

Finger Lakes Regional Watershed Alliance Meeting Minutes

March 21 2022 at 2:00 PM

Conducted via Zoom

1. Log on and Welcome

FLRWA President Margie Creamer opened the meeting at 2:00 PM by welcoming all attendees.

Attendees:

Lake or Partner Organization	Representative	Attending Members
Otisco	Margie Creamer (President)	
Skaneateles	Buzz Roberts	Frank Moses
Owasco		
Cayuga		Liz Kreitinger, Roxanna Johnston (CWIO)
Keuka	Maria Hudson	Mark Morris (Vice President)
Seneca	Jake Welch	Dan Corbett, Addison Madison
Canandaigua	Neil Atkins	Lindsay McMillan (Secretary), Doug Merrill
Honeoye	Don Cook	Terry Gronwall
Canadice & Hemlock	John Maier	Rob Holland
Sodus Bay	Dave Scudder	
DEC Hub	Aimee Clinkhammer	
Finger Lakes Institute / FL PRISM	Sam Beck-Andersen	
NYSFOLA	Nancy Muller	Tarki Heath
FLLT		
Other:	Tim Cutler (Yates County), Brian Rahm (Cornell)	

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the March 21, 2022 FLRWA meeting were approved unanimously. Minutes from the TH April

3. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report was given by Addison Madison.

Checking Account \$8,387.05

Certificate of deposit \$5,224.54

No outstanding invoices or income.

Addy reported that all dues have been sent in. Peter Rogers will take over the Treasure role in April.

The Treasurer's Report was unanimously accepted on a motion made by Don Cook, seconded by Buzz Roberts.

4. Presentation: Rick Smith and Stella Woodard of Global Aquatic Research

Global Aquatic Research provides professional scientific support for marine and freshwater systems across the world - from costal oceans, lakes, river and wetlands. During their presentation to the FLRWA, two topics were discussed – DEC Assessment lists, and potential impacts from the Greenidge Bitcoin Mining operation.

305(b)/ 303(d) Inventory List - establishes impaired water bodies

- 305(b) Report provides a comprehensive assessment of statewide water quality
- 303(d) Section outlines where water quality standards are not met and where uses are not supported (Important for establishing pollutant discharge limits)

CALM (Consolidated and Listing Methodology) - sets the standards for the above assessments

- Lakes across the state are listed based on their best use and guidelines are set for sampling and analysis

- Strict set of requirements for being able to list a waterbody as impaired
- Even with decades worth of data collected, there are still many unassessed lakes and reservoirs – in addition, 90% of the lakes still have “insufficient info” for classification

Challenges discussed with CALM and Inventory lists and key questions for the lake communities to discuss:

- Complex regulatory framework – What changes to lake programs need to be made to address new regulations in CALM?
- State versus local needs - Is CALM sufficient for lake management, or is more variability in the data needed for decision making?
- Strict requirements for accepting data – How can IR3 Classification be avoided?

Rick and Stella also shared environmental concerns of the Greenidge Power Plant including thermal pollution, intake screen, greenhouse gas emissions. Challenges and questions discussed:

- No Environmental Impact Statement / unclear thermal effects – Can a monitoring program be created to asses temperature impacts?

- Ongoing permitting process – What analysis is possible now?
- Public perception, advocacy – What is needed to communicate the science?

Projects and consulting are offered and a whitepaper could be drafted to be shared to assist in advocacy efforts. Rick and Stella are available for questions / discussion.

5. Presentation: Jenna DeRario, CCE Tompkins County Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) Program

Jenna presented on a pilot PES program that would incentivize and reward farmers who provide ecosystem services such as increased flood and drought resiliency, improved soil health (carbon, biodiversity), and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

Program components include:

- Providing support / seeking funding for planning and installation or improvements
- Piloting a program to pay farmers and land managers for outcomes on ecosystem services in Tompkins and surrounding counties

Four to six farms will be selected for the first round of pilot projects.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Supporting Groups

FLI / PRISM Update by Hilary Mosher

- FLI will be hosting a partner meeting for Watercraft Steward Programs on April 6th
- Spotted Lanternfly traps will be available this spring for placement and monitoring
- The DEC AIS grant is expected to be announced during the 2nd or 3rd quarter of the year.

NYSEOLA Update by Nancy Mueller

- NYSEOLA will host the annual conference in person, with limited hybrid options available
- Maria Hudson will be recognized for her incredible work with the Keuka Lake Association

Finger Lakes Watershed HUB Update by Aimee Clinkhammer

- 9 Element Plans are ongoing for Owasco, Canandaigua and Keuka / Seneca
- Winter sampling occurred in February and will happen again in April
- Funding opportunities were shared including Buffer in a bag, easement grants programs, and the Great Lakes Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Program funding

The Nature Conservancy Update by Olivia Green

- A new group titled “New Yorkers for Clean Water and Jobs” has been formed – a coalition of lake groups, labor, land trusts, environmental groups advocating for increasing the environmental protection fund. The Coalition is gaining some recognition, and Finger Lakes organizations are encouraged to join.

2. Sub Committee Reports

Political Education Committee Update by Jake Welch

- A meeting with Senator Helming and OMara’s offices took place in February with FLRWA, Agricultural community representatives, Soil and Water Districts. Unfortunately, the Senators

were held up on the redistricting discussion and only their aides were able to attend.

- A follow up meeting will be held on April 4th with Senator Helming's office.
- Issues for advocacy were shared with the group and included more funding and flexibility for county SWCDs, and additional funds for the FLOWPA. A copy of the presentation can be found on the FLRWA shared drive.

Best Practices work Group Update by Mark Morris

Mark Morris asked the FLRWA to come prepared to the next meeting in May with updates on local water quality improvement projects for the best practices tracking document. A template and discussion points for this information sharing can be found below:

- Share Plans for Watershed Improvement Projects to improve water quality
- Provide a brief overview of the projects/programs on your lake and the partnerships that enable them
- Key learnings from 9 E /TMDL / Watershed Plans

Intended result of this sharing:

- Broad awareness of work across the Finger Lakes
- Follow-on detailed discussions by interested parties
- Learnings from others that could improve individual programs
- Potential for shared programs to expand learnings or impact
- Potential system of "leaders and followers" for specific efforts

NEW BUSINESS

The Lake Friendly Living Coalition will be hosting a month of events in May. Don Cook described a boating program that Al Freihofer is looking to do across the Finger Lakes region.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:40 PM.

The next meeting of the FLRWA will be held on May 16 2022 at 2PM at the Finger Lakes Institute with a hybrid option.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lindsay McMillan
4/2022