Skaneateles Watershed Municipal Partnership Meeting – 3/3/2023

Attending: Mary Sennett, Joan Jayne, John Hinchcliff, Janet Aaron, Courtney Alexander, Camille Marcotte, Rich Abbott, Mark Burger

Camille Marcotte shared her report on website activity including page views, unique views and total visits. All measurements were up in 2022. She always sees a spike in the summer. In the winter most visitors are going to the site from their desktop but in the summer, they use the QR code.

Rich Abbott and John Hinchcliff will ask FLLT to include our link in their communications.

Rich Abbott reported on a meeting regarding the 9E Plan. The ag community wasn’t engaged early enough. They also realized they need to use data relevant and specific to the watershed. They didn’t understand the low levels of phosphorous in Skaneateles Lake. They also need to understand the impact of the City of Syracuse and Onondaga County Soil and Water. We’re not the same as Owasco which has high levels of phosphorous and microcystins. Skaneateles has 25 years of farm data.

Mark Burger also reiterated the misunderstanding of phosphorous levels and stated we have the lowest levels in the nation. At this point we’re doing our best. Need to look at other factors like stream bank erosion, invasive species and manicured lawns. Based on comments they will modify the model to look at current conditions. He felt Aaron McKeon is doing a good job and the modeling team is committed to updating their models.

Courtney Alexander mentioned meeting people at the Association of Towns meeting who could offer some assistance with implementation of the 9E Plan at no cost. Rich responded that they would like to see Regional Planning handle the implementation.

John Hinchcliff asked to know more about the status of the 9E Plan and Janet will get him on the distribution list.

Rich Abbott discussed using EarthTec presented a summary of the presentation Sydney Hall and Greg Boyer made at ESF: “The reduction of nutrient inputs, a common remediation technique, is a long-term solution more applicable to eutrophic, or high-nutrient lakes. As a major drinking water source, a more immediate response to reduce the growth of blooms and cyanotoxins in the water is needed. Bubblers and the addition of predators to the lake are also not practical due to the size of the lake and impacts of invasive species respectively. An easily accessible, cheap, fast-acting mitigation technique is chemical algaecides, specifically copper sulfate. There are other chemical algaecides such as hydrogen peroxide but there is less background information on their use.”

John Hinchcliff told the group that Spafford has implemented steep slope legislation if anyone would like to review their local law. Joan Jayne said this a concern in Niles as they had an area that was clear cut for an event center.