

Water Quality Coordinating Committee

Regular Meeting – Wednesday, July 27, 2016

Wayne County Soil & Water Conservation District
10 Leach Road Lyons NY 14489

Present:

Scott DeRue (SWCD)
Kevin Rooney (Wayne County Highway)
Ken Miller (Wayne County Board of Supervisors)
Dave McDowell (Save Our Sodus)
Ed Leroux (Save Our Sodus)
Mark Humbert (SWCD Board of Director)
Kate Desjardin (FLPRISM)
Hilary Mosher (FLPRISM)
Lindsey Gerstenslager (SWCD)
Cathy Comfort (SWCD)

Call to order @ 9:04 am

Introductions were made all around.

Approval of Agenda

A MOTION was made to approve the agenda by K. Rooney, seconded by M. Humbert; carried.

Port Bay/Sodus Bay Barrier Beach Updates

- Port Bay

L. Gerstenslager stated that she is finishing up the paperwork on this project. This project will be carried out in September when the water levels have dropped and will consist of woody plant barriers and structures. Water sampling will be ongoing from the fall thru the spring as well as topography and habitat monitoring. E. Leroux inquired as to the funding source for this project; L. Gerstenslager stated that it is grant funded and if it is a viable solution it can be used as a demonstration project.

- Sodus Bay

E. Leroux inquired if the Sodus Bay breach solution will mimic the Port Bay solution. L. Gerstenslager stated that she is planning a revisit to the site soon and that the DEC has stated that it is a landowner concern to repair the breach. Upon further discussion it was determined that the DEC could not offer guidance as they are the regulatory agency; L. Gerstenslager stated that she could provide language to assist the homeowner in writing a plan and that the homeowner would need the guidance of an engineer for a plan of action. D. McDowell stated that there is an engineering firm willing to provide guidance and that there is a potential of 3 homes impacted by this breach that will need to be addressed by the spring. M. Humbert inquired how large is the breach; E. Leroux stated approximately 75 feet. K. Desjardin suggested contacting the Town of Greece to see if they had any suggestions from the Braddock's Bay project, L. Gerstenslager will follow up on this.

New Business

- E. Leroux stated that the overall toxicity of the Bay is down and believes that the bubblers and winds are helping; H. Mosher stated that this was good to hear as the Finger Lakes as a whole has seen an increase in algae. E. Leroux inquired if the handpulling efforts, bubblers etc. have been a contribution to the weed growth being down. L. Gerstenslager stated that there are no studies to support that at this time. M. Humbert explained that as a farmer participating in the BMP's he has seen a significant difference in the runoff from his farm. E. Leroux stated that 40% of the contributor is Sodus East and will be the next area that needs to be addressed.
- E. Leroux stated that SOS has applied for a grant, Sustain Our Great Lake, for the Sodus East area. This grant will be utilized to for filtration of wet land and returning this area to wet lands. SOS should hear the results by the second week of August. If granted there will be a follow up and a demonstration project.
- D. McDowell asked if Soil & Water had packets for homeowners for lawn care. H. Mosher stated that The Lake George Association has a "Homeowner's Guide to Lake-Friendly Living" that could be utilized with a small grants program. L. Gerstenslager stated that she would contact the Lake George Association as she has used other material of theirs in the past, giving credit to them for their authorship. L. Gerstenslager also stated that this would be a good use of the FLOWPA 16 funds.

A MOTION was made to allocate FLOWPA 16 funds for printing of guides for distribution to homeowners on the lake shore by M. Humbert seconded by E. Leroux; carried.

- L. Gerstenslager stated that there is an incentive going on for Sodus Bay to be Green by 2017 more details to follow.

Water Chestnut Efforts in Wayne County

- K.Desjardin stated that her group has participated in surveying of Sodus Bay; handpull events and has a crew leader working on maps to show where water chestnuts have been identified. H. Mosher stated that through grant funding there are crews working in Wayne and Ontario Counties.
- L. Gerstenslager stated that some of the assistance that is needed is to get homeowners to pick their own weeds especially around their docks. Spiegel Drive being one of the most significant problem areas. H. Mosher stated that part of the grant will be hiring a part time educator. L. Gerstenslager stated the disposal of weeds needs to be addressed. H. Mosher explained that she plans on getting an earlier start to the season next year.
- L. Gerstenslager stated that she and H. Mosher and K. Desjardin will be meeting with J. Eckler from the DEC for updates and ideas today.

Other

- H. Mosher wanted to inform the group that there is a 3 year grant contract with NRCS to combat giant hogweed in Wayne County, contact her for details.

A MOTION to adjourn was made by K. Rooney at 10:45 am.

Next Meeting September 28, 2016 at 9:00 at the SWCD Conference Room 10 Leach Road Lyons NY.