

St. Lawrence County Environmental Management Council

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Draft

MEETING MINUTES

January 17, 2018

2nd - Floor Conference Room, Public Safety Complex

49 ½ Court Street, Canton, New York

Action items in bold italics / Motions underlined.

Blue boxes indicate internal links to sections of these Minutes.

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Joseph Brant called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.
2. **Roll Call, Determination of Quorum:** It was determined that **a quorum did NOT exist.**
Members present included: Joseph Brant, *Chair*; Ryan Burkum; Glen Butler; Larry Denesha, *BOL Liaison*; Lance Rudiger; Tiernan Smith; Pat Whalen, *Secretary*.
Members absent included: Jennifer Berbrich; Alex French; Rick Marshall; Don O'Shea, *Vice-Chair*; Sue Rau; Dana Smith; Andrew Soutar; Bob Zimmerman.
Guest(s): Heidi Ames, SLC Planning Office; Hogan Dwyer, SLU student; Andrew Carpino.
Staff: J. Tenbusch.
3. **Acceptance of Order of Business, Items for New Business, and Items for Unfinished Business:** Due to lack of quorum, the Order of Business could not be approved.
4. **Approval of the Minutes of the October 18th and November 15th 2017 EMC Meetings:** Due to lack of quorum, the Minutes of the October and November EMC meetings could not be approved.
5. **Report by Representative of the Board of Legislators.** Mr. Denesha reported:
 - The BOL is pleased that sales tax revenues in 2017 came in higher than had been expected. He estimated that an additional \$2.6 million had been collected.
 - The BOL held its 2018 organizational meeting on January 2nd. The Chair will remain Kevin Acres; Vice Chair will remain Joseph Lightfoot.
6. **Hearings, Comments from the Public.** Chair Brant recognized Heidi Ames, Grants Manager for the County Planning Office. Ms. Ames presented an overview of the recently-completed Brownfield Opportunity Area (BOA) planning process for the RACER Trust (formerly GM Powertrain) property in the Town of Massena. The BOA site is located along SH 37, immediately

EMC: Everybody Must Care!

east of the access to the International Bridge to Cornwall Island and Cornwall, Ont. Akwesasne, home to the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, is immediately east of the BOA site.

Ames described that the purpose of the BOA project was to develop a revitalization plan for the GM site. Working with the USEPA, RACER Trust demolished the buildings, and is remediating the site. Remediation is expected to be complete in 2018.

The BOA process considered what redevelopment alternatives might be accommodated on the site, and which of these alternatives are attractive to the local community and to developers.

Scenarios examined include:

- Business/Technology Park;
- Tourism Center;
- Regional Tourism Destination/
Sports Complex;
- Several Mixed-Use options.

The site is well served by electricity; it also has rail access. Potable water and wastewater treatment are not available.

Chair Brant thanked Ms. Ames for her presentation, and called for a five-minute recess. The meeting reconvened at 7:15 PM.

7. **Reports by EMC Members on Conversations with County Legislators:** None.

8. **Report of the Committees:**

a. **Executive Committee:** No report.

b. **Conservation of Resources Committee (CRC):** No report.

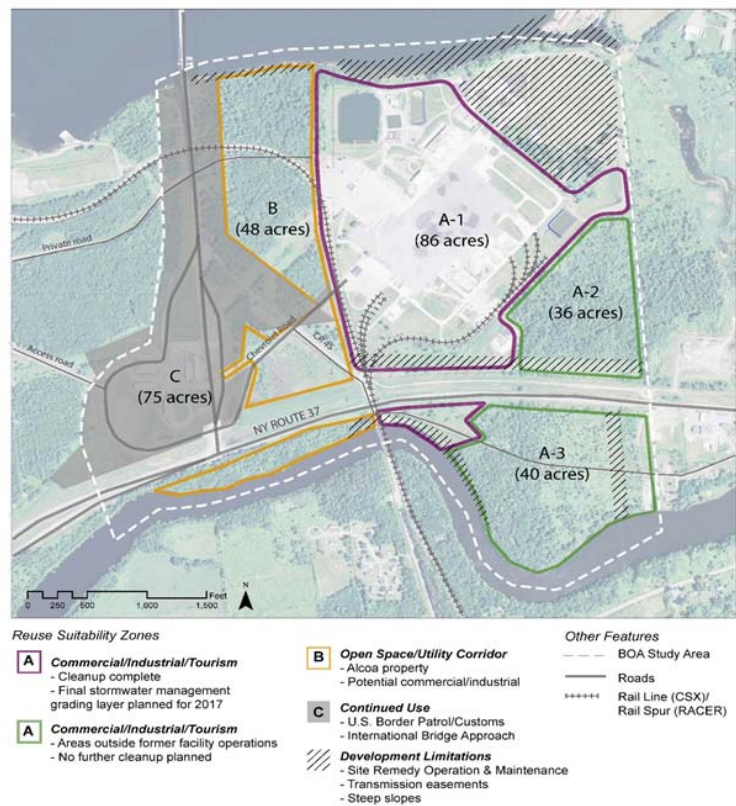
c. **Environment + Economy Committee (E+E):** P. Whalen reported. **See attached.**

d. **Invasive Species Committee (ISC):** J. Tenbusch reported. **See attached.**

- There was discussion about the Committee's proposal to ask the NYS Legislature to support a tax-credit for urban-area landowners who need to remove ash trees due to infestation by Emerald Ash Borer. Staff will draft a letter; the EMC will review at the February meeting.

e. **Watershed Management Committee (WMC).** J. Brant reported. **See attached.**

9. **Report of the Staff:** Tenbusch reported that the County had been granted another award under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. This award will provide \$850,000 to fund Round #2 of the Countywide Housing Rehabilitation Program (CHRP 2).



10. Unfinished Business: None.

11. New Business: None.

12. Announcements: None.

13. Message to the Board of Legislators: None.

14. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned by consensus at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Patrick Whalen

Minutes prepared by J. Tenbusch



**St. Lawrence County
Environmental Management Council
Environment + Economy Committee Meeting
Monday, January 8th, 2018**

Meeting started at 5:00 PM.

Present: T. Smith; P. Whalen. J. Tenbusch attended as staff.

Projects:

- ***Put together a meeting of businesses, environmental user groups and others.*** J. Tenbusch reviewed the list of businesses that he had compiled from SLC Chamber of Commerce Web site, and that R. Burkum had added to. **See attached.**
 - Committee members brainstormed additional businesses, including:
 - Poulin Grain
 - Wight & Patterson
 - Bourdeau Brothers
 - Agway, in Heuvelton and Potsdam
 - Farmers Co-op (SH 68 in Lisbon)
 - Game preserves (e.g., Basswood in Rens. Falls; Jonesey's in Lisbon)
 - Fishing guide services (e.g., Mike McCarthy)
 - R. Burkum had drafted a letter to be sent out to businesses and environmental groups. **See attached.**
 - Burkum drafted a sample survey form to be included with the letter. **See attached.**
 - The goal is to hold a meeting/series of meetings with these businesses & environmental groups to discuss the intersection between the environment and economics/business. This/these meeting(s) will be designed based on results from the surveys.

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 PM.

The next E+E Committee meeting will be held on Monday February 12, 2018 at 5:00 PM.

Report by John Tenbusch

ReEnergy
Seaway Timber Harvesting
Curran Renewables
St Lawrence County Maple Producers Association
Farmers Markets - most communities have them – gardenshare website
Maple Run Emporium
National Grid
Brookfield
St Lawrence County Farm Bureau
Locally owned lumber stores
Grain and Feed Suppliers
Amish
Golf Courses
Firewood producers
Native Americans
Nurseries
Christmas Tree Sellers – Where do the tree come from? Why not here?
Recreation trail
St Lawrence County Snowmobile Association – Several clubs listed on their website
ATV Clubs
Hunting Clubs
St Lawrence river fishing guides – website

Added 1/8/18:

Poulin Grain
Wight & Patterson
Bourdeau Brothers
Agway in Heuvelton and Potsdam
Farmers Co-op (Rt. 68 in Lisbon)
Game Preserves (e.g., Basswood, in Rens. Falls; Jonesey's in Lisbon)
Fishing Guide services (e.g., Mike McCarthy)

Hello / Good Day / Greetings (?),

I / We / Us (?) are reaching out to you from / on behalf of the St. Lawrence County Environmental Management Committee or EMC. The EMC is group of volunteer citizens and the purpose of the EMC is to explore issues affecting the counties natural resources and report these issues to the county legislature.

Traditionally the EMC has focused on issues such as watershed management and invasive species within St. Lawrence County. Recently we have started an initiative to look at the role of economics and the use of natural resources within the county. A primary goal of this initiative is to reach out to individuals, organizations, and business engaged in the use of natural resources in an economic capacity whether its through direct or indirect use. Ultimately we want to learn about such businesses and organizations and what they see as opportunities and more importantly challenges to their operation. We hope to share this information with the county legislature and hopefully positively impact both economic growth and responsible use of the counties natural resources.

We have identified you / your business / organization (?) as one involved in the use of natural resources in some captivity. Would you be willing to tell us about your operation? If so please take a few minutes answer (and return) the following questions on the next / separate page (?)

Thanks in advance for your help!

Sincerely the EMC

Environmental Management Committee

Environment and Economics Questionnaire

Please tell us about a little about yourself / organization:

Would you be interested in talking to the EMC about your operation?

Y N

May we contact you to learn more about your operation?

Y N

Would you be interested in meeting with other business or groups involved in the use of natural resources?

Y N

Please provide your preferred contact information:



St. Lawrence County Environmental Management Council Invasive Species Committee Meeting Tuesday January 9th, 2018

Meeting started at 1:00 PM.

Present: D. O'Shea, chair. J. Tenbusch attended as staff.

Item 1: Review Priority Projects.

- ***Emerald Ash Borer.***
 - Tenbusch reported that EABs had been discovered in December in a sentinel ash tree on Barnhart Island, in the Town of Massena. **See photos, next pages.**
 - O'Shea reported that the City of Ogdensburg has begun to remove ash trees found on public land. According to O'Shea, the City is taking down deteriorated trees.
 - o O'Shea noted that crews from National Grid have been able to take down ash trees found under power lines. He stated that this was a big help to the City.
- ***Re-Leaf Committee teleconference.***
 - Tenbusch reported that the Region 6 Re-Leaf Committee would hold a teleconference on Wednesday Jan. 17th at 10 AM. He noted that topics to be discussed would include:
 - o An EAB inventory project in the Village of Clinton, NY (Oneida County).
 - o The Urban Forestry grant program.
- ***Projects for 2018.***
 - In addition to work on EABs, O'Shea and Tenbusch discussed:
 - o Scheduling a countywide meeting on Eurasian Milfoil.
 - o Hosting a regional/statewide meeting with other communities that have been planning for or dealing with EABs.
 - o Asking the EMC to support NYS Senate Bill **8196 – A**, which would amend the tax law to establish a tree removal and emerald ash elimination credit.
 - Tenbusch will inquire with Sen. Ritchie's office about her support for this bill.
- ***Speakers for 2018.***
 - O'Shea suggested that John Payton of National Grid be invited to speak to the EMC. Payton and Nat'l Grid crews have been very helpful with taking down ash trees. He and his crew discovered the EABs in Hammond in 2017.

The meeting adjourned at 1:135 PM.

The Next ISC meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 13th at 1:00 PM.









St. Lawrence County Environmental Management Council Watershed Management Committee Meeting Tuesday, November 7, 2017

Meeting started at 4:00 PM.

Present: J. Brant, Chair; D. Smith. J. Tenbusch attended as staff.

Item 1: Review Priority Projects.

- *Stencils for storm drains.* J. Tenbusch reported that, while no storm drains had been painted during 2017, the project can be accomplished in Spring 2018. Tenbusch noted that:
 - SLC Soil & Water Conservation District is willing to pay for stencils and for paint. They had asked that the proposal be submitted in 2018. Tenbusch will get that proposal to SWCD.
 - Student groups at SUNY Canton and at Clarkson have indicated a willingness to stencil storm drains.
 - Permission has been obtained from Supt. of Public Works in Canton and Potsdam.
- “*Trees For Tribs*” (<http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/77710.html>). No report.
- *No Mow Zones.* J. Tenbusch will complete the application to NYPA.
- *Regional meeting regarding Eurasian Water Milfoil.* No progress.

Item 2: Other Items From To-Do List:

- *Discussion of Blue Green Algae.* J. Brant reported that Gov. Cuomo has established a program to address issues with BGA. However, Black Lake was not included on the list of targeted waterbodies, ***IN SPITE*** of the fact that it has been negatively affected by BGA. Brant suggested that the EMC might contact elected NYS representatives about this omission.
- *DEC Septic Replacement Program.* Brant reported that DEC has established a Septic System Replacement Program, which would provide \$225,000 to fund up to \$10,000 towards half the cost of a replacement septic system for SLC homeowners living in selected shorelines. These shorelines include the Indian River (including Black Lake); St. Lawrence River, Lower Raquette River and Little River.
 - Jason Pfothauer of the Planning Office was asked to provide additional information.
See attached.
- *NYS Sea Grant: Planning Project for Shoreline Resiliency.* Tenbusch reported that the Planning Office had successfully applied for \$25,000 through NY Sea Grant’s Great Lakes Basin Program in order to do planning work in several communities (Lisbon, Ogdensburg, Oswegatchie, Morristown and Hammond) to increase shoreline resilience in the face of future high-water and storm events.

- *Great Lakes East Basin Work Group*. Tenbusch reported that, at the November EMC meeting, Emily Sheridan of DEC had spoken about work that she was doing with the Great Lakes East Basin Work Group. She had invited EMC members to participate; she referenced a meeting held in Gouverneur on Dec. 6th. Tenbusch provided a copy of the report from that meeting, so that EMC members might see the work that this Work Group is doing. **See attached.**

The next meeting of the Watershed Management Committee will be held on Tuesday February 13th 2018 at 4:00 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 PM.

**NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION**

625 Broadway
Albany, New York 12233-1010
www.dec.ny.gov

**NEW YORK STATE ENVIRONMENTAL
FACILITIES CORPORATION**

625 Broadway
Albany, New York 12207-2997
www.efc.ny.gov

NOV 27 2017

Ruth Doyle
County Administrator
St. Lawrence County
County Courthouse
48 Court Street
Canton, NY 13617-1169

Dear County Administrator Doyle:

The Clean Water Infrastructure Act of 2017 established the "State Septic System Replacement Fund" (Fund) and allocated \$75 million to support a multi-year program. This grant program provides funding for the replacement of cesspools and septic systems that are having significant and quantifiable environmental and/or public health impacts to groundwater used for drinking water, or a threatened or impaired waterbody.

Your county has the opportunity to participate in this program by providing grants from the Fund to reimburse selected property owners for a portion of the cost of replacing failing septic systems and installing more environmentally effective systems. Those property owners can be reimbursed for up to 50% of the eligible costs incurred for septic system projects up to \$10,000. Your county may set graduated incentive reimbursement rates for septic system projects to maximize program participation and pollution reduction outcomes.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Department of Health (DOH) identified initial priority geographic areas based on statutory criteria, including the presence of a sole source aquifer, known water quality impairment, and the ability for septic system projects to mitigate water quality impairments. In a letter dated September 26, 2017 the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) distributed draft details on the septic system replacement program. NYSAC's letter provided counties with an opportunity to request the inclusion of additional priority geographic areas. DEC received a number of requests and justifications for additional priority waterbodies, and a final priority geographic list for the first year of the septic system replacement program has been established (Attachment A).

Initial available funding for each county will be based on the number of septic systems located on sole source or primary groundwater aquifers, or within a limiting distance of an identified priority surface waterbody, and population density. An overall funding commitment will be identified on a pro-rata basis for the first year of the program, with \$15 million available in the first year of a 5-year program. It is expected that for this



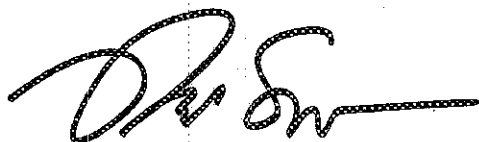
round of funding your county will be eligible for approximately \$225,000 in reimbursement, depending on overall participation by counties.

If your county is interested in participating in the Septic system replacement program, please complete Attachment B and return it to DEC by January 31, 2018.

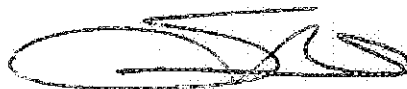
If your county chooses to participate in the program, the county will be required to enter into a program participation agreement with the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC), which will reflect the actual amount allocated to your county from the Fund for grants. The agreement will establish the terms and conditions under which the county may seek a disbursement from the Fund to provide grants to property owners for their septic system projects. Once the agreement is executed, EFC will provide additional program information and documents concerning the disbursement process, templates and forms for the program.

DEC and EFC look forward to working with you on implementing this important program. If you have any questions about priority geographic areas, please feel free to contact Thomas R. Snow, Jr. at thomas.snow@dec.ny.gov or (518) 402-9395 or Kenneth Kosinski at kenneth.kosinski@dec.ny.gov or (518) 402-8110 from DEC's Division of Water. For general program questions, please contact Eric Eichenlaub at eric.eichenlaub@efc.ny.gov from EFC at (518) 402-6968.

Sincerely,



Basil Seggos
Commissioner



Sabrina M. Ty
President and CEO

Enclosures

**Attachment A –
State Septic System Replacement Fund
Priority Geographic Areas**

County	Priority Waterbody
Allegany	Almond Lake
Broome	Park Creek and tributaries, Whitney Point Lake/Reservoir, Fly Pond, Deer and Sky Lakes
Cattaraugus	Allegany River/Reservoir
Cayuga	Cayuga, Owasco and Skaneateles Lakes
Chautauqua	Findley Lake
Chenango	Chenango and Guilford Lakes
Clinton	Upper Chateaugay Lake
Dutchess	Hillside and Sylvan Lakes
Essex	Lake Champlain/Willsboro Point
Genesee	Bigelow Creek and tributaries, Tonawanda Creek - Middle, Main Stem, Black Creek - Middle, and minor tributaries
Herkimer	North Winfield Creek and tributaries
Jefferson	Moon and Red Lakes and Indian River
Livingston	Conesus Lake
Monroe	Irondequoit Bay and minor tributaries to Irondequoit Bay, Mill Creek and tributaries, Shipbuilders Creek and tributaries
Nassau	Sole Source Aquifer
Onondaga	Otisco and Skaneateles Lakes
Ontario	Canadice, Canandaigua, Hemlock, Honeoye and Seneca Lakes
Oswego	Lake Ontario
Otsego	Goodyear Lake
Putnam	Oscawana Lake
Saratoga	Dwass Kill and tributaries
St. Lawrence	Black Lake, St. Lawrence Main Stem, Little River and tributaries, Lower portion of Raquette River and Indian River
Schoharie	Summit Lake
Schuyler	Lamoka and Waneta Lakes, Mill Pond

Seneca	Seneca and Cayuga Lakes
Steuben	Smith Pond
Suffolk	Sole Source Aquifer
Tompkins	Cayuga Lake
Wayne	Lake Ontario, Blind Sodus Bay
Wyoming	Silver and Java Lakes
Yates	Canandaigua, Keuka and Seneca Lakes

Draft meeting minutes:
Great Lakes East Basin Work Group Meetings
NE Ontario: 12/6 (10am – 2pm), Gouverneur Community Center

Meeting Objectives:

- 1) Share Great Lakes state and federal updates
 - 2) Report on progress of sub-basin work plan implementation and EBM Demonstration Projects, and discuss next steps.
 - 3) Identify near-term funding and partnership opportunities to advance work plan goals.
-

I. Welcome from our host – Dave Spilman, Town Supervisor, Village board member

- Community center completed in 2016- used for events and meals on wheels.
<http://www.gouverneurcommunitycenter.com/>

- **Introductions**

Emily Sheridan- NYSDEC/NHT; Eastern Great Lakes Watershed Coordinator

Riobart Breen- Department of State Office of Planning and Development; Ocean and Great Lakes Program

Wylie Huffman – Indian River Lakes Conservancy Executive Director

Matt Biondolillio- Consultant engineering/restoration – Kennedy-Jenks

Patricia Schulenburg – Save the River; Program Manager

Lee Willbanks – Save the River; Executive Director

Bruce Grayson – Horseshoe Pond Association

Robert Peck- NYSDOT - Regional Environmental Manager

Tom Stewart – Town of Champion

Roy Widrig- NY Sea Grant; Great Lakes Coastal Processes Specialist

Ryan Huggins – DOT; Environmental Specialist

Jen Harvill – Tug Hill commission; Natural Resources Specialist

Stewart Davey- Goose Bay Reclamation Corp

Joan Kennedy – NYSDEC; Citizen Participation Specialist

(on phone) Gerry Smith- Onondaga Audubon, Ross Holbrook – River Rats TI region

II. NY Great Lakes Basin Updates

- Partner Progress Report handout – highlights progress to advance goals including nature based shorelines, 9 element planning, mitigating harmful algae blooms and beach closures, aquatic connectivity, and promoting stewardship, including Great Lakes Ecosystem Education Exchange resources.
- NY's Great Lakes Culvert assessment pilot project – Soil and Water Conservation staff capacity provided to assess culverts in priority subwatersheds using North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative Protocols, and enter data in database at www.streamcontinuity.org Next steps are to use data to identify severe barriers and develop flood capacity modeling through DEC, share information with local municipalities, and use to leverage funding for enhancement projects from programs like Fish and wildlife Service Aquatic Fish passage, DEC WQIP Aquatic Habitat Restoration, and/or Sustain our Great Lakes. Questions/comments – would be useful if information could be viewed by jurisdiction to id local projects. (check w/ Josh Thiel to see if possible). Stream design guidance for enhancement projects is available on NAACC website and Bob can share. Uses stream stats to determine hydrology, and Federal regulatory requirement is recommended to be 1.25 times the bank full width and embedded below existing stream bed elevation. Would be good to put assessments on DOS GIS gateway.

- NYS Riparian Opportunity Assessment – Lessons learned from Great Lakes assessment used to develop new statewide assessment – including more indicators, including resiliency and citizen science data- more interactive using online Arcgis mapper. Will be useful in watershed management planning and in identifying restoration/water quality improvement projects.
- NY Sea Grant partnership – Small grants program – up to 25k available to advance goals of GLAA- usually focus on resilience and other partner identified goals. Would like to see more interest from Northeast. We are thinking of moving release and deadline application deadline up- has typically come out in the spring. Small grants can help with planning and implementation of projects that demonstrate an ecosystem based management approach. Sea Grant is also working with DOS and NYSERDA to develop monitoring protocols for nature based shorelines and will be providing trainings to interested stakeholders. Mary Austermann has been working on resiliency trainings in collaboration with SU Environmental Finance Center and had 2 successful events in Western NY. Will have resiliency training (2 sessions) at the Tug Hill Local Government conference in March.
- Black river Initiative- 2017 newsletter draft- finalized and available on Tug Hill commission website: <http://www.tughill.org/projects/black-river-projects/> Annual newsletter highlights collaborative efforts to advance the Black River watershed management plan and new 9 element plan. Also have an annual conference to bring stakeholders together and share progress – this years conference will be June 12th at camp Turk in Oneida county. Save the date and contact Jen Harvill if interested in attending or exhibiting.
- Federal updates- GLRI funding for 2018, 2019 uncertain. Federal agencies working on new Great Lakes Restoration Action plan for 2020-2025. Lakewide Action and Management Annual report available at www.binational.net New Lake Ontario LAMP is being drafted- stakeholders will have opportunity to provide feedback. Comment- GLRI funding should cover projects in the U.S. St. Lawrence watershed area (Franklin, Essex Counties). In past, only included projects that drain to U.S. Waters (through St. Lawrence county), but land use impacts watershed water quality in lower St. Lawrence. Important to have long term evaluation and operation and maintenance beyond grant funding to achieve GLRI goals.
- Area's of concern – Working to delist beneficial use impairments with 4 planned for 2018 (Rochester/Buffalo). Massena AOC – Hogansburg dam removal was completed in coordination with St. Regis Mohawk Tribe. DEC working on mussel relocation for areas that will be dredged and returning mussels after dredging (Grasse River). AOC funding only available in that area- but may be possible to have projects outside AOC that contribute to improved AOC conditions- let us know about projects. Other program funding can be leveraged.

III. Sub-basin work plans: Implementation Progress and Next Steps

- **Water quality**
 - Monitoring and source trackdown- encouraging stakeholders to work with [DEC citizen science water quality monitoring](#) programs to better coordinate monitoring and integrate local efforts into state management. Water Assessments by Volunteer Evaluators program coordinates with Rotating Intensive basin studies program- sampling by WAVE in the St. Lawrence in 2018 and RIBs will be in 2019. Professional External Evaluators of Rivers and Streams can work with DEC to develop Quality Assurance protocols and comply with EPA Clean Water Act monitoring standards. Citizen Statewide Lake Assessment Program- NYS Federation of Lake Associations and DEC partnership to monitor lake water quality and harmful algae blooms.
 - Implementing Agricultural Best Management Practices (BMP's)- Cornell and Soil and Water Districts are working with farmers, leveraging funding from USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service and the NYS Dept. of Ag and Markets to implement BMP's. New Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation laws- requiring manure storage and nutrient

management planning- funding was made available for storage. Great Lakes Commission has project to evaluate the effectiveness of BMP's in the Genesee watershed and a coordinator was hired to track BMP's. Riparian assessment can be used to id riparian buffers on private lands- but farmers are reluctant to take land out of production. Cover crops can improve soil health and improve water quality- successful in Jefferson and Lewis county. Target impaired waterways for ag BMP projects- compensate farmers for improving management- taking land out of production. Farmers are highly stewardship minded- newer farmers may need education/incentives.

- Promoting improved septic management – Ontario and St. Lawrence shorelines have a lot of septic issues. Robust state program and local capacity is needed. NYS Water Infrastructure Improvement Act is providing funding for septic rebates (50% of cost for replacement, up to 10k)- will go through eligible counties- DEC priority waterbodies list septic impaired waterways will be targeted. Jefferson/St. Lawrence county is eligible- contact county with questions. Indian River Lakes Conservancy is hosting watershed conference and would like to have program administrators talk about funding, as well as experts to talk about septic issues and resources. Goose Bay EBM project looking to demonstrate outreach/education, septic testing, and collaborative opportunities to address septic issues. Emily will be getting in touch with stakeholders to further scope out a strategy.

- **Natural Resources**

- Aquatic Connectivity – NYSDDOT – replacing culvert at Bear creek in the Town of Ellisburg in Jefferson County located on NYS Route 193 stream crossing, due to high flood event- will become a bridge and be expanded from 16 to 34 ft. New design will provide for enhanced aquatic passage and better management of flows. Information from NAACC can help guide climate adaptation for road stream crossings. NYSDOT does bridge inspections every 2 years- some interest in training. NYSDOT can help localities with assessing/designing road stream crossings. Also working with USFWS and looking into improvements for some culverts that are considered barrier's to aquatic life movement on NYS Route 37. NYSDOT is progressing several projects in the Adirondack park that will likely be Bridge Replacements based on new regulatory criteria, (i.e. 1.25 bankfull width).
- Promoting stewardship – Tug Hill Commission annual trash bash coordination in the Black River- Jefferson Community College participated this year and volunteers picked up approximately 500 pounds of trash. Of local concern was a meth lab in Lewis county that could have hurt someone, and balloons in Inlet that can impact wildlife. Trash bash is a good model for other watersheds. Indian River Lakes Conservancy is interested in coordinating a similar event. Lee had worked with Genesee brewing company and got a boat/equipment to remove trash from the bottom of the St. Lawrence at Eel Bay. Brewers/wineries are good partners- they depend on water resources.
- Protect and restore priority habitats
Coastal wetland restoration
Onondaga Audubon – plan 2014 will restore habitat – fluctuations will enhance wetland diversity.
RiverRats- Important to consider important species/habitat in planning for alternative energy such as wind turbines. NYSERDA mapping project – Wind Power and Biodiversity in NY- identified areas that could impact endangered and threatened species if wind development is sited – important information to consider. Draft Fort Drum Joint Land Use study is available and stakeholders can provide feedback before it is finalized- consider science available to help inform.
Fish and wildlife Service - Little Sucker Brook - We completed the bank stabilization portion of the walleye spawning enhancement project. We installed a floodplain bench to move the river from the toe of an eroding slope during base flows to decrease sediment entering the river. Goose Bay Wetland Enhancement Project – We are working with the permitting agencies on securing all necessary regulatory permits for the proposed work. No further

updates at this time, still hopeful we can complete the project this Winter but it depends on the timing of the permit process.

DOT mitigation projects for loss of bat habitat- payment to conservation trust.

- Sustainable, resilient communities
 - Conduct vulnerability assessments –
DOT is working with Jefferson county Metropolitan planning organization to integrate resiliency, economic and social perspectives into transportation planning. Also engineering a new bridge at Fort Drum to reduce congestion/improve air quality.
 - Integrate FEMA Community Rating System/Hazard Mitigation planning into decision making - Save the River – communicating science and facts about risks from precipitation events to St. Lawrence communities. IJC plan 2014 seeks to balance interests – there is some uncertainty about causes of Lake Ontario/St. Lawrence flooding. Flooding risks also include introductions of Asian carp and there is a need to maintain barriers. Community resiliency planning is needed that addresses land use/climate change.
 - Promote recreation (consistent with sustainable use of resources/stewardship goals)
Black River trail extension was completed (City of Watertown/State Parks) and a trash cleanup was held to promote stewardship. Is there an interest in extending from Black River to Great Bend? City plans to extend from Williams st through fairgrounds. State Parks owns trail and can work with surrounding communities- leveraged rails to trails grants.

V. EBM Demonstration Project Update

- Review progress towards applying an EBM approach to implement work plan goals within our target sub-watersheds and discuss next steps.
 - Goose Bay EBM – Key stakeholders engaged through calls and a meeting was held at Kring point state park in August. Goose Bay Reclamation Corps also provided a boat tour. FWS, Thousand Islands Land Trust, and GBRC shared projects underway- including restoration projects, stewardship and land conservation, and aquatic invasive species control. Identified/discussed potential projects applying an EBM approach including an Army Corps hydrology study, water quality monitoring, and a septic strategy. Emily will be reaching out to stakeholders and further scoping out potential project(s). Town of Alexandria recently leveraged funding from GLRI for AIS control, and from EFC for a sewer from A Bay to 81.

VI. Review upcoming funding opportunities that apply to work plan goals (handout)

VII. Action Planning Discussion (Break outs by topic/funding opportunity if desired)

- How can we address challenges and advance work plan priorities using available funding and through partnership? What is needed? Who can lead an application?
 - Potential project ideas
 - Indian River Lakes Conservancy would like to work with partners to address water quality issues. Working with Oneonta on watershed planning- can integrate into St. Lawrence watershed plan that is being developed under DOS grant.
 - Save the River – would like to work with communities to enhance resiliency – need to engage additional stakeholders.
 - DEC Climate Smart Communities- can promote to communities- provides guidance on how to address vulnerability and reduce climate change impacts.
 - DOT interested in leveraging GLRI funding for restoration work.

VII. Review Action Items & Announcements

- Follow up discussions needed – IRLC septics, STR resiliency, Goose Bay EBM. Need to engage local stakeholders/communities.