

CHAUTAUQUA LAKE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

Minutes of the Meeting

Thursday, June 3, 2010

4:30 pm North Harmony Senior Center

Stow, NY 14785

Attendance:

Members present: Sally Carlson, Tom Erlandson, Lyle Hajdu, Wade Morse, Andrew Nixon, Karen Rine, Joan Warner, and Chris Yates

Members absent: Lyle Jensen, Art Webster (excused)

Technical Advisors: Jane Conroe

Partners: Bill Boria (DOH); Betsy Hite (CCE); John Jablonski (CWC); Kim Sherwood (WEMO); Jay Warren (UE)

I. Call to Order

Hajdu called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

II. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the meeting on May 6, 2010, were received without amendment.

III. Introduction of Guests

Craig Butler; Helen and Clayton Emick; Fritz Tobias

IV. Public Expression

- a. Sue Weaver submitted correspondence outlining the condition of Chautauqua Lake in the vicinity of Burtis Bay. The Commission exercised a moment of silence in recognition of the recent passing of Weaver's husband.
- b. Kim Sherwood explained that Cummins Engine is seeking proposals for a \$10,000 grant for an environmental project. Sherwood has been involved in the effort and is available to meet with interested applicants.
- c. Bill Boria advised that the New York State Health Department is working with the County's Health Department on a plan to monitor algae levels in Chautauqua Lake in order to ensure public health. Boria plans to increase the frequency of obtaining water samples from public beaches, to post the results on the County's website, and to monitor algae and toxin levels throughout the season.

- d. John Jablonski announced that CWC would be conducting two watershed tours: June 9, 2010 at Dewittville Creek; and June 23, 2010 at Goose Creek.

V. Chairman's Comments

Hajdu commended Constantino for publishing several articles about the lake and watershed, and reinforced the message that *a blue lake needs a green watershed*. Hajdu stressed that the community must learn to understand the connection between our use of the land in the watershed and the resultant impacts it has on our streams and lakes.

VI. Coordinator's Comments

Constantino reported that he was focused on the upcoming public meeting on June 10, 2010, at the Chautauqua Institution where members of the community will have an opportunity to review the final draft of the Watershed Management Plan and to submit their comments. Constantino announced that 22 applications for Bed Tax Waterways Grants were submitted for funding in 2011.

VII. Technical Advisors' Comments

Jane Conroe reported that she had submitted her comments on the final draft of the Watershed Management Plan, and advised other technical advisors to submit their comments as they deem appropriate.

VIII. Member/Partner Reports

- a. Yates reported that New York State reduced its 2010 funding for the CLA by 50% over previous years, and encouraged members and partners to contact state officials to garner support for restoring funding.
- b. Carlson announced that the Town of North Harmony completed its bed tax project in Stow and erected a sign acknowledging the CLMC involvement. Carlson circulated an educational flyer profiling the storm water project that was prepared by Tolman Engineering.
- c. Rine reported that the South Basin is experiencing high levels of aquatic vegetation, which included Eurasian water milfoil. Rine observed adult Caddis flies in the area and will contact Bob Johnson of Cornell to study same.
- d. Betsy Hite announced that 302 rain barrels were sold at the Chautauqua Mall event. Hite recently worked with Bemus Point Elementary School planting a rain garden. She announced a garlic mustard pull at CWC's Old Fluvanna Road property on June 5th, and a two-part workshop on lakescaping for water quality on June 16th and 22nd (part 1) and June 30th (part 2).

IX. Old Business

a. Final Draft of Watershed Management Plan

Constantino distributed an acknowledgment list identifying CLMC members and partners who contributed to the development of the Watershed Management Plan, and invited members to advise him of any errors or omissions. Additionally, Constantino revised the preface to include Erlandson's suggestions regarding invertebrates. Hajdu noted that the preface should be viewed as a statement made by all those appearing under the acknowledgment. Constantino discussed the upcoming public forum and encouraged all CLMC members and partners to attend.

b. SAV Plan

Constantino explained that the Watershed Management Plan specifically recommends the development of a companion plan for the proper management of submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) in Chautauqua Lake, which will specifically address methods for managing nuisance levels. Constantino is exploring the viability of employing local talent to develop this plan within the County's existing procurement policy. Constantino claimed that the advantages of utilizing local experts are many: decade-long research experience specifically with Chautauqua lake; comprehensive understanding of the unique lake and watershed issues affecting this community; more accountable to local concerns; more responsive to CLMC needs and objectives; and uniquely passionate and dedicated to the project. Yates noted that the task is too great to be undertaken by volunteers, and stressed the importance of compensating the local team of experts to ensure results. Warner inquired who specifically was being considered for the project. Constantino noted that it would be inappropriate to discuss specific individuals at this time, explained that he would need to explore the matter in greater detail, and invited CLMC members and partners to submit the names of potential candidates to serve on the development team. Constantino will develop a *Scope of Work* outlining the project.

X. New Business

a. Consummation of the Watershed Management Plan

Hajdu recommended that a special CLMC meeting be held to specifically approve the plan and to present it to the County Legislature. Hajdu emphasized the importance of having some formal ceremony to engage the general public and local officials. Yates inquired about the process of presenting the plan to the County Legislature. Hajdu explained that the period for public comment expires in late June, revisions will be made in early July, and the CLMC will need to hold a special meeting in mid to late July to approve and recommend the plan to the County Legislature. Yates reminded

members that the primary mission of the CLMC was to submit a watershed management plan to the County Legislature and to make annual recommendations for the proper management of Chautauqua Lake and its watershed. Conroe reminded members that the Legislative process may not coincide with the CLMC's timetable for initiating implementation of the plan. Warner suggested that a simplified strategy identifying individual tasks may be more readily understood than the 5-year action plan. Warner also suggested that the CLMC should focus on specific target groups, such as farmers, landowners, lakeshore residents, and local municipalities. Nixon suggested that future 2% bed tax grants should favor projects consistent with plan recommendations. Constantino noted that the bed tax grants are a countywide funding source that include projects outside of the Chautauqua Lake watershed.

b. Other Matters

Yates observed that lower lake levels were followed by what appears to be increased excavation activities along the lakeshore. Conroe recommended that such activities be reported to Conservation Officer Kevin Budnewski of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation at 800-847-7332. Carlson suggested that the CLMC collaborate with the Conewango Creek Watershed Association with their fall cleanup on September 11, 2010.

XI. Summary of Actions Taken

- All members should review the final draft of the Chautauqua Lake Watershed Management Plan and submit any comments or concerns to Constantino as soon as possible;
- All members should attend the public forum scheduled for June 10, 2010, and should recruit others to attend;
- Hajdu and Constantino will schedule a meeting with County Leadership to discuss
- Constantino will draft a *scope of work* for the development of a SAV Management Plan and will explore the viability of procuring local experts for the project.
- Hajdu will schedule a special meeting in July for the CLMC to formally approve and recommend the Watershed Management Plan.

XII. Schedule Next Meeting

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 1, 2010, at 4:30 pm, at the Stow Senior Center in North Harmony.

XIII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Karen Rine, Secretary.