

**Seneca Lake Area Partners in Five Counties
Minutes from 9/14/09 Meeting
Geneva, NY**

Attendance:

Sarah Meyer	Jenna Hicks	Diane Fiorentino	Chris Yearick
Gene Stow	Tim Hicks	Bonnie P_____	Linda Lefko
Erin Peruzzini	Richard Ahola	Paul Bauter	Marion Balyszak
Bob Pierce	P.J. Emerick		

Welcome and introductions were made.

Minutes: A motion was made by Paul Bauter to accept the minutes of the July 13 14th meeting in Montour Falls, second by Jenna Hicks and unanimously approved.

Financial Report: P.J. Emerick reports a current balance of \$15,490.13. The only activity since the last meeting has been interest receipts. P.J. reported on Edith Davey's activities for SLAP-5. Bob Pierce made a **motion** to transfer funds to the Ontario SWCD for Edith's second and third quarter services. Second by Paul Bauter and unanimously approved.

Jim Balyszak requested that the bills presented by the Yates SWCD for expenses related to the two board member training sessions in June be reimbursed. Bob Pierce made a **motion** to approve a reimbursement payment for these expenses, second by Tim Hicks and unanimously approved.

Aquatic Plant Management:

Jim provided an update on the discovery of water chestnut in the Penn Yan marsh on Keuka Lake and subsequent hand pulling on two days. This was a collaborative effort by the Finger Lakes Institute, Finger Lakes Community College, the Keuka Lake Association, Yates County Soil & Water and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Yates County. Plans are underway to provide identification training to volunteers before next summer, institute a reporting procedure, monitoring and hand pulling back in the Penn Yan marsh.

Marion reported that Jerry Verrigni asked her to present Seneca Lake research findings to the Schuyler County Legislature on 9/21. Many of the questions revolved around the issues of chemical control measures.

Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association meeting highlights:

Richard Ahola reported on the attendance of almost 200 people for the August annual meeting. The Finger Lakes Institute received appreciation awards for their support of the association.

Edit discussed the goals of SLAP-5 at the meeting and recent the training and information programs conducted this summer.

Marion discussed the new watershed management process that will produce an updated report and the role SLPWA can provide.

Ron Bishop, former member of the PA DNR presented on the Marcellus shale topic.

Wastewater treatment plant monitoring update:

Tim Hicks provided a brief update to members on why phosphorus and monitoring is such a critical element for the health of our lake. He reported on the preliminary data from Montour Falls Wastewater Treatment plant and how composite samples are taken. The eventual goal after the monitoring cycle has been completed is to get a better understanding of nutrient input to Seneca Lake.

Watershed based projects:

Marion reported on the status of the Genesee Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council grant for Seneca Lake. Revisions for the Department of State revisions have been completed but there is no contract in place. The grant amount is \$152,000 and it's been about 18 months since the announcement. The majority of the work will focus on updating with various categories of information since the last report.

Member reports:

Chris Yearick reported on a project for the USC involving work with the NYS DOT on identifying significant natural ecosystems. Chris's work will involve putting a data base together for DOT that will pre-identify high priority mitigation projects.

Jerry Verrigni reported on the submission of a non-ag Round 10 roadbank grant application covering all five counties in the Seneca Lake watershed.

Tim Hicks reported on the formation of a committee to address Marcellus Shale issues and make recommendations to individual municipalities.

Erin Peruzzini reported on a grant application for the installation of fuel containment systems and weather stations for selected vineyards. She reported that the successful Round 14 agricultural grant will provide for three pesticide mixing and storage facilities in the watershed. An update on the District's hydroseeding program was provided.

Richard Ahola reminded the group of the next SLPWA meeting on 9/29 and the elections.

Paul Bauter reported that an agreement has been made for the development of a web based program to manage the information and reporting for inspection under the Keuka Watershed Improvement Cooperative's wastewater program.

Marion Balyszak reported that John Halfman will be on the lake sampling through November. Sediment core samples were taken this summer for analysis. Megan Brown of the college completed "night" samplings.

Bob Pierce reminded the group to submit the \$2,000 request to the Ontario County Water Resources Council for consideration. A septic complaint Bob investigated turned out to be decomposing vegetation.

P.J. Emerick reported on AEM Year 5 work being performed in the watershed. He will also be in contact with Jerry Verrigni regarding Seneca Lake roads to be included in the grant application.

Edith Davey reported on the next newsletter and topics covered that is complete and at the printers.

Jenna Hicks reported on the statewide conference for the environment. The county EMC is looking at designating certain areas in the county as "critical environmental areas" as this will allow increased review through SEQ. The Texas Hollow State Forest bog has already been designated with anticipation that Queen Katherine Marsh will also be designated.

Diane Forentino reported on stream monitoring with some new sites added.

Gene Stowe reported on a large drilling site that has the potential to discharge to the marsh.

Marion Balyszak reported on a number of upcoming events that include:

- 9/17 presentation "Geographic's of Garbage" by a world wide researcher on global waste.
- 9/19 program at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge on invasives in the marsh.
- 10/3 program being held at Hobart and jointly sponsored by FL-LOWPA, the FLI and USGS.
- 12/5 annual research conference sponsored by the FLI.

The next meeting is scheduled for November at the Finger Lakes Institute.