

QCWA 2016 Activities Summary

Monthly Meetings

Regular monthly meetings, scheduled on the last Wednesday of the month, were held at the office of the Hudson Valley Regional Council with the exceptions of some summer meetings: June, at Lockwood Basin with a tour of the diversion gates that allow water to drain into Washington Lake; July at Safe Harbor with a tour of the new Safe Harbors Green park with plants donated for the rain garden by QCWA; and Sept. at Orange County's Algonquin Park with a tour of the Powder Mill ruins and three Bushfield Creek Mill ponds used to power the mill.

Special presentations:

DEC EnComm presentation on how to report illicit discharges.

Workshop on the use of the Source Water Protection Scorecard designed by RiverKeeper.

QCWA Web site <http://waterauthority.orangecountygov.com/quassaick.html>

Maintained by OCWA

Stream Monitoring

WAVE, 3 sites sampled for macro invertebrates on Aug. 4 and 11 with 6 volunteers.

WAVE Training for 1 volunteer.

Eel Count, QCWA volunteers (14) counted 13,935 glass eels on 19 sampling days.

Stream Walks and observations

Bushfield Creek from Algonquin Park to Orange Lake on July 19, Aug. 16 and 30 with 9 volunteers.

Delaware Road SW discharge to Bushfield Creek, Sept. 30, Oct. 3, and Oct. 18, 3 volunteers.

Environmental Justice Grant in City of Newburgh

Completed the work on the DEC \$50,000 Environmental Justice Grant focused on Muchattoes Lake:

- Trees and shrubs provided to Safe Harbor Green's new rain garden
- Maintenance of butterfly garden and lake side native plantings
- Numerous work sessions to remove invasive species

Municipalities

City of Newburgh

Washington Lake/SilverStream Contamination

On May 2, the City Manager of the City of Newburgh declared a State of Emergency and the Washington Lake reservoir was shut off as the drinking water source for the City due to high levels of perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) QCWQ members attended 3 community informational meetings about PFOS contamination and testing levels PFOS in the blood of local citizens. Blood testing results are expected by January of 2017.

Stewart Airport and ANG Base designated as Superfund Sites due to PFOS contamination and discharge into Silver Stream and CoN drinking water.

A carbon filtration system to remove PFOS is being installed at the filtration plant. A temporary carbon filtration plant is in place to remove contaminated water from Washington lake and reintroduce it, clean, into Silver Stream.

A similar setup is expected to be installed at the outfall of Rec Pond.

QCWA discussed with CoN a proposal for a lower QC trail ROW on Plotkin property.

QCWA has committed to assist DEC is writing new watershed rules and regulations for the City's drinking watershed.

Town of Newburgh

Town adopted a Resolution to Support Water Conservation that was drafted and presented by the QCWA.

Two meetings with Supervisor Gil Piquadio re:MS4 requirements and outfall inspections.

met with ToN Parks Comm. to support the acquisition of a tax-sale parcel in the Chadwick Lake reservoir sub-watershed.

Town of Plattekill

QCWA met with Supervisor Croce to discuss Trees for Trips opportunities.

QCWA member reviewed and reported on potential impacts on the upper QC watershed of the proposed NYS Thruway Authority plans for a new Route 32 bridge over I-87.

Trees for Tribs

Cronomer Park planting of 220 trees and shrubs, May 21, with 38 volunteers and watered trees on Sept. 27, 5 vol. On Oct. 22 another planting of 70 trees, with 7 volunteers.

Maintenance of the two T4T Muchattoes Lake sites is ongoing.

Stream Cleanups

Earth Day April 20 at Crystal Lake and another Crystal Lake QCWA Clean up April 16. All toled remove 100 tires and 9 tons of trash with 100 volunteer hours. River Sweep May 7 at Schleiermacher Park removed 680 pounds of trash with 11 volunteers.

Tours of the Quassaick Creek sub-watersheds

Took media of tour of Washington Lake sub-watershed. QCWA did a Dam Tour for SUNY ESF Dr. Karin Limbergh's grant on April 30 and participated in the grant's workshop "Hudson Undammed" Oct. 1, 2 volunteers. Took 6 students and a professor from Ramapo College on a tour of the proposed Pilgrim Pipeline Lateral route that follows the QC gorge to the Hudson. Gave tour of the Muchattoes Lake area and the work of the EJ Grant to a team from Hudson Valley Groundworks who are considering setting up an operation in Newburgh.

Dams and Culverts

Provided information to Andrew Meyer and recommended that he continue his DEC culvert evaluation program in the QC watershed. Reviewed City of Newburgh's resolution for Neg. Dec of Holden Dam Removal project.

Public Watershed Education

Newburgh Drinking Water presentation and tour to NPA, June 1. Presented "complete streets" slide show to Newburgh preservation association and the public explaining how storm water management can be incorporated into historic street scape design (part of EJ grant).

Watershed Conferences

- HRWA Round Table May 25, two participants,
- HRWA Round Table, Dec. 14, two participants,
- Wallkill River Watershed Alliance meetings, various,
- HRWA Annual Conference, Nov. 2, 1 attended,
- Watershed Emergency Response Table Top exercise, June 21,
- Hudson River Estuary Advisory Committee, presented QC Watershed initiatives.

MS4 Reports and Training

MS4 information provided to City of Newburgh and Orange County. Illicit Discharge training at Cornell Coop. Ext., Feb 23, 5 volunteers. Illicit Discharge training March meeting, 13 volunteers.

QC related issues

Reported fish kill in the lower mill pond in Algonquin Orange County Park on March 30, to DEC.

QCWA worked on invasive water chestnut trial removal from Algonquin Park mill pond, sponsored by Preserve Algonquin Park, July 27 with 32 volunteers.

Pilgrim Pipeline impact on Quassaick Creek drinking water resources discussed at several meetings.