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## CHAPTER 4: CONCLUSIONS

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*Restored wetland (Photo: Ingmire)*

The completion of *A Management Strategy for Oneida Lake and Its Watershed* represents a significant milestone in the management planning process. The current priority for the Watershed Advisory Council and the CNY RPDB is to generate funding to implement the recommendations presented in Chapter 3. Agencies, municipalities, colleges, businesses and other primary stakeholders will be asked to contribute funding and resources.

Our goal is to implement the projects that are outlined in this report. Funding is also needed for the continuation of many of the successful projects that were initiated throughout the past 3½ years such as municipal outreach and the education, agriculture, and local laws programs. Funding has recently been awarded to the Town of Cicero from the New York State Department of State to continue lake and watershed activities. This will be used for the Local Laws Project, municipal outreach, and the Agriculture Program. Additional grant applications are being submitted for a comprehensive education program that was developed for the benefit of agencies, municipalities, and homeowners.

Throughout the project duration, the Oneida Lake Watershed Management Plan has served as a catalyst to protect water resources through the strength of regional cooperation and program efficiency. The true success of these

initiatives will be based on continued partnerships and local-level participation. Efforts will be made to strengthen alliances with primary watershed decision-makers to achieve program goals.

Not only does planning for the future make sense, but in most lake communities, local-level participation and a well-orchestrated strategy for watershed management can improve opportunities for state and federal funding. We have learned from other lake groups that comprehensive, long-term planning will protect the value and character of local lakes and streams while attracting business, tourism, and recreation dollars to enhance the region's economic viability.

On behalf of the Watershed Advisory Council and the Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board, our gratitude, thanks, and appreciation goes to the agencies, organizations, municipalities, and homeowners that have contributed to the success of this report. Watershed management planning is a step in the right direction and with your continued support we can maintain our positive momentum in the protection of our lakes and streams. We'll take one step at a time, committed to cooperation, communication, and teamwork, as we now forge ahead with the implementation phase of the management plan.