

**OATKA CREEK WATERSHED COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING**

DATE: May 20, 2019
PLACE: Woodward Memorial Library, LeRoy, NY
TIME: 6:30 PM
RE: Regular OCWC Meeting

IN ATTENDANCE:

Peter Lent, Maureen Leupold, Steve Leupold, Alan Garrett, Jennifer Keys, Jim Seiler, Richard Schimley and Lisa Compton

I. Call to Order and Welcome:

- The meeting was called to order at 6:33 PM.

II. Approval of Draft Agenda for May 20, 2019

- Pete had gotten a request from Maureen to add a session on macro invertebrates in Scottsville which will be item number 4 under new business. He asked if there were requests for any other changes? Steve asked adding an update on 'Oatka Creek Park' to New Business, as he had some information to report. Maureen made a motion that the agenda be approved with these changes. Jim seconded the motion. No further discussion. All were in favor and the draft agenda was approved with the additions.

III. Approval of Draft Minutes for April 15, 2019

- Minutes were not available.

IV. Old Business:

A. Update on WMP implementation/ outreach activities:

- **Village of Scottsville presentation:** Maureen and Lisa report that there was a very good response with some concrete suggestions by the Mayor and Board. Rick presented. Mentioned was a Trees for Tribes project going on somewhere in village (they have a large, active tree group), and they told us of a project they want to start for raising tree specimens and creating their own nursery stock. No 'champion' was assigned at the meeting, though a few people may be interested. One attendee was very interested and interactive and might have been a good candidate for the position, but apparently he spends a great deal of time out of town, so he said he would probably not be a good representative. Maureen, Lisa and John (Compton) attended the presentation also. Maureen stressed the importance of follow up. The Mayor said that she thought that a intermunicipal coalition was a good idea, and would be especially beneficial for them in light of Scottsville being the most downstream village in the watershed.

- **Other municipal outreach:** Jennifer, Nikki & Lisa have been gathering information for a presentation in the Village of LeRoy. Maps, WMP booklets and other literature are needed for that municipality. The grant page has been really appreciated, and it would be good to have an updated version. *Pete will get LeRoy Village and the Caledonia Village and Town Booklets finished and get them to Shannon.
- **Livingston County/ County IMA:** Maureen had delivered the IMA at the last Livingston County SWCD meeting. She was wondering if anyone heard anything further about it from Livingston County? She had given the documents to the SWCD legislative representative, Will Wadsworth. He was going to deliver it to Dan Pangrazio in Caledonia. She hasn't heard anything else. She also has information that Monroe County legislator, Steve Brew (who has been very supportive of BCWC's efforts), is having "legilator access" type meeting at the Mumford library this Wednesday evening.
- **Genesee County Cooperative Extension Grant Proposal:** Pete had recently been contacted by Chris Crawford, the new Executive Director at Genesee County Cooperative Extension about a idea he would like to pursue. Mr. Crawford is putting together a proposal for a \$200,000 grant from the Pollution Prevention Institute at RIT to assist with **Municipal Watershed Education within the Black Creek and Oatka Creek Watersheds**. He envisions the first phase as a workshop including county agencies that would help communitites work on storm water management, flood control, and related issues. The second phase of the grant would allow time for agencies to go to the respective towns to offer services and to have staff from the agencies talk to and work with municipalities (similar what OCWC is doing), helping them implement what is in WMP matrix. Before he applies for this grant, he plans to contact each of the five counties that have portions of Black & Oatka watersheds in them, to ask them if they would collaborate on this project. He contacted Pete primarily because of the WMP plans. Pete says he thinks this work will help support OCWC efforts, and keep our own work moving. The grant proposal is due at the end of May and Mr. Crawford will most likely be looking for a letter of support from the OCWC.
- **The grant proposal was discussed:** Maureen gave an example how it might help the situation in Churchville and Riga where the project on Black Creek is stalled. There seems to be an issue on how to get Town of Riga help in the Village as the Town has equipment that the Village needs. Perhaps through this project it could start a conversation at the local level? It was speculated how OCWC might coordinate or modify our efforts in relation to the work done under the grant. Would it replace what the OCWC is currently doing (the municipal outreach)?

Pete says the details aren't straightened out yet, though he believes that more people doing the same thing makes it easier for OCWC to be involved and contribute when we don't have to do everything ourselves and others can make connections and promote the WMP. He also pointed out that Great Lakes Action Agenda has identified using Oatka and Black watersheds as pilot projects for help in getting their WMPs implemented, so the sooner agencies and others are involved, the better. Jim also reminded the Committee that one of Cornell Extension's main missions is education and outreach and that they have excellent resources, e.g. a media department. It is also beneficial for OCWC to develop a relationship with the Extensions, as they have good influence in the Agricultural community.

- Were we asked for a letter of support yet? No, but Pete expects we will be asked shortly. **Maureen made a motion to approve writing and sending a letter in support of Genesee County Cooperative Extension's application to the RIT Pollution Prevention Institute. Jennifer seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.** *Maureen will write and send the letter after Chris Crawford formally contacts Pete. *Pete will forward all information from Chris to her. She will send a copy of the letter to Pete for his review before sending it. **OCWC will continue to communicate with counties on the IMA, etc.** Note that Maureen will leave for vacation on 30th, so information has to get to her before then.
- **Village of LeRoy DePaul Mill St. construction and Mill St. Park update:** Lisa has started to look into where the storm water mitigation plan might be located. LeRoy Village Clerk, Sharon Jeary, gave her information on the engineers for project, Rick had recommended contacting the planning board. The Village zoning officer, Anne Podolak, recommended talking with Village Engineer, Rick Henry. It was noted that both the Village of LeRoy, and Village of Scottsville are 'built out' so any new construction would most likely be similar to the LeRoy DePaul project, where an older structure would probably be demolished to accommodate any significantly sized new building. These are good opportunities for incorporating Green Infrastructure practices. At this point, with the DePaul project, we will just find out what is planned, as it has already been approved. Pete would like to know where water is discharged, and whether they took in to account any ground water that would be collected. It appears the building will be sitting in the rock. When Pete took a look at the site, he couldn't really see how water much was coming out of the rock. There is a wall being constructed that is right next to the exposed rock face on the west side of the project. *Lisa will continue to pursue the information.
- As far as the park, Jennifer said the project is not being coordinated with the Village's DPW. If we get a chance to work with whoever is heading the project, it

will be good education for us in park design. Pete thinks the Village still will be approving a site plan for the park, and he thinks that DePaul should provide a maintenance plan. *Lisa will track down who is coordinating the park effort though it has been difficult to find who to contact. From his observation of the park site, Pete reports that there is some stone protective wall between park and the creek, and that no land slopes down to the creek; it is more a cliff. Key to good view and healthy park area is maintenance, so it is not overgrown with invasives, etc. There was short discussion on issues with properties that are contiguous to creek and how to balance the needs for scenic access with streambank and water protection.

- **Town of LeRoy zoning/code comments:** Rick and Pete have been discussing getting comments together. Pete has a 'pack' of stuff that he will organize and add to what Rick submits. The most general recommendation is to have guidelines tie into specific code. Pete also pointed out that because of the Green Genesee Road Map, Genesee County would ask for more in depth review of any project that is located in a designated sensitive area.
- **Background, Update and Thoughts on GG Road Map (Pete):** As he briefly mentioned earlier from what he heard at the recent Genesee Water Quality meeting, more attention will be paid to the eastern part of the county this year (Oatka and Black Creeks). It appears that the previous three or four year focus on the western part of the county was in response to the STAMP (Science and Technology Advanced Manufacturing Park) project in that area (Oakfield, Alabama, Batavia). The area being developed for STAMP was seen as having the potential to negatively impact existing undeveloped areas, including the critical state/federal wildlife preserve and Tonawanda Creek. Sheila Hess got involved with the goal to preserve the existing natural infrastructure for controlling storm water as much as possible. Now attention will be turning this way to our watersheds, and most likely, there will be some focus on fostering resiliency in towns and villages and building it into flood control regulations. We don't know the whole picture yet. As far as using the GG Road Map tools, though it is hard to get a look at specific areas at the County-wide map resolution, if you print out a map of just a town, more specific detail emerges. This level of detail is what will be more helpful to the municipalities in their planning efforts. What's missing, when you get into the demarcated corridors and nodes, is that the drainage areas of the streams are not included, just the stream corridors themselves. In actuality, the area of concern is wider than what is indicated in green areas. Also, when comparing existing potential area that they would like to protect with how it is rated in its possibility of protection, with more agricultural land, the less likely

one will be able to protect it. These issues are going to come into play with trying to implement parts of the plan. At a previous Great Lakes Action Agenda meeting that Pete and Maureen attended, people from the State Natural Heritage Program demonstrated a GIS mapping program that could show streambank areas needing the most help for forestation and subsequently areas that should apply to Trees for Tribes. What Pete found very useful in that mapping program was that areas could be narrowed down to catchments (small drainage areas). This is the kind of detail that would be ideal for local planning (e.g. you could understand what's happening where a housing development is going in). It is a very good. Available links on DEC site:

- <http://nynhp.org/treesfortribsny>
- <https://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=db102402c7bb45c5b1cf21e93db0f4e5&extent=-74.2969,42.4351,-73.4447,42.8422>
- Pete would like to bring it to the attention of Felipe Oltramari and Derik Kane Genesee County Planning. He is hoping to send them a letter about what he heard at the Water Quality Meeting about emphasis on eastern part of county and that he thinks that looking into catchment assessment would provide more tools for towns. He would copy Sheila Hess on the correspondence.

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

- **Town of Wheatland Summer Recreation Program.** At our recent presentation to the Town of Wheatland, Maureen gave her card to a woman who coordinates the kids' summer recreation program. Subsequently, Maureen got a message from her neighbor, Tina Stevens, who works as an educator for Monroe County who said she (Tina) was helping to find someone to do **a day of macro invertebrate education with the kids' summer program in the Town of Wheatland.** Maureen said we could help. It will be only one day sometime during the summer. There will be more details to come.
- **Oatka Creek Park activity update:** Steve reported on Bryce's Eagle Scout project that Steve assisted with: along with installing some benches, **107 trees were planted a couple weeks ago.** They are looking good. He also went to check on white pines still in tubes that we saw during the tree check. Additionally, he met a guy who is with Trout Unlimited that was in the park the day they were planting. He shared with Steve the **route plotted for fish habitat project work that the heavy equipment will take.** Steve indicated the route on a map. They seem to be following what Pete was hoping they would, i.e. creating the main access road away from and parallel to the creek, with smaller roads going down straight from it to the creek at strategic points. Steve was told they probably will destroy a few of the shrubs we planted but **will be able to avoid most, of not all**

of the trees. It was asked if the shrubs should be moved? Steve indicated it would be an inordinate amount of work to do that. He also said that the same day, DEC was there doing a fish inventory (shocking). He talked to them. Maureen reported that all the tubes that we took out of the park, are back in the park at the Eagle Scout project site. Monroe County had asked if we had any tubes available, so Maureen said that was a great opportunity to get back in touch with **Mike Balonek. He had about 90-100 tubes.** She also reported that the Eagle Scout, Bryce, who had done the park project, and helped us with the tree check a few months back, got job with Monroe County Parks. Steve also said they are putting railings on the farmer's bridge, and that he found more of the old, half buried 2x4 fence railing. No one really knows the time line for the big project yet.

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

A. Chairman (Pete):

- Pete reminded members to sign up for the GI Champions Workshop that will be on May 30. It will be in Black Creek Park, in the Sunny Side Lodge. Register on line by May 23 from the link in the email invitation. 44 people have signed up, and there is still room.
- We did Pick-up-the-Parks.

B. Vice Chair (Maureen):

- **Arbor Day: (Alan reports)** The Arbor day event was successful (but somebody stole Alan's tools). Because of the amount of rain, lots of people left the Little League event earlier than usual, but there was still a good crowd, and we gave away a lot of trees and shrubs and talked to quite a few people.
- Facebook report: Jennifer posts frequently and Maureen described some of her own posts/links that she has made since the last meeting and the amount of activity associated with them:
 - The Nutrient Management video.
 - A Link to Fishing Day at Balonek Farm. It got cancelled and rescheduled
 - John Kucko's buttermilk falls video
 - Crane Fly post by Izaak Walton League of America
 - bluebell pictures
 - Genesee River Watch/Genesee River Basin Report Card (Maureen had heard George Thomas and Joe Makarewicz on WXXI news) Oatka and Black have high scores in watershed. It was noted that they both have active watershed groups (she thought was a good plug) <https://www.wxxinews.org/post/connections-what-did-we-learn-genesee-river-report-card>
 - Caledonia Arbor Day event
 - There were 183 followers/likes
 - Cassandra thanked Maureen for putting their stuff on our website

- **Josh is leaving Monroe County SWCD:** He has started attending forest ranger school to become a ranger.

C. Treasurer (Jennifer)

- Transactions last month.
 - Amazon Smile Donations: + \$12.83
 - Facebook Donation Deposit March: +\$159
- Balance as of 5/20/19:
 - Balance: \$3,203.13

D. Secretary (Lisa):

- The **UN report** from IPBES (Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services) was officially released on May 1. See more at <https://www.ipbes.net/> Do we want to look at the policy recommendations to see if any should be incorporated into our WMP updates?

VII. Adjourn:

- A motion was made by Jim to adjourn the meeting. Lisa seconded, all were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM

VIII. Action Items:

- Pete will get LeRoy Village and the Caledonia Village and Town Booklets finished and get them to Shannon..
- Pete will forward all information from Chris Crawford about the support letter request to Maureen
- Maureen will write and send a letter on behalf of OCWC in support of the Cooperative Extension grant proposal. She will send a copy of the letter to Pete for his review before sending it.
- Lisa will continue to pursue the information on the LeRoy Mill St. projects
- Rick and Pete will get zoning comments to Town of LeRoy
- Pete to send a letter to Felipe Oltramari and Derik Kane regarding eastern county work for GGSG, etc.
- Maureen will keep in loop on Wheatland summer recreation macro training

Next meeting: June 17, 2019. Location Woodward Memorial Library, LeRoy. Start time 6:30PM.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa M. Compton