

ONEIDA LAKE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN



2006 YEAR IN REVIEW

Investing in the Protection and Improvement of
Oneida Lake and its Watershed

CNY Regional Planning and Development Board
With Assistance from the Oneida Lake Watershed Advisory Council

January 2007 (updated March 2007)

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The Oneida Lake watershed, which includes portions of five counties, 69 municipalities, two DEC regions, and two regional planning boards, has multiple jurisdictions and planning authorities.

- Approximately 265,000 people live in the Oneida Lake watershed.
- The watershed covers 872,722 acres in three distinct physiographic regions.
- 27% of this area is residential, 17% is forested, and 29% is agricultural. The watershed includes some of the most productive agricultural land in the state.
- The common tern, red-shouldered hawk, and Chittenango ovate amber snail are examples of rare, threatened, and endangered species found in the watershed.
- There are 75 fish species in Oneida Lake. The lake offers world class fishing with more fish per acre than any other lake in the northeast United States

In 2004, regional planning boards, academic researchers, agency personnel, and community leaders throughout the region completed a watershed management plan that was endorsed by all watershed municipalities and over 100 agencies and organizations. The "Management Strategy for Oneida Lake and its Watershed" is a comprehensive, ecosystem-based approach for the protection and restoration of water resources throughout the Oneida Lake watershed. The work presented in this "2006 Year In Review" was entirely based on the recommendations in the Management Strategy.

FUNDING SOURCES IN 2006

The Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board (CNY RPDB) received funding from several sources in 2006. This money was used to implement goals identified in the "Management Strategy for Oneida Lake and its Watershed." CNY RPDB funding sources included:

- United States Environmental Protection Agency (this funding was made possible through the efforts of Congressman James Walsh)
- Great Lakes Commission
- New York State Department of State
- Central New York Community Foundation
- I Love NY (through Oswego County Tourism)
- Oneida Lake Association

Many other organizations also contributed funding and in-kind services to watershed projects in 2006.

2006 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS RESULTING FROM THIS GRANT FUNDING:

- Oneida Lake Education Initiative
 - Summer Lecture Series
 - Celebrate the Lake
 - Educational fact sheets, placemats, posters, and websites
 - Adopt a Shoreline program
 - Outreach program for school students and the public
 - Weather station
- Management of phosphorus levels to benefit Oneida Lake fisheries
- Reduction of septic waste and other types of pollution
- Support of sound agricultural management
- Decreased erosion through streambank stabilization
- Review of local laws that protect water resources
- Grant administration
- Regional communication and outreach

MANY REGIONAL PARTNERS WORKED WITH CNY RPDB TO REACH WATERSHED MANAGEMENT GOALS. THE FOLLOWING GROUPS WORKED TOGETHER ON WATERSHED PROJECTS IN 2006:

CNY RPDB
Oneida Lake Watershed Advisory Council
Education and Technical Committees
Cooperative Extension (CNY RPDB sub-contract)
Cornell Biological Field Station (CNY RPDB sub-contract)
Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District (CNY RPDB sub-contract)
New York Sea Grant (sub-contract through the Cornell Field Station)
Oswego County Tourism
Oneida Lake Association
Watershed municipalities

CNY RPDB WORKED ON THE FOLLOWING WATERSHED TASKS IN 2006:

- Wrote and administered grants and subcontracts, and satisfied all federal, state, and local grant requirements;
- Provided staff support to the Watershed Advisory Council in support of Management Strategy implementation projects and arranged for guest speakers at Board meetings;
- Coordinated and publicized "Celebrate The Lake" and the 2006 Summer Lecture Series;
- Set up tabletop displays and provided PowerPoint presentations at numerous conferences, community forums, and town board meetings;
- Developed maps and compiled environmental & economic statistics for municipalities;
- Distributed hundreds of fact sheets, maps, posters, and educational literature at meetings and conferences, through special mailings, and in response to individual requests;
- Maintained the Oneida Lake watershed website: <http://cnyrpdb.org/oneidalake> that contains program summaries, maps, publications, events, and announcements;
- Organized a Technical Committee in order to develop the Nonpoint Source Pollution and Nutrient Management Programs; compiled quality assurance documents and other EPA requirements;
- Worked with committee members on the development and distribution of a Request for Proposals; advertised for a consultant in Post Standard and Contract Reporter;
- Organized an Education Steering Committee with participants from local colleges, agencies, and organizations to maximize regional efficiency and maintain lines of communication;

- Coordinated a meeting with leading experts in the area of invasive aquatic plants to discuss a plant management strategy for Oneida Lake in 2007;
- Compiled and distributed two newsletters called "Watershed Connections";
- Submitted press releases to announce notable watershed events and activities;
- Designed and printed 5,000 restaurant placemats;
- Facilitated communication between college and University professors regarding regional collaborations with academic research in the Oneida Lake watershed;
- Worked with SWCD managers on list of priority erosion sites in the watershed;
- Compiled aerial photographs of the lake shoreline;
- Worked with watershed municipalities on the review of local laws as they relate to water resource protection;
- Currently organizing plans for the 2007 watershed conference, including speaker recruitment, publicity, and other event logistics.

THE CORNELL UNIVERSITY BIOLOGICAL FIELD STATION WORKED ON THE FOLLOWING WATERSHED TASKS IN 2006:

- Developed web-based outreach program for schools and the public to disseminate scientifically based information to adults and public school children;
- Installed weather station on CUBFS property that measures wind speed, wind direction, rainfall, barometric pressure, relative humidity, and solar radiation;
- Developed a science based information program that includes the "Oneida Lake Big Red Box" and fact sheets for schools and local waterfront communities. The school systems include the Chittenango, Cicero North Syracuse, and Central Square and the outreach program will target children in forth and fifth grades.
- Updated the "Oneida Lake Profile".
- A web cam and high speed internet connection will soon be installed on CUBFS property so that viewers can see Oneida Lake weather and water conditions in real time;

CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OF ONONDAGA COUNTY WORKED ON THE FOLLOWING WATERSHED TASKS IN 2006:

- Know Your Lake presentations and educational literature;
- Promoted the Weeds Watch Out program to watershed residents, community groups and businesses at two or more applicable meetings;
- Developed educational placemat and distribute 5,000 copies;
- Developed brochure and distributed it to 3,000 homeowners and elected officials.

THE MADISON COUNTY SWCD WORKED ON THE FOLLOWING WATERSHED TASKS IN 2006:

- Programs to reduce agricultural runoff throughout the watershed;
- Education and outreach, AEM farm prioritization, grant writing and administering to reduce nutrient and sediment loading to Oneida Lake and its tributaries;
- Maintained the Agricultural Advisory Committee, made up of farmers from each county;
- Submitted articles about agricultural issues in major newspapers in the region;
- Agriculture Program newsletters written and distributed.

ADVISORY COUNCIL BOARD MEMBERS PARTICIPATED IN THE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

- Attended Board meetings and provided guidance to the CNY RPDB on watershed initiatives;
- Actively participated on the Technical and Education Committees;

- Took a leading role in the development of the Nonpoint Source (septic) program and the Nutrient Management Program;
- Edited a quality assurance document, written to satisfy EPA requirements for the Nutrient Management Plan;
- Reviewed the Consultant Request for Proposals;
- Joined CNY RPDB in meetings with municipal representatives;
- Provided advice on grant proposals and wrote letters of endorsement;
- Participated in the Summer Lecture Series (planning and presenting);
- Provided funding opportunities, regional outreach, and in-kind assistance for the Know Your Lake Program and calendar of events;
- Provided advice and editorial comments on the Oneida Lake poster and placemat;
- Provided assistance with the development of the 2007 watershed conference agenda and event logistics;

EVENTS AND MEETINGS IN 2006 RELATING TO THE ONEIDA LAKE WATERSHED

1/10	Education Steering Committee meeting	7/6	Know Your Lake Lecture – C. Nels
1/10	Sea Grant Local Law meeting	7/12	Know Your Lake – E. Domack
1/11	Madison County WQCC meeting	7/13	Know Your Lake – J. George
1/18	Local Law meeting	7/17	Great Lakes Grant Workshop
1/24	Watershed Advisory Council Board	7/26	Know Your Lake – G. Snyder
1/30	Cicero Supervisor C. Dudzinski	8/1	Know Your Lake – Squires
1/31	Onondaga Co. Local Gov't Workshop	8/3	Know Your Lake – Mills, White
1/31	Tug Hill Commission (CNY RPDB PowerPoint presentation)	8/22	Madison County Department of Health, G. Snyder
3/1	Madison County WQCC meeting	8/22	Advisory Council Board meeting
3/24	Technical Committee meeting	9/13	Madison County WQCC meeting
3/28	Watershed Advisory Council Board	9/22	CACDA meeting
4/5	Municipal outreach meeting, Sullivan	9/26	Aquatic Plant Management meeting
4/12	Rotary Club – CNY RPDB presentation	10/3	Cooperative Extension Education Initiative meeting
4/20	Municipal Outreach meeting, Vienna		
4/25	Watershed Advisory Council Board	10/24	Watershed Advisory Council Board meeting
4/26	Oneida Lake Association meeting (CNY RPDB presentation, tabletop display)	11/2	C. Gray Advisory Council meeting
5/9	Agriculture Coordinator meeting	11/8	Madison County WQCC meeting
5/9	Madison County WQCC meeting	11/28	Watershed Advisory Council Board meeting
5/23	Advisory Council Board meeting		
6/6	Local Law meeting	12/6	Department of Environmental Health
6/7	Coop. Ext. Stream Restoration Workshop	12/11	Oneida Lake Watershed Education Committee
6/12	SWCD/Ag Coordinator meeting		
6/19	Oswego Co. EMC meeting – CNY RPDB presentation		
6/20	Onondaga County SWCD meeting – CNY RPDB presentation		
6/27	Watershed Advisory Council Board mtg.		

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT GOALS FOR 2007

Watershed conference in July;
 Nutrient Management Program implementation;
 Nonpoint Source Pollution Program implementation and conference;
 Website development and maintenance;

Educational Fact Sheets and brochures;
 "Watershed Connections" and agriculture program newsletters;
 Municipal and political outreach;
 Grant writing for education programs in schools and municipalities;
 CCE will work with local historical societies, historians and the Oneida Indian Nation to research the natural and cultural history of Oneida Lake in order to develop an original power point presentation, field program, and accompanying brochure;
 Adopt a Shoreline training sessions and literature (CCE);
 Continued agricultural programming (SWCDs);
 Develop a science based information dissemination program (CUBFS);
 Develop outreach program for use in schools and for the public (CUBFS);
 Increase Board involvement with committees, events, and new member recruitment.

