

Quassaick Creek Watershed Alliance Meeting

MSMC, Aquinas Hall, Room 252

Monday, February 25, 2019, 5:00 PM

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

Present: Marcel Barrick, Matt Brady, Jack Caldwell, Chris Eachus, Bill Fetter, Ted Kohlmann, John Gebhards, Lance Haug, Lynn Maelia, Kelly Morris, Erin Roth

Meeting Notes — DRAFT

Presentation

1. Discussion of the Quassaick Creek Watershed Management Plan action for 2019: Kelly described the NYS grant and process used to create the QCW Management Plan that was issued June 2014. This Plan has been used as a guide for the QCWA annual activities. She discussed the progress that we have made in addressing the Plan's recommendations for the 10 Priority Projects list in the Plan. For Source water protection the OC Water Authority (OCWA) has received \$1.7 million to protect land in the watersheds of the City of Newburgh's two drinking water supplies, Washington Lake and Silver Stream Reservoir.

She described significant progress in many other of the following projects with the exception of the Winona Lake Remediation.

Kelly described the recommendations for the following Priority Projects:

Crystal Lake and Snake Hill

Lower Quassaick

Model Codes and enhanced local planning

Muchattoes Lake Improvements

Orange Lake

Promote watershed awareness

Septic management and maintenance

Source water protection

Stream monitoring

Winona Lake Remediation

Reports

2. QCWA Steering Committee report:

Jack explained the process that the QC Steering Committee has chosen for that committee to be replaced by a Board of Directors (BoD) and an Executive Director. The BoD slate of nominees consisted of Jack Caldwell, Bill Fetter, Ted

Kohlmann, Lance Haug, John McLaughlin and Kelly Morris. The election of the BoD by written ballot proceeded with the following Directors; Jack Caldwell, Bill Fetter, Ted Kohlmann, and Kelly Morris being elected. A meeting of these Directors will be scheduled at which they will elect a President and a Secretary-Treasurer and select an Executive Director that will be a voting member of the Board.

3. City of Newburgh water:

Marcel reported that the DoD said that they would not pay for the remediation of the PFOS contaminated areas of the City of Newburgh's water supply being Washington Lake and Silver Stream. It was asked if this meant that they would not treat the out flow of contaminated water from Rec Pond to Silver Stream or remediate contaminated areas on the ANG base or Airport. Discussion indicated that was not clear at this point. further clarification was suggested as a topic for the March meeting.

4. Bushfield Creek & Gidneytown Creek reported spills. Bill investigated the NYS DOT's notification of recent illegal discharges to the Bushfield Creek, along Route 52 and the Gidneytown Creek on Route 32. No residual evidence of these discharges was apparent.

5. Sampling, 2019:

Bill suggested that we possibly add chloride and sodium testing at the UBC and put together a grant request for additional funding. At a minimum, temp, pH, TDS, maybe chlorides should be done. Then, suspect areas could be further evaluated in detail. It would be beneficial to do a select area (subwatershed for instance) on a single day to have an accurate snapshot. Right now, it takes 2 of us about 3-4 hours to monitor about 20 locations in the upper Bushfield Creek Watershed. The main stem of the Quassaick would be a place to start then add the Bushfield and Gidneytown Creeks as interest hopefully grows.

Stan Thomas has suggested that we help do a TDS survey of points in Orange Lake.

Bill also discussed with DEC's Emily Vail the possibility of a "septic awareness" program for Orange Lake residents. A program like this was done at Greenwood Lake.

6. Eels:

All present were interested in being involved in the counts.

After the meeting we received notice that the eels have been spotted at Yonkers, with the net tentatively scheduled to be put in March 14 or 15, to be determined. If

you are not listed below and want to be notified of when we do the eel counts, please email Wayne Cherek <chernek9@msn.com>.

Eel Counters:

Marilyn Reitan <marilynreitan1@gmail.com>, John Gebhards <gebhards@earthlink.net>, Ted Kohlmann <kohlmannllt@aol.com>, Bud Breheney <budbreheney@gmail.com>, Lance Haug <Lancelinc@outlook.com>, William Fetter <william.fetter@verizon.net>, Jack Caldwell <jdcaldwell1129@gmail.com>, Erin Roth <ERoth@swfny.com>, Matt Brady <mfbrady3@gmail.com>, Wayne Cherek <chernek9@msn.com>, Peter Smith <psmitharc@msn.com>, <dianahiker@yahoo.com>, John McLaughlin <johnrmcl@aol.com>, Lynn Maelia <lynn.maelia@msmc.edu>, Marcel Barrick <marcelbarrick@gmail.com>, Dianna Krautter <dkayaker@eaerthink.net>

7. Trees 4 Tribs

- Ted has investigated doing Spring Trees4Trib planting at the Town of Newburgh Mill Street site where planting and fencing was done last year. He reported that there was some beaver damage at this site and that future planting would require full fencing with the DEC approval and providing the materials. He has the approval of the ToN Recreation Commissioner, Robbie Petrillo, and will be in contact with Beth Rossler at the DEC to discuss. The DEC now requires a planting space large enough for a minimum of 100 trees and shrubs for the T4T plantings. -Ted also explained that the DEC has launched a new "Buffer in A Bag" program for smaller areas for a "DIY" tree and shrub planting on private or public lands. Applications at "[Buffer in a Bag](#)" due by 3 PM on April 3. General questions about "Buffer in a Bag" may be directed to treesfortribs@dec.ny.gov or (518) 402-9405.

8. Lynn and Bill mentioned the possibility that MSMC could be involved in a storm water discharge MS4 program.

9. Status of removing Stroocks Felt Dam on Quassaick Creek: George

Due to George's absence this item was tabled until the March meeting. See film on March 5th "Undamming the Hudson River," noted under item 13. Coming events.

10. Gidneytown Creek dumping:

John had observed a site of illegal dumping of home construction materials into Gidneytown Creek at a property on Blue Jay Drive. This was reported to the Town of Newburgh. The Town's code compliance paid the site a visit and the responsible party said he would remove what was dumped there. The Town Code officer will be checking to make sure this clean up happens.

11. NY/NJ Hudson and Tributary Study by the Corps of Engrs. with more information to answer some of the common questions received. Information about the Corps' project, coastal storm risks facing this region (including those from sea level rise), and how the alternative concepts address these ambient, frequent and infrequent coastal flooding risks are available on the website, www.nan.usace.army.mil/NYNJHATS), and discussed in more detail in the Interim Report that will be available via the above website.

12. Other business:

- Jack reported talking to personnel at NFA regarding students who could produce a short video regarding the spring eel counting.
- Bill noted that the auto shop on Rt. 52 has applied for an expansion for golf cart repair. This is situated on the bank of the Bushfield Creek and apparently has no stormwater run off treatment. A hearing on this proposal is set for April 4th.
- Bill reported on a number of active ToN development proposals in the QC watershed.
- A lot on Teakettle Rd. on the QC, upstream of the Chadwick Reservoir, might be investigated as a ToN riparian preservation parcel.

13. Coming events:

March 5, 2019: 5:30PM to 9:00PM

Riverkeeper Film Screening and Panel Discussion of filmmaker Jon Bowermaster's "Source to Sea" and "Undamming the Hudson River," Newburgh Brewing Company, 88 South Colden St, Newburgh
RSVP for the screening a <https://www.riverkeeper.org>

14. Next meeting (Note change to last Monday of month for meetings):

March 25, 2019, 5:00 PM, MSMC, Aquinas Hall, Room 252.