

**Finger Lakes Regional Watershed Alliance Meeting
September 18, 2017**

Attendees:

Canandaigua: Neil Atkins	Cayuga: Bill Ebert	Conesus: Eric Randall
Honeoye: Don Cook	Otisco: Margie Creamer	Owasco: Bob Brower, Rick Wilson
Sodus Bay: Dave Scudder	Skaneateles: Buzz Roberts	FLI: Samuel Beck-Anderson
DEC HUB rep: Scott Cook		

Absent: Keuka Lake, Hemlock & Canadice, Seneca
Meeting called to order in at FLI in Geneva at 2:00 pm

TASK ITEMS:

Task From July meeting:

1. Eric Randall reported he, Buzz Roberts and Margie Creamer met and concluded the by-laws are clear in stating the voting members of the FLRWA will be the defined 11 Finger Lakes. All Finger Lake watershed lakes are very welcome to come and participate in the meetings as SOS does.
2. The FLRWA will assign web-site updates to Linda Kelly. The presenter, Larissa Bellivieau, was very knowledgeable in Facebook which will be discussed when that route is determined for FLRWA.

Task over July - September interim:

1. Consideration of a letter from FLRWA in support of Clean Water Rule of 2015. FLRWA is unable to send a letter without 100% agreement from all FLRWA voting members, which applies in this case.

Two comments on this:

- Don Cook strongly urged each Lake Association to send in a letter by the September 27 2017 deadline in support of sustenance of the Clean Water Rule of 2015.

- Bob Brower suggested at the meeting and clarified with an email the general approach that FLRWA consider when water quality issues are of mutual concern to our member organizations in the time between meetings:

- 1.) The Water Quality concern is identified by a FLRWA member organization (e.g. proposed WOTUS revisions)
- 2.) The organization(s) writes a narrative that it feels is warranted (e.g. comment to EPA from OWLA, letter to Reps from CWLA)
- 3.) Concerned organizations that write responsive text share that text with FLRWA (e.g. copies go to the FLRWA officers, or all members?)
- 4.) FLRWA reviews the responsive text(s) (e.g. The President or the officers or a subcommittee?)
- 5.) FLRWA writes its own responsive text summarizing mutual/individual concerns (e.g. WOTUS comments from FLRWA go to EPA, adding its voice.)

Bob stated this is to avoid the impracticality of FLRWA attempting to write a letter that is then reviewed/approved/edited by each member organization. It is a nuance option that could amplify the mutual concerns of its member organizations.

New TASK ITEMS: None

Guests:

1. Cornell Legal Research Clinic, Amy Emerson, Director; Student, Carrie
607-255-5441 or aae25@cornell.edu.
2. Megan Webster, Manager, Ontario County Soil and Water
480 North Main St, Canandaigua, NY 14424
585-396-1450
info@ontswed.com

3. Larissa Belliveau, Website Presentation

Presentations:

Cornell Legal Research Clinic Presentation

The Clinic was presented by Cornell Law student Carrie Montgomery guided by instructor Amy Emerson. She clearly stated that the work done is for not-for profits as an educational tool for these Cornell Law students, thus no charge for their services. The advantage to them is learning what is needed and to experience of the real world. They are educated by combining their learning at Cornell with the outside legal experience not for profits given them.

Honeoye Lake Inlet Restoration Project Presentation

In detail Megan described the stream restoration project just south of Honeoye Lake leading to a healthier wildlife habitat and cleaner water in the lake and beyond, due to the lake's connection to Genesee River and Lake Ontario.

The project involving detailed land changes created a new stream which winds some 3,700 feet to reconnect Honeoye Inlet to its floodplain. Now, runoff that had been spewing nutrients and sediments into the lake — a major culprit in Honeoye's blue-green algae problem — will be naturally filtered thanks to a new channel and restored wetlands.

Website Update Presentation

Larissa detailed the creation of a private or secret Facebook page.

Finger Lakes HUB Report:

Scott Cook stated that all Finger Lakes are now assigned a Finger Lakes Water Hub Staff member. He distributed the chart below:

[Click link to view DEC FL HUB Staff and Assignments](#)

Finger Lakes Institute update:

General Updates for FLI:

GRANTS: 2 recent EPA GLRI Awards totally nearing \$900,000 in funding for invasive species work.

- EPA GLRI Hydrilla Control in the Finger Lakes grant was funded for two years of project management, survey, education and outreach with NYSFOLA, MAC, CLWN, and the Floating Classroom. US Army Corp of Engineers has found money to treat and monitor for next season, so our first year will likely be a lot of outreach, survey work, and collaborating with partners.
- EPA GLRI Starry Stonewort Collaborative in the Great Lakes Basin has been funded for two years to work with stakeholders in the GLB to develop

BMPs, factsheets, outreach activities, etc. Lisa and I attended a conference with the US Army Corp of Engineers in WI last week and we did a gap analysis of information- there is a lot of work to be done!

- Three other grants from US Forest service GLRI funding for Ganondagan (x2) and Finger Lakes National Forest allowed for strike teams to map and pull invasive species on Ganondagan and map in the Forest. These are two year grants and the first Ganondagan will be wrapping up shortly. The second two will have another year to work and we will need to work hard to get volunteers to the FLNF for pull events once the data are analyzed.
- Cooperative agreement with USDA NRCS for Giant hogweed control across Great Lakes Basin- Giant hogweed crew is done for the season. We had three people working on the crew and education and outreach. I (Sam Beck-Anderson) waiting on data for amount controlled and will get that information in a summary report out soon.
- SAVE THE DATE: The Finger Lakes Institute will hold a Finger Lakes Research Conference on November 17 here on campus. Please mark your calendars.

Macrophyte Sampling Pilot Program:

- Last day for volunteers to survey is September 30.
- At the end of October I am going to have a 'wrap up' meeting with the volunteers to present the data. I sent them a few dates and am waiting to hear back to confirm a date.
- 7 Lakes participated and 12 volunteers participated in the program.
- No Water Chestnut or Hydrilla was Identified J

The most prominent invasive was Starry Stonewort in Canandaigua.

- Curly-leafed pondweed and Eurasian water-milfoil was found in Canandaigua and Honeoye
- Spiny Niaid was found in Honeoye
- Abundance of findings were trace to moderate in all surveys.

Watercraft Steward Program:

- Regular season steward coverage ended on Labor Day.

- Extended Fall coverage will continue on Cayuga and Canandaigua Lakes until the end of October.
- Fall coverage for Owasco Lake will be continued until the end of October if we can find suitable candidates.
- After early examinations into the data, trends are very similar to last year in terms of traffic, and what invasives were found in which lakes.
- We have just started rolling out our new tablet-based data collection system after several months of development and planning.
- Currently working on lake-based and launch-based analysis and reporting for data collected during Summer 2017.

Submitted 10/4/17 by Samuel Beck-Anderson

Finger Lakes AIS Watercraft Steward Report

[Data collected for 2017](#)

Don Cook requested that Sam present to FLRWA what we can learn from the use of stewards. Sam agreed and said he would do this at our January meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 5:02 pm. Next meeting is FLI, November 20, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret G Creamer

See Lake Association reports in the link below:

[September 2017 FLRWA Lake Association reports](#)