

Water Quality Coordinating Committee

Regular Meeting – June 26, 2017

Wayne County Public Safety Building, Glass Room

Present:

Ed Leroux, Save Our Sodus
Ora Rothfuss, Wayne County Economic Development & Planning
Kevin Rooney, Wayne County Public Works
Jason Monroe, Wayne County Water & Sewer Authority
Derrek Ceratt, Wayne County Water & Sewer Authority
Elizabeth Claypoole, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Wayne County
Mark Humbert, SWCD
Scott DeRue, SWCD Technical
Lindsey Gerstenslager, SWCD Secretary

Call to order @ 8:07 am

A MOTION was made to approve the minutes of the May 2017 meeting by M. Humbert, seconded by O. Rothfuss; carried.

Introductions – At this time reintroduction and introduction of new faces were received.

WQCC Organization Roles – See attached Implementation Planning Process chart. Item 1.

- E. Leroux reviewed the stated that an idea of WQCC role of acting as a planning and prioritization committee for implementations of watershed priorities through a champion and began discussion focusing on how to we build from there.
- The Red Creek West Watershed Assessment (RCWWA) was the sample the committee decided to review in May as it is a fresh assessment drafted and released for comment in April 2017.
- Discussion:
 - Review of the chart discussion, led to M. Humbert asking specifically about the watershed assessment process.
 - S. DeRue explained some of the technical background on the process he follows in determining project priorities related to the watershed assessment planning which leads to sub-watershed categories, comparison data of water quality monitoring and other related data ports.
 - E. Leroux addressed that the RCWWA outlined several areas of high contributions of phosphorus and asked what would be the first opportunity to address this? Buffering of the stream?
 - O. Rothfuss addressed that there are mostly crop farms in this related area across 4 towns. Further discussion outlined that may be a hard sell.
 - Discussion turned to M. Humbert – practicing crop farmer in the room, to help the committee understand how farms may perceive this.
 - M. Humbert outlined the disadvantages and advantages over the long term. He brought up the CRP program through FSA and

that buffers make good opportunities for drainage maintenance and, if established correctly, an area to drive on for scouting, access, and harvest.

- Several committee members addressed maybe we should identify key contributors, that if removed would have a broad impact on the phosphorus contribution. J. Monroe asked about point source contributions.
 - Discussion based around how the point sources may have an easier opportunity to obtain public funding because of the larger impact they may be having on the communities public health and safety.
 - The committee established that hitting the big specific targets need to still be identified.
- K. Rooney inquired what are the top 5 priority watersheds.
- L. Gerstenslager responded that in 2014 when the WQCC updated the strategic plan, the committee did not prioritize at that time, so that is our next steps. Looking at the 15 watersheds in Wayne County and assessing them as what priorities need to be working on first.
 - M. Humbert addressed each watershed is different and unique and serves a specific purpose.
 - E. Leroux asked what are the criteria for prioritizing.
 - Discussion from several members reviewed previous projects, assessments and how each agency looks at things based on criteria that lends itself to community sustainability. Public safety and health.
 - E. Claypoole outlined an example of a study that was done by CEI Inc. Center for Environmental Initiatives back in 2011 for Salmon Creek/ Pultneyville Harbor because of the beach closings along the Lake Ontario shoreline. CEI knew this watershed produced the most detrimental coliform/e. coli readings in the harbor. She reviewed the process with the group which basically included three community meetings for feedback on information the CEI folks had found through research and through these community meetings they assessed whether they were important to the communities or not.
 - K. Rooney and M. Humbert suggested the committee come up with a top 10 criteria to rank watersheds by.
 - A review of the information and watershed map was requested.
 - L. Gerstenslager reviewed that some of this information was in the strategic plans and that once the District receives our new printer; she will make copies of the strategic plan for the representatives by the next meeting but until then will email it out.
 - M. Humbert outlined that the reason people are hesitant to get involved is the fear of retaliation. Mitigating peoples' fear of participation will need to be managed to help implementation efforts.
 - K. Rooney and O. Rothfuss outlined a Risk Management Assessment the County did with each department recently to assess the importance of risk criteria. This may be something to model a future assessment to the local public.

- E. Claypoole suggested one of the biggest struggles is because of the diversity of community issues within Wayne.
 - J. Monroe responded by suggesting the WQCC would be the vehicle to prioritize potential criteria that would establish the baseline risk management review and help each community to assess, fund and implement some of the low hanging fruit.
- E. Leroux summarized the discussion to this point and suggested that public health and safety were the key under the water quality umbrella. The top 5-implementation issues would/could be different by the priority concerns.
- K. Rooney indicated it would be worth looking at what priorities would be potential to rate and if S. DeRue would be willing to put a list together based on the watershed assessment planning that is already done.
 - L. Gerstenslager asked that if a survey monkey was done where committee members would check off their top ten by the next meeting, the committee would be able to have a discussion on the criteria.
 - Everyone indicated with a few reminders and encouragement it could be done.
- K. Rooney asked if we have a champion in each watershed.
 - No at this time there is not a champion identified in each of the watersheds or does the committee have a champion of reach specific watershed, but that the committee does have partners that will champion a task within all the watersheds, (i.e. Invasive Species, or Wildlife, Stormwater, municipal planning, etc)
 - O. Rothfuss identified that going that route may be more affective in terms of engaging community member for implementation through funding programs over time. Examples were given.
- E. Claypoole and J. Monroe addressed the portability issues and how do we uses that information to bring in grant funding to assist with clean drinking water issues. (SWAT map from NYSDOH attached)
- E. Leroux addressed the near shore contributions of Lake Ontario to how that affects our Water Quality universe for the embayments. Maybe some of the criteria should include toxicity, nutrient contributions and bacteria?
 - Pre-reading may need to be assigned for focus for the next meeting on what are some of the key water quality specific issues that touch every portion of the communities and Wayne County.
 - From this discussion will be held based on the criteria determination survey that was distributed.
 - S. DeRue outlined that Oswego's WQCC has an interesting criteria determination matrix they use in watershed planning (attached).
- Engage Cornell Update – E. Claypoole/L. Gerstenslager
 - E. Claypoole gave an overview of the three projects that were in question and where the projects are. Below is a description of what Engage Cornell is supposed to accomplish:

Engaged Cornell is renewing and expanding Cornell's founding commitment to "knowledge with a public purpose." At the core of the initiative is innovation in teaching and learning through shared practices that connect students, faculty, and curricula with communities and the public realm across the globe.

Drafted June 26, 2017 by L. Gerstenslager

O. Rothfuss outlined that one of the professors that is working with Engaged Cornell and New York Sea Grant will be making a presentation on one of the projects regarding the Near Shore of Lake Ontario on Wednesday July 5th, at 10am located at 26th Church Street, Lyons, NY. Downstairs.

Discussion about trying a different date or time for a meeting to be held. It was decided since the Red Creek Assessment and the WQCC Strategic Plan was still in process we will continue to meet monthly as needed on the 3rd Monday of the month at 8:30.

A MOTION to adjourn was made by M. Humber at 9.07 am seconded by J. Monroe.

Next Meeting tentatively July 17, 2017 at 8:30 at the Public Safety Building.