

Irondequoit Bay Coordinating Committee
Technical Staff Meeting
Zoom Meeting
June 25, 2020

Present: Mike Allen, Chairman, Josh Artuso, Town of Webster, Rob Call, NYSDEC, Jim Costello, Town of Penfield, Mike Duminuco, Town of Webster Conservation Board, Dan David, Town of Irondequoit Conservation Board, Kelly Emerick, Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District, Kerry Ivers, Town of Irondequoit, Patrick Meredith, Monroe County Parks Department, Ahmed Mustafa, NEQALS/Boater, Allison Mayer, Mayer Marina, Steve Olufsen, Monroe County Department of Planning and Development, Jared Rock, U.S. Coast Guard, Noel Schlagater, EMC, Tim Walsh, NYSDEC.

A. Introductions:

Chair: Mike Allen

Scribe: Jim Costello

Mike Allen introduced Josh Artuso, Deputy Commissioner of Public Works who will be representing the Town of Webster on the committee.

B. Water Level Update

- The Lake Ontario water level is currently 246.88 and has been dropping. It has hit its peak for the season. It was noted that the level is considerably lower since our last meeting in May and that the IJC is releasing 1,000cfs more than the inflow.

C. I-Bay Signs for Emergency Responders Discussion

- Steve Olufsen reached out to the MC GIS Service Division to discuss the sign proposal.
- It was suggested that the signs could possibly be placed near the fire boxes on the Bay. Ahmed Mustafa stated that Bill Wood of the West Webster Fire Department would know where the boxes were located. He will get Bill's contact information to Steve so we can determine where they are.
- Jarod Rock stated that he is supportive of the effort to increase response times, but isn't sure this is necessary. He noted that the calls to 911 that he receives are GPS driven and response time is good. He volunteered to get the data for response time. Steve said that he would contact 911 to get their data as well.
- Ahmed stated there are times when GPS information is not available and cited the incident on June 6th when it took 31 minutes on the phone to respond to kids on a raft at sunset. The West Webster Fire Department never found the kids as they were finally rescued by a fisherman.
- A simple map of the Bay with visual landmarks was proposed by Kerry Ivers. The maps could be handed out at marinas and the State boat launch and could provide easy landmarks to identify on the Bay for those unfamiliar with it, in the event of the need for an emergency response. Steve will look into the mapping proposal and work with Jarod to identify simple maritime landmarks.
- Kerry also brought up the idea of using cameras on the Bay. It was discussed, but the cost, and their ineffectiveness in darkness and rain don't make them a viable option.

D. Review of last month's meeting notes and agenda

- Steve Olufsen prepared last month's (May 23rd) notes, but felt that since he wasn't able to email them to the committee in a reasonable timeframe to allow it to review them, it was determined that they would be approved at the next meeting.

E. Project Updates and Reviews:

- **NYS DEC**

- Rob Call noted that either a clear cutting or mudslide issue occurred to the west of The Bluffs, directly south of the Bayside. The NYSDEC will investigate and determine enforcement. Josh Artuso will discuss the matter with the DEC.
- Mayer Marina will be undertaking improvements to their docks and have requested a permit to do so.
- Permits for a foundation (Barrett) and dock replacements (Newport) have been issued.
- Permit requests for the State Boat Launch, Culver Road sewers, Seneca Road fill project, and Webster Park improvements are being reviewed.
- Rob Call noted that reduced water levels have reduced pressure on staff to address permit requests.

- **Penfield**

- Jim Costello updated the committee on the 95 unit apartment building at 1384 Empire Blvd. to be known as the Bellagio. Construction is under way and it has caused some logistical problems for members of the marina regarding parking, traffic movement, pedestrian circulation, drain on electricity and the bathroom at the marina office is out of order and has been for a month. Jim will meet with the Building Inspectors to address these concerns.
- He also provided an update on Dr. Jack Howitt's site plan to construct a 60 unit apartment building on Wilbur Tract Road, on the south side of Empire Blvd. adjacent to the K2 Brewery. A public hearing has been scheduled for site plan approval, a special permit and an environmental protection permit for August 5th.

- **Irondequoit**

- Kerry Ivers reported that she has been dealing with residential docks, break wall and revetment repairs.
- She noted that the REDI project at the State Marine Park is moving forward.
- Work on the LWRP update continues. She would like to schedule a remote meeting with the committee in July to review chapters that have been written in draft form.

- **Webster**

- Josh stated that four REDI projects were awarded to the Town of Webster and that a call with the State has been scheduled for this Friday. The projects include the Lake Road improvements, well abandonment, protection of the Monroe County pump station and the new West

Webster Fire District dock. He stated that he will update the committee of the results of the phone call with the State at its next meeting.

- Allison Mayer stated that she has noticed a significant increase in boats and jet skis on the Bay this season. She also stated that there was a recent fish kill in the Bay. It may have occurred because of the drastic change in the temperature that took place in May. She has also see blue-green algae in the Bay.
- Allison also stated that she has seen a lot of recklessness on the Bay this year with people disregarding social distancing. She has posters she is willing to share discouraging rafting and encouraging social distancing for boaters.
- Jarod Rock stated that he is concerned that boaters are using life preservers that are not certified by the U.S. Coast Guard.
- Steve Olufsen will reach out to Dan Kawski, MCSD – Marine Unit to make him aware of this discussion.
- Allison asked about the bay oxygenation. Steve Olufsen stated that Andy Sansone said they are going to continue to oxygenate the Bay this summer. Steve will check to see when the program will start and will get an update on the status of the blue-green algae issue.

F. Other:

a. Harbor Management Plan Update:

- The towns and county continue to meet to update the HMP. Work on the Plan includes updating the mapping, obtaining data regarding invasive species in and around the bay and finalizing the wording in some sections of the Plan. Update meetings will be scheduled based on town reps availability going forward.

G. Next meeting - Thursday, July 23th on Zoom or in Webster, NY

Parking Lot:

- **Dredging Plan**

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 A.M.