

# Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council (OLWMC)

*Organizational Review, 2022 Budget, Regulatory Status,  
Public Outreach Initiatives, and Special Projects*



**ADAM EFFLER**, PHD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE  
OWASCO LAKE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
**ALLY BERRY**, LEAD WATERSHED INSPECTOR, OWASCO LAKE  
WATERSHED INSPECTION AND PROTECTION DIVISION

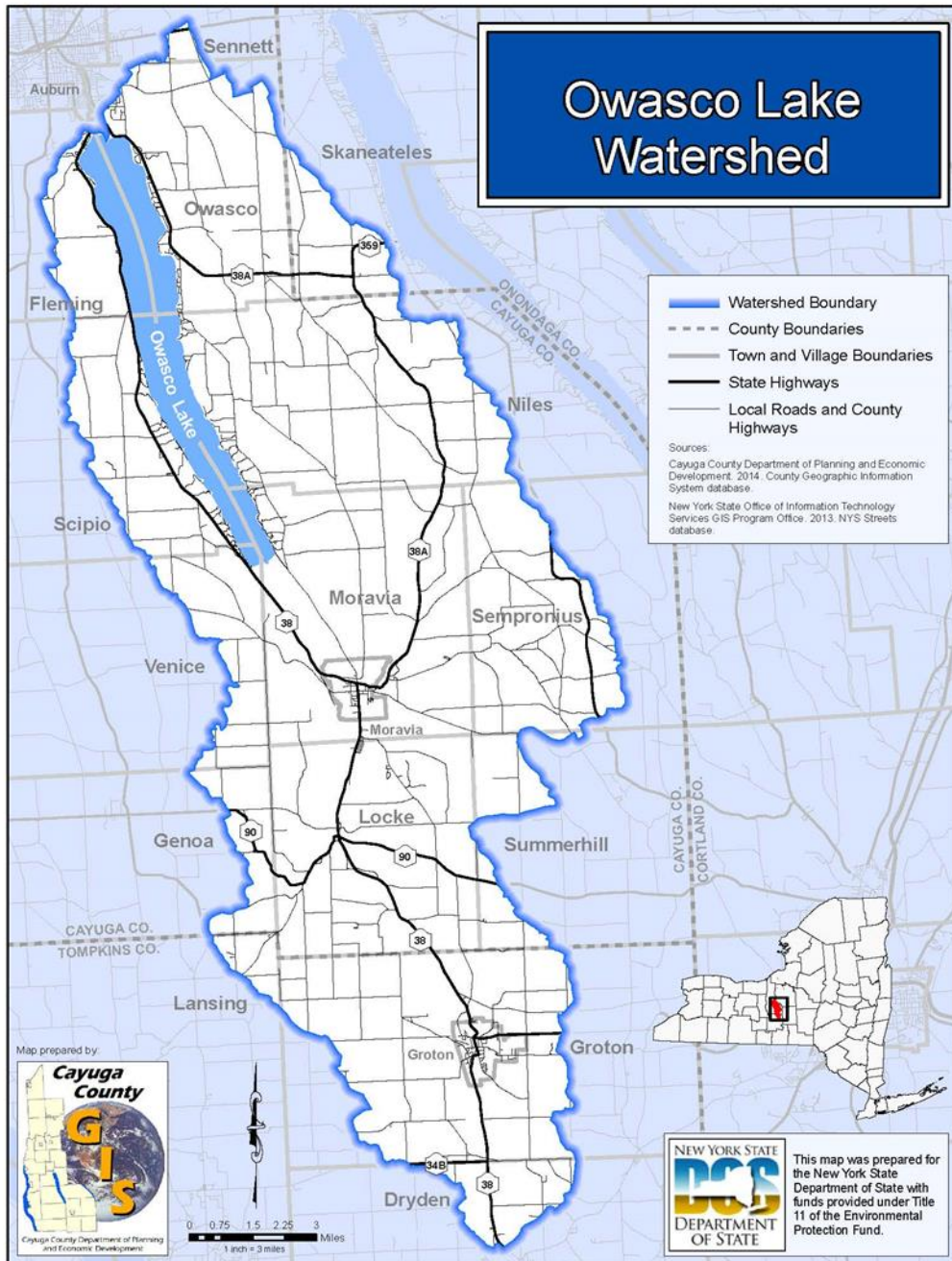


# Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council

- ▶ In 2010, Senator Mike Nozolio committed the first \$60K to start the Inspection program with the requirement that the local contingent agreed to fund it afterwards.
- ▶ Ultimate goal of the OLWMC is protection and restoration of the watershed to protect and improve lake water quality, acknowledging the fact lake degradation is driven by non-point source pollution/watershed activities.



# Owasco Lake Watershed by the Numbers



- ▶ **Drainage Area:** 208 square miles
- ▶ **Counties:** 3 - Cayuga, Onondaga, Tompkins
- ▶ **Townships-15:** Groton, Lansing, Locke, Dryden, Fleming, Genoa, Moravia, Niles, Owasco, Scipio, Sempronius, Sennett, Skaneateles, Summerhill, Venice
- ▶ **Villages-2:** Moravia, Groton
- ▶ **Maximum Lake Depth:** ~177 ft.
- ▶ **Lake Length:** 11 Miles
- ▶ **Lake Average Width:** 1.2 Miles
- ▶ **Lake Average Depth:** 96 ft.
- ▶ **Finger Lakes Rank:** 6th Largest
- ▶ **Number of Consumers Drinking Owasco Lake Waters:** ~46,000
- ▶ **Land to Lake Ratio:** 20:1 (Largest of Finger Lakes)
- ▶ **Average Volume of water in Owasco Lake:** ~260,000,000,000 gallons



# Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council

## Duties:

- ▶ Actively monitors and evaluates the general health of the waters of Owasco Lake and its watershed
  - ▶ Supports research in the watershed to help drive management decisions
- ▶ Oversees the Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection and Protection Division to identify and stop activities within the watershed that may result in a decrease of water quality
- ▶ Works on implementing projects by partnering with various agencies including, but not limited to, Cayuga County, The Nature Conservancy, the Owasco Watershed Lake Association, the Finger Lakes Institute the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- ▶ Looks to implement educational programs that will increase public awareness about the responsible care and protection of the watershed.





# Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council's Broad Goals

- ▶ Buy-in, build directorship
  - ▶ Currently 13 Directors, eleven of which are watershed municipal representatives
  - ▶ **A balanced approach necessary for achieving behavior change and advancing conservation**
    - ▶ Support the rollout of updated community consensus Watershed Rules and Regulations for the interest of compliance
      - ▶ **Under Review by the NYSDOH**
    - ▶ Expand community outreach and education to promote the adoption of conservation and best practices
  - ▶ Identify and secure funding sources to advance watershed protection and restoration projects/programs



# Buy-In, Members and Directors

- ▶ Thane Benson, Town Council Member, Town of Locke
  - ▶ Joan Jayne, Town Supervisor, Town of Niles
  - ▶ Ginny Kent, City Councilor, City of Auburn ★
  - ▶ Aileen McNabb-Coleman, County Legislator, Cayuga County
  - ▶ Don Oltz, Town Supervisor, Town of Fleming
  - ▶ Melinda Pitman, Town Board Member, Town of Scipio ★
  - ▶ Ed Wagner, Town Supervisor, Town of Owasco
  - ▶ Terry Baxter, Town Supervisor, Town of Moravia
  - ▶ Gary Mulvaney, Mayor, Village of Moravia
  - ▶ Nancy Niswender, Village Clerk, Village of Groton
  - ▶ Charlie Ripley, Supervisor, Town of Summerhill
  - ▶ Thomas Blair, Town Supervisor, Town of Sennett ★
  - ▶ Anne Clarke, Conservation Board, Town of Dryden ★★
- New Directorship, 2022 ★
- New Representatives, 2022 ★



Board meeting  
recognition for  
Councilor Debby  
McCormick for  
years of service as  
a Member to the  
OLWMC and  
Watershed  
Inspection  
Committee



Photo taken by Chuck Mason



# Buy-In Targets

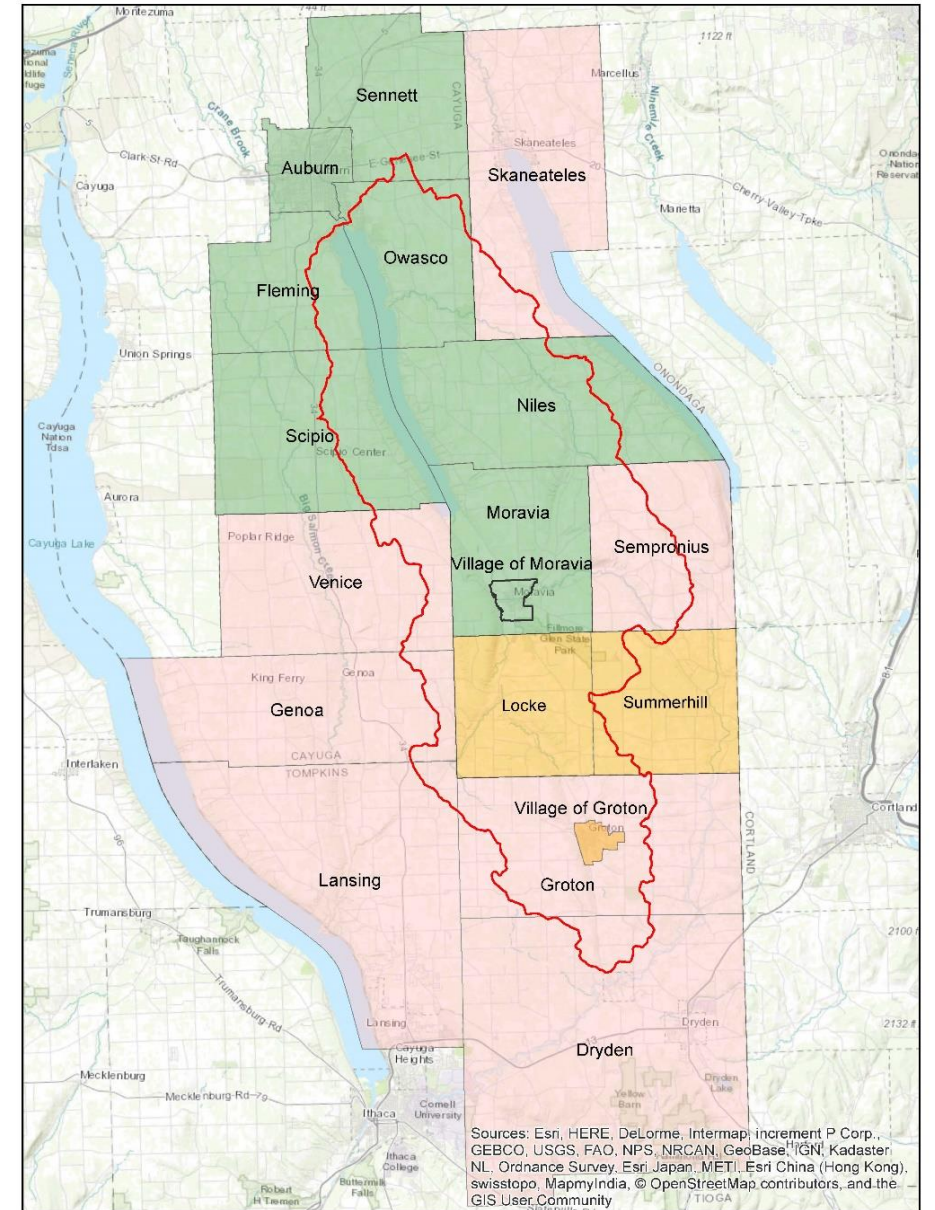
- ▶ *The OLWMC presents the opportunity to leverage a unified voice for improved water quality watershed wide.*

## Director Vacancies to be filled:

Towns of:

1. Groton
2. Sempronius
3. Venice
4. Genoa
5. Skaneateles
6. Lansing

## OLWMC Directorship Status

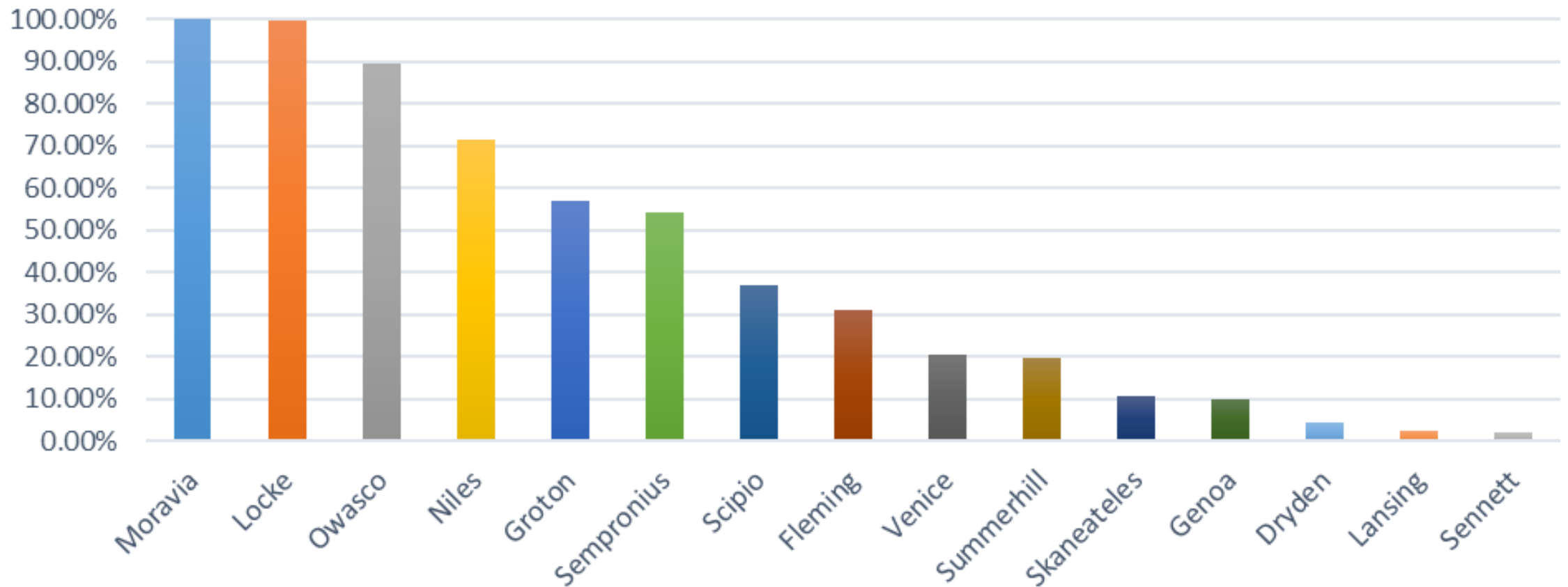


- Directorships Making a Financial Commitment
- Directorships yet to Make a Financial Commitment
- Watershed Municipalities yet to Join the OLWMC
- Owasco Lake Watershed Boundary

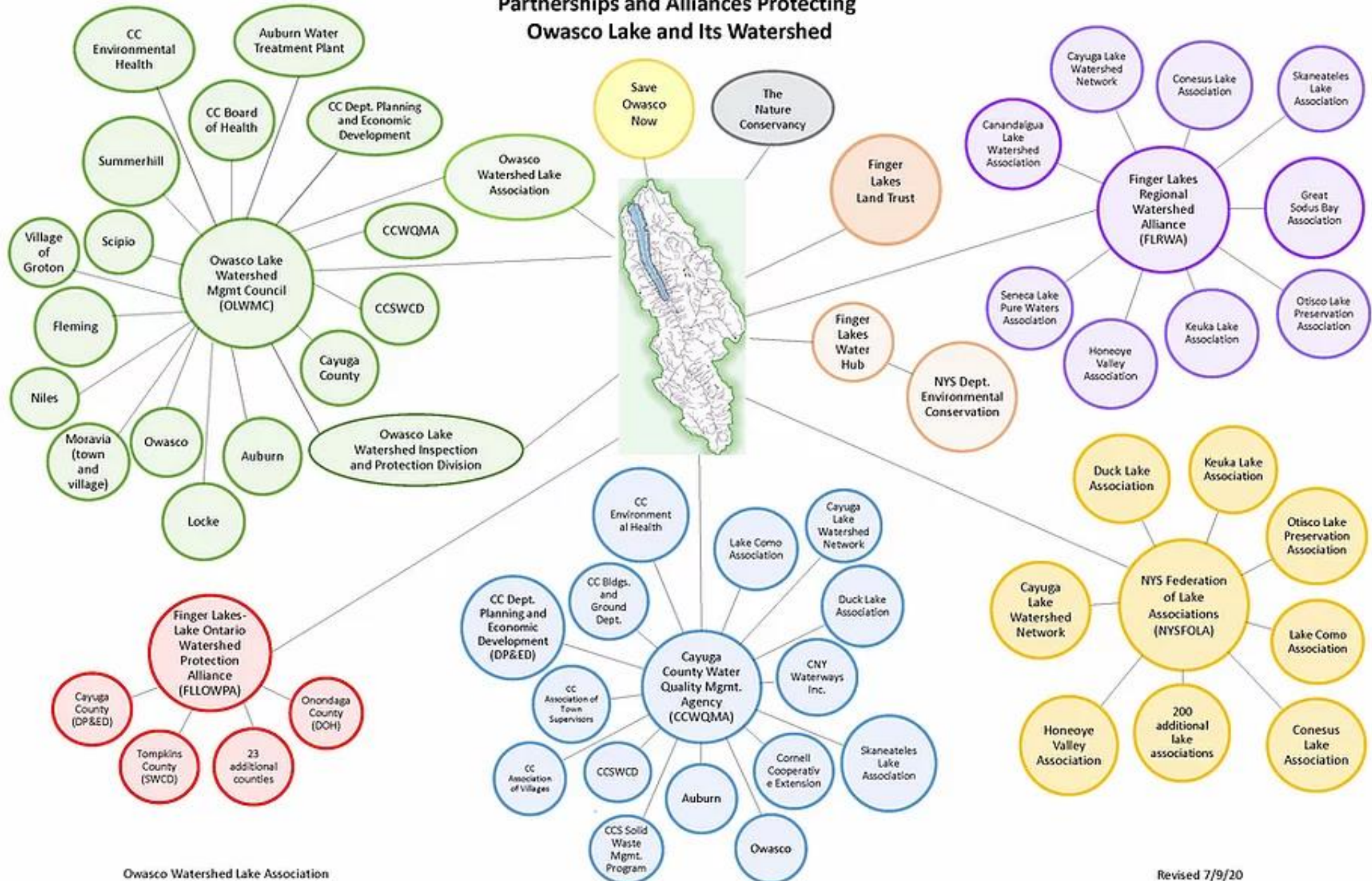




## Percent of Municipal Area Contained Within Watershed



# Partnerships and Alliances Protecting Owasco Lake and Its Watershed





# Overarching Watershed Goal-Prevention, the 'Bottom-Up' Approach

## ► Pollutant Reduction

- Existing Watershed Rules and Regulations
- Updated Watershed Rules and Regulations
  - Nutrient management plan requirements for farms
  - Riparian buffer requirements
  - Setbacks Requirements
  - Better Protections for ditches
- Consistent and common messaging to promote education towards conservation
- Land Acquisition
- Municipal Advancements
  - Climate Smart Communities
  - Self-sustained sediment and erosion control measures for municipalities



# Watershed Rules and Regulations (WRR) Update Advocacy Campaign

- ▶ Advocacy letters by watershed residents and businesses were packaged and delivered to local officials. A variety of meetings with NYS politicians were held to elicit public support and written endorsement letters to be delivered to the governor's office and NYSDOH.
  - ▶ Working closely with Cayuga County, Riverkeeper, OWLA, Town of Owasco officials, City of Auburn officials, and Environmental Advocates of NY to drive the process forward



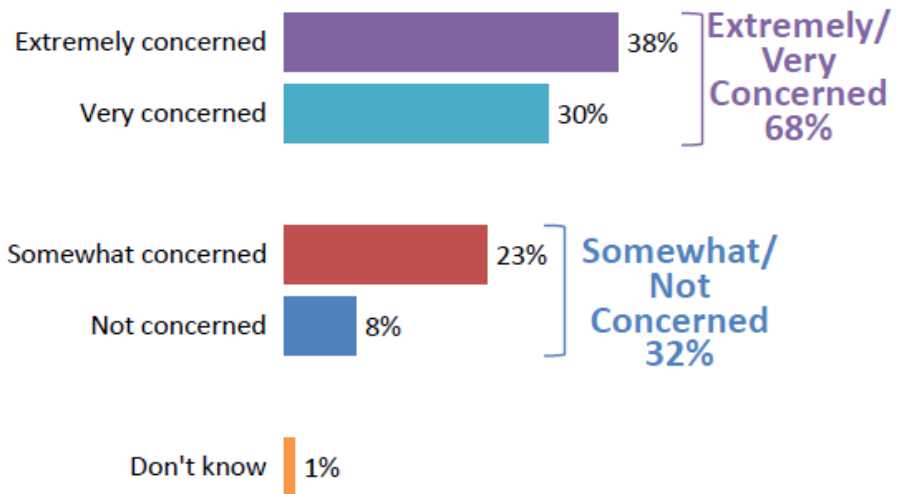


# Why is this Work Critically Important?



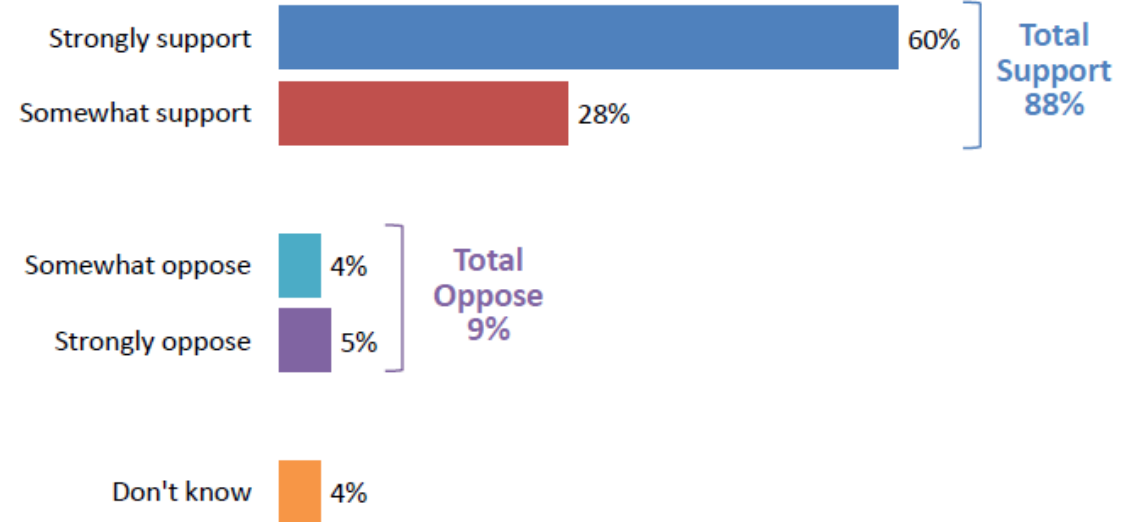
## More than two-thirds report being “extremely” or “very concerned” about waters in the Finger Lakes

*How concerned are you about the condition of the waters in the Finger Lakes?*



## Nearly nine in ten support increased funding for programs to address Finger Lakes water quality – three in five “strongly.”

*In general, would you support or oppose increased funding for programs that would help improve water quality and reduce algae blooms in the Finger Lakes?*



Olivia Green, 2021

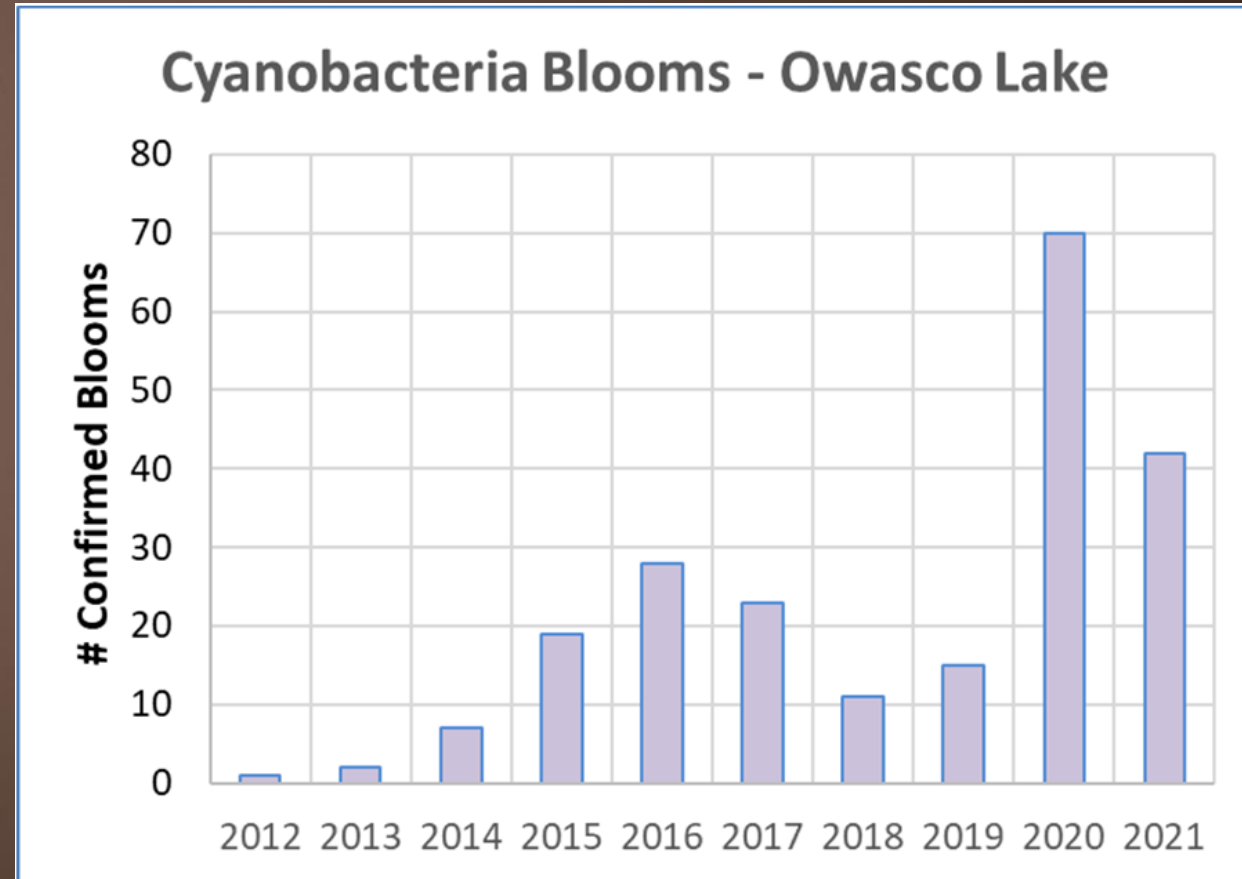
- 2020 Polling Project by the Nature Conservancy
- ~800 Voters

# Why is this Work Critically Important?

Widespread Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) at North End



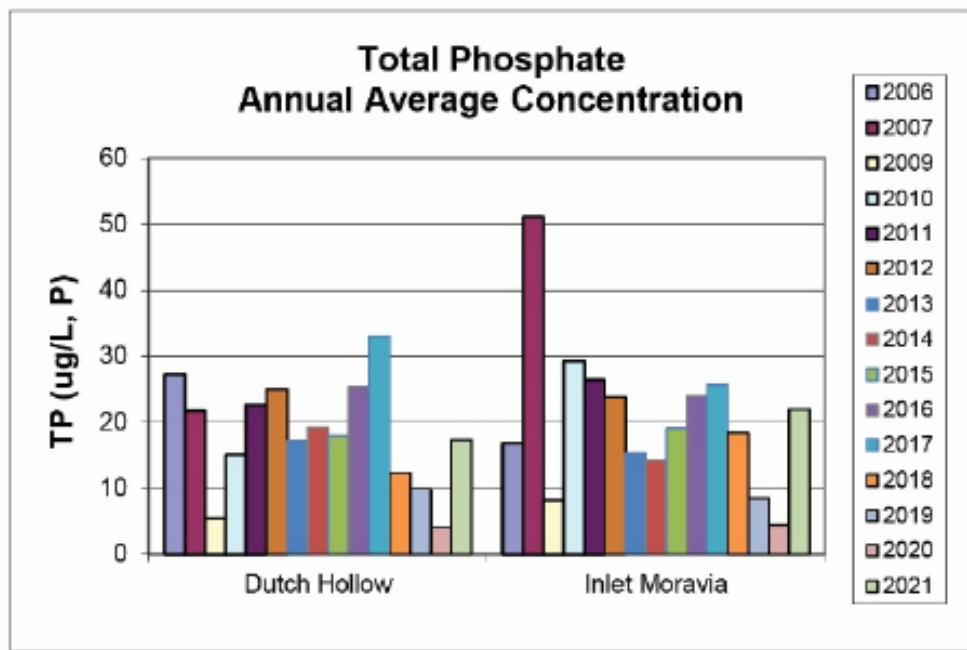
Number of confirmed cyanobacterial blooms in Owasco Lake tabulated by the DEC NYS-HABs website (Halfman et al., 2021)



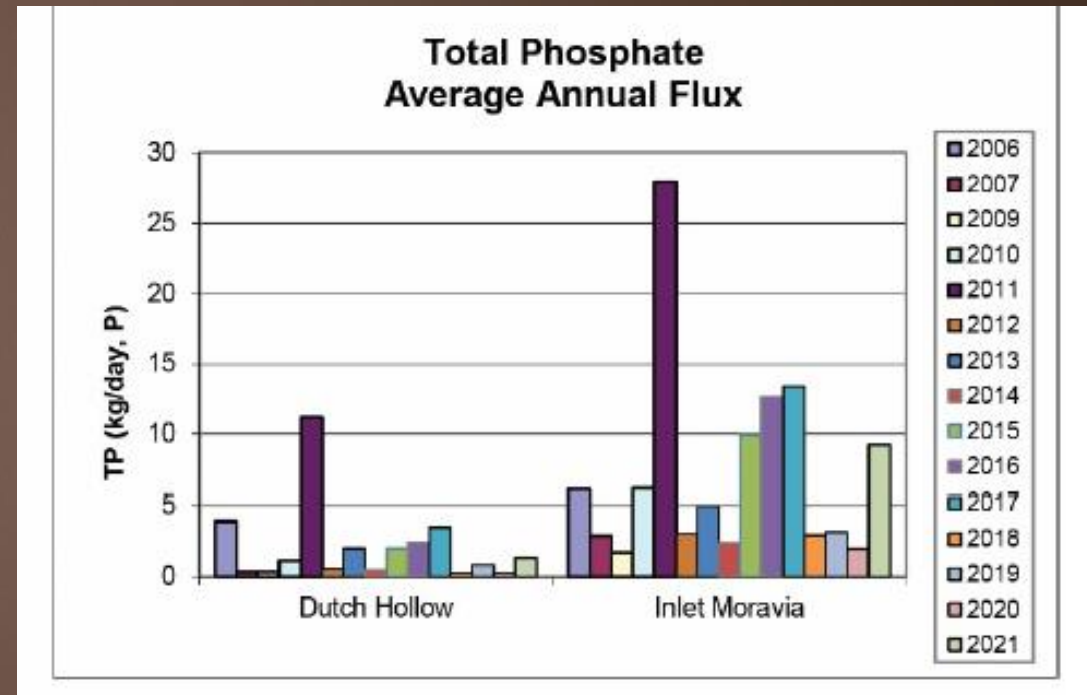


# Drivers and What We Can Control

**Limiting Nutrient-** The nutrient in lowest quantity relative to an organisms need for growth. Phosphorus is known to be the limiting nutrient for algal production in freshwater systems.

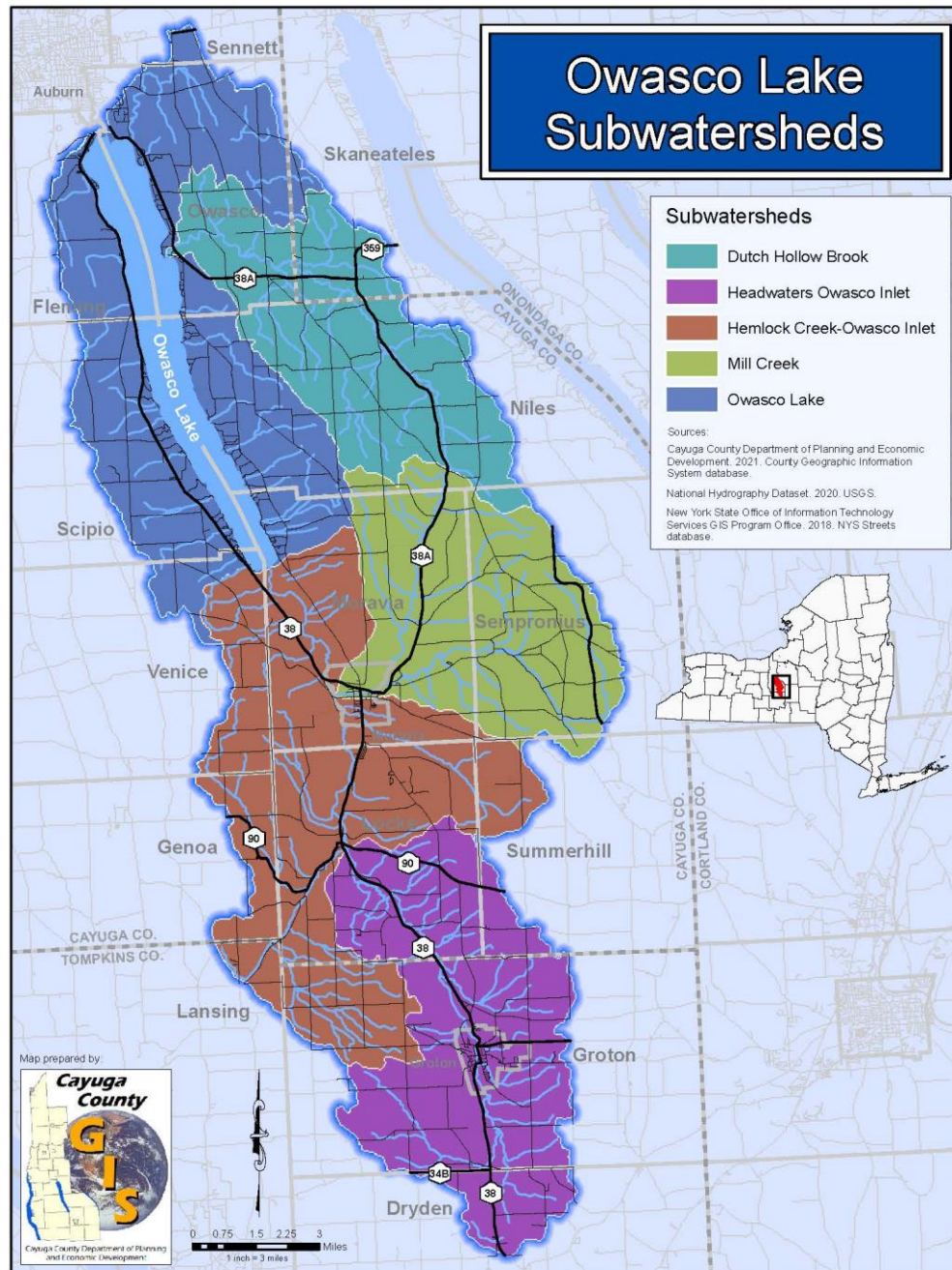


(Halfman et al., 2021)



(Halfman et al., 2021)

Daily nutrient and sediment loads measured near the terminus of Dutch Hollow Brook revealed that over 90% of the loads are delivered during precipitation/runoff events, typically in the spring season, and more spread out through the field season in 2021.



## The 9 Key Element Watershed Plan

Within the 9E plan's Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) Model, five sub-watersheds were evaluated for their lake impacts and recommendations.



## Land Use Percentages in the Owasco Lake watershed

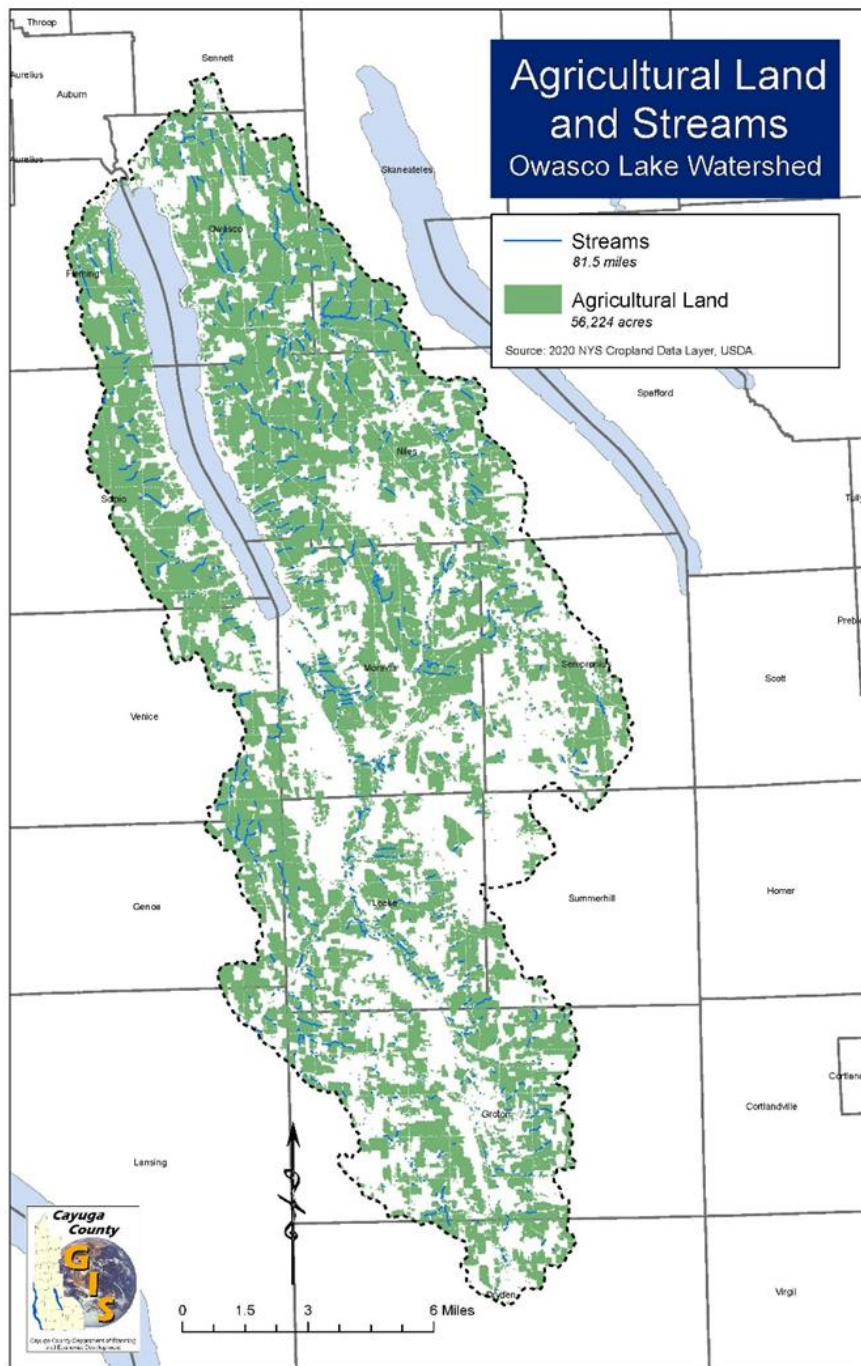
Region	Agriculture	Forest	Developed
Entire Watershed	55	41	3
Dutch Hollow	64.5	32.8	2.5
Owasco Inlet Headwaters	43.8	50.5	2.8
Mill Creek	46.9	50.7	1.9
Hemlock Creek	56.5	41.2	0.6
Direct Drainage to Lake	69.3	25.4	4.1

(Halfman et al., 2021)

Agricultural land is a primary land use in the watershed and agricultural land contributes proportionally more nutrients and suspended sediments per acre than any other land use in the watershed. **The 9E Plan's SWAT Model predicted that the annual total phosphorus (TP) load is from:**

- Cultivated Crops (53%)
- Pasture/Hay Fields (36%)
- Forested Lands (6%)
- Developed Lands (5%).

**Thus, nearly 90% of the phosphorus loads originate from the agricultural sector.**



# Findings of the SWAT Model and Recommendations.

## (9E Plan Public Meeting #2, 9/21/21)

In the agricultural sector, the SWAT Model indicated that significant phosphorus loading reductions **will result** from three remediation practices:

1. Restriction of manure and fertilizer application to the land.
2. Adoption of strict nutrient management planning for all farms.
3. Use of winter (i.e., cover) crops.



# Proposed and Committed 2022 Core REVENUE SOURCES

<u>City of Auburn:</u>	\$210,000 requested, \$210,000 <b><u>committed</u></b>
<u>Town of Owasco:</u>	\$28,000 requested, \$29,000 <b><u>committed</u></b> (+\$2,000)
<u>Town of Fleming:</u>	\$10,000 requested, \$7,000 <b><u>committed</u></b>
<u>Town of Scipio:</u>	\$2,500 requested, \$3,000 <b><u>committed</u></b> (+\$500)
<u>Town of Niles:</u>	\$2,000 requested, \$2,000 <b><u>committed</u></b>
<u>Town of Moravia:</u>	\$2,000 requested, \$2,000 <b><u>committed</u></b> (+\$1,000)
<u>Village of Moravia:</u>	\$2,000 requested, \$2,000 <b><u>committed</u></b>
<u>Town of Sennett:</u>	\$2,000 requested, \$2,500 <b><u>committed</u></b>
<u>Hamlet of Locke:</u>	\$2,000 requested budgeted amount
<u>Village of Groton:</u>	\$2,000 requested budgeted amount
<u>Town of Summerhill:</u>	\$2,000 requested budgeted amount
<u>Town of Dryden:</u>	\$0 requested, \$0 <b><u>committed</u></b>
<u>Town of Genoa:</u>	\$0 requested, \$200 <b><u>committed</u></b> (+\$200)

***Current Committed Annual Total: \$257,700***



- The OLWMC is requesting all municipalities within the watershed contribute.
- The OLWMC prepares grant proposals for specific projects.

# Local Dollars Led by Water Purveyors

- The relative rate cost (per volume) of water drawn and sold from the lake, as a funding contribution to OLWMC, has been maintained as nearly equitable between the City of Auburn and the Town of Owasco.
- Both water purveyors acknowledge:
  1. The sense of urgency in the community for a clean and safe lake water resource.
  2. Support the OLWMC's need to enhance ongoing and future watershed protection and restoration measures.
  3. Staffing for Watershed Inspection.

## Municipal Commitments to Watershed Protection Fees for 2022

### Town of Owasco/Fleming/Niles Contribution for 2022: \$38,000

*Owasco Water Sold (2021)= 146,285 – 1,000 gallon units*

*\$/1000 gallon = \$ 0.2598/1,000 gallon*

### Current City of Auburn/Sennett Contribution in 2022: \$212,500

*Auburn Water Sold (2021)= 1,224,351 – 1,000 gallon units*

*\$/1000 gallon = \$ 0.1736/1,000 gallon*

*Less Sennett' current annual rate (\$2,500), and relative to total water sold in 2021, an annual City of Auburn commitment of ~\$315,586 would be required to meet Owasco/Fleming/Niles commitment.*

*Proposed City of Auburn Commitment for 2023 (3% increase from 2022):*

**\$216,300**



**OWASCO LAKE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COUNCIL, INC.**  
**2022 Budget**

	<u>2021 Budget</u>	<u>Proposed 2022 Budget</u>	<u>Difference (2021/2022)</u>
<b>INCOME</b>			
<b>Watershed Steward Fees</b>			
Auburn	200,000	210,000	10,000
Soil & Water	-	-	-
OWLA	-	-	-
Owasco	27,000	29,000	2,000
Fleming	7,000	7,000	-
Niles	2,000	2,000	-
Town of Moravia	1,000	2,000	1,000
Village of Moravia	2,000	2,000	-
Groton	-	-	-
Locke	-	-	-
Summerhill	-	-	-
Sennett	2,500	2,500	-
Scipio	2,500	3,000	500
Grants and other Contributions	4,000	6,450	2,450
PPP Loan Forgiveness Proceeds	-	-	-
Other Income	-	-	-
<b>Total Income</b>	<u><b>248,000</b></u>	<u><b>263,950</b></u>	<u><b>15,950</b></u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
<b>Personnel &amp; Benefits Expenses</b>			
Executive Director	84,272	87,685	3,413
Lead Watershed Inspector	58,264	47,940	(10,324)
Watershed Inspector	43,281	41,000	(2,281)
Summer Seasonal	-	-	-
Summer Seasonal Reimbursement	-	-	-
<b>Total Personnel Expenses</b>	<u><b>185,817</b></u>	<u><b>176,625</b></u>	<u><b>(9,192)</b></u>
<b>Benefits</b>			
FICA	14,215	14,641	426

**OWASCO LAKE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COUNCIL, INC.**

**2022 Budget**

Unemployment	1,239	1,239	-
Health Insurance	-	8,285	8,285
Retirement	18,756	19,131	375
Disability Ins.	600	600	-
Worker's Comp.	1,800	1,800	-
<b>Total Benefits</b>	<b>36,610</b>	<b>45,696</b>	<b>9,086</b>
<b>Total Personnel &amp; Benefits Expenses</b>	<b>222,427</b>	<b>222,321</b>	<b>(106)</b>
<b>Vehicle Expenses</b>			
Autotomobile and Trailer Insurance	3,500	5,732	2,232
Mileage	800	200	(600)
Fuel	2,000	2,500	500
Repairs & Maintenance	2,500	3,000	500
<b>Total Vehicle Expenses</b>	<b>8,800</b>	<b>11,432</b>	<b>2,632</b>
<b>Field Expenses</b>			
Lab testing	500	500	-
Field Supplies	1,500	1,500	-
<b>Total Field Expenses</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Office Expenses</b>			
Postage	500	500	-
Banking Fees	100	200	100
Advertising	200	600	400
Printing/Copying - Service Agreement	500	1,000	500
Payroll Processing Fees	1,300	1,400	100
Telecommunications	4,800	5,200	400
Website Development	-	1,000	1,000
Staff Development	1,200	1,200	-
Office Supplies	1,250	1,250	-
Books, Subscriptions, Reference	-	50	50
Liability & Director's Insurance	4,800	5,500	700
Drone Insurance	750	750	-
Rent	6,000	10,200	4,200



**OWASCO LAKE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COUNCIL, INC.**

**2022 Budget**

Utilities		3,000	3,000
Business Registration fees	-	50	50
Outside Contract Services	1,500	1,800	300
Professional fees	-	-	-
Audit/Tax Accounting	4,050	4,000	(50)
<b>Total Office Expenses</b>	<b>26,950</b>	<b>37,700</b>	<b>10,750</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>260,177</b>	<b>273,453</b>	<b>13,276</b>
<b>Net Income/(Loss)</b>	<b>(12,177)</b>	<b>(9,503)</b>	<b>2,674</b>

**Bottom Line-** Planned 2022 Deficit = \$9,503

- Planned deficits are not uncommon for organizations experiencing rapid growth.
- Typically, municipalities will not allow for expenses that generate a total deficit equivalent to 35% or more of their fund balance.
- Shortfall will be paid for with OLWMC fund balance.

**Net Planned Deficit, Reduced from 2021**

- The deficit is ~2% of the current fund balance, a reduction of ~50% from 2021 (which was a planned deficit of ~4% of the fund balance).
  - Ongoing and Future Budgetary Revenue for specific projects and programs targets grant award funding.



# Grant Funding

## Recent Awards:

- \$4950 from Hobart William Smith PRISM for AIS Portaboard
- OLWIPD New Vehicle Expense
  - \$16,000- Emerson Foundation
  - \$5,000- French Foundation
  - \$5,000- Metcalf Foundation
- \$10,000 from the Great Lakes Commission towards agriculture conservation implementation
  - Conservation Kick facilitates the sale of water quality credits by upstream agricultural producers to downstream drinking water utilities to protect sources of drinking water from nutrient pollution.
  - Based on the Great Lakes Commission's analysis, and relative to all other Conservation Kick projects planned across the Great Lakes Basin, the CCSWCD/OLWMC project will result in the greatest nutrient reduction outcomes.



Conservation  
Kick







# Legging up Grant Funding

## Forthcoming Proposal Resubmission

### ➤ NRCS RCPP

- Submission of RCPP project \$1M+ proposal through NRCS according to a committed partnership between OLWMC, CCSWCD, and OWLA.

NY – New York

### 2383 - Critical Conservation Areas (CCAs) - Great Lakes Region - 2021 - Owasco Lake Source Water Protection Project

Project Name: 2383 - Owasco Lake Source Water Protection Project

Funding Pool: Critical Conservation Areas (CCAs)

CCA: Great Lakes Region

Lead Partner Organization: Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council (117327397)

Partner Name: Adam Joseph Effler

Lead State: NY

Partner States:

Partner Address: 197 Franklin St, Auburn, NY 13021

Organizational POC: ajjeffler.olwmc@gmail.com | (315) 975-7146

Project Start and End Years: 2021 - 2026

Project Type: RCPP Classic

Primary Resource Concern: Field sediment, nutrient and pathogen loss

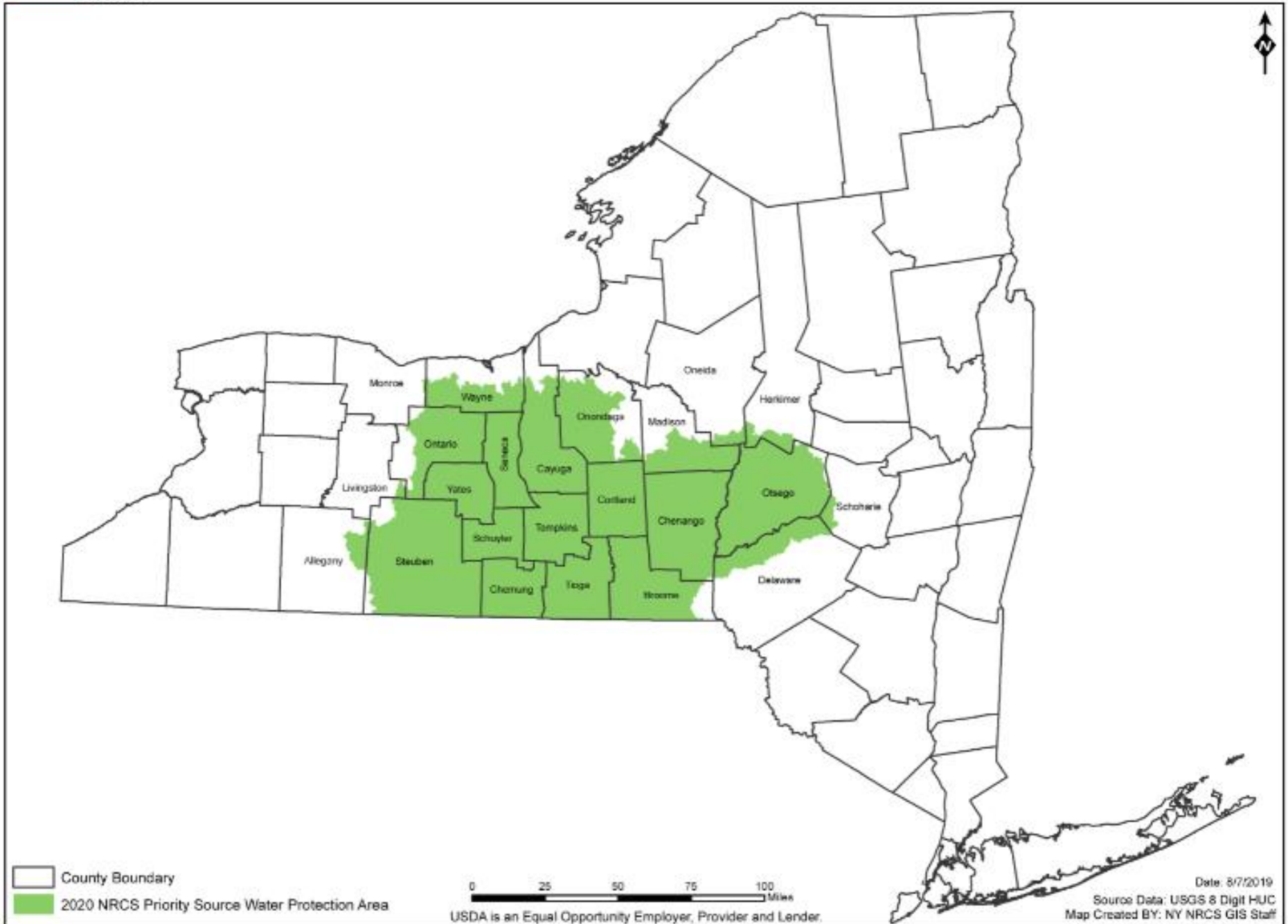
Additional Resource Concern: Aquatic habitat; Long term protection of land; Storage and handling of pollutants; Terrestrial habitat; Weather resilience

### Description of Goals and Objectives:

The intermunicipal Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council (OLWMC), in conjunction with the Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District (CCSWCD), propose to deploy a full-scale sediment and nutrient reduction program that will focus on establishing farm plans within the Owasco Lake Watershed. The landscape of the Owasco Lake watershed is predominantly agricultural. The farming community is poised to be subject to new environmental rules and regulations that will prove costly to producers. An extensive network of watershed tributaries and roadside ditches that convey water to the lake run adjacent to privately held agricultural lands. Recent limnological data show that the watercourse network in the Owasco Lake Watershed contributes an estimated 20-40% of sediment and nutrient loading to Owasco Lake. Based on these findings, emerging local Watershed Rules and Regulations (WRR) have targeted farm planning to identify suitable conservation practices for implementation. Required farm plans, under the new WRR, are projected to be the responsibility of producers who farm land adjacent to these watercourses. This partnership seeks to implement an innovative and comprehensive watershed-scale planning effort to: 1) educate and help watershed producers to proactively address the coming regulations with minimal or no adverse, on-farm economic consequences; 2) expand the partners' demonstrated successes with watershed farm planning and established trust within the watershed community and; 3) provide assistance throughout the watershed to advance efficient and sustainable farm practices to increase on-farm return on investment. These objectives will advance the capacity of project partners to implement critical conservation practices in the watershed, reduce the burden on local producers associated with new regulatory requirements, and ensure upgraded maintenance of the installed practices. This initiative will help protect a critical drinking water resource.

### Description of Expected Environmental, Economic, and Social Outcomes:







# *The Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection and Protection Division*

*Ally Berry – Lead Watershed Inspector*





# The OLWIPD

“Working to protect the water resources for all watershed residents”

## Division’s Mission:

To make regular thorough inspections of Owasco Lake, its watercourses, and its watershed to identify compliance with the Rules and Regulations set forth for the Owasco Lake Watershed, and to provide educational outreach within the watershed community that supports environmental awareness and stewardship.





# Watershed Inspection Committee (WIC)

## WIC Members

- Ms. Ginny Kent, Councilor, City of Auburn
- Mr. Ed Wagner, Supervisor, Town of Owasco
- Ms. Aileen McNabb-Coleman, Chair, Cayuga County Legislature
- Mr. Seth Jensen, P.E., Director of Municipal Utilities, City of Auburn



# 2021 Report

## Landscape Conditions Observed

- In 2021, precipitation levels were 8 to 16 inches above normal levels (National Weather Service). Heavy rainfall events were more detrimental to watercourses than in previous years. Resulting floods and erosive damage were compared to Hurricane Agnes of 1972. These events demonstrated the need for long-term flood resiliency and community protections to meet the challenges of a changing climate.
- The agricultural community displayed a tremendous effort in reducing sediment and nutrient migration during heavy storm events by planting thousands of acres of cover crops by the winter of 2021 despite wet field conditions.



# 2021 Report

## Inspection Summary

- Inspections were not interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- To meet the objective of implementing the 1984 WRR, and to ensure protective measures were utilized to minimize stormwater runoff, primary activities included inspections of streambank erosion, roadside ditches, steep slope disturbances, construction sites, septic systems, and agricultural operations.
- More broadly, the OLWIPD responded to water quality threats, participated in community engagement programs, and documented the occurrence of HABs.
- Staff conducted **109 site inspections** throughout the watershed and identified **8 violations**.

**100 percent compliance** through timely implementation of corrective action



# Inspection Highlights



**Identifying sources of turbidity.**



**Responding to severe erosion following a storm event in August of 2021.**



**Monitoring the installation of erosion control products and addressing failures.**



# Infrastructure / Severe Erosion

Erosion was a significant issue in 2021 due to extreme rain events. Several culverts failed, and many local agencies are still working to identify and repair damage to steep slopes, ravines, and roadside ditch networks.

Watershed Feature	# of Occurrences
Streambank Erosion	15
Shoreline Stabilization	3
Culvert Repairs	Multiple

**Total Sites Inspected – 18**

**\*Site violations – 0**





# Agricultural

Landowners within the watershed implemented conservation measures to minimize nutrient and sediment loss. Thousands of acres of cover crops were planted despite the challenges with wet weather.

Watershed Feature	# of Occurrences
Animal Access to Stream	1
Compost Pile Locations	1
Field Erosion	1
Manure Applications	5

**Total Sites Inspected – 8**

**\*Site violations – 0**





# Stormwater/Construction Activities

Watershed Feature	# of Occurrences
Owasco	14 (1 – Federal)*
Niles	5
Fleming	9 (1 – DEC Stormwater)*
Skaneateles	4
Moravia	4
Scipio	9 (1 – DEC Stormwater)*
Groton	2
Sempronius	1
Venice	1

**Total Sites Inspected – 49**

**\*Site violations – 3**





# Miscellaneous Inspections

Watershed Feature	# of Occurrences
Logging & Land Clearing	10
Septic System Concerns	9 (1 – CCDOH)*
Streambank & Shoreline Disturbance	8
Beaver Activity	5
Animal Disposals	3
Hazardous Material Spills	2
Mean High Water Level Check	11 (3 –NYSDEC)*
Wetland Concerns	2
Water Control Inspection	Multiple
Household Refuse	4 (1 – CCDOH)*
Hyfi Sensor Installation/Replacement	Multiple

**Total Sites Inspected – 54**

\*Site violations – 2





# Projects Observed- Infrastructure

## *Concrete Sediment Trap*

*(Hicks Rd, Fleming NY)*

- Partnerships: the CCSWCD, OWLA, and Town of Scipio Highway Department
- Function: reduce stormwater runoff velocity in ditches, concrete sediment trap enhances settling out of fine particles.





# Special Projects – Community Awareness, Recognition Articles

## Berry: Cayuga County farms model environmentally friendly practices

Ally Berry Special to The Citizen Aug 26, 2021 Updated Oct 1, 2021



Deposit Photos

## Berry: Cayuga County highway departments embrace lake-friendly deicing

Ally Berry Special to The Citizen Feb 11, 2022 Updated Feb 11, 2022



A winter view of the Owasco Lake shoreline looking west from the town of Owasco. Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection and Protection Division

## Berry: Partnerships key to protecting Owasco Lake watershed

Ally Berry Special to The Citizen Jul 30, 2021 Updated Sep 3, 2021



Summer afternoon on the north end of Owasco Lake in 2020. Kevin Rivoli, The Citizen

## Berry: Lake groups partner with Wegmans to promote LED flares at ring of fire events

Alexandria Berry Special to The Citizen Jun 3, 2020 Updated Jul 9, 2021



Greg Talonia from the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association simulates the ring of fire event with LED flares for the first time. Lindsay McMillan and Katrina Busch

Semi-monthly recognition articles celebrating those watershed residents making positive strides to protect water quality.

**Recognition is a scientifically proven tool for driving behavioral change.**



# Special Projects – Community Awareness and Education

## *Camp Y-Owasco Training:*

- HABs identification and reporting
- Watershed model youth education.



# Special Projects – Sampling Support

## *OWLA Volunteer Training*

- Measuring streamflow,
- Utilizing a water quality monitoring sonde
- Utilizing a flowmeter, and
- Performing cross-sectional analyses to estimate nutrient loading in tributaries



## *Asian Clam Survey*

- Participated with Cayuga County WQMA.
- Portions of the project were funded by a grant from the NYSDEC EPF to the Finger Lakes – Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance.





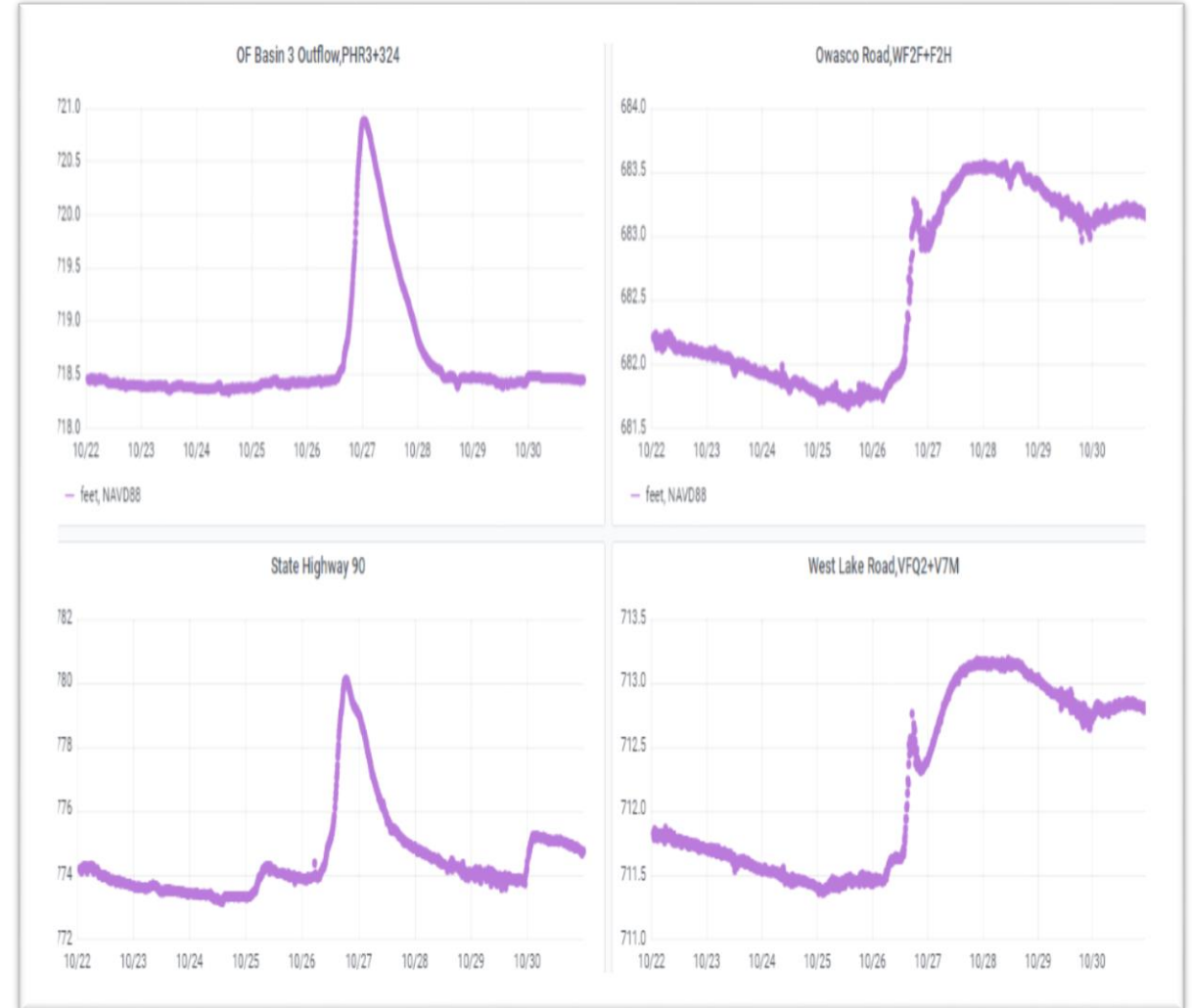
# Special Projects – Hyfi Sensors

Near real-time water elevation data used for flood monitoring and flow estimates to support research and modeling



# Special Projects – Hyfi Sensors

OLWIPD staff installed and replaced multiple tributary level sensors and installed informative signage for watershed residents to observe streamflow conditions.





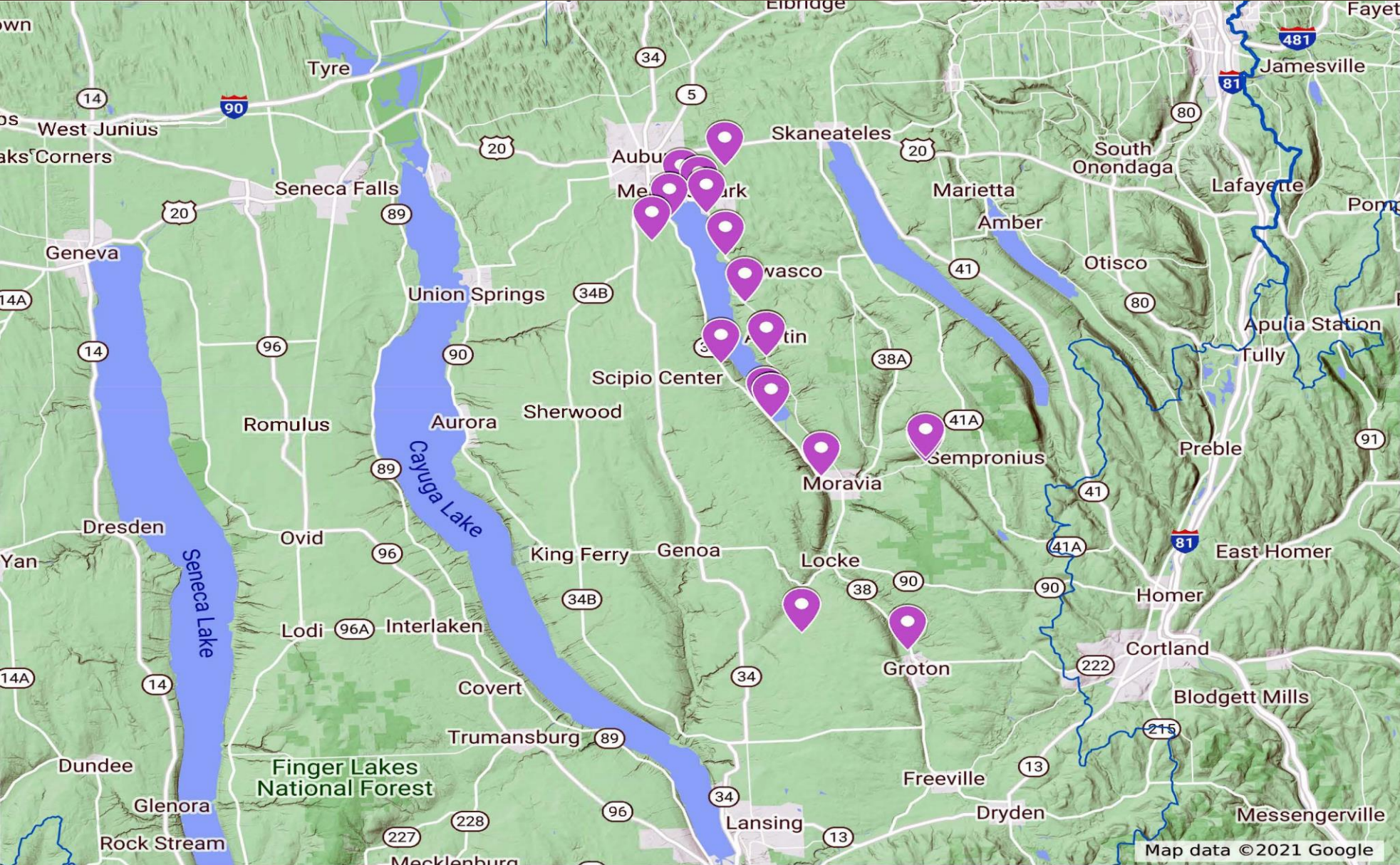
# Special Projects- Watercourse Level Sensors

- ▶ Great Lakes Protection Fund grant for Hyfi pilot program
- ▶ Data driven approach to reducing nutrient loading, and advancing flood warnings for asset management, recreation, and planning
  - ▶ 2020-2022 Grant subcontract award through partnership with Hyfi
  - ▶ CC Planning Dept. garnered FLOWPA funding projected to help fund this project moving forward
  - ▶ Data Available on OLWMC Website





# Special Projects- Watercourse (Hyfi) Level Sensors





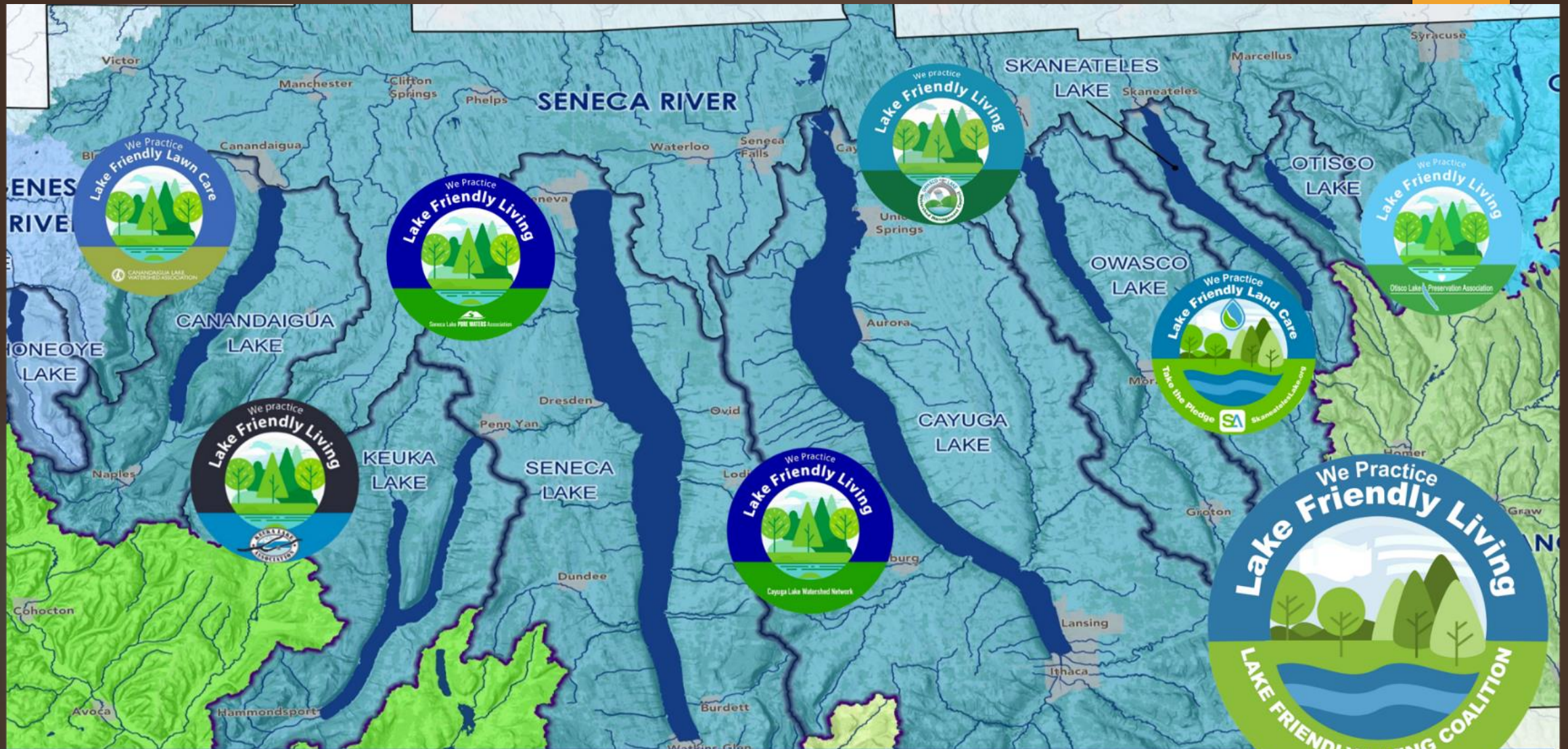
# Common and Consistent Messaging- Driving Practices Adoption



# Lake Friendly Living Coalition of the Finger Lakes







## *The Lake Friendly Living Coalition of the Finger Lakes*

With a commitment to protecting the health of our lakes, the coalition works together to educate watershed residents in homes and businesses to engage lake friendly practices.



- ▶ The ‘Lake Friendly Living’ pledge includes a wide array of requested conservation and BMPs for land and water stewardship.
- ▶ This pledge program aligns with messaging of sister Finger Lakes’ watershed groups.
- ▶ “Lake Friendly Living’ signs were installed on tributary sign posts and with municipality signage throughout the watershed according to municipal/agency resolutions to take/endorse the LFL pledge:
  - ▶ City of Auburn
  - ▶ Cayuga County WQMA
  - ▶ Town of Owasco
  - ▶ Town of Moravia
  - ▶ Town of Niles
  - ▶ Town of Sennett
  - ▶ Village of Moravia
  - ▶ Town of Scipio



Sennett, NY



# LFL Program Signage



We practice  
**Lake Friendly Living**

**OWASCO LAKE**  
Watershed Management Council

**OWASCO LAKE**  
Inspection and Protection Division

**OWLA**  
Owasco Watershed Lake Association

**JOIN YOUR NEIGHBORS TO PROTECT OWASCO LAKE:**  
**[WWW.OLWMC.ORG](http://WWW.OLWMC.ORG)**



# Lake Friendly Awareness

- Coalition planning May webinar Series to Promote Conservation Education and Solicit Program Pledges
- In 2021, there were 438 registrants for Lake Friendly Living Awareness Week

## FINGER LAKES LAKE FRIENDLY LIVING WEEK EVENTS



**SUNDAY, MAY 2 at 3:30PM**  
**Lake Friendly Living Practices for Every Day and Everyone**  
with representatives from Keuka Lake, Seneca Lake, & Owasco Lake

**MONDAY, MAY 3 at 10:00AM**  
**Nature's Best Hope**  
with Doug Tallamy, Keynote Speaker  
University of Delaware

**TUESDAY, MAY 4 at 10:00AM**  
**Creating an Earth Friendly Landscape**  
with Janet Allen, Author  
Habitat Gardening in Central New York

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 5 at 1:00PM**  
**Native Plants: Lake-Friendly by Nature**  
with Dan Segal,  
The Plantsmen Nursery

**THURSDAY, MAY 6 at 3:00PM**  
**Landscaping for Cayuga Lake Shorelines**  
with Camille Marcotte,  
Cornell Cooperative Extension Onondaga County

**FRIDAY, MAY 7, TBD**  
**Nature Conservancy**  
with Nature Conservancy

**SATURDAY, MAY 8, ALL DAY!**  
**It's Your Turn to Take Action**  
Show us how you live Lake Friendly and Tag Us!

**MONDAY, MAY 3 at 7:00PM**  
**Citizen Science - Advancing Science From Your Home & Around the Lake**  
with Frank Moses, Executive Director  
Skaneateles Lake Association

**TUESDAY, MAY 4 at 1:00PM**  
**The Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Threat**  
with Dana Hall, President  
Owasco Watershed Lake Association

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 5 at 6:30PM**  
**Identification, Surveying, & Reporting of Aquatic Invasive Species**  
with Laura Bailey,  
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Yates County

**THURSDAY, MAY 6 at 7:00PM**  
**Sustainable Vineyard: BMP for Protecting Seneca Lake**  
with Scott Osborne of Fox Run, John Santos of Hazlitt, & Michael Warren Thomas, "Voice of the Finger Lakes"

**#LakeFriendlyLivingFLX**

REGISTER AT: [WWW.FLRWA.ORG/LAKE-FRIENDLY-LIVING](http://WWW.FLRWA.ORG/LAKE-FRIENDLY-LIVING)

All webinars will be approximately 1-hour long



# Lake Friendly Awareness

In 2021, the OLWMC spearheaded preparing a commemorative resolution for 'Lake Friendly Awareness in the Finger Lakes' that passed among the NYS Assembly.

## State of New York Legislative Resolution



Assembly No. 218

BY: M. of A. Kelles

COMMEMORATING the Finger Lakes' community's celebration of Lake Friendly Living, May 2-8, 2021

**WHEREAS**, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that the continuing welfare of the citizens of the State of New York is greatly enriched and reliably served by the purposeful endeavors of organizations which are committed to the preservation of our natural environment and the enhancement of the appreciation of the distinctive features of our surroundings, and to the economic well-being of the areas in which they exist; and

**WHEREAS**, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the Finger Lakes' community's celebration of Lake Friendly Living, May 2-8, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, Many of the New York State Finger Lakes provide clean, safe drinking water for residents throughout Central New York, and many of these waterbodies are designated as Class AA(T) protected waterbodies; and

**WHEREAS**, In recent years, all of the New York State Finger Lakes have experienced widespread harmful algae blooms due, in part, to nutrients which promote the growth of algae and Cyanobacteria; and

**WHEREAS**, Harmful algae blooms throughout the Finger Lakes threaten regional water quality and the health and safety of water consumers; and

**WHEREAS**, New York State Finger Lakes' watershed organizations are looking to advance pollutant reduction strategies through land and water conservation recommendations for residents, operations, and businesses within their respective watersheds; and

**WHEREAS**, The Lake Friendly Living Coalition of the Finger Lakes offers conservation recommendations for watershed residents through pledge programming, as well as the annual Lake Friendly Living Awareness Week intended to further educate the public about a variety of conservation initiatives being advanced throughout the region; and

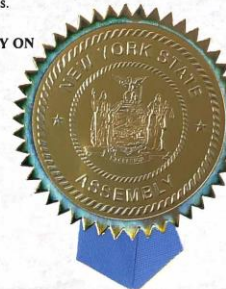
**WHEREAS**, It is incumbent upon all citizens to recognize and applaud the efforts of organizations such as the Lake Friendly Living Coalition of the Finger Lakes which work tirelessly on behalf of protecting our natural surroundings for the benefit of present and future generations of New Yorkers; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the Finger Lakes' community's celebration of Lake Friendly Living, May 2-8, 2021; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Lake Friendly Living Coalition of the Finger Lakes.

ADOPTED IN ASSEMBLY ON  
April 28, 2021

By order of the Assembly,



*Mary-Anne E. Dandles*

Mary-Anne E. Dandles, Clerk

# Lake Friendly Awareness

The OLWMC coordinated with champions in Both Houses to pose a resolution to Commemorate LFL Awareness in 2022.

## STATE OF NEW YORK



### The Legislature

In Senate

In Assembly

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the Finger Lakes' community's celebration of Lake Friendly Living, May 2022

Introduced by

Sen. \_\_\_\_\_

The Senators whose names are circled below wish to join me in the sponsorship of this resolution:

- |               |                      |
|---------------|----------------------|
| s15 Addabbo   | s11 Liu              |
| s52 Akshar    | s50 Mannion          |
| s36 Bailey    | s42 Martucci         |
| s34 Biaggi    | s02 Mattera          |
| s57 Borrello  | s53 May              |
| s04 Boyle     | s37 Mayer            |
| s44 Breslin   | s20 Myrie            |
| s25 Brisport  | s51 Oberacker        |
| s08 Brooks    | s58 O'Mara           |
| s55 Brouk     | s62 Ortt             |
| s30 Cleare    | s01 Palumbo          |
| s14 Comrie    | s21 Parker           |
| s56 Cooney    | s19 Persaud          |
| s17 Felder    | s13 Ramos            |
| s59 Gallivan  | s61 Rath             |
| s05 Gaughran  | s38 Reichlin-Melnick |
| s12 Gianaris  | s48 Ritchie          |
| s22 Gounardes | s33 Rivera           |
| s47 Griffo    | s60 Ryan             |
| s40 Harckham  | s18 Salazar          |
| s54 Helming   | s10 Sanders          |
| s46 Hinchey   | s23 Savino           |
| s27 Hoylman   | s32 Sepulveda        |
| s31 Jackson   | s41 Serino           |
| s43 Jordan    | s29 Serrano          |
| s09 Kaminsky  | s39 Skoufis          |
| s07 Kaplan    | s16 Stavisky         |
| s26 Kavanagh  | s45 Stec             |
| s63 Kennedy   | s35 Stewart-Cousins  |
| s28 Krueger   | s49 Tedisco          |
| s24 Lanza     | s06 Thomas           |
|               | s03 Weik             |

Senate introducer's signature

Introduced by

M. of A. \_\_\_\_\_

The Members of the Assembly whose names are circled below wish to join me in the sponsorship of this resolution:

- |                        |                     |                  |                     |                |
|------------------------|---------------------|------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| a049 Abbate            | a045 Cymbrowitz     | a075 Gottfried   | a017 Mikulin        | a099 Schmitt   |
| a092 Abinanti          | a018 Darling        | a021 Griffin     | a101 Miller, B.     | a076 Seawright |
| a031 Anderson          | a053 Davila         | a100 Gunther     | a051 Mitaynes       | a084 Septimo   |
| a122 Angelino          | a072 De Los Santos  | a139 Hawley      | a015 Montesano      | a016 Sillitti  |
| a107 Ashby             | a003 DeStefano      | a083 Heastie     | a145 Morinello      | a052 Simon     |
| a035 Aubry             | a070 Dickens        | a028 Hevesi      | a065 Niou           | a114 Simpson   |
| a120 Barclay           | a054 Dilan          | a128 Hunter      | a037 Nolan          | a005 Smith     |
| a030 Barnwell          | a081 Dinowitz       | a029 Hyndman     | a144 Norris         | a118 Smullen   |
| a106 Barrett           | a147 DiPietro       | a079 Jackson     | a069 O'Donnell      | a022 Solages   |
| a082 Benedetto         | a009 Durso          | a104 Jacobson    | a091 Otis           | a110 Steck     |
| a042 Bichotte Hermelyn | a048 Eichenstein    | a011 Jean-Pierre | a132 Palmesano      | a010 Stern     |
| a117 Blankenbush       | a004 Englebright    | a134 Jensen      | a088 Paulin         | a127 Stirpe    |
| a098 Brabenec          | a074 Epstein        | a115 Jones       | a141 Peoples-Stokes | a102 Tague     |
| a026 Braunstein        | a109 Fahy           | a077 Joyner      | a058 Perry          | a064 Tannousis |
| a138 Bronson           | a061 Fall           | a125 Kelles      | a023 Pheffer Amato  | a086 Tapia     |
| a012 Brown             | a080 Fernandez      | a040 Kim         | a089 Pretlow        | a071 Taylor    |
| a093 Burdick           | a008 Fitzpatrick    | a105 Lalor       | a073 Quart          | a001 Thiele    |
| a085 Burgos            | a057 Forrest        | a013 Lavine      | a019 Ra             | a033 Vanel     |
| a142 Burke             | a124 Friend         | a097 Lawler      | a038 Rajkumar       | a116 Walczyk   |
| a119 Buttenschon       | a046 Frontus        | a126 Lemondes    | a006 Ramos          | a055 Walker    |
| a094 Byrne             | a095 Galef          | a060 Lucas       | a062 Reilly         | a143 Wallace   |
| a133 Byrnes            | a050 Gallagher      | a135 Lunsford    | a087 Reyes          | a112 Walsh     |
| a103 Cahill            | a131 Gallaahan      | a123 Lupardo     | a078 Rivera, J.     | a041 Weinstein |
| a044 Carroll           | a007 Gandolfo       | a129 Magnarelli  | a149 Rivera, J.D.   | a024 Weprin    |
| a136 Clark             | a068 Gibbs          | a036 Mamdani     | a027 Rosenthal, D.  | a059 Williams  |
| a047 Colton            | a002 Giglio, J.A.   | a130 Manktelow   | a067 Rosenthal, L.  | a113 Woerner   |
| a140 Conrad            | a148 Giglio, J.M.   | a108 McDonald    | a025 Rozic          | a096 Zebrowski |
| a032 Cook              | a066 Glick          | a014 McDonough   | a121 Salka          | a056 Zinnerman |
| a039 Cruz              | a034 Gonzalez-Rojas | a146 McMahon     | a111 Santabarbara   | a020           |
| a063 Cusick            | a150 Goodell        | a137 Meeks       | a090 Sayegh         | a043           |

Assembly introducer's signature

#### INTRODUCTION OF ALL RESOLUTIONS

To introduce this resolution:

Sign one copy, circle co-sponsors and hand it up at the desk of the house with three other completed and signed copies (four total)

If the resolution is to be offered in the other house:

Sign the remaining copy and give that to the sponsoring member of the other house together with three other completed and signed copies (four total)

02/17/22



# Projects Highlights: Farmer Collaboration and Riparian Buffer Willow Planting along Veness Brook in Fleming





# Projects Highlights: Farmer Collaboration and Riparian Buffer Willow Planting along Veness Brook in Fleming





# Projects Highlights: Rain Garden Installation

## Emerson Park Rain Garden Planting Event Saturday, October 23



56

OWLA, along with OLWMC, Cayuga County Parks and Trails, and Friends of Emerson Park, will be creating a "Lake Friendly" Rain Garden Saturday, October 23 @ 9am



We will be working together to create a native plant garden in a wet area in Emerson Park. This "rain garden" will serve as an example of how to help control run-off into Owasco Lake.

### Rain gardens:

- Remove pollutants from water before it enters surface waters.
- Prevent erosion by holding soil in place with their deep roots.
- Attract birds and butterflies.
- Require little watering and maintenance once established.

### Not handy with a shovel?

Come down to watch and learn! Find out more about our watershed and Rain Gardens from the experts who will be on hand!



### Sunday, October 24: Pick Up the Park!

Join the Friends of Emerson Park as they host Clean Up at Emerson Park from 10am-1pm. There will be music, food and raffles at the Prison City North St location following the event. Free t-shirts (first come, first serve).

Volunteers needed!

### OWLA Thanks our partners in planning, digging and the event day staffing:

The Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council (OLWMC), Cayuga County Parks and Trails, Friends of Emerson Park, Wegmans, The Plantsman Nursery, Adam Effler, Manette Becker and Kim Mills





# Projects Highlights: Fall 2021 Rain Garden Preparation





# Projects Highlights: Fall 2021 Rain Garden Preparation





# Other Projects Highlights: Fall 2021 Rain Garden Installation









# Projects Highlights: Promoting Safer Lake-Friendly Technology

*Wegmans*

## Help keep our lake clean during your celebration

LED flares are an environmentally responsible and safe choice compared to traditional chemical flares.

### Features:

- Ultra-bright red LEDs
- 3 light modes: solid, strobe, and flashlight
- Magnetic base holds flare securely
- Great for auto, boating, RVs, and more
- Durable and reusable (takes 3 AAA batteries)
- No cleanup and no pollution!

Wegmans will donate \$1.00 for each flare sold to the following nonprofit lake watershed organizations:

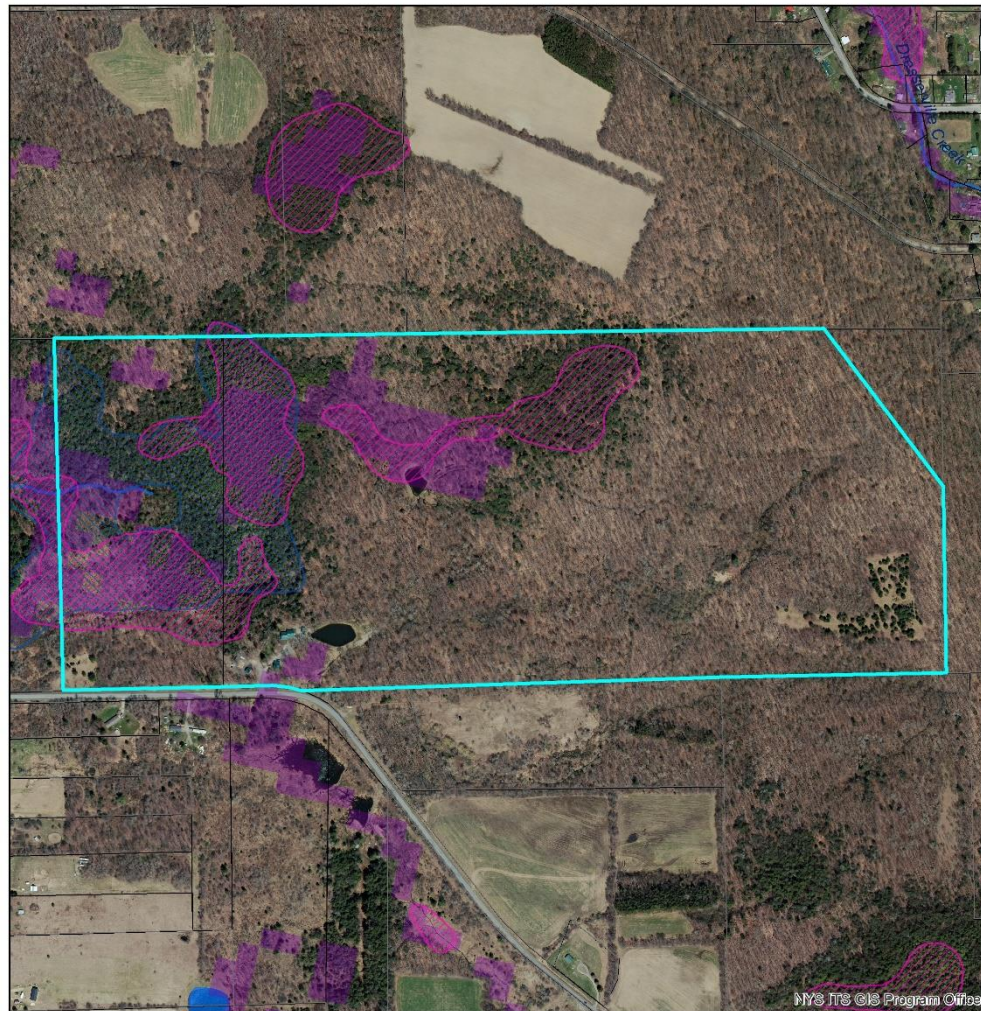
Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association - Canandaigua Wegmans  
Chautauqua Lake Association - Jamestown Wegmans  
Honeoye Valley Association - Canandaigua Wegmans  
Keuka Lake Association - Geneva, Corning, and Hornell Wegmans  
Owasco Lake Watershed Council - Auburn Wegmans

Save Our Sodus - Newark and Holt Rd. Wegmans  
Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association - Geneva Wegmans  
Silver Lake Association - Geneseo Wegmans  
Skaneateles Lake Association - Auburn Wegmans



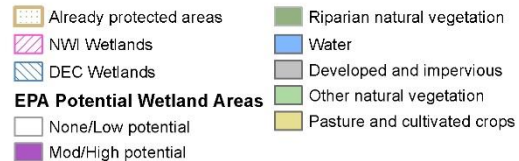
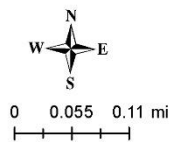
# Projects Highlights- Land Acquisition and Stewardship for Source Water Protection

- ~170 acre Sempronius parcel
- Proposed gift from The Nature Conservancy
- Ranked highly within their prioritization model
- Acquired through NYSDEC WQIP Funding



## WQIP LAND ACQUISITION PROPOSAL: WARD PARCELS

The Nature Conservancy, New York  
August 20, 2019



Location in Owasco  
Lake watershed



Map Data Sources:  
Landcover: NLCD/USGS, Hydrography: NHD High Res/USGS, Wetlands: DEC & NMI/USFWS, Riparian zones: Derived from NHD High Res and NLCD, Parcels: Cayuga and/or Tompkins County

# Questions and comments

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alberry@owascoinspection.com

***Jillian Aluisio, Watershed Inspector***

315-209-9840

jcaluisio@owascoinspection.com



For more information, please visit our websites!

[www.olwmc.org](http://www.olwmc.org)

[www.owascoinspection.org](http://www.owascoinspection.org)