

Honeoye Lake Watershed Task Force Meeting
Honeoye Public Library
Thursday July 28th, 2016

Called to order by Chairman Terry Gronwall at 6:02 pm at the Honeoye Public Library.

Present: P.J. Emerick (Ontario SWCD), Megan Webster (Ontario SWCD), Terry Gronwall (HWLTF), Dorothy Gronwall (HVA), Betsy Landre (Ontario County Planning), Steve Barnhoorn (Town of Richmond), Mark Adams (Town of Naples), Chris Moore, Julie Swift, Nathan Van Bortel (Town of Richmond), Ann Jacobs (Town of South Bristol), Ed Jackson, Bruce Gilman (FLCC)

Introductions: TG welcomed everyone to the meeting, and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Privilege of the Floor: Julie Swift asked to address the possibility of suspending the weed harvesting on Honeoye Lake. Chris Moore added his concern that the lake was crystal clear up until 2 weeks ago with the start of harvesting that the quality of the lake has turned to green, full of seeds and algae over those two weeks. Terry Gronwall stated that in the last three weeks, the temperature has risen from 72-73 degrees Fahrenheit to 82 degrees Fahrenheit. There are 5 things that influence blue green algae (BGA) growth: (1) BGA seed (2) warm water (3) calm winds (4) bright sunlight and (5) nutrients. The only thing you can control is the nutrients. The water temp has been going up rapidly. CM asked if we have BGA at this point. TG replied yes we do. About 10 days ago Terry and Dorothy observed a wind generated lake mixing event. With Honeoye at 30 ft deep, the anoxic layer of the lake is brought to the surface with wind driven mixing events. The harvester started on July 5th. CM asked if the harvester cause that same type of mixing event. TG replied no, I'm talking about deep water, 25-30 ft of water. Betsy Landre responded when you have that mixing event, what happens is the phosphorus (P) is released from the deep water sediments. Before mixing it is anoxic. CM asked what depth are you talking about. TG replied 25-30ft depth. CM responded so you are talking about a 1/50th of the lake? BL explained the point is the wind mixing is allowing the P from the bottom of the lake to be released. CM asked about the nutrients resuspended by the weed harvester as it stirs up the bottom. He has videos of muck behind the harvester. TG said we will table this discussion until Dr. Gilman arrives but with shallow water sediments, P is attached to particles and is not available for plant uptake in the water column. Nathan Van Bortel added the aquatic vegetation management plan has always been a program designed to improve the experience on Honeoye Lake. It may be time to resurvey the residents on both sides of the lake to gauge their level of satisfaction with the program. But to take something that is as well established as this program is and just turn the switch off and turn it back on again in two weeks, the program is not designed for that level of flexibility. CM stated the program has been in place for 30 years and in 30 years the lake has gotten progressively worse. JS asked what was meant by the program wasn't designed for that level of flexibility. NVB explained there is a plan in place and there is a program that has been committed to by multiple parties. We want to explore other ways to reduce time on the lake for the cutter but we need a longer range plan. CM explained the lake is green from one end to the other one week after the cutting began, with clear water before harvesting began. The weather conditions haven't changed that much. Last year it was high water, high rains which led to all the problems, this year is no rain, drought. The problem can't be caused by both things. NVB stated we haven't lost a swim day yet this year, that hasn't

happened in 6 years. Many of these things are outside our control- it is the ecology of the lake. If you want us to evaluate the aquatic program, it needs to come in the form of a public survey. TG asked that we make decisions based on solid data and BG, BL and the Gronwalls have been collecting data. JS stated there are so many variables you can't scientifically prove either way. The harvester may not cause blooms but making them proliferate. TG stated the group is aware of the concern and are all working to address the concern. Surveying is one thing, valid data is make the decision is another. TG asked the discussion be tabled for later. BL stated she was happy to stay after the meeting and talk further about the topic and concerns. CM asked that there be a public vote for residents and landowners on the lake along with Town residents. One thing we haven't done is stopping harvesting. Except for one week that the harvester was down for maintenance, every year the lake turns green after harvesting begins. It is the one thing that hasn't changed. How much is the grant for the program, \$100,000 from New York State (NYS)? BL stated the operating budget uses \$25,000 from NYS and the Towns of Richmond and Canadice and Ontario County contribute funds. CM asked what happens to the leftover funds. BL explained there is no leftover. The total operating budget for last year was \$53,000 which is average. There is also a capital cost for large equipment purchase that the Towns contribute towards over a 7 year period. The money from the state can fluctuate from year to year. It is an asset. TG asked again to move on to next agenda items and we have heard the concern, are working to address it and can discuss this further after the meeting.

Approval of the April 28th 2016 Minutes: **Moved by SB, second by MA, carried.**

Financial Report: PE provided current balance of \$15805.12.

Honeoye Lake Weed Harvesting Program Update – Betsy Landre, OCPD

BL showed maps of the concentration or density of plants around Honeoye Lake. These maps are used to guide harvesting, mainly to the southwest and northeast which is similar to previous years. The north end was remarkably clear this year. The maps showed where the harvester was and how much focus (how often) the harvester was in the area. SB asked what green signified on the maps. BL indicated red showed plants were taking up 90% of the water column. Green is picking up some plant material. It is a gradient of color- red are hotspots. An estimated 130 wet tons (26 loads) have been removed this year to date. Burns Point had the most material taken out so far, north of California Ranch Point, the south end, Dana Shores, Francis Shores also have been focus spots. BL has looked into whether the turbulence from the harvester has contributed to algal blooms. The operators keep a logbook to record conditions and observations on water quality and algae. She has been out taking measurements in front of and behind the harvester on water clarity. No decline in water quality was seen during her sampling. The secchi disk showed no change. The harvester was out three weeks before the algae really started to generate. There were local spots such as Trident Marine, but no large blooms. BL stated she would challenge the comment that harvesting caused the algal blooms as the harvester was out three weeks before persistent blooms began this year. Water temperature has been slow to warm up this year and that has had a benefit. 78.5 degrees F is the temp that seems to allow blooms. CM felt that the harvester is stirring up the entire lake allowing these blooms to happen and there is no visibility. BL stated that is algal in the water column, not sediment stirred up from the shoreline, but an algae bloom that is reducing clarity. CM stated he would like to show Betsy the harvester plume he sees. JS stated she felt the variable of noise disturbance had been left out and the impact on cells lysing that released toxins. TG stated they have sent in from 2014 to date 140 samples and one sample has come back with high toxin levels- less than 1%. BGA does not mean toxins are in

the water. CM asked when that sample was taken. TG stated it was taken in October 2015 by the Gronwalls. BL has been corresponding with Supervisor Singer and the Town of Richmond is also interested. She hopes to work with a survey scientist so that the questions are measuring what is needed and timing does not influence results, potentially October. It would be sent to all landowners. It will be a tool to serve everyone's question. The County is in the business of harvesting to help manage algae for the benefit of the lake and for the people that use the lake. There is no other reason we would be doing this. It is not to keep people employed, it is not to have something to do or have grant money coming in; this grant can easily be redirected. We are only in this for the purpose of making Honeoye Lake a better place. She has no problem at looking at questions raised but we need to do this in a way that looks across the public spectrum, looks at the scientific data and is measured in a reasonable way.

Shoreline Pick-up Barge status

BL: Still under construction, may be weeks. CM asked if the barge was intended because of the sediment caused by the harvester. BL stated the barge was to help with shoreline maintenance and fragments washed up on the beach, also to have a maneuverable equipment to get in to shallower places and between docks to remove fragments. CM asked if the rotting fragments harm the lake water. BL stated by removing the fragments it removes a source of P from the perimeter of the lake. CM asked if the harvester use should be suspended until the barge is ready. BL stated there have been few complaints over fragments this year; the harvester is backed up to pick up fragments from the beach where possible such as at Moore's house. That is a service that is available and the barge will be used to help with pick-up.

2016 Yard Waste Composting Project Update – Nathan Van Bortel, Town of Richmond)

Richmond Town Board is leaning towards unfettered access and having an area to stockpile waste that cannot be composted and needs to be periodically put in the dumpster. They will work with County to reconvene to discuss in early Fall to make sure people have use of the facility.

State of the Lake Presentation – Terry Gronwall HLWTF/M Webster S&W/B Gilman FLCC

Presentation is available on the HVA website. Presentation covered basic ecology of lakes, attributes of Honeoye Lake and how those factors impact water quality of the lake. Wind mixing is a factor with Honeoye being such a shallow lake at 30ft maximum depth. High temps and high phosphorus levels contribute to algal blooms. Current WQIP Rounds 11 & 12 and proposed Round 13 were reviewed. A Home Owners Guide to Lake-Friendly Living was reviewed and copies passed out at the meeting. A review of water quality monitoring tools, techniques, locations and where to find results was presented. Current research projects were reviewed and water quality data to date was presented. JS asked if there were reports on weed harvesting. BL stated yes, every year back to 1999 is on the website and she would see if paper copies exist prior to that. JS asked if anyone knew if there was a bloom in 1977. SB and BG recommended looking at historical articles in the newspaper as there were similar articles for coliform bacteria. NVB stated that we are constantly looking at the aquatic management program.

Steve Barnhoorn shared information on the East Lake Road Hydroseeding project due to a resident's inquiry regarding the content of phosphorus in the fertilizer. Adam Whalen from Randsco replied that there was no fertilizer and no phosphorus added to the hydroseeder mixture. The hydroseed tank is approximately 600 gallons of water plus 4-50# bags of hydromulch plus

150# of seed mixture. The hydro mulch is a wood based fiber product that is 100% recycled, environmentally safe and ecologically preferred. It is made from all natural materials that are organic and fully biodegradable. The hydro mulch holds the water and seed to better help promote seed growth. The green color is for aesthetic purposes only and will fade over the course of time.

Next HLWTF Meeting October 27th 6PM at Honeoye Public Library

Adjournment- Motion to adjourn at 7:46 pm.

Moved by SB, second by MA, carried.

Motion to Reconvene Motion to adjourn at 7:46 pm.

Moved by SB, second by MA, carried.

Approval to pay OCSWCD 2Q16 Services Invoices for \$1199.25

Moved by SB, second by MA, carried.

Approval to purchase one SCIENCEWARE® Polyethylene Dipper, 12'L plus shipping charges for Total \$132.88

Moved by SB, second by MA, carried.

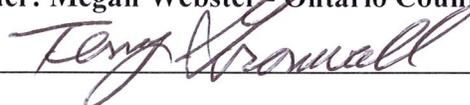
Approval to purchase one 8" plankton net for \$105.23.

Moved by MA, second by AJ, carried.

Adjournment- Motion to adjourn at 7:48 pm.

Moved by SB, second by MA, carried:

Minute recorder: Megan Webster - Ontario County Soil & Water Conservation District

Chairperson 

Date Approved 11/3/16

08/28/16 HLWTF Mtg

Name org email / phone if needed

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