

Project News

Fall 2003



The Oneida Lake and Watershed Management Plan

Working Groups Develop Recommendations for Priority Issues in the Oneida Lake Watershed

Watershed partners throughout the region have been collaborating on many aspects of the Oneida Lake and Watershed Management Plan, including the recently completed “Oneida Lake State of the Lake and Watershed Report.” In Chapter VI of the report, several high priority issues of concern are identified. Under the guidance of the Watershed Advisory Council Board of Directors, many stakeholders are now meeting on a monthly basis as “Working Groups” to compile background information on each of these issues, to identify short and long-term goals, and to develop recommendations on ways to reach these goals. This information will eventually be included in a publication titled, “A Management Strategy for Oneida Lake and Its Watershed.”

Working Group meetings are open to all watershed partners – whether you’re interested in contributing to the topic or just want to learn more about the issues. Seven Working Groups are currently active (Flooding and Water Level Management, Pollution from On-Site Septic Systems, Soil Erosion and Sedimentation, Road Deicing and Salt Storage, Exotic Species, Cormorants, and Boating). An additional Working Group will be formed this fall to address declining fisheries. Please contact the CNY RPDB at (315) 422-8276 for additional information.



The Oneida Lake Watershed Advisory Council Board of Directors discuss issues of concern in the watershed. (Photo courtesy of Paul Baxter.)

Education Opportunities in the Oneida Lake Watershed

Oneida Lake State of the Lake & Watershed Report

The Oneida Lake State of the Lake and Watershed Report contains a comprehensive summary of information about the lake and its watershed and is often referenced when management decisions are made about local water resources. Copies of the report have been distributed to stakeholders, agencies and organizations, municipal representatives, elected officials, and libraries. The report, containing an excellent collection of GIS maps, is available on the Internet at www.cnyrpd.org/oneidalake.

“Know Your Lake” Series

Six interesting presentations were held for the “Know Your Lake” lecture series during the summer months. Over two hundred people from the Oneida Lake community came to hear about salmon restoration, the history of tourism, aquatic plants, water levels, and other topics. Many thanks to Cornell Cooperative Extension of Onondaga County for their help in organizing these events. The lecture series is expected to continue in 2004.



Water Quality Monitoring Report Completed

Dr. Joseph Makarewicz completed his final report on the Oneida Lake Tributary Monitoring Program and presented the findings in June to the Task Force Technical Committee. The CNY RPDB, the Technical Committee, and the Watershed Advisory Council all had an opportunity to review it and copies were then distributed to several groups throughout the watershed. The report is also available on the "Publications" page of the Oneida Lake website at the following address: <http://cnyrpdb.org/oneidalake>. Based on these monitoring results, the Technical Committee selected Oneida Creek for additional sampling to help identify sources of sediment and nutrient loading to Oneida Lake. The CNY RPDB is providing funding for Dr. Makarewicz to conduct Segment (Stressed Stream) Analysis on Oneida Creek, with sampling assistance provided by Kristy LaManche from the CNY RPDB. Agencies in Oneida and Madison Counties are helping with the selection of sampling sites.



Scott Ingmire, Madison County Planning Department, conducts monitoring on Fish Creek.

Oneida Lake Watershed Agricultural Program



The Oneida Lake Watershed Agricultural Program addresses water resource concerns originating from the 360 farms in the watershed and ensures proper representation of the agriculture community in the Oneida Lake watershed management planning process. Jo-Anne Faulkner, the Oneida Lake Watershed Agriculture Specialist, works with the Soil and Water Conservation District Managers on communication with farmers, support for the Agricultural Advisory Committee (comprised of farmers located throughout the watershed), database management, distribution of program newsletters, inventory and prioritization of agricultural issues, promotion of the Agricultural Environmental Management Program, identification of environmental stewardship and environmental concerns, farm prioritization, and reporting to the Watershed Advisory Council to keep them apprised of agricultural activities.

Water Chestnut in Oneida Lake – Watch Out!



Upstate Applications spreads the granular chemical, Aqua-Kleen, on eight acres of Oneida Lake on July 21, 2003.

Education and control efforts for water chestnut were implemented by numerous individuals and organizations this summer. About 2,000 brochures were distributed to shoreline homeowners along Oneida Lake and many attended presentations about water chestnut given by Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) of Onondaga County.

Volunteer groups also helped to manage water chestnut. The Oneida Shores Rotary Club monitored and pulled plants in the westernmost portion of Oneida Lake. The Brewerton Boy Scout Troop 3112 hand pulled water chestnut from Long Point and reported at least 50% fewer plants this summer compared to last. CCE will continue to provide workshops and training for additional individuals and groups that want to get involved next summer.

The Oswego County Soil & Water Conservation District conducted mechanical harvesting in Oneida Lake and along portions of the Oneida River. In June of this year, Aqua-Kleen was also applied to eight acres in the Lake. This chemical treatment was considered a success according to opinions from County representatives. Based upon recommendations of the DEC and the Water Chestnut Task Force, the use of Aqua-Kleen will be considered for next year, in addition to hand pulling and mechanical harvesting programs. The Task Force will continue its efforts to secure funding for controlling this invasive plant.

Representing the Watershed Community – the Oneida Lake Watershed Advisory Council Board of Directors

The Oneida Lake Watershed Advisory Council is a committee of municipal governments and stakeholders that provides leadership and oversees the development and implementation of the Oneida Lake and Watershed Management Plan. The decision-making body is a 26-member Board of Directors that is balanced with respect to each member’s interests, experience, background, and geographic representation within the watershed. The Board of Directors meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month. All are welcome to attend. The Board is made up of the members listed below. Please feel free to contact them with your suggestions.

COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

- Lewis County – BRUCE KRUG, (315) 397-2523
- Oneida County – BRIAN DAM, (315) 829-2707
- Madison County – ALEX STEPANSKI, (315) 495-6752
- Onondaga County – JOE MASTRIANO, (315) 435-2260
- Oswego County – RON DARROW, (315) 427-4535

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES

- Northern Uplands Region – IAN KLINGBAIL, (315) 942-2610
- Eastern Watershed Region – LOU RYAN, (315) 762-4844
- Southern Uplands Region – DAN RAMER, (315) 363-4860
(Chairman, Board of Directors)
- Butternut/Limestone Creek Region – FRANK VALETTA, (315) 682-9877

WATERFRONT COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

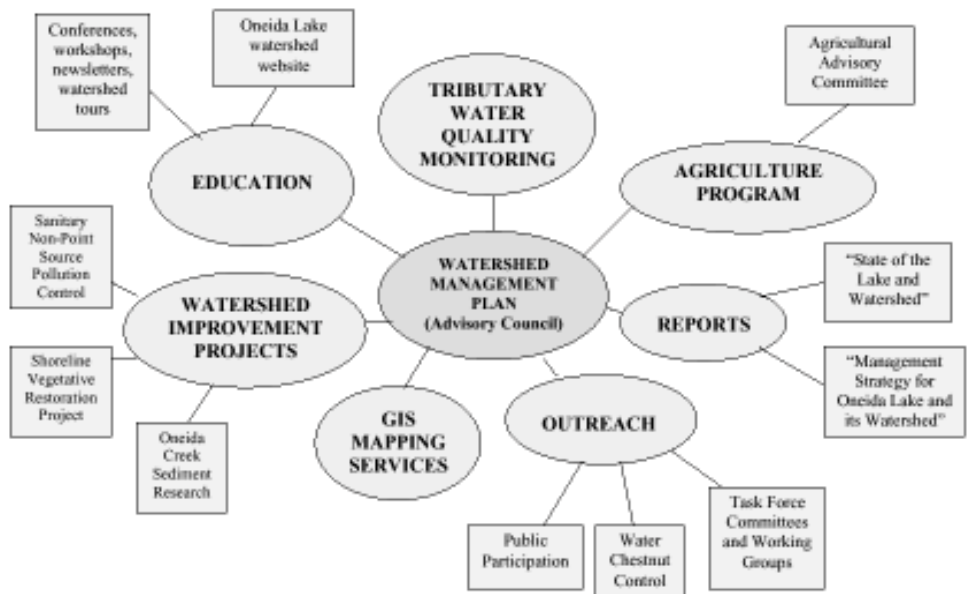
- Cicero – CHET DUDZINSKI, JR., (315) 699-1414
- Cleveland & Constantia – RIP COLESANTE, (315) 623-9475
- Hastings – FRED BEARDSLEY, 668-3637
- Lenox – JOHN S. PATANE, (315) 697-5257
- Sullivan – JOHN BRZUSZKIEWICZ, (315) 633-5594
- Sylvan Beach – JOE BENEDICT, (315) 762-4844
- Verona – DAVID REED, (315) 337-2021
- Vienna – LORRAINE NASBY, (315) 449-7559
- West Monroe – PAUL M. BAXTER, (315) 668-8945

STAKEHOLDER REPRESENTATIVES

- Water Resources – ED MILLS, (315) 633-9243
- Recreation – CRAIG TRYON, (315) 492-1756
- Fish and Wildlife – BILL SHRIEVER, (315) 448-3324
- Economic Development – MICHAEL ASTERINO, (315) 752-0320
- Agriculture – MAURICE KELSEY, (315) 697-3724
- Forests – ALFRED GERISCH, (315) 668-2066
- Tourism – CHRISTINE GRAY, (315) 349-8322
(Vice Chair, Board of Directors)
- Oneida Nation – CLINT HILL, (315) 829-8300

The Oneida Lake Watershed Management Plan

The Oneida Lake and Watershed Management Plan is a process where municipalities, homeowners, citizen groups, and county, State and Federal agencies are working together to develop a plan for the long-term protection and improvement of our surface and groundwater resources. This project involves data collection and analysis, identification of high priority lake and watershed issues, pooled funding and staff resources, and the selection of plans for improved water quality. The Plan is an action-oriented, local-level initiative and all lake and watershed users are encouraged to participate.



Reducing Pollution in the Oneida Lake Watershed

For More Information

- Information is available on the Oneida Lake watershed website at the following address:
<http://www.cnyrpdb.org/oneidalake>
- General program information** - A. Saltman, Senior Planner, CNY RPDB, (315) 422-8276.
- The Watershed Advisory Council** - Dan Ramer, Board Chairman, (315) 363-4860 or Christine Gray, Vice Chair, (315) 349-8322.
- Oneida Lake Watershed Agricultural Program** - Jo-Anne Faulkner, Agricultural Watershed Resource Specialist, (315) 736-3334.
- Educational programming** - Amy Samuels, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Onondaga County, (315) 424-9485.

The CNY RPDB continues to fund several exciting projects to reduce pollution loading to Oneida Lake and its tributaries. For example, grant funding was awarded to Hamilton College and the Madison County Planning Department to conduct research on sediment loading and transport in Oneida Creek. This has involved a bathymetric survey, water sampling, benthic grab sampling for grain size and sediment composition, and several additional field procedures. In addition, the City of Oneida is developing alternatives and associated cost estimates for addressing the problem of septic waste runoff to Oneida Creek from non-sewered areas in the City of Oneida, the Village of Oneida Castle, the Village of Wampsville, and a portion of the Town of Vernon. The Madison County Planning Department also recently completed a shoreline vegetation project. Information about these projects can be found at the Oneida Lake website at www.cnyrpdb.org/oneidalake.

The programs presented in **Project News** are part of the Oneida Lake Watershed Management Plan, a regional initiative coordinated by the Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board. These activities are jointly funded by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation using dollars from the Environmental Protection Fund, and by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency with funds secured by Congressmen Walsh and Boehlert.

Project News

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