

**F.O.C.U.S. GREATER SYRACUSE
ACTION UPDATE WATERWAYS MEETING
September 30, 2005**

Present:

Janet Allen-Habitat Gardening Club
John Allen-Syracuse Onondaga Bicycling Coalition
Dick Baranollo-9 Mile Creek Conservation Council
Michael Becker- Syracuse University student Environmental Studies
JoAnn Cucci—F.O.C.U.S. Greater Syracuse
Robert Geraci- Onondaga County Parks & Recreation
Dereth Glance—Citizens Campaign for the Environment
Eric Hollreiser--Honeywell
Alex Holstein-F.O.C.U.S Volunteer
Charlotte (Chuckie) Holstein—F.O.C.U.S. Greater Syracuse
Don Hughes- Onondaga Lake Cleanup Committee
Salley Jensen—Onondaga County Public Library, Onondaga Creek Cleanup
Mark Lichtenstein-Syracuse University-Center of Excellence
Martha Loew-Sierra Club
Ken Lynch—Onondaga Lake Partnership
John McAuliffe—Honeywell Corporation
Les Monostory—9 Mile Creek Conservation Council, Iszaak Walton League
Amy Samuels—Cornell Cooperative Extension
Bill Sanford- Brown & Sanford Consultants, LLC
Rick Smardon—SUNY/ESF, Onondaga Lake Cleanup Corp/ Onondaga Creek Citizen's Advisory
Joan Cope Savage-Onondaga Lake Cleanup Corp.
Christopher Wiles—NYS Attorney General

I. Overview of Waterways Strategic Plan—The group reviewed the recommendations outlined in the F.O.C.U.S. 2004 “Water and Waterways Strategic Plan” from the sections on *Onondaga Lake & Inner Harbor*, *Onondaga Lake & Tributaries*, and *All-Inclusive*. (See full copy of plan on F.O.C.U.S. web site www.focussyracuse.org).

II. Presentations—

Onondaga Lake-John McAuliffe-Honeywell project manager

- **ROD Approval:** A major advancement occurred on July 1st, 2005 when the ROD (Record of Decision) on how to clean the bottom of Onondaga Lake was approved by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)..
- **Upland sites:** At present the upland sites and the LCP plant are being addressed to stop any contaminates from leaking into the lake. Using innovative technology for soil washing (first in the U.S.), over seven tons of

mercury has been collected from what was the LCP Plant. The mercury is taken away and recycled. Clean-up of the LCP Plant is complete. To complete the closure of the former Allied Settling Basins by the fairgrounds they are working with ESF to define biological covers such as willow trees which keep surface water from infiltrating and good vegetation-good green space to cover the area.

- **Lake progress:** Pre-design investigations which allow us to determine the best designs for the bottom of the lake are in progress. Cranes and barges are being used to collect samples from the lake bottom to determine mediation design. Construction of a barrier wall and groundwater treatment plant is almost completed. The barrier wall will stop contaminated water from entering the lake; send it to the groundwater treatment plant where it will be sent back into Onondaga Lake after it is cleaned.

Onondaga Lake—Ken Lynch-Onondaga Lake Partnership

- **ROD-Finalization** of the ROD is a major advancement as required by the State Superfund.
- **Honeywell Cleanup-** The cleanup could take about seven years, three years to plan and about four years to complete. All work being done now is pre-design work. Honeywell is working on the project even though negotiations with public authorities are pending. Honeywell is conducting studies on Waste Beds 1-8 where there may be hazardous waste. The Lake and the LCP site are in final stages.
- **Metropolitan Waste Water Treatment Facility:** Known as the largest facility of its kind in the U.S. and for cutting edge technology and research, the Metro facility is making a big difference in the lake cleanup. Ammonia and phosphorus levels on Onondaga Lake have decreased to the 2012 mandates, seven years ahead of schedule due to the process at the new Water Treatment Plant.
- **Harbor Brook/ Clinton Street Armory Square area water treatment—** development plans and public meetings are being discussed now for treatment facilities at Harbor Brook and Clinton Street Armory Square area.
- **Annual Meeting-** The Onondaga Lake Partnership Annual Report will be announced at the annual meeting of the Partnership on November 2nd. At that time, citizens will receive an up-to-date report and an opportunity to participate.

Onondaga Creek--Visioning Process for the Onondaga Creek Sub-Basin- Rick Smardon

- **Revitalization Plan—**The steps in completing the Revitalization Plan by the Advisory team are: Get acquainted with the Creek; Review the state of the creek; and the visioning process.

- **Advisory team**—The Advisory team is currently working on the first step. The team is visiting the creek from the Tully mud boils to Center City. Their intention is to understand the functions, uses and value of the creek in each area and documenting their findings.
- The entire process will take 18 months to complete – do not have timeline for implementation.
- Expert consultants are called in to advise on aspects of the plan.

9 Mile Creek Conservation Council-Les Monostory

- Citizens have completed an ecological and recreational assessment.
- Three canoe launch sites have been created – now canoes can travel from Camillus to Lakeland.
- Honeywell was thanked for restoring the Lakeland launch site.
- Restoration of the Camillus Munro Park stream-bank has been completed.
- The Airport Road Debris Dam removal has been funded.
- The Geddes 9 Mile Creek plan will be completed in May of 2006. This plan will address Geddes Brook, 9 Mile Creek and East Flume.

Cornell Cooperative Extension- Connecting People to Creek--Amy Samuels

- Youth from the Dunbar Center explored Onondaga Creek. They were given one time use cameras to take pictures of things they liked and did not like. Suggestions for the creek included: make canoes, bike trails, places to walk/think/release stress, open places for fishing and make a place to chill out. Connecting youth with the water fosters their appreciation of the environment and encourages them to respect it as well.
- Adults taking tours of the creek express an interest in learning more about the history of the Creek.
- Cornell Cooperative Extension hosted the successful 4th Annual Clean-up from Kirk Park to Tallman Street on 2 consecutive Saturdays in September.

Onondaga Lake Park-Bob Geraci

- **Trail around the Lake**-Bob talked about specific areas around the lake for lake trails. The Loop the Lake trail is about half completed. Funding is not in place for all remaining sections of trail around the lake, however, funding is just about in place for the section designed to go behind State Fair parking lots, although environmental issues still remain to be sorted out where the bridge needs to go as well as other mitigation efforts that will need to occur along the shoreline. Southwest corner of lake is not yet planned. Southeast corner from Onondaga Creek up to railroad bridge on parkway is in hands of Army Corps of Engineers in their design of lake mitigation efforts.
- Bob commented that there are a number of trails that would connect to the trail going around the lake when it is completed.

Lakefront Development and Onondaga Nation: Both groups were invited, unable to attend. No report.