

**Meeting Notes**  
**Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association**  
**December 11, 2008**  
**7:00 PM**

Richard Ahola, Interim Chair  
Jim Bromka  
Ken Camera  
Phil Cianciotto, Interim Treasurer  
Bobbi Clifford  
Curtis Eaton

John Ghidiu  
Douglas Knipple  
Mary Anne Kowalski , Interim Secretary  
Rob Kriss  
Bob Schiesser

**Treasurer Report    Phil Cianciotto**

Treasurer's report accepted as written

**Secretary Report    Mary Anne Kowalski**

As of December 11, 2008, there were 145 individual and small business members.

**Website Update**

The website has not been activated. We have the domain name [www.Senecalake.org](http://www.Senecalake.org). Rich will contact Charles Honsberger to find out the status. It is critical to get the site up and running, even "under construction" so that we can include it in the newsletter and other documents.

**2009 newsletter**

Bobbi Clifford has been working on the newsletter design and circulated a mock-up with the articles she has received to date. It will be in two colors and folded as a self mailer. Her design is eye catching and will represent SLPWA well. She also discussed other ideas that will be included. Linda Hiestand will be announcing a contest to design a new logo, with a prize of \$100. She is expecting an article on lake levels from the Finger Lakes Ecology Association.

**DEC gas drilling hearings**

Rich reported on the DEC Marcellus Shale "scoping" hearing he attended in Elmira November 13, 2008. It was very well attended. He said that local politicians urged the state not to impose, in the words of Sen. George H. Winner Jr., R-Elmira, "unreasonable, unfair regulations" on natural [gas](#) drilling that could drive away a potential economic stimulus in the Southern Tier. Senator Winner, Assemblyman Tom O'Mara, R-Horseheads and Chemung County Executive Tom Santulli all spoke against any environmental protections "We need to create a climate that welcomes new jobs," Winner said. "Do not lose sight of the need to move forward."

The DEC process is expected to be completed during the summer 2009.

The FLI-SLPWA program on Marcellus Shale Drilling is still being planned. It will not be in January 2009. DEC will not be able to participate until the regulations are proposed.

### **SLAP 5 and Ontario County Water Resources Council**

Rich reported that SLPWA has voting memberships in Seneca Lake Area Partners in Five Counties (SLAP-5) and the Ontario County Water Resources Council.

SLAP 5 was established in 1996 in response to a SLPWA study recommending cooperation between and among municipalities and stakeholders on watershed issues.

Mary Anne Kowalski moved and Bobbi Clifford seconded that the president or his or her designee attend the SLAP-5 meetings and represent SLPWA. The motion passed unanimously.

The Ontario County Water Resources Council was established by resolution of the Ontario County Board of Supervisors. The Supervisors charged the Council with protecting and striving to improve the water resources of Ontario County. This charge includes both surface and groundwater resources, and encompasses both water quality and quantity issues. The Council has grants available that can be used to sponsor seminars and conferences.

Bobbi Clifford moved and Phil Cianciotto seconded that the president and his or her designee attend the Ontario County Resources Council meeting and represent SLPWA. The motion passed unanimously.

Phil mentioned the Land Use program recently sponsored by Finger Lakes Institute. He said that the presentation made by the Pace University School of Law Land Use Law Center was outstanding. It was a snapshot of the more detailed training designed to have stakeholders work together. He suggested that we get more information about their program and consider presenting it. Rich will get additional information.

### **Mailing to Municipalities and Corporations**

We have a list of local municipal officials but there is no up-to-date corporate list. Mary Anne Kowalski will assemble a corporate list so that we have an idea of how big the mailing will be.

### **Ontario County/Casella Landfill**

Doug Knipple raised concerns over proposed changes to the Ontario County/Casella Landfill. They are proposing a gasification project as well as increasing the amount and concentration of leachate. The leachate is trucked to the Geneva Wastewater Treatment Plant for treatment and discharge into the lake and at this point, no one knows what is in it. Several attendees felt that the project had not been adequately studied. A motion to send a Freedom of Information request to DEC for information about the leachate was made by Rob Kriss. It was seconded by Bobbi Clifford. It passed unanimously. Ken Camera

proposed that SLPWA ask the Board of Supervisors to table any action at this time until we can adequately review all available materials about this process and inform our members. We will also request the Board to forward all relevant materials provided by Casella as well as any independent reviews that the County has prepared for our review. Mary Anne Kowalski made a motion to send the letter. Rob Kriss seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting:

January 21, 2009  
6:00 PM

In case of inclement weather, an email will be sent by 3:00 PM if the meeting will be cancelled.