

Summary Report for Owasco Lake Watershed Inspector Activities
December 2007
WQMA Meeting January 3, 2008

Projects that I have Worked on:

Commercial Work

- NYS DEC Ecosystem Management Project (Corrigan Road, Town of Niles)
 - Site was dormant while company was working on another project
 - The logging company has been back to the site
 - They have started the second site (also located within the Frozen Ocean State Forest on Corrigan Road)
 - Waited for 45 minutes to see if anyone working on the site would return and could show me whether or not the Best Management Practices (BMPs) were implemented (hard to tell with the snow, but appeared that none existed) → no one returned to the site
 - Contacted Mark Zubal → he will be visiting the site by the end of the week to see if they are working on implementing the BMPs or not

Farms

- Drove every road within the watershed recording locations that have animals
 - Have assessed these properties on GIS and ranked them according to their impact on the watershed (no streams on property, stream with riparian buffers, stream lacking riparian buffers)
 - Will use this list to contact farmers and invite them to a breakfast hosted by SWCD and CCE to introduce programs and myself to farming community

Professional Meetings

- Met with Liz Cameron and staff at the Tompkins County Environmental Health Department (12/12/07)
 - Went over Owasco Lake Rules and Regulations and are currently working on implementing this Rules and Regulations in Tompkins County
- SWCD Board of Directors meeting (12/14/07)
- Attended the Tompkins County Water Resources Council meeting in Ithaca and was introduced to the Council (12/17/07)
- Attended the Owasco Lake Watershed Inspector Committee meeting (12/18/07)
 - Watershed signs are in the development stage → trying to generate ideas for sign content
 - Cable for Hydrolab has been ordered → will be starting stormwater sampling once this is received
 - Will be working with SWCD Bookkeeper on itemizing accounts to show revenue and expenses more clearly

Residential Work

- Received notification from Sandy Doran at US Fish and Wildlife Service regarding a dredging project in the Town of Moravia (12/10/07)
 - Work in a cold fishery like Owasco Lake cannot be done from October 1 through May 15

- USFWS has suggested that the ACOE have the work be scheduled between June 16 and September 30 to even further reduce the impact on the fishery
- Sandy said this recommendation is because of the substrate on the lake is very suitable fish spawning habitat
- Home heating oil spill in Town of Summer Hill (12/21/07)
 - Don Bowen (Cayuga County Health Department) notified me of spill
 - Spill was believed to have occurred overnight and was caused by snow or ice falling off the roof and broking the line from the tank to the house
 - NYSDEC Spill Response was notified → site was stabilized and road ditch was cleaned out
 - Stream running across the street was not impacted
 - Approximately 150-200 gallons was believed to have leaked from tank

Road Ditches

- Culvert erosion on Rockefeller Road (12/10/07)
 - Visited the site with Kelly Crossett (Cayuga County SWCD) → she suggested placing a rock splash apron using gabion sized rock under the culvert pipe to reduce the erosion
 - Spoke with George Wethey (Cayuga County Highway) → said they will place a splash apron at the site

Stream Sites

- Kelly Crossett and I looked at sites along the Owasco Inlet off Aurora Street and where Dry Creek enters the Inlet (12/10/07)
- Cream Hollow Road Stream Stabilization work began (1/2/08)

Miscellaneous

- Article in The Citizen in Renee Jensen's column regarding impacts of not picking up pet waste on water quality (December 17)
- Spoke with student from the University of Minnesota who is working on a project regarding rotational grazing practices and the Owasco Inlet (12/14/07)
 - Sent her links to several websites and contacts to people that may have helpful information
- Made a list of projects for 2008 within the Owasco Lake Watershed and sent to Debbie Groom at The Post Standard (12/14/07)
 - Had my picture taken at Emerson Park for this article
 - Sent this list on to Shane Liebler at The Citizen to see if this is something that he would be interested in printing or doing an article on one of the topics (12/14/07)
- Went through the revised Priority Waterbodies List
- Spoke with Kelly Crossett and Jim Hotaling regarding golf courses in the watershed
 - Certified Nutrient Management Plans (CNMP) had been paid for by grant money obtained by SWCD for all golf courses and Emerson Park
 - Fillmore Glen Golf Course is in the process of having their CNMP completed
 - Will be approaching developments within the watershed to encourage them to implement CNMPs
- Continued to increase information in my Information Binder
- Worked on Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Powerpoint with Jason Cuddeback (Cayuga County SWCD)

Projects that I have Scheduled:

- Meeting with IAGT staff (1/4/08)
- Environmental Article in the Lake Life section of The Citizen (1/21/08)
- Attending the January meeting for Tompkins County Water Resources Council (1/28/08)
- Owasco Lake Watershed Inspector Report is due on January 31, 2008
- Contact Code Enforcement Officers to ask about list of projects within town
- Continue to plan a breakfast for farmers to introduce programs and services offered through SWCD, NRCS, and CCE
- Continue to work with Tompkins County officials on implementing inspection work within Tompkins County
 - Writing a press release to be placed in newspapers in Tompkins County
- Continue to enhance inspector website and make more links available through it
- Meet with Sandy Doran (USFWS) to have a tour of the Owasco Flats wetland complex
- Presentation at the February WQMA meeting regarding the AEM program