

RECEIVED APR 01 2014



OWASCO LAKE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Michael Didio
Chairperson

March 19, 2014

Ken Lynch, Director Region 7
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
615 Erie Boulevard West
Syracuse, NY 13204

RE: Manure Run-off Event into Owasco Lake

Dear Mr. Lynch:

On February 21, 2014 a large run-off event occurred that caused a significant amount of liquid manure to enter Owasco Lake. The attached picture taken on February 22, 2014 shows what the lake looked like on the shore near Fire Lane 26 in the Town of Scipio following this event. A sample collected from a numbered stream above Fire Lane 20 in the Town of Scipio by the Cayuga County Health Department on February 21, 2014 had a phosphorus level of 7,930 ppb and an ammonia level of 25.3 ppm. This discharge of manure appears to have caused numerous water quality violations of the Environmental Conservation Law.

It is our understanding that this liquid manure was applied just a few days prior to February 21, 2014 on frozen and snow covered ground. On that day, the weather had forecasted that snow melt and significant precipitation would occur in the days following the spreading activity. Spreading manure under these conditions appears to be in violation of the Natural Resources Conservation Service Standard 590.

The Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council (Council) is extremely concerned and distressed with this occurrence. As you are aware Owasco Lake is a drinking water source for approximately 44,000 residents of Cayuga County and is an invaluable asset for the residents and businesses within the watershed.

It is the Council's opinion that the parties responsible for the resultant environmental degradation of Owasco Lake must be held fully accountable. In addition, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation must take whatever action necessary to prevent this from occurring again.

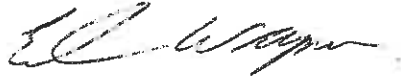
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael Didio".

Michael Didio, Chair, Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council and Cayuga County Legislator



Debra McCormick, Vice Chair, Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council and City of Auburn
Councilor



Ed Wagner, Member, Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council and Supervisor, Town of Owasco



Gary Searing, Member, Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council and Supervisor, Town of Fleming



Charles Greene, Member, Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council and Supervisor, Town of Niles



Keith Welch, Member, Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council and Planning Board Member,
Town of Scipio

Cc: Joe Martens, Commissioner, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
Nirav R. Shah, M.D., M.P.H, Commissioner, NYS Department of Health
Richard A. Ball, Acting Commissioner NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets
Donald Pettit, State Conservationist Natural Resource Conservation Service
Judith Enck, Administrator, Region 2 United State Environmental Protection Agency
The Auburn Citizen