

Meeting Summary

Cazenovia Lake Watershed Council

November 19, 2008

Council members present: Stan Maziuk (CLA), Kurt Wheeler and Russ Brownback (Village); Bill Zupan and Liz Moran (Town)

Guests: Ralph Monforte, Ralph Smith, Karen Katlesky, Larry Tully, Rich Husted, Sparky Christakos, Hume Laidman, Peter Hubbard, Hannah Hubbard, Sandy Holmes, Walt Joncas, and Dean Heberlig

Kurt Wheeler opened the meeting at 7:00 pm and proposed the following agenda:

- (1) Discuss Lake Summit and determine if there is a consensus regarding a milfoil control strategy
- (2) Define action steps to implement strategy, including financial commitments
- (3) Assign tasks
- (4) Identify legislative actions for Town and Village Boards in December
- (5) Set overall next steps and next meeting date

The meeting summary is organized per this agenda (and does not necessarily capture the chronology of discussions)

Consensus on milfoil control strategy

- Kurt thought the lake summit presented the community with an unbiased evaluation of available control measures, presenters were excellent, and that the body of evidence led to the conclusion that Renovate herbicidal treatment is the preferred alternative.
- Russ Brownback concurred, and added that the option of supplemental weevil stocking did not appear to be effective. Harvesting may continue to be part of the solution.
- Bill Zupan asked about the potential downside of the Renovate treatment program
- Kurt Wheeler summarized his conversation with Barbara Henderson (CACDA board meeting conflicted with Council meeting). She noted concerns with potential adverse impacts on those drawing water from the lake, and potential for algal blooms based on Waneta/Lamoka Lakes experience (unclear whether algal blooms were post Sonar or Renovate)
- Ralph Monforte stated that the milfoil control program should be considered an integrated plant management effort, with Renovate supplemented by harvesting, hand pulling, benthic mats, etc. There was additional discussion regarding how the alternative control measures would be funded.
- Karen Katleski suggested that a test plot of Renovate be considered prior to application to half the lake; she added supplemental introductions of the adult weevil to the list of control measures, once the current milfoil infestation is brought under control.
- Rich Husted noted that the preferred alternative, based on discussions with DEC and others, is to treat half the lake in 2009, half the lake in 2010, and the entire lake (at half

concentration) in 2011. Estimated cost is about \$1100/acre. Currently about 400 acres with dense milfoil.

- Need to also address prevention (per Dr. Horvath's presentation on Otsego Lake washing station). Village Board will consider modifications to the boat launch access policy and procedures at their upcoming meetings. Anticipate more formal inspection and documentation.

Action steps & Assignments

- Bring discussion and outcome of Watershed Council meeting to legislative bodies as part of their December agendas (*Town, Village, and CLA*)
- Once legislative boards agree, authorize Allied Biological to prepare permit application on behalf of the Council. (*Rich Husted /Larry Tully to communicate timetable to Glen Sullivan*)
- Determine the applicant. Unless there is a legal reason to prevent this, consensus emerged that the Watershed Council will be the applicant. This will reinforce the message that an herbicide treatment program is in the interest of the entire community. (*Liz and Kurt to verify with respective municipal attorneys*)
- Commit to public outreach
 - Articles in Caz Republican and Hi Neighbor
 - Fundraising letter to community (*Kurt to Liz to Preston*)
 - Insert for Blue & Gold, Chamber newsletter
 - Web sites
- Find funds
 - CLA and CLF to create dedicated fund solely to receive donations for short-term measures (years 1-3); will need aggressive fundraising.
 - Consider requesting donors for cash year 1 and for a pledge year 2
 - Town 2009 budget has about 40K available
 - Donation cans everywhere? Save Our Lake
 - Consider requesting legislative approval for municipal budgets to allocate maintenance-level funds for lake protection and restoration (50 – 100K/yr)
 - As a long-term alternative, consider setting up a special district to create a dedicated fund for lake restoration and improvement actions
 - Track NYSDEC grant program for aquatic invasive species control (*Hannah Hubbard*)

Legislative actions for December

- Town and Village Boards will be updated by Council representatives. Need to consider resolution(s) authorizing:
 - Agreement with Allied Biological to prepare the permit application. Note that the proposed fee is \$2500 for this professional service. *Town has funding available; other contributions welcome.*
 - Agreement for Council to serve as applicant for DEC pesticide permit

Overall next steps and meeting date

- Kurt noted that the Council agendas will return to the long-term issues of watershed management and controlling inputs of nutrients and sediment
- Next meeting: Wednesday, December 10, 2008 7 pm, town office

Meeting summary prepared by Liz Moran

Please forward any corrections