

## MEETING MINUTES

Date: September 30, 2022

Attendees: See Sign-in Sheet

Notes By: Bryan White, PE, Dillon Taylor, Tom Klaseus, PE, Jim Burns Assoc. AIA

Copy To: Loon Lake Association, Loon Lake Watershed Improvement Alliance, Town of Wayland

Project: Town of Wayland Loon Lake Sewer System Study

Project No.: 3138-010

Purpose of Meeting: Public Project Status Meeting

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*“The following are the author(s)’s representation of the main points of discussion. The meeting occurred on September 20, 2022. Please contact the author(s) directly if there are any errors or omissions.”*

### Handouts:

1. Project maps for handouts -> Brief discussion of preliminary maps
  - a. Preliminary Project Area
  - b. Preliminary Project Area with 10-foot contours
  - c. State Wetland Map
  - d. Federal Wetland Map
  - e. Floodplain (100-year) Map

### Agenda:

1. **Introduction by Eric Busch**
  - a. Intro of Bryan White – Project Manager; Dillon Taylor – Project Engineer; Tom Klaseus – HUNT Consultant; Jim Burns – Project Architect.
2. **Work to Date by Bryan / Dillon / Tom**
  - a. New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) Early 2004 Investigation / Review -> Brief mention
  - b. Desktop Reviews -> Brief discussions overall of below items (please refer to glossary for definition of acronyms used throughout these minutes).
    - i. Topographic -> Data collected from NYS Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR)
    - ii. Soils, Bedrock, Water Table -> Data collected from Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
    - iii. Wetlands, species, aquifer -> Data collected from New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) Mappers and United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)

- iv. Floodplains -> Data collected from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)  
Floodplain Mapping
  - v. State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) initial notification
  - vi. Parcels / Vacant lands / Farm / etc. -> Data collected from Association, Alliance, Tax records, Steuben County Geographic Information System (GIS), etc.
  - c. Water sampling review -> Data being collected from multiple sources such as 2004 NYSDOH investigation, Citizen Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP) information, Steuben Water Quality Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Upper Genesee River Basin, Colleges of Brockport and Geneseo, Alliance, etc.
  - d. Equivalent Dwelling Unit (EDU) counts / Average usage -> Compiled data of tax parcels with year built, number of bedrooms, compared to NYSDEC Intermediate Sizing Manual for estimated average flows
  - e. Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) started -> Basis for establishing sewer district boundaries, preferred alternatives, cost estimates, and applying to funding/grant agencies.
- 3. Project Alternatives by Bryan / Dillon / Tom**
- a. Desktop viability of lands for the leach field.
    - i. Soils -> Define general locations of potentially viable treatment locations
    - ii. Land Coverage / Availability -> In combination with the desktop soils map looking at properties w/ large continuous land, i.e., farmland, or vacant land, etc.
    - iii. Existing / Potential future use -> Review of potential for future land use, i.e., subdivisions, continued farmland or vacant land, etc.
  - b. Topography
    - i. Gravity / Forcemain -> Evaluation of topography and high/low points, users' abilities to gravity or pump into collection system, right-of-way/easement complications
  - c. Multiple vs Combined Public Sewer System(s).
    - i. East vs West (multiple or single) vs Combined (all) -> Dependent on field soils evaluation, landowner cooperation, topography, sizing of system
  - d. Package Plant(s) with leach field vs. Conventional Leach Field System -> Led to large discussion and main questions, see the following questions/answers:

**QUESTIONS FROM MEETING ATTENDEES:**

- i. **How will it affect the wells/drinking water?**
  - 1. Development of a community sanitary sewer system will move the collection, treatment, and disposal of the lake's current sanitary systems away from the lake and potable drinking water wells. This will have a positive impact on the wells and drinking water to the residents of the community and to the lake.
- ii. **How big will the treatment system be? / How much area/footprint will it use?**
  - 1. It is too early to know for sure. Multiple factors go into the size of the required footprint such as but not limited to soils and how quickly (or slowly) water percolates in the soils, type of pretreatment utilized before the absorption field, designated land required for reserve area, how many locations are utilized in final design, peak flows for permanent vs. seasonal residents, etc.

**iii. Where will the treatment / land acquisition be?**

1. Certain areas have been identified based on a desktop review, and next steps are to discuss with the landowners about the viability of testing and potentially purchasing their land. If the landowners agree, HUNT will perform percolation tests, and deep hole pits to determine viability and design limits.

**iv. How much of the 2004 NYSDOH investigation and 2014 survey is being utilized?**

1. The 2004 NYSDOH investigation is a good basis to build from, but designs were not factored into that investigation. Some of the information is obsolete as it is known that some sanitary system components have been modified in the past 18 years, but a lot of the information is still relevant with systems showing an even greater age and need for the community project. Similarly, the 2014 survey continues to support the need for this improvement. An updated survey will be conducted to receive more current information.

**v. Who will operate/maintain the system?**

1. A sewer district will be required to be formed. The Town will own/maintain/operate with licensed operator (if necessary) dependent on final design used. If a public sewage system is ultimately constructed, all costs including construction of the system, and maintenance and operation will ultimately be borne by residents benefited by the system, and the debt service to construct the system will be potentially lowered if grants/funding are awarded to the project.

**vi. Cost of the proposed system?**

1. It is too early to tell at this point. Initial cost estimates will be shown in the PER without funding being received for anticipated maximum out-of-pocket expenses; however, grant funding if awarded will reduce that final number to the user.

**vii. Will water system/district be investigated/proposed at same time?**

1. It is not currently proposed to investigate a water system/district for Loon Lake at the same time as the public sewage treatment system. Public water does not run nearby, and therefore a well field would be required along with distribution system, storage, and treatment system. The best method for improving the lake and drinking water sources is to provide enhanced sanitary treatment further away from the water sources.

**viii. Will there still be an impact from the public sewage treatment system discharge on the lake?**

1. The system will be designed away from the lake and therefore will have negligible, if any, impact to the lake.

**ix. Will existing individual system components be able to be utilized?**

1. The town has indicated that they would make everyone connect to the public sewage system that is within the sewer district. However, if components such as septic tanks or holding tanks are needed and can be utilized, a minimum size, capacity, and condition would be required that would limit the number of existing components that could be used.

**x. What support from the Association / Alliance is happening? Is more public support needed?**

1. The Association and Alliance have been working with HUNT to provide as much documentation as is available and is discovered throughout this process. Any public

assistance is always appreciated and will be encouraged greatly in the upcoming month(s) to provide information on the existing sanitary systems, drinking water sources, and locations on properties.

**xi. How will you get information as many people have left for the season already?**

1. Through a combination of the Association, Alliance, and Town, HUNT will work with them to send out emails, mailers, and going door-to-door if necessary to gather information.

**xii. When will the report be completed?**

1. A draft copy of the report is to be completed by the end of 2022, with input from the Association, Alliance, and Town. A final draft is anticipated during the Spring of 2023.

- e. Use of Village of Wayland Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) -> 5 miles North of lake, there are not many users along path to help pay for the cost of running a sewage system that long distance, system will also have to go under Rt. 390 and the state does not typically permit crossing under or through the state highway system with municipal sewage systems. Preliminarily using Wayland's WWTP does not look like a viable option.

**4. Next Steps**

- a. Full well and sanitary systems data and locations – priority before more residents leave -> Will continue to work with the Association/Alliance/Town to send out another system survey questionnaire, potential field survey, and/or use desktop/installation application survey locations and separation distances of existing wells and sanitary systems where available
- b. Continue to obtain and evaluate additional lake sampling information
- c. Identify treatment method and locations
  - i. Engage property owners of possible treatment locations
  - ii. Perc test / Deep Pits at possible treatment locations
  - iii. Ground water table testing, if necessary if undetermined from Deep Pits
- d. Field Species evaluation, if necessary
- e. Wetland evaluation / delineation -> if determined to be near proposed construction

**5. Preliminary Engineering Report – December 2022 -> Draft**

- a. Complete per New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation (NYSEFC) program standards
- b. Opinions of Probable Cost per Alternative / Cost per EDU
- c. Identify potential funding sources
- d. Submit draft to Association / Alliance / Town – representatives will meet to discuss
- e. Submit final to NYSDEC and NYSEFC for review and comment -> Estimated Spring 2023
- f. Continue to keep public informed throughout process

**6. Study/Engineering Planning Grant (EPG) Closeout**

**7. Pre-application activities and potential schedule**

- a. Will Include review of applicable funding sources such as DEC Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP), Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Water Infrastructure Improvement & Intermunicipal Act Grant (WIIA), USDA, etc.
- b. Town Sewer District Formation
- c. Funding Applications -> HUNT will assist Town with the application(s)
- d. Applications/awards to construction can take a couple of years generally at a minimum

## Glossary:

Here are some common acronyms and terms used in affiliation with projects of this nature.

- New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) – The Government agency behind the 2004 investigation. Regulation of drinking water safety would be its primary concern for this project.
- Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) – This technique provides HUNT with data in relation to the topography of the area without the need for conventional survey during a preliminary study. This is useful for large areas such as this.
- Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) – An agency within the USDA that focuses on the soil properties across the US. HUNT uses this resource for desktop review of the soil properties within an area.
- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) – The government agency that oversees the NRCS. The USDA also provides funding and support for projects aimed to improve rural communities.
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) – The government agency that regulates the impacts people have on the environment. This includes wetlands and endangered species within a project location. their support strengthens the necessity for this project success. NYSDEC is also the regulatory agency to approve sanitary systems beyond a private system.
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) – the Federal government agency for the environment. Like the NYSDEC but on a national scale.
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) – This Government agency provides HUNT with flooding information for a specified area.
- Geographic Information System (GIS) – Distribution of data collected by many different agencies for consumer use. Utilizing GIS data helps HUNT gather and provide information about project areas. Examples of this are parcel shapes and owner information, right of ways, locations of streams and lakes, LIDAR, or other elevation data. These different data sources can then be combined and utilized in the design of a project.
- State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) – The government agency that regulates the disturbance of any historical structure or potential archeologically important area.
- Citizen Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP) – A volunteer organization that assists the NYSDEC with gathering Important Lake data for study and determination of its environmental impact.
- Equivalent Dwelling Unit (EDU) – Generally a typical single-family residence in a benefitted sewer or water district. This is then used to determine flows and a fair way to divide a debt service among a district.
- New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation (NYSEFC) – Government agency that regulates the distribution of government funds for projects aimed to improve overall environmental quality of the State. This study is funded through NYSEFC. NYSEFC will also provide technical review and approval of the preliminary engineering report and final design when that occurs.
- Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) – A grant given to projects involving water improvement.
- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) – A grant given to lower income communities.
- Water Infrastructure Improvement & Intermunicipal Act Grant (WIIA) – A grant given for clean water and drinking water projects.