



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
May 3, 2010

ATTENDANCE: Paul Bauter, KWIC; Gene Stow, Chemung County; Chris Yearick, Chemung SWCD; P.J. Emerick, Ontario SWCD; Marion Balyszak, FLI; Jim Balyszak, Yates SWCD; Richard Ahola, SLPWA; Sarah Meyer, FLI; Phil Cianciotto, SLPWA; David Zorn, GLFLRPC; Dick Winnett; NRCS/ Finger Lakes RC&D; Edith Davey, Ontario SWCD; Jenna Hicks, Schuyler CCE, Tim Hicks, Schuyler WPA.

- 1) Minutes from previous meeting (March 1st, 2009) - On a motion by Gene Stow, seconded by Paul Bauter, SLAP-5 approved the minutes as amended.
- 2) Financial Report - PJ Emerick reported that the current account balance is \$16,575.19. A motion to transfer \$2,548.75 into Ontario SWCD account for Edith Davey's first quarter expenses (see attached breakdown of Edith's time) by Chris Yearick, seconded by Jim Balyszak, SLAP-5 approved the transfer. Jim Balyszak asked that future newsletter invoices be sent directly to Ontario SWCD and not to Yates SWCD to simplify the process.

3) New Business:

Critical Environmental Management Area (CEA) (Phil Cianciotto)-SLPWA is looking at the possibility of designating critical environmental areas around Seneca Lake to provide buffers from natural gas drilling activities. Would it be beneficial to look into designating the entire Seneca Lake watershed? Various groups are pulling together lists of areas of concern in the southern tier area. A CEA would lead to a heightened review for any projects occurring in the designated area that required SEQR review. Schuyler County is moving through the process with Texas Hollow State Forest but is running into a few road blocks since it is state land. Tim Hicks spoke to DEC and they cautioned that it would be redundant, since the long form already addresses water quality, soil and land impacts. The Town of Wayland has designated their aquifer as a CEA, they might be able to shed some light on the process. This idea would go along nicely with the Seneca Lake Management Plan.

Everyone should go back to respective counties and see what county officials think about the idea. Tim Hicks will send David Zorn the DEC contact on CEA's and David will see if someone can present on the topic.

S3780: Relates to phosphorus in fertilizer and cleaning products (Tim Hicks) - Proposed law would ban phosphorus in dish detergent and lawn fertilizer. Currently it needs a co-sponsor in the legislature. Research has shown that 10-35% of phosphorus in wastewater treatment plants comes from dish detergent. Maryland, Illinois, Ohio, Oregon and other states have similar laws and it has shown great improvements in their phosphorus management. There is no enforcement. It is more of an honor system. This law would possibly help entice manufactures to supply phosphorus free items locally. Tim Hicks will draft a support letter and circulate to group.

4) Old Business:

Seneca Lake Management Plan (David Zorn) - Still don't have a contract from the State. Once the contract is received, we will need to sit down and brainstorm who should be on the Advisory Committee, in addition to SLAP-5, which needs to be made of State, County, public and private agencies, public residents etc. In-kind tracking is very important and should be tracked starting **April 1st**. Everyone should go back to the original budget and make sure you know what you need to track for the grant. If you need another copy of the grant please contact Tim Hicks. Tim will also send out reminders bimonthly. Specific questions should be directed to David Zorn.

Marcellus Shale (Phil Cianciotto) – Pete Grannis released a statement saying that any drilling in the Skaneateles Lake Watershed and the New York City Watershed would not be covered under the GEIS and would need a full EIS. SLPWA sees this as an admission on DEC's part that there could be impacts to water supplies. SLPWA is drafting a comment letter outlining the fact that if it could be an issue in those areas there could be issues anywhere and that a GEIS isn't sufficient since each drilling location is different. They are looking to see if there would be an increased cost to municipalities to increase filtration. If all are at only 50% then it may not be an issue. SLPWA is trying to coordinate a Regional Watershed Alliance that would pull together wineries, tourism and watershed groups. They hope to have a draft letter by the end of May.

Tim Hicks questioned the filtration avoidance rationale for the abrupt change in policy, where as the water quality risks, such as methane, benzene, etc, associated with hydrofracking are not removed in any source water filtering process anywhere in the State.

5) Staff Report (Edith Davey) - Passed around a draft of the next newsletter. It focuses on landfill, invasive insects, AEM, and the Watershed Management Plan. It is circulated to municipal officials as a hardcopy.

6) Member Reports-

Jim Balysazk- Round 15 Ag Grant that was not originally funded is now getting funded with money that was remaining in the account.

Marion Balysazk- June 10, 2010 a one day symposium at Hobart and William Smith on Marcellus, more details to come. John Halfman has started monitoring on Seneca and is looking at chemical compounds in streams. John is hoping to do more sampling this year at the south end of the lake.

PJ Emerick- Geneva watershed inspector has been taken over by a new person, replacing longtime SLAP 5 member Bob Pierce. Ontario SWCD is still waiting on a contract that is sitting on the comptrollers desk.

Chris Yearick- Working on Schlumberger project. They have a problem with a discharge pipe entering into a USDA created marsh. The project will be tied up with lawyers for a while. They are currently monitoring the outflow as well.

Paul Bauter- Starting to use the web based program as a repository for data. More work is still being done on the program. The wastewater law is up for vote this month.

Jenna Hicks- Local Ag and Farmland Protection Board is planning a fall educational series to outline AEM, CAFO's and farm marketing. Cayuta Lake boat launch cleanup on May 15 at 10 am. "Rain garden/ bio-swale" going in at the Watkins Glen State Park. Padua gravel pit is at a standstill, the previous application was turned down by DEC. A permit renewal was since submitted which included the entire project, DEC is not approving it as well.

Edith Davey- SLAP-5 brochure has been updated it can be printed off the website and will also be emailed out. Working with FLI on a shoreline planting on Honeoye Lake and is looking for volunteers.

Dick Winnett- Working in 4 of the 5 SLAP-5 counties mainly with SWCDs. Just closed out a grazing grant which allowed for the implementation of grazing paddocks on 21 farms. Working on a grant to implement 12 ag chemical mixing facilities at vineyards along Seneca Lake. Two USDA grants are being used to install wind and solar water pumping systems in remote pastures that don't have electrical access. A National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant is being used to implement natural stream design projects. An application has been submitted to the Great Lakes Commission for livestock exclusion projects in the Keuka Watershed- still waiting on a reply.

David Zorn- Annual full day Local Government Workshop, May 15. Website has details (<http://www.gflrpc.org/>)

Phil Cianciotto- Provided money to FLI for Seneca Lake Education and curriculum development and to increase John Halfman's monitoring on Seneca Lake. Currently organizing a pharmaceutical collection in Geneva in conjunction with Wegmans for September. SLPWA is looking to hold one in Watkins Glen as well. Looking for sponsors for the project, not money, but to help get the word out to as many folks as possible. Motion by PJ Emerick, second by Jim Balyszak to co-sponsor the two events. SLPWA will be at the Green Grand Prix May 8th with membership forms.

Richard Ahola- Keeping busy with SLPWA email.

Tim Hicks- Working on amending the Schuyler Watershed Law to include the following. 1-Make property transfer evaluation mandatory, currently only getting 50%. 2- Require county registration for the land application for septage. Schuyler has gone from one spreading site to 4 sites (one is the Seneca Lake Watershed) in the last 3 years. The Environmental Facilities Corporation announce

non-point source abatement project money through a linked deposit program, both ag and onsite wastewater treatment. Money would go from EFC to a bank and the bank will distribute as loans.

Thank you to Marion for her time and service to SLAP-5 and Seneca Lake. Good luck in all of her future endeavors.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenna Hicks