure spreading. He submitted proposed language, and further changes were suggested by other members. There followed a brief discusssion on manure spreading regulations. Maureen made a motion to approve the January 28, 2019 minutes with the proposed language changes. Rick seconded the motion. All were in favor and the January 28, 2019 regular meeting minutes were approved with changes. *Lisa will resend these minutes.

IV. Officers Reports & Review Action Items & Announcements:

A. Chair (Peter)

- *Pete was finishing up getting signatures for the card to be given to Esther.
- He received a notice on a **new initiative under the NYSDEC "Trees for Tribs" program called "Buffer in a Bag"**. It provides landowners a free bag of 25 bareroot trees and shrubs for planting in streamside areas. Maureen noted that she also received information on this, and posted it on the Facebook page. She also

offered the services of the OCWC to assist interested parties in their applications and planting efforts. The **applications are being accepted between February 13 and April 23 (before 3:00 PM)**. It was noted that the initiative helps solve some of the issues with smaller, individual projects being shut out of the tree program after recent changes had been made.

- There was also news from the NYSDEC Division of Water. Currently, **the Water Withdrawal Reporting Program is receiving water withdrawal reporting data for 2018**. See the DEC website for information on reporting: Non-agricultural at: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/55509.html> and agricultural at: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/86747.html> . Jim thinks there is a public registry with the withdrawal information, though he doesn't know if exact locations of intakes are listed, or if the information is quantity only. Pete says though location information can be sensitive, it would be helpful to be able to break it down by tributaries, as withdrawal information is scarce in our Oatka Creek watershed management plan (WMP). Though he did observe it didn't really matter *too* much unless there was a drought. *Pete will look into accessing the registry.
- **Town of LeRoy planning efforts**: Pete had forwarded to the OCWC Board correspondence sent to him by Town of LeRoy Supervisor, Steve Barbeau. The communication contained a **draft document for Town code that has to do with environmental planning issues**. The Supervisor requested input from the OCWC. Pete also forwarded the document to Felipe Oltramari of Genesee County Planning to solicit his comments. There was extended discussion, and a number of observations and recommendations were made, many of them by Rick, who has extensive background in code and standards. Rick said he would like to review the information more thoroughly and make a list of his recommendations but says since that will take him a couple months, he will get some more general comments to Pete sooner. ***All comments should be forwarded to Pete soon** so that he can share them with Supervisor Barbeau.
- **Green Genesee Road Map** - See at: http://co.genesee.ny.us/docs/Green_Genesee_Road_Map_Nov_2015.pdf . The Committee discussed this topic at some length. **Pete had forwarded information earlier in the day on the Green Genesee/Smart Genesee (GGSG) conservation planning effort in Genesee County**. He gave an overview of the GG report and the map itself. He understands the project having two components: the Green Genesee Road Map, which is a science based tool/map for use in making sustainable land use decisions, and the Smart Genesee part, which encourages and assists municipalities to incorporate model conservation practices into land use regulations and comprehensive plans. Sensitive /natural asset areas were mapped at the County level based on particular data listed in the report. Storm water management code designs are promoted and a book of BMP

standards is referenced. Green Infrastructure techniques are also part of the recommendations (i.e. the practice of maintaining natural parts of a natural storm water management system). In the GG Road Map 1, the County tries to delineate where important environmental systems exist naturally with the goal to protect them. Map 1 interconnects existing natural assets into corridors - one question is how they did that? At a glance, these corridors appear to be primarily the riparian corridors of the streams (and tributaries). Other maps make note of farmland between and comparing maps show conflicting use. GG/SG map and report show large scale county level interests. It is thought that maybe the SG planning part is encouraging municipalities to add more specific, local scale identification of assets using the County's concept and analysis techniques - i.e. towns and villages to refine the information so it is appropriate for local developers to use? Pete noted that in the Road Map report, there are four appendices, with Appendix A being the planning matrix from the Oatka Creek WMP. It is referred to in several locations in the Report (so we were part of this planning process without knowing!). That being the case, it would be in our best interest to review the WMP to see if what we put in plan in 2012 is still appropriate to address things were looking at in terms of improvements in the watershed. Tying in with GGSG is that **we could suggest for all Genesee County watershed communities that they could map sensitive/asset areas for their town to add more detail to County matrix.** Pete had attended a few early meetings of this project and intends to read the document more thoroughly.

- **Wheatland talk:** Rick described that what he tried to do in the talk with the Town Board in Wheatland was to **find a couple of things to 'wet the whistle'** of the Town, i.e. specific projects that they could actually work on that fall totally under their purview that are relevant to them. He noted that many recommendations in the WMP are more esoteric/abstract, and are things that a municipality would need a lot of help with or would fall under other peoples'/agencies' responsibilities, so the Board would have a harder time relating to them. An example he proposed to the Wheatland Board was that they might want to consider looking at their local laws and create Environmental Protection Overlay Districts (EPODs) to put more protections on important environmental assets (he had noted during the presentation that the Town owns significant property along the Oatka). He stressed to them the importance of assigning a person or persons to head any specific project up. As general advice to fellow OCWC members in working with communities, he said that our group (OCWC) should encourage focus on one topic (e.g. the EPOD) and we can check in on them to see how things are going, noting that the municipality does the work. When we get back to them, we can see what kind of assistance they need. A couple of examples: we might want to find a model ordinance that relates to the chosen project that they

could compare their work to; or we can help them judge whether a model ordinance they find themselves is a good one. Rick sees the Wheatland Supervisor often so *he will have no problem following up.

B. Treasurer (Maureen for Jennifer)

- Transactions last month.
 - Insurance payment: -\$383.00
 - Donation deposit: +\$50.00
- Statement for 1/14/19 through 2/12/19:
 - Balance: \$2976.30
- Other activity after 2/12/19 statement:
 - P.O. Box payment: - \$76
 - Remaining Balance: \$2900.30
- Maureen notes she expects to receive a check for the Facebook birthday donations.
- Jennifer reports via email she is working on PayPal. She ran into some issues but is working on it.

C. Vice Chair (Maureen)

- **Facebook:** Maureen says she has been **trying to post more frequently**. She has been putting up and linking to information from other sources, e.g. NYSDEC "Buffer in a Bag" and interesting information from Stroud Water Research Center, and other organizations. She wants to keep the page active. We now stand at 180 "likes" which she interprets as the page most likely having somewhat of a following. The "Buffer in a Bag" post got shared numerous times from the OCWC's page.
- **Amazon Smile:** Nikki asked what our Smile charity ID number is? Pete says we do have one, and **he sent out an email with the information**. Maureen says she tried to put the link on Facebook, and she thinks that Jennifer also attempted it, but they seem to be experiencing difficulty getting it to work.

D. Other news (Alan)

- Alan had some pictures of **Spring Creek**, taken 2-3 years ago, looking north from Mill St. There ensued a lengthy discussion of past and present **conditions in the creek**:
 - lots of debris
 - rising water temperatures
 - some fisherman have done work trying to divert/add more variety into stream current (Garbutt Club? Trout Unlimited?)
 - question and speculation as to how much change there has been in the amount of shade and the conditions of adjacent wetland (still has cedars but perhaps more open now?)

- effectiveness of silt filtration barriers (some observe that silt still enters in unacceptable quantities)
- replacement of boardwalk
- generally not as much algae as in past - but still dense algae has happened recently. Pete noted stream filtering/cleaning at hatchery has produced two to three times the amount of algae filtered out as in the recent past
- healthy trout populations. discussion on good results of DEC trout count. DEC cover structure in fishing area (& deeper water seems to have hard substrate)
- Some history of a fire at a number of years ago at CRC grainery was discussed.
- Rick explained that the previously discussed **Spring Creek restoration effort** proposed by the Garbutt Club is still being worked on (see OCWC minutes February 26, 2018). A coalition organization is still active (Rick is part of this group), but they unsure how to move forward at this point in time, as it is a complex project. Additionally, the Seth Green Chapter of Trout Unlimited that is also involved has a priority at this time of work on their Oatka Creek projects. TU is working with the USF&WS, and the NYDEC (see OCWC minutes June 18, 2018).

E. More news/updates Vice Chair (Maureen)

- **Pick Up the Parks:** The event is **Sunday, April 28th from 9:00AM to Noon**. A nice change is that lunch will be provided at Oatka Creek Park. As usual, the Parks Dept will provide all the supplies needed for disposal of trash.
- **Arbor Day in Caledonia:** The event will be on **May 4th (the 1st Saturday in May). Time TBA**. Alan reminded the group that this coincides with the opening day event for Little League and his group will be dedicating a tree. (see OCWC minutes January 28, 2019) Maureen suggested that OCWC contact Livingston County SWCD (Bob Stryker) to see if we could get any trees from them to give away at the event - perhaps they will have left overs from their tree sale? OCWC could provide paper bags. We are also going to have our display, and perhaps a **"Tree Walk"**?
- **Tree check:** Last month a date of April 13 was proposed to check the tree tubes at Oatka Creek Park, but Maureen suggested that the event be **moved up a week to April 6**, as trees for the planting project will start arriving on the 13th. There was a consensus that the date be changed. **Time to be announced**.

V. Old Business:

A. **Presentation to Wheatland:** This was discussed under Officer's Reports.

B. **Municipal Outreach Joint Planning - County Intermunicipal Agreement:**

- **Pete still has to follow up** with the IMA. As of now, only Livingston County does not have a copy. He plans to contact Livingston County SWCD District

Manager, Bob Stryker, about it. When *he does contact Bob, Pete will also ask about the trees for OCWC to give away at Caledonia Arbor Day event - maybe see if we could secure 100 if available?

- Alan and Maureen suggested a good person to connect with in Livingston County is their friend, **Paula Smith**. She used to work at Monroe County SWCD, but now is on the **Livingston County Environmental Management Council (EMC)**.

C. **Update on Outreach assistance from NYDEC,**

- Pete asked about how the outreach materials that were produced by Shannon were received at the Wheatland outreach meeting. **Rick said he thought they were much appreciated and very helpful**, and went over the list of handouts for the meeting. Shannon was there to give out the grant information page, and the combined Black and Oatka watershed maps. Rick said that he had made last minute modifications to the talk. Additionally, the presentation was recorded so members not present could review it. Rick also noted that **he had really looked into the specifics of recent issues and interests in the Town, so his recommendations were more relevant and interesting to the Board. He views this as an extremely important step in planning for the next talk.** He also recommends having **maps and booklets printed for the next five or so municipalities** we intend to present to. He suggested the Villages of LeRoy and Scottsville. Maureen brought up the issue of the Town Board members not being familiar with the term 'riparian' in reference to corridors and buffers. Pete suggested maybe a series of newsletters to define and discuss the topic?

VI. New Business:

- A. **2019 Plans:** Note: Meeting time ran out so this discussion was delayed.

VII. Adjourn:

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:20PM

VIII. Action Items:

- Lisa will resend final January 28 minutes
- Pete was finishing up getting signatures for the card to be given to Esther
- Rick and all members send comments on Town of LeRoy code document to Pete
- Jennifer will work on setting up PayPal account
- Lisa to finish updating municipal contact lists
- Pete will look into access of the water withdrawal registry
- Maureen will continue to plan for Pick up the Parks April 28
- Pete, et al will plan for Oatka Creek Park tree check April 6

- Maureen will continue to work with Alan Garrett on Caledonia Arbor Day event May 4
- Rick will follow up with Wheatland Supervisor to see what they need/want
- Maureen will continue to arrange the iMap event for Oatka Creek Park - Tentative date June 8?
- Pete will continue to pursue County IMA
- All members will view information on proposed flood resilience workshop email of January 28

Next meeting: March 18, 2019. Location Woodward Memorial Library, LeRoy. Start time 6:30PM.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa M. Compton