

Quassaick Creek Watershed Alliance Monthly Meeting
MSMC, Aquinas Hall, Room 252
Monday, October 28, 2019, 5:00 PM

<http://waterauthority.orangecountygov.com/quassaick.html>

Present: Jack Caldwell, Wayne Chernek, Bill Fetter, John Gebhards, Lynn Maelia, Erin Roth

Meeting Notes – 11/11/19

Reports

1. Board of Directors – Jack Caldwell

A) Jack informed the attendees that pursuant to discussion at the 10/9/19 BOD meeting, the QCWA has applied for a seat on the Stewart ANG Restoration Advisory Committee (RAC). Jack, Bill and Ted Kohlmann met at the Newburgh Library on 10/15 to review the RAC application and formulate responses to the individual questions with the focus being on the QCWA being a community based organization able to represent a broad section of the population. Jack subsequently formalized our responses and submitted our application. Bill withdrew his individual application in lieu of the QWCA submittal. Erin discussed some of the ongoing administrative difficulties being dealt with for the installation of a filtration system at the Rec Pond discharge into the Silver Stream sub-watershed. We also learned that the DOD will host its next progress meeting on Thursday Nov. 7th, 6 PM at the Newburgh Armory. **ALSO, THE APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR RAC PARTICIPATION HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO THURSDAY NOVEMBER 7TH**

B) Jack and Bill summarized the visit with Professor Phillips and her Environmental Policy study group from Bard College at the Newburgh Library on October 21. In the short 2 hour session, we discussed the current drinking water supply situation, some of the history of the problems and the near term plan for remedial actions. A brief view of Peter Smith's slide show of the Washington Lake Watershed was also displayed. Community participation and communication was a focal point of the meeting. We pondered how best to keep informed the various socio-economic groups within the City of Newburgh about the status of the drinking water. In planning this meeting, we were unable to arrange for any of the groups active within the City (NCWP, CAC, Historian, etc.) to be available for comments and questions from the students. We did provide them with potential contact information for these groups to allow further inquiries. At this point, the QCWA is not committed to any further action other than possibly acting as a catalyst between Bard and potential involved parties in the City.

2. Muchattoes Lake Cleanup by Dept. of Small Interventions-Bill Fetter

Bill stated that the cleanup on Saturday 10/20 (which is one of the actions developed from a Lake Street study earlier in the year) was reasonably successful. On the order of 20 people came

out to clear trash and brush from behind the stores along about 100 feet of the eastern shore of the Lake in the vicinity of the S. Williams Street intersection. The long term goal is to expose more views of the Lake and potentially develop a walking trail along the eastern shore. Naomi Hersson-Ringskog hopes to have the next cleanup in the area sometime in the spring of 2020. Stay tuned to Dept. of Small Interventions' correspondence.

3. Lower Quassaick Creek Trail-Jack Caldwell

Jack updated the group on his attendance at a Scenic Hudson Steering Committee meeting for the Newburgh Greenspace Plan held on Thursday 10/24 held at the Newburgh Free Library. University of Pennsylvania architectural students presented projects on concepts for the of the City of Newburgh's waterfront. The presentation included ideas & designs regarding a trail along the lower Quassaick Creek. At the end of the meeting, Amy Kacala informally mentioned a walking tour of the lower Quassaick being proposed by Scenic Hudson. It is the hope of the QCWA to participate in these visits to assist in logistics, history and planning.

4. Trees for Tribs Update: Ted Kohlmann

Ted summarized the recent ground cover cleanup held on the morning of September 19th at Cronomer Park in the Town of Newburgh. This was one of numerous sites identified as needing what likely will be continued maintenance in the future. After a few weather postponements, the next cleanup will also be in Cronomer Park in an adjacent project on Powder Mill Rd on **Thursday November 7th from 9:00 to noon**. Contact Ted to let him know if you can make it. (kohlmanntlt@aol.com)

5. Orange Lake and Upper Bushfield Creek: Bill Fetter

A)-in the few days before the meeting, Bill compiled a summary of the lab testing done on the Upper Bushfield Creek over the last two summers. He met with Stan Thomas of the Orange Lake Homeowners Association to discuss the data in preparation of his planned testimony regarding his idea of the history of nutrients and algae at the Lake from the early 1990's to present at State Assembly Regional Forum led by Assemblyman Colin Schmidt of Groundwater Issues throughout the State to be held on 10/30/19 at the Vail's Gate Firehouse. (At that meeting, Stan talked briefly about the recent and historical Lake & Stream monitoring data indicating possible effluent issues with the Thruway rest areas and potentially contributing to Harmful Algal Blooms in Orange Lake and even further downstream in Algonquin Park. Stan recommended additional tertiary treatment at the rest area WWTPs. Stan also complemented the collaborative work among OLHA, Town of Newburgh and Orange County Planning regarding the septic and well issues on the west side of the lake. He would like to see a similar team effort on the stream investigation.)

With the stream data from the last two summers along with work Stan did in the early 1990's and approximately 30 years of lake chemistry data, the QCWA & OLHA will draft a letter to the SPDES enforcement group of the NYSDEC requesting a Quality Assurance investigation to insure the WWTPs are complying with all applicable rules and regulations and/or if some additional processes may be recommended at the plants. Status report at the November meeting.

Bill will also meeting with Jen Epstein of RiverKeeper to review our data from the last two seasons. Hopefully some guidance and assistance will come out of the discussion. Report to follow at the QCWA November monthly meeting.

6. Algonquin Park Improvements – John Gebhards

John informed the group that the FEMA funded repairs on the upper and lower dams continues. Status of the invasive species removal seems unknown at this time.

A citizens group involved in the improvements and preservation of the parks history has asked if they might share some of the space on the QCWA kiosk at the eastern end of the park. John is going to talk to the Orange County Parks Commissioner to get further details on what is needed. Should be more on this at the next meeting.

7. Outdoor Promise Collaboration – Ron Zorrillo/Jack

No developments?

8. HRWA Annual Conference – John

John announced that the Hudson River Watershed Alliance would be holding their annual conference at the FDR residence in Hyde Park on October 29.

9. HRWA Regional Round Table – John

John announced the watershed roundtable will be held at Bard College on November 21. Erin Roth and Lance Haug have volunteered to represent the QCWA at the meeting.

Also, the Newburgh Clean Water Project (NCWP) will be a new group in the HRWA representing the City of Newburgh and their struggles for a restored water supply. Marcel Barrick will attend this roundtable representing the NCWP. A deserved spot in the HRWA.

10. HRWA Watershed Workshop- John

John reiterated that the HRWA will be hosting an all-day watershed workshop on December 5th at SUNY New Paltz. To date we do not have any information. When anything is posted, it will be passed on to all.

11. Restoration Advisory Committee

Marcel announced the Restoration Advisory Committee (RAC) established for the continued investigation and ultimate restoration plan for the ongoing Air National Guard (ANG) Base drinking water contamination) is currently receiving applications from the public for seats on the RAC.

This community based committee is intended to review technical documents, serve as a liaison between the ANG and the local community and provide feedback and advice to the Restoration Plan designers. Community Groups would be good conduits for local input. The QWCA resolve to discuss a potential application at the next BOD meeting. Information and applications are available on line at: www.orangecountygov.com/1768/PFOSPFOA-Resources.

Applications must be post marked by October 25th. This deadline was eventually postponed to November 7th.

12. Catskill and Delaware Aqueducts Connection

The point was brought up that there is now a hard connection between the Catskill and Delaware Aqueducts allowing additional versatility to accessing water among communities during the ongoing tunneling and other upgrades in the NYC water supply network.

THE NEXT QCWA MONTHLY MEETING WILL BE MONDAY NOVEMBER 25TH, 2019 AT 5:00 PM IN RM. 252, AQUINAS HALL, MT. ST. MARY COLLEGE, NEWBURGH

PLEASE JOIN US!