

SLAP – 5

SENECA LAKE AREA PARTNERS IN FIVE COUNTIES

Chemung Ontario Schuyler Seneca Yates

417 Liberty Street
Penn Yan, NY 14527
315-536-5188

MINUTES

July 13, 2009

ATTENDANCE: Richard Ahola, SLPWA; Jim Balyszak, Yates County SWCD; Kate Bartholomew, Schuyler County EMC; Marion Balyszak, FLI; Paul Bauter, KWIC; P.J. Emerick, Ontario SWCD; Edith Davey, Ontario SWCD; Jennifer Fais, STC; Jenna Hicks, Schuyler County CCE; Tim Hicks, Schuyler County Watershed Protection Agency; Gene Stow, Chemung County; Chris Yearick, Chemung County SWCD.

1. Welcome - Jim Balyszak called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM at the Human Services Building, Montour Falls, NY.
2. Minutes from 5/4/09 – On a motion by Paul Bauter, seconded by Gene Stow, SLAP 5 approved the minutes as written.
3. Financial Report – PJ Emerick said that there was \$15,480.94 in the account. He has recently received bills for the workshops and newsletter mailing costs which will be reflected in next month's account. (*See attached.*)
4. June training sessions report – Edith Davey said that 40 people attended the June 22 training in Geneva and 22 people attended the June 25 event in Montour Falls. Edith felt that the participants enjoyed the meeting. The group said that Edith did a great job. Jim would like to see this series continue. Danielle encouraged doing it again locally.
5. Next SLAP-5 Newsletter – Edith said that the focus of the upcoming newsletter would be on on-site wastewater disposal. She will also include information on the training sessions for realtors and the SLAP-5 board members photo.

She has staff who is calculating the amount of sewage that goes into the soil every day through septic tanks. When you add it up, there is a surprising amount of sewage entering the landscape which may or may not be treated properly. This puts the problem into perspective for the local officials and explains, in part, why John Halfman's research on Seneca Lake shows heightened nutrient levels in the lake.

She hopes to have the newsletter out August 1 so that she can catch the summer people. It was suggested that extra copies be placed in libraries and at

municipal halls. It was asked if we should continue with having it printed by Arc. The consensus is “yes.” She will also include information on the EPA management model.

6. Public meetings discussion – Jim Balyszak said that both the Finger Lakes Institute and Edith Davey have tried to put on meetings during the summer and are met with low attendance because of conflicting summer activities and schedules. Why not put any additional public meetings on hold for the non-construction season? It was felt that local public officials are a good audience and that they make more of an effort to attend.

Richard Ahola said that the annual Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association meeting would be August 26 from 6 – 9:15 at Belhurst Castle. The cost is \$20 which includes a choice of entrees and wine. August 11 is the final organizational meeting. Marion and Edith will both be speakers at the August 26 meeting and will take a display. Everyone was invited to attend.

7. Seneca Lake Management Plan update – Jennifer explained that she had helped Dave Zorn, Marion Balyszak and John Halfman put the Scope of Work together that could be accomplished for the reduced funding which now totals \$152,500. Dave Zorn reached consensus with Department of State and we expect to see the contract soon. Jennifer explained that the main parts of the project would be to create a project advisory committee made up of each municipality so that they would have direct involvement from the very beginning of the project. A large portion would be spent on watershed characterization which is a gathering of all information that has been collected since 1999 when the “Setting the Course for Seneca Lake” was published. Another element would be to review the types of Memoranda of Understanding that municipalities could enter into to create a formal association of communities like the Keuka Watershed Intermunicipal Council (KWIC). There will be a final Watershed Management Plan which would discuss each subwatershed without prioritizing the subwatersheds. Jennifer was very excited that this process should move the Seneca Lake communities along toward a real partnership to get work done.

8. Great Lakes Basin Advisory Council meetings – Marion noted the series of public input meetings that are being sponsored by the Great Lakes Basin Advisory Council. These meeting will focus on the draft plan that has been generated since the Great Lakes Compact was signed in 2008. This report informs each state on how they will work on water use issues such as consumptive use in the Great Lakes Basin. The closest meeting is the July 28 meeting in Rochester. The report will affect public water purveyors and water users; however, the consumptive use requirements will not go into effect immediately. Expect new rules to be put into place over the next two – five years. **Public input on the draft report is welcomed until August 14, 2009.**

She also announced that July 29 is EPA’s meeting to announce the release of \$475 million for Great Lakes restoration funding. 60% of this money will be funneled through EPA. The guidance is available. New York State has received

the least amount of funding of the Great Lakes states in the past. Marion hopes that we can put some good applications together to take advantage of it.

9. Member Reports

Jim Balyszak said that Round 14 Ag grants have been approved and a portion of the work will help Seneca Lake.

Edith Davey said that the realtor workshop at the Elks in Geneva on May 26 went well.

Paul Bauter said that KWIC will meet with the Town of Urbana to discuss a web-based database. Maps would then be available 24/7 with a password to anyone seeking information on water quality permits.

Chris Yearick said that his work has not focused on Seneca Lake recently. However, he noted that the Northeast Partners for Amphibians and Reptile Conservation will meet at Watkins Glen from August 11 – 13 at the Seneca Harbor Inn.

Gene Stow noted the large convenient mini-mart being built in the Catharine Creek Watershed in Horseheads is paying attention to strict stormwater regulations. He regretted that most of Dick Winnett's \$400,000 on water projects would be used in other basins.

Tim Hicks said that, at the end of August, he would be finished with the records management project. The Town of Hector is left to do. At some point he hopes to make the new digital data base available on line. Phosphorus monitoring at the sewage treatment plants is underway. The reports will include a race weekend.

Marion Balyszak noted that Owasco Lake showed major improvement after the sewage treatment plant installed tertiary treatment. She was very pleased with the significant improvement in lake water quality.

Kate Bartholomew said that Chemung, Schuyler, and Steuben counties were working together to host the New York State AEMC Conference this fall. She distributed a postcard about it. She is asking for a displays and attendance. Marcellus Shale is one of the tracks on the conference. The Marcellus Shale session will involve a roundtable with SRBC, DEC and Fortuna Energy. Other tracks will focus on sustainable land use and agriculture and alternative energy design.

Jenna Hicks reported that the Rural Stormwater Coalition is hosting a rain barrel/rain garden presentation July 15 at 6:00 PM and she encouraged people to register by noon on July 14. There are 10 rain barrels available, but they will be taking orders for others if needed. The Household Hazardous Waste and Tire Amnesty Day is scheduled for September 26. She reported that Schuyler County received its first NYS Ag. And Markets Purchase of Development Rights

funding for a vineyard. The next two applications will involve a beef farm and a vineyard. She said that the 18 retirees in the RESP program are focusing on the environmental issue of battery recycling.

Jennifer Fais said that the number of different comments about the driveway brochure has sent her back to the drawing table to revise it in a major way. She appreciated the comments even though it will involve an overhaul of the brochure because she wanted to make sure that everyone would actually use it once it is prepared.

PJ Emerick said that he has made two site visits with the fire department on Kashong Road for a stormwater project. A landowner nearby had a major drainage problem.

Richard Ahola has been to a number of area water meetings and is very impressed with the work going on in Chemung County with wetland restoration in particular. SLPWA is monitoring impacts on the lake by Casella Solid Waste facility at Seneca Falls. Seneca Lake is a source of drinking water for 80,000 people. He has also seen the core drilling through the lake sediments near Torrey. This core sample shows sediment since the early 1900s and gives us information on erosion and chemical use.

Marion Balyszak reported that they have finished the summer "Lake-Friendly Households" education series which they will repeat in the fall. Her staff has been researching European Frogbit and there will be training at Oneida Lake, at the Cornell Ponds and at the Finger Lakes Institute to review control methods. She hopes to train people to know how to find and remove invasive species. Her staff Bin Zu has moved on to a university position, but he has undertaken excellent research while at FLI. They are watching issues in other lakes such as algae and invasive species and are helping people take action. John Halfman is doing stream sampling and the 8 buoys are providing real-time data accurately now after early start-up issues. They are recording weather data, water quality, and zooplankton.

Next meeting: Sept. 14 in Geneva.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Fais

Ontario County Soil & Water CD

Account QuickReport

As of December 31, 2009

Type	Date	Num	Memo	Split	Amount	Balance
Seneca Lake (1100265618)						12,055.36
Deposit	1/31/2009		Interest	SLWM Inter...	4.86	12,060.22
Deposit	2/28/2009		Interest	SLWM Inter...	3.70	12,063.92
Deposit	3/31/2009		Interest	SLWM Inter...	4.23	12,068.15
Deposit	4/30/2009		Interest	SLWM Inter...	3.97	12,072.12
General Journal	5/4/2009	JE # ...	Yates Coun...	-SPLIT-	3,000.00	15,072.12
General Journal	5/4/2009	JE # ...	Seneca Cou...	Seneca Lake...	2,000.00	17,072.12
General Journal	5/4/2009	JE # ...	Chemung C...	Seneca Lake...	1,500.00	18,572.12
General Journal	5/4/2009	JE # ...	Personnel s...	District Che...	-2,548.75	16,023.37
General Journal	5/4/2009	JE # ...	reimb. 200...	District Che...	-552.66	15,470.71
Deposit	5/31/2009		Interest	SLWM Inter...	4.80	15,475.51
Deposit	6/30/2009		Interest	SLWM Inter...	5.43	15,480.94
Total Seneca Lake (1100265618)					3,425.58	15,480.94
TOTAL					3,425.58	15,480.94