

Oatka Creek Watershed Committee, Inc.
P.O. Box 181
Scottsville, New York 14546

NEWS FROM THE
OATKA CREEK
WATERSHED COMMITTEE
FALL 2002

Message from the Chairman

Municipal Cooperation Agreement

One of the fundamental goals of the watershed planning process is to develop a management plan that is acceptable to the “community”. Our “community” consists of seventeen towns and five villages in four counties. Therefore, one of our goals at the OCWS Committee will be to serve as a catalyst to help gain unilateral acceptance of the planning process as well as the final watershed management document.

Many of the Finger Lakes communities have utilized Municipal Cooperation Agreements to formally signify their willingness to work together toward common watershed goals and objectives. It is our belief that such an agreement(s) could be similarly applied to the Oatka Creek watershed.

At this time we are considering a municipal cooperation agreement signifying acceptance of the watershed planning process and a willingness to participate in the development of a plan.



Another typical application of the municipal cooperation agreement is adoption of the final watershed management plan upon completion.

As we move forward in the planning process, it is my sincere hope that all the municipalities within the watershed will embrace the concept of intermunicipal cooperation. In the near future the committee would like to discuss these ideas with each municipality to begin soliciting feedback. As always, please feel free to contact me at 585-295-6226 with any comments, concerns, or questions.

Sincerely,

Richard T. VenVertloh

Richard T. VenVertloh,
Chairman, Oatka Creek Watershed Committee

Genesee River Basin Watershed Restoration & Protection Strategy

Excerpts from an article by David Zorn,
Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Council

“The Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council (G/FLRPC) and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), in association with regional stakeholders have begun the process of developing the Genesee River Basin Watershed Restoration & Protection Strategy (WRAPS).

WRAPS are rooted in the 1998 federal Clean Water Action Plan, a plan to accelerate watershed restoration across the country. The Action Plan strives to fulfill the original goals of the 1972 Clean Water Act—fishable, swimmable, and safe waters for all Americans. The action plan lays out a broad vision of watershed protection, encompassing protection of coastal and estuarine waters; fresh waterbodies; wetlands; groundwater; natural resources; and drinking water sources.

As one of the first steps toward achieving that vision, in 1998, EPA required states, as a condition for supplemental funding, to prepare Unified Watershed Assessments (UWAs) to identify watersheds in need of restoration and develop a schedule for addressing them.”

“A WRAPS is a concise, and action-oriented document that *compiles* currently available information about the state of the watershed and ongoing assessment, outreach, and implementation activities, and *proposes* environmental and natural resource priorities or goals and measurable objectives for achieving those goals. The WRAPS for each watershed brings together all appropriate agencies and stakeholders to focus support in the form of grant dollars, technical assistance and other resources to address the priority water quality and natural resource needs in that watershed.”

Visit the WRAPS informational website at <http://www.gflrpc.org/Planning/WQ/WRAPS/wraindex.htm>. For more information contact

David S. Zorn, Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council 585-454-0190 x 14 or dzorn@frontiernet.net. ♦

GLOW

Solid Waste Management Committee

Is conducting a farm pesticide collection survey to determine if a collection is needed. For information call Peggy Grayson at

585-344-4035

OCWS Committee Information

When: 3rd Wednesday of every month

Where: LeRoy Village Hall

Time: Noon – 2:00

To confirm meeting dates or to request handicap access, please contact Rick at 585-295-6226 (w) or 585- 889-5293 (h). View calendar on-line at www.oatka.org.

Oatka Creek Watershed Community

The Oatka Creek Watershed includes portions of:

The towns of Byron, Bergen, Bethany, LeRoy, Pavilion, and Stafford, and the Village of LeRoy in Genesee County;

Town of Caledonia and the Village of Caledonia in Livingston County;

Towns of Riga and Wheatland, and the Village of Scottsville in Monroe County;

Towns of Castile, Covington, Gainesville, Middlebury, Orangeville, Perry, Warsaw and Wethersfield and the Villages of Warsaw and Wyoming in Wyoming County. ♦

The mission of the Committee is to preserve the pristine character and water quality now present in Oatka Creek for future generations through the development, promotion, and implementation of an Oatka Creek Watershed Management Plan.