

Skaneateles Watershed Partnership Meeting – 1/20/2023

Janet Aaron introduced John Hinchcliff from the Spafford Town Board. Members introduced themselves. Mary encouraged John to visit skanlakeinfo.org. Janet noted that Frank Moses/SLA had provided an update of their projects

Camille Marcotte announced a presentation called “The Ups and Downs of Skaneateles Lake” by Bill Kappel from the U.S. Geological Survey on March 8 at 7:00 p.m. The topic will be on Skaneateles Lake and the other Finger Lakes as part of the Oswego River Basin watershed.

Discussed the letter from Onondaga County Soil and Water regarding proposed changes suggested by NOFA to the NYS Soil & Water Conservation District Law. Members were in support of OCS&W and willing to sign letter. Janet will facilitate getting signatures.

Mark Burger expressed concerns with the 9E Plan. He cited precision feed management as an example that isn't included. He expressed concern that they're asked to meet higher standards but with old technology, tools, and metrics.

Rich Abbott also felt that the models being used didn't always accurately reflect reality. He said we'd had 4 inches of rain this week and a problem showed up that wasn't on any model and was discovered because of fieldwork. Need to recognize the limitations of models.

Buzz Roberts mentioned that the 9E Plan was a way to get funding. Both Rich and Mark felt they could get funding through grants without the Plan. Mark praised the financial support of the City of Syracuse.

Mark and Jim Greenfield discussed cover crops and suggested that this is one of the most important things farms can do but the state doesn't provide enough funding.

Next meeting – 3/3 at 8:30