

**Oak Orchard Watershed Protection Alliance**  
**Minutes**  
**December 14, 2011**  
**Orleans County Soil and Water Conservation District**

**Present:** Judy Bennett, David Drake, Dennis Kirby, Dan Schuth, Katie Sommerfeldt, George Thomas, Dominic Cardone, Vincent Cardone

**I. Introductions**

- II. Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI):** Dan reported that the Soil and Water Conservation received final approval for the \$67,000 for grassed waterways and filter strips. We are advertising for farmers to come in to apply. In the process of doing the work there are very detailed specifications that have to be followed and engineered by a licensed engineer. It was to be a 3 year grant and 2012 would be the third year. FL-LOWPA is looking into filing for an extension.

**III. Canoe Access:**

- A. Drake reported that we haven't heard anything new on this. He reported that the Planning Department resubmitted the request of access on Route 63 for liability issues.
- B. V. Cardone reported that quite some time ago this area used to be a park.
- C. Dan reported that he attended a meeting and learned that state legislation last spring passed a law that allows Soil and Water Conservation Districts to hold conservation easements.
- D. V. Cardone reported on property that he owns along the Oak Orchard River.

- IV. Canal Water Sample Analysis:** Drake said he will contact Todd Shervin from the Health Department to see what has gone on with this.

- V. Canal Water Usage Within the Watershed:** Dan reported that the Soil and Water Conservation has no idea how much water is being added to our watersheds from the Erie Canal. This was one thing that Paul Richards from Brockport College was having problems with on the SWAT Model. Katie has been working with Todd Lipka from the Canal Corporation to locate the siphons along the Canal so that we can see how much water is coming through Orleans County.

- VI. Niagara River Watershed Alliance Meeting:** Drake reported that he attended this meeting and he brought back some correspondence. They were able to secure some funding for their Watershed Management Plan. They were getting feedback from the public on their priorities. Discussed. Talked about the board of directors and supporters of the Niagara River Watershed Management Plan. V. Cardone reported that one of the supporters listed is the John R. Oishei Foundation and one of the family members lives on the shores of Lake Ontario in Orleans County.

**VII. Other Items:**

- A. V. Cardone asked about how the different agencies work together.
- B. V. Cardone asked if we were aware that several years ago that a three year study was done of the entire Oak Orchard River Basin. There was a report of what was found. He said this was done by the state about 20 years ago and this should be on file some place in Albany.
- C. V. Cardone mentioned that we might want to contact Forrestel Farms in Medina to get them involved with the Oak Orchard Watershed Protection Alliance.
- D. V. Cardone expressed his concern with the ditch that drains water from the roadway through his property and into the Oak Orchard River on Route 98 at the Harbour Point Golf Course.
- E. Thomas discussed the Rochester Embayment's area of concern. In their plan they have identified Oak Orchard Creek as two of their impairments. He brings this up because when we are trying to get funding, we can use that information in the applications.
- F. Thomas reported that about a month ago the CEI held a public meeting to show the results of their study and to get feedback. The Gypsum mine gave them new data to change what they had. They also responded to some of the information to the farm animal input. With the changes, the pie chart showed more impacts caused by farm animals. Discussed.
- G. Thomas handed out a description of a 9 element plan that is required to have to get GLRI funding.
- H. Drake mentioned that the Nature Conservancy is working on invasive species in this area of New York State. Also, Margo Bowerman from Cornell Cooperative Extension is going to be working with invasive species quite a bit as part of her job.
- I. Drake mentioned that the escarpment in this area is being looked at as an area of interest.
- J. Drake asked if there was any way to figure out the percentage of bare farmlands in this county in relationship to the river. Dan reported that there is cost share money available for cover crops through the Natural Resources Conservation Service.
- K. Discussed the impact of the Iroquois Wildlife Refuge on the watershed.

**VIII. Next Meeting – Wednesday, February 15, 2012 at 7:00 pm**