



Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection Program

Monthly Activities Report

April 2010

Investigations of Possible Violations

- Met with homeowner in Town of Niles. He was concerned about a neighbor's drywell causing excessive water to enter the side of his bank, eroding and killing his sugar maple trees. Cayuga County Health Department is looking into situation.
- Monitored fields for manure spreading – one field was found to be in violation of the Rules and Regulations.
- Investigated manure complaint. Concerned individual was near the Owasco Flats and smelled manure. Manure was not spread on any of the fields upstream of the tributaries around area. Believe that barns were cleaned or silage was moved in the bunk, causing a sudden, strong odor.
- Visited site that had been in violation of NYS DEC Stormwater Regulations by having more than one acre open. Site has been graded and seeded. Follow-up was sent to Ellen Hahn.
- Working with SWCD staff on delineating watershed for lakefront property with significant erosion along the bank. We believe from our initial site visits that tile placed by contractor is too small to handle the amount of water, causing a significant washout early this spring. Proper handling of this water will allow for permanent stabilization of the site.

Updates

- Farm with animals in tributary → farmer has not contacted the Program. Will try to contact again before sending a formal violation notice.
- Farmer spreading manure in floodplain (but is not in violation of the Watershed Rules and Regulations) → has planted the field into hay because this is part of his crop rotation. Should remain in hay for a few years.
- Cayuga County Health Department investigated a possible failing septic system reported by the Program. At this time, the Health Department does not consider it failing, but believes that it possibly has and could fail at a later time. No violation at this time.

Community Outreach

- Eco-Talk Article – Rain Barrels

Other Tasks

- Continued to work on updating rental homes list – added a few more properties
- Worked with Town of Owasco on proposed ordinances to ban the use of fertilizer containing phosphorus on lawns and burning along the lakeshore.
- Put up educational watershed signs in some areas of the watershed.

Upcoming Events

- Lakefront Supervisors meeting – May 19
- Compiling bare road ditches for stabilization