

**Quassaick Creek Watershed Alliance Mtg.**  
**Mount Saint Mary College, Room 252 in Aquinas Hall.**  
<http://waterauthority.orangecountygov.com/quassaick.html>

NOTES : Regular meeting at 5:00 pm, Monday, January 28, 2019

Present

Animal, Matt Brady, Jack Caldwell, Wayne Chernck, Bill Fetter, John Gebhards, Lance Haug, Tamsin Hollo, Ted Kohlmann

Remember! New meeting day- Last Monday of month & Time- 5:00 PM

Presentations

1. Discussion of QCW Management Plan tabled until the February meeting.

Reports

2. Steering Committee Report: Jack

Jack reported that the SC recommends that the QCWA governing structure be changed from a Steering Committee to a Board of Directors. It is recommended that the Board would have five voting members including a President, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer, a Director at Large and an Executive Director.

It was decided that all of the coordinators of the following activities; eels surveying, Trees 4 Tribs, Riversweep Clean-up, O.Lake/upper Bushfield Creek pollution sampling, Estuary Trail to Crystal Lake, Micro-plastics sampling , Orange County Planning Department advisor, and the existing Steering Committee would be asked if they would want to place their name on slate for nomination for one of the new Director positions.

At the February QCWA meeting, all attending will be asked if they want to be placed on the slate for nomination and any absent members will be offered by email the same opportunity to become a candidate for Board of Directors. At the March meeting attending members will vote for four Directors by written ballot and an opportunity will be extended to absentee members to vote by email.

The Officers; President, Vice President, and Secretary-Treasurer will be elected by vote of the new Board Directors, and the Executive Director will be appointed by the four elected Directors and serve at the pleasure of the Directors.

There was a discussion about Director's terms and it was decided that details about the terms of the Board members, e.g., two-year terms staggered every two years, or four-year terms with one director's term expiring every year, etc., will be discussed at the next SC meeting. Jack, chair of the SC, will set a meeting date for the February SC meeting.

Kelly Morris got a copy of the Moodna Intermunicipal Council operating procedures and Bill got a copy of the Walkkill River Alliance by-laws for our future reference.

John said the SC thought we should continue in 2019 with our on- going activities, being:

- eels surveying; Wayne agreed to coordinate
- Trees 4 Tribs; Ted will continue to lead this
- RiverSweep Clean-up, Lance will coordinate
- O.Lake/upper Bushfield Creek pollution sampling; Bill
- Micro-plastics sampling with Marist College; Jack
- Maintenance of the facebook page; Peter

- WAVE sampling; Jack will review previous sites sampled and check with DEC. It was noted that Ms. Onion suggested the possibility that QCWA do PEERS sampling, but would need some guidance and funding.

3. Estuary Trail to Crystal Lake and Strooks Felt Dam; A DEC grant award of \$218,870 has been made for removing Strooks Felt Dam. John will check with Dan Shapley and George Jackman to coordinate any activities regarding the dam removal, such as historical site documentation and a possible historical kiosk to be placed there for the proposed Estuary Trail.

#### 4. Discussion of City of Newburgh water supply

On January 14th, Bill, Jack and John took a tour of the City's water treatment plant and learned that the Catskill Aqueduct was shut down and the City treatment plant was on uncontaminated Brown's Pond water. This water was being treated and then passed through the City's new granulated activated carbon (GAC) units. The use of the GAC was necessary, not to purify the water, but was needed to keep GAC wet.

Animal said that there has been a tap installed at Gardiner that connects the Delaware and Catskill aqueducts.

Tamsin, from the Newburgh Clean Water Project, advised that there has been no response from the DOD regarding the questions raised during the Nov. 15th meeting. Even though, the DOD had said that they would have answers to the questions within 30 days, Steve Neuhaus, County Executive, said that the questions and answers will be posted on the Orange County website.

To best of our knowledge, the DOD has not provided details of how the ANG superfund site will be decontaminated, cleaned up of the PFOS, and what they will do about decontaminating Washington Lake. Nor has there been any further notice as to the formation and selection of participants for the Restoration Advisory Board which will be created to oversee the superfund site decontamination.

Tamsin said that the DOD did indicate that the PFOS contaminated material would need to be incinerated to eliminate the PFOS.

DOD did make a commitment to treat the Rec Pond discharge to remove PFOS that now flows into Silver Stream, then to Moodna Creek and on to the Hudson River.

The NYS Drinking Water Quality Council (DWQC) met and recommended that the NYS Department of Health adopt an MCL of 10 parts per trillion (ppt) for PFOA and 10 ppt for PFOS.

#### 5. Upper Bushfield Creek sampling:

Bill reported that, based on some high Total Dissolved Solids sample results, several stream locations were tested for nitrogen and phosphorus levels. These N & P results were all 0.5 ppm or lower with the majority being non-detectable. Therefore, there were no clearly indicated point sources of high nutrient loading. Bill discussed our Bushfield Creek results with Alene Onion, of NYS DEC, and she forwarded out test results to be evaluate by the DEC Stream section. There has been no response yet from the DEC on this.

Animal noted that many years ago he observed the NYS DOT depositing drums of material on the bank of the Bushfield Creek at the Route 300 bridge. This was in an area that flooded at high water. He thought that Jay Coppola, of the Orange Lake Homeowners Association, might have records of this and other drum disposal in the Bushfield Creek watershed.

Animal also reported that the NY Thruway had recently (in 2018) drilled a new 800 foot well to supply water to the two Thruway rest stops in northern Orange County. Purportedly, the existing shallower wells were no longer of a water quality suitable for use.

6. Riversweep Clean-up: Lance reported that RK had contacted him about QCWA's role in the 2019 RiverSweep. Lance agreed to chair this clean up for QCWA in 2019.

7. Bill, Jack and John took Prof. Robert Marino, of Columbia U's Graduate School of Architecture, for a tour of lower QC. He is looking for a location for his student's architecture design project on the QC. The Holden Dam site, with a potential for designing a foot-bridge and environmental education facilities that could tie in with the proposed Estuary Trail, is being considered.

8. Other business:

Bill had looked into the land ownership around Muchattoes Lake and it seemed that there was no room on the strip mall side to do anything about a trail. Animal, on the other hand, thought that the IDA owned a strip of land along the east bank of the Lake. To be further checked out.

9. Of Interest:

QCWA members might be interested in participating in Amphibian Migration Training: Thursday, Feb. 7, 6-8 PM in New Paltz, DEC's Hudson River Estuary Program training for volunteers of the [Amphibian Migrations & Road Crossings Project](#). Registration required, sign up at [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AMRC\\_2019\\_VolunteerTraining](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AMRC_2019_VolunteerTraining).

Also, John mentioned that the book about Flint, MI's water contamination might be interesting reading: *What the Eyes Don't See: A Story of Crisis, Resistance, and Hope in an American*.

10. Scenic Hudson's Crystal Lake WinterFest, 10 AM to 1 PM, Feb. 18, at Crystal Lake.

11. Next meeting (Note change to last Monday of month for meetings):  
February 25, 2019, 5:00 PM, MSMC, Aquinas Hall, Room 252