

**Honeoye Lake Watershed Task Force Meeting
Honeoye Public Library
Thursday April 27th, 2017**

Called to order by Terry Gronwall at 6:03 pm at the Honeoye Public Library.

Present: Steve Barnhoorn (Town of Richmond), Betsy Landre (Ontario County Planning Department), Ann Jacobs (Town of South Bristol), Bill Hershey (Town of Canadice), Terry Gronwall (HLWTF), Dorothy Gronwall (HLWTF), Mark Adams (Town of Naples), Megan Webster (Ontario SWCD),

Approval of January 26th, 2017 minutes: Moved by SB, second by BH, carried.

Financial Report: The current balance is \$17,523.88. **Moved by MA, second by AJ, carried.**

FLI Invasive Species Grant for \$6,000 expected to be Awarded to HVA

TG explained that the grant is to be used for a FLI watercraft steward to staff the public boat launch Mondays-Wednesdays which will provide coverage for the full week. The remaining funds would provide signage and brochure at boat launch with the Clean, Drain, Dry outreach info. This will be proposed at the upcoming Town of Richmond Board Meeting.

2017 Yard Waste Composting Project Update –Betsy Landre, OCPD & Terry Gronwall, HLWTF

TG explained that he and SB had spoken with Nate VanBortel and Tom Fleig of the Town of Richmond to use the Town brush pit this year for yard waste collection. The Town asked that the flyer emphasize the residents please use caution in the construction staging area when dropping off yard waste. BL will update flyer for this season. TG and SB will check with Tom on dawn to dusk time being highlighted on the flyer.

2017 Weed Harvesting Program Update – Betsy Landre, OCPW

BL shared summary for 2016 Weed Harvesting Report that is available on the County website and plans for 2017 harvesting. Harvesting took place July 6-September 13 with Work Barge from September 6-October 13, 2016. Weed take was lower this year and plant growth was down. Lake level was down due to drought. The plan is to continue the adaptive management approach to target harvest areas based on resident communication, staff observation and aquatic vegetation mapping. Resident feedback was extremely helpful this past year to guide operations. The staff loved GPS and Sonar machine and found the tools useful. TG mentioned the speed and water depth as key feedback from the tools for staff. It is especially useful in low visibility conditions. BL explained the Water Resources Council funded a study on testing localized water quality impacts from nearshore harvesting. This will help to address concerns over the harvester causing localized nutrient pulses. SB noted that over 5ft in depth was a concern also and asked if the study would also cover that. TG added this grant would give a preliminary look to see if a more exhaustive sampling was warranted as water sampling is expensive. BL stated they are focusing on closer to shore where may be a concern as a priority for sampling. Sampling will occur three times during the season and FLI will also be using their fluoroprobe which distinguishes between types of algae. BL thanked the Gronwalls for their help with the grant. Ontario County will purchase a tilt-deck trailer for the barge with FLOWPA funding this year. The barge may also be used for search and rescue operations by Ontario County Sherriff's Dept. who have asked to use the barge for training and it could also be used for debris clean-ups after big storm events. Staff is returning this year and will be harvesting Monday, Tuesday and half day Wednesday with work barge being half day Wednesday and full day Thursday to be altered as needed based on need. Barge schedule/beach pickup will be done as needed and also directed by residents.

DEC WQIP Round 11 Honeoye Lake Restoration Project Update –M. Webster ONTSWCD
MW shared projects are progressing with many completed, with Forestry BMP Workshop, Curtis Road Project and Sediment Control Basins/ditch plugs at the Inlet planned for this year. Many projects have come in under budget so a request to reallocate funds and modify the plan of work and extend the grant through 2018 has been submitted to DEC.

DEC WQIP Round 12 Inlet Restoration Project Update – M. Webster ONTSWCD
MW stated two planting events occurred over the Earth Day weekend with 900 plants planted by around 70 volunteers. Enhancement BMPs and modifications to fix a few areas and stabilizations are planned for this year contingent on approval from DEC. SB asked how the project worked out with the recent rains. MW stated the project worked very well to allow the water access to the floodplain and the beaver were also helping slow water through dam creation. She showed photos from the TNC drone that gave a good look at the higher water event. Partners had a walk through in late March to review the project and gave very positive feedback. This next season will focus on seeding for stabilization, ditch plugs and pothole installation after DEC approval. BL asked if the original channel was still there. MW explained the channel was mainly filled in with material from the constructed channel but pocket wetlands/ponds were left open for habitat. MA asked if a reduction in sediment to the lake has been seen. MW explained TNC is monitoring water quality but it will take a few years for vegetation along the newly created channel to become established and the overall project to be fully functional but in general the channel is functioning well, accessing the floodplain and the heavy clay isn't eroding.

MW also stated that Mill Creek has eroded severely with the recent rain events so the project is a priority for funding and ONTSWCD will continue to look for funding options such as WQIP Round 15.

DEC Honeoye Lake Total Maximum Daily Load Project Update – Terry Gronwall, HLWTF Target schedule - Draft TMDL Report Fall 2017

TG stated DEC is still working on the TMDL Report. Cayuga Lake TMDL got prioritized ahead of Honeoye Lake. Honeoye Lake will be next; the target date is Fall 2017

Watershed Management Plan Update and Nine Element Plan Discussion – Terry Gronwall
TG shared HLWTF has a Watershed Management Plan created and approved in October 2007. It has been ten years and there is a large amount of data gathered since that time. It is about time to refresh the Plan. TG has talked to David Zorn at the Genesee Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council who gave an estimate of \$100,000-200,000 for an update. The group thought that cost was quite high. TG also talked to the Dept. of State and they have provided a 50/50 cost share to support Watershed Management Plans through the CFA process. The cost share may be updated to 75/25 cost share with contracts going through the Towns or County. BH stated he would not be supportive of Genesee Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council doing the work as they hadn't done the work and Ontario County had to scramble to get money back and he had concerns that they wouldn't provide a product of value for that money. The group discussed timing of the plan update and ongoing research. You can use a private contractor. EcoLogic and Dr. Elizabeth Moran was also recommended by BL as a possible environmental consultant. TG will reach out to EcoLogic to explore costs. SB mentioned EcoLogic also did a plan for timber harvesting that was very good. TG will follow up. BH asked if any major projects are planned for the next four years because Plan should be updated for those projects. TG stated many of the research projects are focused on internal loading and future implementation projects will probably result from that in two years for now. BH stated that you can decide on a contractor and start the process and as data becomes available they can incorporate in the updated plan. TG stated there will be overlap with updating the planning document and research data; 30% or so of the plan is background info and won't change. The update is about 2 years out. MW asked about the timing of the grant as the award will

be a year later. Usually funds need to be spent in 3 years. TG stated the grant must be submitted by a municipality or the County or an SWCD. BL thought the past funding went through Ontario SWCD. SB suggested contacting EcoLogic if Genesee Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council wasn't providing good value. MA supported the idea of getting an additional quote. TG will follow up and share with the group. BL asked if with government changes if the 9 Element Plan was still necessary. TG stated the DEC told him if you have a TMDL you don't need a 9 Element Plan. If you don't have a TMDL, you need a 9 Element Plan. TG will also discuss with Dr. Moran about it.

Climate change on shallow NYS lakes grant (Cornell/FLCC) – B. Gilman, FLCC & T. Gronwall

TG stated sampling will begin shortly. The water quality buoys and weather station are going in next week and the 17th of May regular weekly sampling begins.

Finger Lakes Institute Received a GLRC \$25,000 Grant to continue their Study of the Role of Nitrogen in Harmful Algal Blooms in Honeoye Lake (2017 & 2018)–Roxanne Razavi, FLI

TG shared FLI found Nitrogen released from bottom sediments on Honeoye Lake were the highest they had seen in a North American lake so they will be sampling bottom sediments again and with the increased grant funding they will be stepping up research activities to review internal nutrient loads.

HLWTF Logo Project Update – Dorothy Gronwall – HLWTF

DG presented a few options for a logo. The group liked the logo and suggested a few changes. DG will incorporate comments and bring an updated logo back to the group.

New Business

Approval to pay OCSWCD 1Q17 Services Invoices for \$429.00. **Moved by SB, second by MA, carried.**

Approval to enter an arrangement with OCPD to receive \$1,250 of LSL cost reimbursement from their FLOWPA Funding. **Moved by MA, second by BH, carried.**

Next Meeting is July 27th at Honeoye Public Library.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn at 7:40 pm **Moved by SB, second by BH, carried.**

Minute Recorder: Megan Webster – Ontario County SWCD

Chairperson _____ **Date Approved** _____