

CHAUTAUQUA LAKE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

Minutes of the Meeting

Thursday, September 6, 2012

4:30 pm North Harmony Senior Center

Stow, NY 14785

Attendance:

Members present: Sally Carlson; John Carney; Tom Geisler; Lyle Hajdu; Wade Morse; Kim Sherwood; Art Webster, Dave Wilson; and Chris Yates

Members excused: Jeff Diers; Tom Erlandson; and Andrew Nixon

Partners: Bill Boria (CCDOH), John Jablonski (CWC); Doug Champ

Guests: Norm Czubaj

I. Call to Order

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

II. Approval of Minutes

The August minutes were received and approved as amended.

III. Introduction of Guests

IV. Public Expression

None

V. Chairman's Comments

Hajdu reported that the NYSDEC is in the final approval stages for the TMDL for Chautauqua Lake. He noted that the WQTF, CWC, and similar groups are submitting letters encouraging the DEC to finalize the document. Hajdu asked if the CLMC members would like to send a letter of support. He asked if CLMC should write a letter. There was brief discussion. Webster – motion to write letter, Wilson 2nd, approved.

Discussion on the Motion:

Boria reported that he has held discussions with the DEC regarding the TMDL. He stated that the DEC is being stalled by State Legislators. DEC said they will have future discussion with State Legislators, and if productive, will move forward on the TMDL. Boria will have discussions with the Director of the Health Department regarding an official letter.

Geisler added that the CLMC is a committee of the County Legislature. He asked what the Legislature feels about the TMDL. Carlson added that the Legislature/County won't be financially impacted, though constituents will. There was a suggestion that CLMC send a letter to PED Committee, urging the County to submit letter to DEC. After a brief discussion, it was also suggested to get input from IMC prior to sending a letter to PED Committee. Carlson suggested a copy be sent to the Mayors and Supervisors for their meeting on 9/26.

Original motion modified: CLMC will send a letter to DEC requesting finalization of the TMDL, as well as a letter to PED asking them to have the County Legislature do the same. The motion was approved.

Hajdu discussed the presentation given to the PED Committee on August 15th. Hajdu, Diers, and Wilson participated in the discussions. PED members were impressed with the detailed CLMC materials and the collaborative effort that took place in a very short period of time. There were five PED Committee members, and about as many non-member Legislators present. Hajdu discussed the evolving mission of CLMC, noting that the commission was originally tasked with identifying the problems in the lake and watershed and recommending solutions, to now assuming responsibility to promote implementation of those recommendations. Hajdu stated that there is a need for an investment strategy. Hajdu asked PED to engage CLMC in future conversations and to give serious thought as to how to fund implementation through functional organizations. There was a brief discussion.

Hajdu discussed the Legislative Boat Trip presentation. He stated that there were three topics of discussion on the trip: Problems and solutions; Challenges to implementation; and Funding Strategy. He stated that there was no shortage of good ideas, and that the challenge now is how to implement with no structure, little to no funding, and no authority. He stressed the need for a functional organization and encouraged dialogue to identify and secure funding. There was a brief discussion on why other CLMC members were not invited on the boat trip. Hajdu explained that he and Diers were invited by Legislator Horrigan. Hajdu had asked Horrigan to coordinate with Diers and others, who were already developing a similar trip. However, due to scheduling concerns, Horrigan elected to proceed as planned. The trip was funded – in part – by concerned citizens who voiced support for CLMC initiatives. Hajdu and Diers were invited to participate. Despite challenges, this was a good interaction with many County legislators, Federal, State, and Municipal officials.

Hajdu noted that funding issues are often addressed by taking from one group or function and giving to another group or function, resulting in a zero sum game. Current funding requests must be “new / additional

funding”, not taking from one needed function and allocating to another needed function. Has informed Legislators that volunteers can only do so much; need a different functional structure for successful implementation.

Yates thanked Hajdu, Diers, Wilson, Erlandson, Nixon, and Jablonski for their work on the materials provided to the Legislators. He stressed the importance of CLMC members to support the CLA for full funding. Yates also stated that it is also important to seek State and Federal funding sources. Recognize local fiscal challenges and need to tap into other sources. Yates stated that the CLMC could consider “private advocacy” by member organizations.

There was an in-depth discussion on the current CLMC structure, and what changes may be necessary. Webster stated that the CLMC as an advisory group structure is not working for implementation. Original structure and scope made sense but does not fit with current challenge of implementation. Who are we? What do we need to be? Is it different than what we have been?

Hajdu noted that the CLMC might need to hold a separate meeting on these topics.

VI. Coordinator’s Comments

Diers was unable to attend. Members held a brief discussion on the topics.

- i. SAV Management Plan: Yates suggests that the SAVMP committee review interim reports generated by Cedar Eden. Hajdu will send Diers a letter to that affect.
- ii. Ellicott Grant: Wilson stated that the contractors have completed the initial stream survey in Dutch and Goose Creek.
- iii. Water Chestnut:

VII. Advisory Committee Reports

None

VIII. Member/Partner Reports

Champ stated that he would be interested in holding a Chautauqua Lake Conference. He has extensive experience with the Past Energy Conference. There was a brief discussion. Wilson – motion, Yates 2nd. He added that the conference could include all sorts of vendors, historical info, and discussion of studies. Champ will produce an outline for the proposed conference at the next meeting.

Boria discussed the Turner letter RE: Keuka Lake and the Department of Health. Boria has visited with County Executive and that a letter of response is being compiled.

Jablonski reported that the Conservationist's have sent out water chestnut and watershed literature to the public. He noted that electronic submissions are much more efficient.

Wilson reported that Stormwater Conference held at the Chautauqua Institution early last week, had a broad spectrum of people there.

Sherwood reported that the Chadakoin Clean Up will be held Saturday September 8th.

Geisler gave a presentation to the Yacht Club. At the presentation there was some discussion that there were no boating interests represented on the CLMC. He stated that Rick McMahon (Realtors) and Yacht Club are interested in being involved.

Yates stated the need to recognize the value of interest of private citizens and their potential involvement with lake management issues.

IX. Old Business

None

X. New Business

XI. Summary of Actions Taken

XII. Schedule Next Meeting

The next regular meeting is scheduled for November 1, 2012, at 4:30 pm at the Stow Senior Center in North Harmony.

XIII. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 6pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jeff Diers, Watershed Coordinator.