

**Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association  
Reorganization Committee Meeting  
Finger Lakes Institute  
Meeting notes      November 12, 2008**

The meeting began at 7:01 PM.

In attendance:

Richard Ahola, Interim Chair	Linda Hiestand
Jim Bromka	Douglas Knipple
Kenneth Bruielly	Mary Anne Kowalski , Interim Secretary
Phil Cianciotto, Interim Treasurer	Herb Lucas
Bobbi Clifford	Diane Mason
Curtis Eaton	

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Richard Ahola, Interim Chair.

### **Secretary's Report**

The Membership mailing was successful. We now have 124 members. The committee discussed acknowledging membership in some way. Options include sending an email (where we have the address) or a postcard to members advising of our upcoming plans. The other option is to move the newsletter along as soon as possible. The secretary was asked to investigate how many current members have provided an email address. (Of our 124 members, we have email addresses for 73 members.)

### **Treasurer's Report**

Phil said that we should plan our budget conservatively as half the memberships are for two years and these members will not be paying dues in 2009. He will track the financial reports by renewal year. Treasurer's report accepted as written

### **Mike Edwards – SLPWA Accountant**

Our FY 07-08 tax return has been mailed in to the US Internal Revenue Service and NYS Dep't of Law. We are now caught up on our Federal and state tax return filings.

### **President's Report**

Chairman Ahola suggested that SLPWA explore a charter from the Board of Regents as an educational institution. There may be advantages to that corporate model rather than a non-profit charity.

### **Membership Letter**

Now that the membership mailing has been done, we need to plan for the municipal and corporate mailing.

## **Website**

Charles Honsberger is in the process of moving to his winter home. He will be contacted about the status of the website.

## **Lake Concerns**

- **Water Levels**

Ken Bruielly raised the issue of the lake level. The lake is very low and there has been damage to boats, docks and hoists. It appears that the problem is caused by Seneca Falls Power Corporation (SFPC) which operates the hydroelectric plants at Seneca Falls and Waterloo. Surprisingly, it is the Federal Government that issues the license to these plants and the contract requires SFPC to maintain lake levels properly. Ken has been working with Congressman Kuhl about the issue. With Kuhl's loss, he will need to educate Congressman Massa. Since Congressman Arcuri's district is also involved, it was suggested that this issue be brought to him as well.

- **Marcellus Shale**

Richard Ahola indicated he would be attending the DEC "scoping" meeting on November 13 in Elmira. He encouraged others to attend such events. He also had a video about hydrofracturing that raised many water quality and quantity concerns.

Doug Knipple reported that he has been working with Sarah Meyer of Finger Lakes Institute to set up an expert panel discussion on Marcellus Shale. SLPWA will be listed as a sponsor. It will be held after the "scoping" process is complete.

## **Newsletter**

Bobbi Clifford agreed to format the newsletter as she has had a lot of experience. We will try to get an estimated cost from Yates ARC.

It is important to have the newsletter grab the reader's attention and interest, so having an attractive format is critical. The articles should be fairly short, informing readers of the issue. If it is a complex issue, we can put detail and links on the website.

Several topics were discussed for inclusion, including: waterfront development in Geneva, drilling in the Marcellus shale, the waterfront visioning being conducted for the lakefront in Willard and lake levels. If anyone has other ideas, please let Bobbie know.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm

## **Next Meeting:**

**Note change in meeting date!!!**

12/11/08, 7:00 PM at Finger Lakes Institute. Please contact Mary Anne Kowalski with agenda items by December 3, 2008.