

Finger Lakes Regional Watershed Alliance Meeting November 20, 2017

Meeting called to order in at FLI in Geneva at 2:08 pm

President Don Cook welcomed all to meeting. The September minutes were unanimously approved, with typing errors given to the Secretary, Margie Creamer, from Dave Scutter of Sodus Bay. A card for Bob Brower was sent around for signatures wishing him steady recovery in his ailment.

Sept TASK ITEMS: None

New TASK ITEMS for January:

- 1 Report from each of finding of the two new Committee groups - the Issues Committee and the Regional Committee.

November Agenda items:

FLRWA Website discussion was held via speaker phone with Linda Kelly of Otisco Lake. Changes had been made and were viewed regarding the home page and easy access to -news, calendar and resources. Linda spoke to communicating with her to make changes as the group deems necessary. Her contact for changes will be President Don Cook, President and Margie Creamer, Secretary. Discussion was held on photos of board members with idea of a group photo to be taken at a future date.

Areas of Common Interest among the FLRWA lakes. This was first presented by Bob Brower and in his absence Peter Rogers handed in the following proposition:

FLRWA Common Issues idea -

The following are some of the issues of common interest that we FLRWA members may have. There are certainly additions and deletions to this list. It would seem that we should develop the list of common topics (knowing that it is a dynamic/ changing list), prioritize the listed issues and discuss an action plan for the high priority issues.

Possible FLRWA regional topics presented by Peter Rogers:

- 1 HABs (sampling, testing, understanding, mitigation, & “alternative options”)

- 2) Invasive species (sampling, testing, understanding, mitigation, & “alternative options”)
- 3) Political action options (regional, statewide, federal)
- 4) Regional funding alternatives
- 5) Methods to support other lake associations in their activities
- 6) Regional forum of experts on HAB/Invasive Species mitigation similar to the EPA CADDIS (Causal Analysis/Diagnosis Decision Information System)
- 7) Support and encourage DEC & EPA regional activities
- 8) Develop a database of resources such as EPA, DEC, FLI, UFI, RIT, Cornell, ESF, Nature Conservancy, FLLT and any other resources to support our common issues.
- 9) Techniques to increase memberships for all
- 10) Board of Directors development (education, organization, & management training for FLRWA members)
- 11) Communication skills, social media, newsletters, newspaper articles,
- 12) Website development
- 13) Public education & notification of water quality issues
- 14) Weed mat regulations

Discussion ensued . Two committees were formed:

1. **Regional Topics Committee** - will identify topics of importance to the Finger Lakes and identify potential action items for each topic. The committee will define procedures for writing a position paper dealing with regional topics a timely basis. Members of this committee are Peter Rogers, Nancy Mueller, Aimee Clinkhammer and Don Cook.

i.e.recent NYSDEC benthic matt regulations. Per Nancy they are being redefined and will be enforced this year with the idea of not being laid until fish spawning has occurred. Also the mats are to be removed each year. The committee would review proposed regs and compose a letter from FLRWA with proposals to improve the regulations.

2. **Issues Committee** - will research proposed policies or potential problems that arise and write position papers in response. Members of this committee will be Peter Rogers, Dave Scutter, and Buzz Roberts.

ie The HABS program suggested by the Governor. The Issue Committee could write a letter to the NYDEC Commissioner and Governor to revise his proposal to increase the lakes covered - specifically the Finger Lakes which provide drinking water.

These two committees will meet and report back in January on how to deal with an issue when it arises on a state wide level - come up with a strategy to deal in a

timely manner - *not* waiting until our next FLRWA meeting which occurs every two to three months.

Ag and Markets, Division of Lake and Water, Partnering with Finger Lakes HUB - Aimee Clinkhammer commented on the NY Water Environmental Association producing seasonal journals highlighting the fall issue which focused on the Finger Lakes Watershed. These can be seen on the NYWEA.org web site. The TDML have not been released yet for the Cayuga Honeoye and Conesus Lakes. They should be released soon. The CSLAP update is also coming - the HUB is planning on doing a report based on data in late December. A review will be given at the FLRWA January meeting on each individual lakes receiving reports.

The funding conversation is going on for 2018. New funding opportunities are available from DEC for the lakes and has been sent out regarding healthy forests.

The Ag and Markets representative P.J. Emerick was unable to attend. Aimee followed up commenting that DEC funding is available to do some cover crop programs in the eastern finger lakes of probably the Skaneateles and Owasco watersheds. Nothing is defined for Seneca Lakes this year. Nancy commented the difficulty of balancing the cover crop issues with the release of phosphates. Aimee stated that this program is in its infancy and concerns do exist. Some crops you can harvest between the corn. Nancy stated that new research exist that some particular chemicals can block of blue green algae while some cause the blue green to thrive.

NYSFOLA Regional Conference of 10/21/17 at Silver Lake- 80 attendees, great discussion. Little on HABS but lots on macrophyte surveys , and why they are necessary. The 2018 event will be 10/20/2018. The emphasis will be on Climate Change and Associations Sharing Experiences and Information.

FLRWA board positions for 2018. Don asked if any would like a change to board positions. The positions will remain for 2018 as follows:

Pres - Don Cook

Vice- President - Buzz Roberts

Treasurer - Addy Madison

Secretary - Margie Creamer

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:

[November 2017 FLRWA Lake Association reports](#)