

**Irondequoit Bay Coordinating Committee
Technical Staff Meeting
Penfield Town Hall
October 28, 2021**

Present: Steve Olufsen of the Monroe County Department of Planning and Development, Andy Sansone, Monroe County Environmental Services Department, Robert Call, NYSDEC, Matt McKenzie, MCSO, Mike Allen, Chairman, Kerry Ivers, Town of Irondequoit, Jim Costello and Mike O'Connor, Town of Penfield, Josh Artuso, Town of Webster, Jane Shafer, Newport Yacht Club, Noel Schlageter, EMC, Kelly Emerick, MCSWCD, Alison Mayer, Mayer Marina and Mark MacMillan, MacMillan Marine.

A. Introductions:

Chair: Mike Allen

Scribe: Jim Costello

B. Water Level Update:

- Today's water level on Lake Ontario is 245.33'. The average is 244.72'. The outflow is 8,070 CFS and the average is 7,380 CFS.

C. I-Bay Information Signs:

- The IBTS would like to have signs installed on the Bay that educate boaters and stakeholders about the "Rules of the Bay" regarding No Wake and Speed Limit. It was recommended that five signs be installed, four at the marinas and one at the boat launch at the north end of the Bay. It is anticipated that the four marina signs would be 36" x 40" at a cost of \$720 and the sign at the boat launch be 48" x 60" at a cost of \$262. It was suggested that the towns set up cost center accounts so that the MCDOT can charge back the cost of the signs. Andy Sansone suggested that the new County Irondequoit Bay website address be placed on the signs as well, however the website has be created first. Mark MacMillan suggested that a brochure rack be set up at the marinas to give more information to the public with at least a card with the website on it. Jane Shafer stated that a sign could be placed at Newport Yacht Club as well. Another recommended site is the Outlet at the swing bridge facing west. Monroe County will prepare wording for the signs which will be reviewed by the IBTS. Recommended wording was "No Wake Zone 300 feet from Shore or Docks, For Further Information See IrondequoitBay.org", and "25 MPH, No Wake In Channel". Kerry suggested that a QR Code could be used on the signs as well, however it may be hard to read at a distance and Mark MacMillan suggested that it may not be a safe practice. Alison suggested that the QR Code could be placed on the first red channel marker as boaters should be going slow enough and safe enough to utilize it. Mark also noted that some official seal should be on the signs, such as the Coast Guard or Sheriff's seal to bring attention to them. Again, the IBTS will review the designs before the signs are made.

D. I-Bay Aquatic Survey Update:

- Andy Sansone stated at the last meeting that he has been on the bay doing monitoring work on the bay. He is proposing an aquatic vegetation survey. He noted that there has been no dramatic change in phosphorous levels, but the water temperature has increased in the center of the bay by 2.8°C in April this year. He would like to develop an aquatic plan to replicate his monitoring work every year. He gave an update of his activities. He noted that the Nature Conservancy conducted a survey in August and the County did theirs later. The County's study mirrored the one done in 2002. The study was conducted over a 3-4 day period. The weed beds were mapped out and they were compared to the 2002 beds. Andy stated that he welcomes input from the marinas operating on the Bay. He has put some slides together for educational purposes showing a 30 year effort of monitoring the Bay. He noted that the 2021 concerns were raised by stakeholders, particularly at Stoney Point. He identified the four types of aquatic rooted plants (macrophytes) and discussed the 2021 Macrophyte Survey. He noted higher numbers in the north and south shallows, as well as Devil's Cove, German Village and Point Pleasant than in 2002. He stated that he will be preparing a fact sheet for future reference. He discussed the factors affecting growth of aquatic vegetation: sunlight, temperature, nutrients and depth. He noted that water clarity is measured by a Secchi Disk. The deeper the disk is visible, the clearer the water. He would like Secchi readings between 1-2 meters. He took water temperatures during the first week of April 2021 and noted that the temperatures were warmer than in 2020. He also noted that phosphorus concentrations were higher than in previous years as well. He looked at water levels from 1990 to 2021 and noted that 2021 levels were lower than the long term average. He showed photos comparing 2019 to 2021. Going back to the four factors, he stated that the sunlight was higher than normal, the temperature was higher than normal, nutrients were normal and water depth was lower than normal. His theory is that all the above contributed to high aquatic vegetative growth on the Bay in 2021. He noted that the next steps are to wait for the results of the Nature Conservancy/PRISM Study results, continue to monitor the Bay, update the IBTS with progress and conduct a vegetative assessment in 2022.

E. Review last month notes and this agenda:

- Kerry is working on last months' minutes and will have them for the November meeting.

F. Project Updates and Reviews:

Irondequoit –

- Kerry stated that two homes are under construction at 667 and 668 Seneca Road.
- The Town is reviewing projects associated with revetments and dock repairs.
- A shed replacement at 1835 Schnackel Drive.

- **Penfield –**
 - Jim Costello stated that he is working with Dr. Sahar Elezabi regarding her proposal to timber harvest property at 1527-B Empire Blvd. The property abuts Irondequoit Bay and much of it is in the wetland, the adjacent area, is on highly erodible slopes and is in close proximity to the eagle's nest on the Daniele property adjacent to it. Rob Call suggested that she set up a pre-app meeting with DEC staff to work out the details.

- **Webster –**
 - Josh Artuso stated that there are two applications for docks before the Planning Board. The owners at 701 Summit are proposing a boat hoist and dock extension and the Glen Edith site is proposing a 102' dock. The Town is looking at alternatives as the dock is very obtrusive.
 - The Town is reviewing an application for shoreline protection at 227 Lake Road.
 - The Town is progressing with its REDI projects and Sand Bar Park improvements. They are at 90% complete. There is a public open house this evening at the Webster Thomas High School to address the Sand Bar Park improvements.
 - Bob Call addressed a few dock applications and a Coastal Erosion Permit for the Morrill property on Lake Road, where the fire took place for a new residence is near finalization.

G. Other:

- **Harbor Management Plan Update:**
 - Kerry reported that the draft document has been completed and has been sent to the NYSDEC for review. Rob Call noted that he has been reviewing it, but recent flooding issues have prevented him from completing it. He hopes to have comments back by next week.

H. Next meeting – Thursday, November 18th via ZOOM and in person

I. Parking Lot: None

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 A.M.