

**THE 2007  
ONEIDA LAKE  
WATERSHED  
MUNICIPAL SURVEY**

**CENTRAL NEW YORK  
REGIONAL PLANNING  
AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

**AND THE**

**ONEIDA LAKE WATERSHED  
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

January 2008

## **THE 2007 ONEIDA LAKE WATERSHED MUNICIPAL SURVEY**

### **THE CENTRAL NEW YORK REGIONAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD (CNY RPDB) AND THE ONEIDA LAKE WATERSHED ADVISORY COUNCIL**

#### **SURVEY GOALS**

An Oneida Lake Watershed Municipal Survey was distributed in the fall of 2007 in order to:

- Gain better knowledge of local water resource projects;
- Set regional priorities for watershed grant proposals;
- Identify areas where the CNY RPDB and Watershed Advisory Council can provide additional assistance with local issues.

#### **SURVEY METHODOLOGY**

The 2007 Oneida Lake Watershed Municipal Survey was developed and reviewed by the CNY RPDB (A. Saltman and L. Meaney) and several members of the Oneida Lake Watershed Advisory Council Board of Directors, including J. Benedict, R. Colesante, C. Gray, P. Miller, and P. Baxter. The survey included questions on in-lake and watershed issues and was designed to take approximately 10 minutes to complete.

69 municipalities are located in the watershed but only 52 were targeted for participation in the survey. The remaining 17 municipalities were not targeted because of the small percentage of land in the watershed (< 20%) and the geographic distance from the lake. These included Tully, Martinsburg, Montague, Onondaga, Osceola, Parish, Eaton, Ava, Cuyler, Preble, Truxton, Turin, Madison, Kirkland, Marshall, Western, and Orwell.

The survey was initially distributed in October. A. Saltman and C. Gray (Chair of the Advisory Council) signed the cover letter. Recipients were given the option of responding in hard copy format or online through the Oneida Lake watershed website. A follow-up survey was distributed in November to the municipalities that hadn't responded. In the follow-up survey, recipients were given an opportunity to submit a brief written statement of their local issues instead of filling out the entire survey.

While compiling the survey responses, comments were also incorporated from the CNY RPDB Local Law Program (funded by the NYS Department of State.) As part of this program, the CNY RPDB had interviewed several watershed municipalities in the spring of 2007. The final report ("Assessment of Local Controls and Practices Affecting Water Quality and Resource Conservation in the Oneida Lake Watershed") served as a valuable resource when the Municipal Survey results were compiled as it contained relevant information on local issues of concern and existing water resource priorities.

Site visits and phone calls were made in November and December to gather additional survey information. CNY RPDB (A. Saltman) and Watershed Advisory Council Board members (R. Colesante, P. Baxter, J. Patane, J. Benedict, and B. Dam) participated in the follow-up phone calls and site visits.

## **SURVEY RESULTS**

Mayors, Supervisors, Code Enforcement Officers, and Public Works Superintendents from 23 municipalities provided survey information. This represents a 44% response rate for the targeted municipalities. The responses below are not listed in priority order.

The following topics were listed as high priority local issues:

- Natural resource protection
- Protection of fish and wildlife habitats
- Open space planning
- Infrastructure planning
- Water quality protection and water quality monitoring
- Flood and erosion control
- Phase II Stormwater Permit Program, including the development of land use and regulatory controls to reduce erosion and sedimentation
- Water resource education

The following lake issues were listed as high priority concerns:

- Intoxicated boaters
- Flooding and water level management
- Lake water quality
- Fish population and diversity
- Erosion and sediment deposits
- Invasive plants and animals
- Algae growth
- Ice jams
- Phosphorus loading

Municipalities are working on the following high priority watershed and land-use issues:

- Agricultural runoff
- Impacts of highway maintenance
- On-site septic runoff / maintenance
- Groundwater contamination / protection
- Increased development and urban sprawl
- Regulatory controls to reduce erosion and sedimentation
- Erosion and sedimentation increases infrastructure maintenance costs.
- Stream management - flooding, loss of wetlands habitat; streambank erosion
- Runoff from landfills
- Chemical, petroleum, commercial and industrial impacts
- MS4 Stormwater Program, stormwater control, construction of new buildings, roads, and parking lots that contributes to erosion and sedimentation
- Shared services and comprehensive planning

Municipalities listed the following overall water resource goals for 2008:

- Manure Storage and agricultural impact on wells
- Landfill runoff
- MS4 Stormwater Program - stormwater runoff

- Flood control and water level management
- Reduce nutrient loading
- Protect fisheries
- On-site septic maintenance
- Erosion control / sedimentation; filling in of Jamesville reservoir
- Updating local laws – especially for erosion control
- Remove logjams to reduce flooding and overall stream management
- Algae and aquatic vegetation control
- Improved highway maintenance

Municipalities requested assistance in the following areas:

- Educational programs and fact sheets for lake users and homeowners
- Educational opportunities to train highway and public works department staff on current road, bridge, and drainage BMPs
- Assistance with updating local laws
- Sediment and erosion control laws
- Guidelines for zoning, subdivision and site plan reviews
- MS4 assistance and implementation of stormwater controls
- Technical location of infrastructure and monitoring outfalls
- Water quality monitoring (septic discharge)

**THANKS**

The CNY RPDB would like to thank the Watershed Advisory Council Board members for helping with the survey design and implementation.