

Onondaga Lake Watershed Partnership (OLWP)

Meeting Notes and Action Items

January 22, 2015

Syracuse Center of Excellence, Room 203

Attendees

David Alicea, Sierra Club

Kathleen Bertuch, CNY Regional Planning & Development Board

Peter Brandt, USEPA (tc)

Aimee Clinkhammer, NEIWPC

Christopher Dere, USEPA (tc)

Khris Dodson, SU Environmental Finance Center

Sarah Eckel, Citizens Campaign for the Environment

Jeff Freedman, Community Participation Working Group

Hongbin Gao, Atlantic States Legal Foundation

Olivia Green, Atlantic States Legal Foundation

Donna Hamblin, Nine Mile Creek Conservation Council

Paul Harris, Atlantic States Legal Foundation

Thane Joyal, Representative for the Onondaga Nation, Law Office of Joseph Heath

Hugh Kimball, Community Participation Working Group/Onondaga County Council on Environment Health

Rebecca Klossner, Syracuse City Planning Division

Martha Loew, Sierra Club

Alma Lowry, Representative for the Onondaga Nation, Law Office of Joseph Heath

Kenneth Lynch, NYSDEC

Rachel May, Syracuse University

Ed Michalenko, Onondaga Environmental Institute

Frank Moses, F.O.C.U.S. Greater Syracuse

Craig Milburn, Brown & Sanford Consulting/Honeywell

Les Monostory, Izaak Walton League

JoAnne Race, Syracuse University

Jack Ramsden, Community Participation Working Group, Sierra Club

Curtis Waterman, Haudenosaunee Environmental Task Force

Stephanie Webb, NYSDEC

Meeting Notes

- No comments or edits on December 8th meeting notes.
- Notes okayed to put on the website

Watershed Coordinator Report

Events

- February 17th: Community Participation Working Group
- February 20th: FOCUS Greater Syracuse: Financing Infrastructure (location change-3rd Floor City Hall)
- March 18th: OLWP meeting

Public Participation

- GM Inland Fisher Guide (Upper Ley Creek) public comment period extended until February 14th
- Natural Resources Damage Assessment and Restoration open. More information at

<http://www.fws.gov/northeast/nyfo/ec/onondaga.htm>

Communication Group

- Communication group did not meet. A meeting will be scheduled in the near future.

Project Committee

- The Project Committee did not meet.

Miscellaneous

- A second Trash Free Waters Planning meeting at EPA in New York City will be held on February 12th.
- Aimee Clinkhammer is working with Dave Amidon (LaFayette) and other Master Teachers who are developing an Onondaga Lake curriculum.
- Aimee is working with the New York Water Environment Association (NYWEA) on planning an Earth Day clean up event in the watershed. Ideas include the Creekwalk and Onondaga Lake Park.
- Aimee will be traveling to New York City in early February for the NYWEA annual meeting. There are several Onondaga Lake sessions.
- Aimee will reach out to the County to discuss holding an Onondaga Lake Day and convene the Communications Group to discuss further.

Funding

- North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grants-2/27/15
- NOAA Great Lakes Restoration Project Grants-3/3/15
- Environmental Education Local Grants Program-3/6/15

Action items: Aimee will convene the Communications Group to discuss Onondaga Lake Day and an outreach event for the Watershed Coordinator Report.

Let Aimee know if you would like to be involved with the Communications Group.

Unfinished Business

Salt Lake (User) Advocates

- Les Monostory will give in update at the April OLWP meeting.

Mudboil Update

- SUNY ESF is currently reaching out to new experts and plan to convene the panel in early February.
- There will be an update at the next meeting.

New Business

- Khris Dodson brought up the frequency of OLWP meetings. After a discussion, it was agreed that monthly OLWP meetings may not be necessary. Alternatives include bi-monthly or quarterly meetings with additional active “committee” groups (ex: Communications Group, other groups).
- The next OLWP meeting is scheduled for March 18th at 10:00 at the Syracuse Center of Excellence. An additional meeting on April 30th has been scheduled tentatively. There will be a discussion at the next OLWP meeting on frequency of meetings.
- Jeff Freedman discussed the new invasive species law and asked who would be implementing it. DEC in Albany is drafting the legislation and it’s currently available for comment.
- Rachel May announced that Syracuse University is working on a book for Onondaga Lake and watershed education which will include sidebars of “voices” of people who have a story they would like to tell. Let Rachel know if you are interested in sharing your story.
- Sarah Eckel reported that Citizens Campaign for the Environment is putting together a letter showing support for the watershed coordinator position. Please contact Sarah if you would like

to sign the letter.

- Jack Ramsden announced that the Sierra Club will be hosting a presentation on February 25th at 7:30pm at the University United Methodist Church on the divestment from fossil fuels at OCC and SUNY ESF.
- Frank Moses announced that the next F.O.C.U.S. meeting on February 20th at City Hall will host Matt Driscoll from the Environmental Facilities Corporation.

Action items: Contact Rachel May if you are interested in including your story in SU's Onondaga Lake education book.

Contact Sarah Eckel if you are interested in signing the letter of support for the watershed coordinator position.

Future Meeting

- The next OLWP meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, March 18, 2015 at 10:00 at the Syracuse Center of Excellence. A following meeting was also tentatively scheduled for April 30, 2015 at 10:00am at the Syracuse Center of Excellence.

Group of the Month

- Paul Harris from Atlantic States Legal Foundation made a presentation on their Urban Tree Planting Program. Presentation is available online.