

**OATKA CREEK WATERSHED COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING**

DATE: September 16, 2019
PLACE: Woodward Memorial Library, LeRoy, NY
TIME: 6:30 PM
RE: Regular OCWC Meeting

IN ATTENDANCE:

Peter Lent, Steve Leupold, Maureen Leupold, Ed Christner, Nikki Calhoun, Richard Schimley, Ray Cipriano, Ryan McMullan and Lisa Compton

I. Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order at 6:38 PM. Welcome guest Ryan McMullan, graduate student from RIT. Pete passed around a card for members to sign to thank Jerome for his many years of work on the Board.

II. Approval of Draft Agenda for September 16, 2019

- There was no quorum present. Nikki and Maureen made motion to accept the agenda.

III. Approval of Draft Minutes for July 22, 2019 and August 19, 2019

- Again no quorum present to approve the two sets of minutes, so vote will be delayed. However, Pete noted that some information was incorrect in September minutes about the Oatka Park fish habitat project. Lisa also found some errors and will go over recordings, and make corrections. She will submit a new draft for the next meeting. Maureen also will submit the July draft minutes.

IV. Welcome Guest Ryan McMullan of Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT):

A. Development of water quality assessment tool:

- Maureen was contacted by by the Genesee Country Village & Museum (GCV&M) to assist graduate student Ryan McMullan because of her work with the Creek. They told her they thought she might facilitate Mr. McMullan's access to the stream. She then met Ryan and the two of them went out a week ago to assess the situation. She then invited him to the meeting to share information on his work. Introductions were made around the table. Mr. McMullan is a graduate student in Environmental Sustainability Health & Safety. He is originally from Pennsylvania. A main objective for GCV&M regarding the project is to be able to rule out issues of water quality having adverse effect on the sport fish in the Creek. Another goal of Ryan's and his professor's is the development of a monitoring project that will continue on, and that will be used and improved upon by professors and students at RIT.

- Ryan's graduate project is developing a water quality assessment protocol and then do testing of a stretch of the Oatka adjacent to GCV&M property to determine if the existing water quality contributes to the recently observed decline in fish populations in that segment of the Creek (members of the Museum's fishing club have noted the changes). His work is funded through a \$1.3 million gift under a partnership between GCV&M and RIT.
- He will be testing chemical, physical and biological parameters, which he went on to list:
- chemical:
 - dissolved oxygen
 - nitrogen/ as nitrate
 - nitrogen/ as amonia
 - phosphorus / as total phosphorus
 - phosphorus / as phosphate
 - alkalinity
 - hardness
 - chemical oxygen demand
- physical:
 - temperature,
 - pH
 - total suspended solids,
 - total dissolved solids
 - turbidity
 - Sample location (GPS)
- biological :
 - total coliform,
 - fecal coliform,
 - e-coli test
 - BOD = biochemical oxygen demand
- Frequency of sampling is still under discussion with his professor; at the very least 2x per season. He would like it to be more than that, and also noted that results are also influenced by 'events', so is very important to see the range (i.e. when very turbid, and when clean). He is working with his professor to determine how to schedule around rain events and would ideally like to sample before, maybe during, and after significant events. Maureen asked if they will survey depth? She noted that Oatka's depth varies greatly (pools, etc). Ryan says they haven't talked about it.
- Sampling will probably be done at both upstream and downstream ends. As far as other locations, Ryan's professor is a hydrologist and has good knowlege where best sampling locations would be. Pete reminds that to make valid comparisons, samples need to be taken from similar situations/conditions.

- Maureen says although it is a very private area, they have obtained permission from a number of properties on both sides of the Creek: Hers, Balonek's (where Spring creek goes in which is off museum property), and Tina Stevens agreed too. So they have pretty good access from both banks. It was noted also that other fishing clubs are located in that area who might be interested in the work.
- Maureen asked more specifically about testing methods, and described filter type kits that can be purchased for total coliform or fecal. Ryan responded that they most probably will use the number method: i.e. looking at reactions in a series solution concentrations to determine presence & concentration. Populations are then calculated using a reference table. They have ordered supplies and should start running experiments in next two weeks - then proceed with sampling.
- Pete suggested some studies that Ryan may be interested in looking at, specifically Pettenski's work. He suggests to look at Oatka section on that. He explained that the sampling was done in 2010 and it was for a Master's thesis. They sampled weekly for a year. It can be found on both Brockport's site and on the Committee's website.
- Ryan elaborated on his and his professor's goal vis-a-vis RIT: He is helping the professor to set up a sampling procedure that others will follow after he (Ryan) graduates with the idea to continue sampling long term. It can be used for a class maybe (?) as the class will do testing and perhaps other grad students will add additional testing parameters in the future. It will be determined through the GCV&M/RIT partnership.
- Pete said what the Oatka watershed doesn't have is a good 20 - 30 year data base of something as simple as temperature. USGS monitoring stations did a good job recording temperatures in the 70s, but then funds dried up and discharge only is recorded now. He also noted there is awareness by fishermen that something is going on as they have anecdotally noted changes in insect hatches and fish populations, but not everyone is on same page. and there is not enough sampling. The Creek is very diverse - it is meandering with many factors effecting it. There is not much cover in some places and there are the new populations of predacious birds (meganzers, eagles). With climate change, things are changing but the change is subtle - like the timing of insect hatches. The enviroment itself is variable, we need to try to catch up with changes. Conditions like the synchronization of hatches are not looked at.
- Maybe Ryan might involve fisherman in this work? Rick is very knowledgeable. Ryan indicated he would like to talk to him.

V. Old Business

A. Reschedule Village of LeRoy Storm Drain Marking.

- **Did not meet on the 14th** because of adverse weather and the date needs to be moved. There are two possible Saturdays left in September. Pete noted that good weather is predicted for the earlier weekend of the 21st. The earlier date will give another chance if conditions do turn out to be bad. It was decided to go with the 21st. **Date will be Saturday, September 21th. 8:30 to 12:00. Meet in parking lot behind Methodist Church.** *Pete has information and maps that he will dig out. We have an good idea what streets need to still be done. Nikki reports Lawn mowers have taken medallions out. Pete says he has 120 medallions. He has enough supplies for five buckets, except he only has three caulk guns. Genesee SWCD borrowed some of the caulk guns, and he needs to get them back. Lisa will bring a couple. Nikki also has a some too if needed. Pete says to just bring one. There was some discussion on what streets need to be completed. *Lisa will post info on website.

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

- Pete recently sent email with copies of the electronic WMP booklets: the ones that had been printed already, plus the five new ones. *He will do a final review of the new booklets tonight to see if they are assembled correctly. Tomorrow, *he will email Shannon about getting printing done. Did he ask her yet about the grants page and the two additional maps? It was observed at presentations that board members seemed to appreciate them. The maps were: watershed (Black & Oatka combined) wide erosion risk map, and sub-watershed erosion assessment maps specific to the municipalities of Wheatland and Scottsville.
- Lisa passed around copies of the draft outline for the Village of LeRoy presentation. It is primarily Rick's presentation outline with a few items tailored to the Village of LeRoy. She also passed around a copy of images of the display boards from the recent Village of LeRoy waterfront planning project open house. The information on the display indicates creekbank erosion is a high priority goal for the project, additionally updated storm water regulations were also mentioned. Lisa thought that this would be good to note during the presentation. The other Village project that she thought was worth a quick mention was the WWTP upgrade, but also noted her difficulty in finding details about the specifics of the project. She gave Pete a copy of some 2016 Village minutes where spending was approved, as well as a permit number. If he gets a chance, *Pete maybe will make a FOIL request to the water division at DEC and take a look at the file. Richard had heard that they scrapped the previous plan and were going to do a total rebuild. **Pete recommends waiting to schedule the presentation until we have all the document we need in hand.** *Lisa will also email copies of waterfront project open house display to Pete, Nikki & Maureen. Pete says it is good to

mention anything that we know the Village is working on, and give OCWC's perspective. The draft presentation outline was approved.

- Maureen went to the recent soil regeneration workshop in Livingston County where she saw Al Fagan. She spoke to him about the county IMA and he said he was waiting for Monroe and Genesee. (He said a copy was on his desk). Pete was not sure Al was talking about the IMA as he had given him some time last year, the county level WMP "booklet" listing all the things for the county to support in their towns and villages. There was short discussion on what path the IMA is taking. *Pete will see Al at the next Water quality meeting in Wyoming County and follow up.

C. Village of LeRoy Mill Street Development and Park Project:

- Mill St. Park: Lisa confirmed there is no formal plan, however, she had been told park maintenance is part of the handshake agreement. Richard noted drainage near bocce court area, and was wondering if they development would make/use part of the park for parking? **Members reviewed and approved a draft of letter to send to Mr. Fuller regarding a contact for the Mill St. Park area.**
- Building project/storm water management: **Discussion** - Pete sent an email with a summary of his review of the engineering report. He says there are two pages dealing with storm water. He also walked over to the site, but couldn't tell what was installed yet because parking and sidewalks not paved yet and a lot is under the ground. Richard also had talked with engineer and got a tour; he said drainage considerations were quite extensive and that also the engineer said there is a "plenty of reserve" in the system. Pete noted collection from properties off site up above are directed down in separate new pipe. The drainage that is coming off the site is tied into the storm sewer line that is going into the creek now.
- **Filtera system**: There are three types of controls being implemented. The first is Biofiltration (mulch). The parking lot and sidewalks drain into system through slots in curbs. Probably somewhere the roof drains tie in also. The mulch/biofiltration takes out silt, suspended materials like leaves, and trash. The second control is the water then goes down into pipes that are perforated on the bottom and nestled into small stone where it infiltrates into the ground. When that is saturated, water goes into the holding basin. These couple of stages have the purpose of slowing down water (reducing flow). The third control is when the basin does fill, it goes out a pipe to an outlet control structure under a manhole which will regulate flow. He noted the filter system is supposed to be maintained twice a year. One of links in his recent summary email, goes to a video brochure where maintenance is demonstrated. In this video, it looks to Pete as though they are taking away the top part of mulch and replacing it. He is not sure how it actually works but if you look at video closely, there is a big gap in curb and first

thing they pulled out is a bunch of material that looked like mulch. He further notes that in rainstorm that would float probably? He had read something in a non-related project article called "mulch floats". Pete says it may very well come out on road, and also find it's way into pipes below to clog perforations. Efficiency maybe reduced over time if no one is paying attention. The stated aim in the engineering report is to always to be able to discharge above 100 year flood. Richard thinks best design available.

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

A. Ray:

- **Oatka Creek pathogens?**: A friend of his and her husband and son recently visited Ray and went kayaking in the Mumford area at the DEC fishing access off Rte 36. They had to carry their kayaks down a steep hill and walked barefoot into the Creek. Though husband and son were fine, she got a toe infection that almost required hospitalization from something in the muck on the creek bottom. Ray was curious when the last time was that an assessment of "critters"/ microbes in slime was done? To all's knowledge, it has never been done. If there are studies, Ray asks to be "kept in loop".
- **Black Creek Fish Kill update**: DEC Fisheries personnel talked to George, and not a lot of clear information was found. Though the division followed up with a few farmers, they never came up with a location or cause. George was told the fish are fine now. They did find dead fish quite a long way away from original reported location, some were found downstream where Black Creek goes under the thruway. Maureen asked if there were dead fish all along that stretch, but Pete was not sure. He assumes they were doing a visual check by stopping at every bridge crossing but is not sure of exact story.

B. Treasurer (Jennifer via email September 16):

- Transactions last month:
 - none on bank statement
- Balance as of 9/16/19:
 - Balance: \$3,443.13

VII. Adjourn:

- Maureen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Lisa seconded. All approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 PM

Action Items:

- Maureen will edit the July minutes and resubmit them for October meeting.
- Lisa will correct the August minutes and resubmit them for October

- Maureen and Lisa will post information on the Village of LeRoy Sept. 21 drain marking event
- Pete will gather information for storm drain marking
- Pete will do a final review of the new booklets & contact Shannon
- Lisa will finish work on the outline for a outreach presentation to the Village of LeRoy.
- Pete maybe will make a FOIL request to the water division at DEC and take a look at the file on LeRoy WWTP
- Lisa will send files of LeRoy open house waterfront
- Pete will follow up with AI regarding county IMA at the next Water quality meetng in Wyoming County
- Lisa send letter re a contact for the Mill St. Park upgrade.
- Pete will finish the comments for the Town of LeRoy environmental code. He will send to Board for final look before forwarding to Town. He will make sure to copy Zoning Officer Anne Podolak when sending to the Town.

Next meeting: October 21, 2019. Location Woodward Memorial Library, 7 Wolcott St, LeRoy, NY. Start time 6:30PM.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa M. Compton