

# **SUMMARY OF TOP LOCI COUNTY WORKSHOP PRIORITIES (2005)**

(Items given the same ranking within a county list represent a tie)

## **NIAGARA COUNTY**

1. Restore/enhance riparian corridors and natural floodplains in the smaller tributaries (12-Mile, Keg, and 4-Mile Creeks)
2. Support the de-listing of the 18- Mile Creek Area of Concern (restoration of use impairments)
  - a. Identify sources and sinks of PCBs and other contaminants behind Burt Dam
  - b. Eliminate areas of contaminated sediments – hot spots
3. Protect against shoreline erosion– need mechanism to correct shoreline erosion quickly, minimize problems early
4. Implement public education and outreach on several topics: erosion, lake levels, hydraulics, invasive species
5. Investigate and control nuisance and invasive species, including cormorants, geese, zebra mussel, round goby, invertebrates, plants)
6. Remove or restore old hotel piers/coastal restoration (in Towns of Olcott and Wilson)
7. Mitigate failing septic systems
8. Attract/promote businesses that support sustainability and eco-tourism opportunities
9. Assist agricultural community with nutrient management planning
10. Improve handicapped-access to shoreline

## **ORLEANS COUNTY**

1. Involve state and federal authorities at local community level to hear and address concerns
  - a. Establish better two-way communication with Army Corps of Engineers
  - b. Create a mechanism for property owners to have a greater voice in decisions, e.g., create a political action committee for seasonal residents
2. Mitigate shoreline erosion and impacts
  - a. Make options known to homeowners for shoreline erosion prevention and restoration
  - b. Provide financial assistance for shoreline protection and restoration

- c. Establish mechanism for tax relief for property loss due to shoreline erosion
  - d. To prevent shoreline erosion, slow the Fast Ferry
- 3. Improve and maintain Lake Ontario water quality to meet standards
- 4. Make available easily accessible information on the roles of the regulating agencies and their jurisdictions (ACE, EPA, DEC, IJC, etc.)
  - a. Establish a clearinghouse for information: regulatory, policy, and lake level controls
- 5. Remedy failing septic systems along lakeshore
- 6. Identify, prioritize, and remediate point and nonpoint sources of nutrients and other pollutants
- 7. Control human garbage/trash that washes onto shore
- 8. Adopt and enforce tighter controls over ballast water releases to reduce the introduction of exotic species
- 9. Increase public access and swimming beaches
- 10. Reduce emissions from power plants, e.g., Somerset (Niagara County)

## **MONROE COUNTY**

- 1. Control algae growth in near-shore areas (less than 10 meters depth) by reducing phosphorus
- 2. Examine feasibility of restoring eutrophic waterbodies to a more natural state – Long Pond
- 3. Develop constructed wetlands for stormwater mitigation, nutrient reduction, slowing flow into treatment plants (Northrup Creek and Long Pond, other locations)
- 4. Implement/support erosion control measures on Allens, Northrup, and Irondequoit Creeks
- 5. Remediate historical dump sites (Town of Penfield)
- 6. Improve public access to lake through boardwalks, trails, land purchases – Define existing access around lake
- 7. Conduct a feasibility study on use of constructed wetlands to address point source discharges
- 8. Control weed growth in coastal areas and ponds, through phosphorus control
- 9. Study the significance of the impact of the Genesee River (water quality) on local beaches, take action as recommended
- 10. Define and mitigate historical toxic contamination at Round Pound

## **WAYNE COUNTY**

1. Better control of lake levels within the maximum and minimum goals
2. Support implementation of the Wayne County watershed and Sodus Bay harbor management plans – support natural resources and open space protection, public access, recreational opportunities as recommended in plans
3. Control/reduce invasive and nuisance aquatic vegetation
4. Collect information and GIS data for entire coastal region that could be used in local management plans - a data source for locals to use, make connections to and learn from each other
5. Create a Wayne County watershed manager position to oversee multiple programs
6. Develop a plan to get local communities to tie into the regional wastewater treatment plant(s) (expand sewerage)
7. Revisit potential for dredging by revisiting the coastal dredging report - relevant to 17 Lake Ontario embayments
8. Reduce nutrient sources to embayments/lake
9. Upgrade local wastewater treatment to accept septage, grey and black water (RVs)
10. Provide technical assistance for embayments regarding chemical treatments for aquatic weeds, e.g., permitting, products, learning from experience

## **CAYUGA COUNTY**

1. Fund and construct WTP/sewer system for Fairhaven
2. Enhance and protect public access while promoting responsible and appropriate recreational opportunities
3. Educate property owners about what they can do to protect water quality
4. Adopt land use controls that protect water quality - zoning, subdivision codes
5. Manage invasive plants, include educational component, on Little Sodus Bay
6. Educate public to increase acceptance of regulations that protect lakefront
7. Support Sterling Nature Center - staff, programs, operations - as major educational resource
8. Develop and promote clean boat program with fueling and pump out stations
9. Support education and technical assistance to towns and villages on Phase II stormwater compliance
10. Develop interpretive displays to educate public about invasive species, habitat, interaction with lake, water quality, and watersheds

## **OSWEGO COUNTY**

1. Provide technical assistance to local communities for strategic planning

2. Develop and maintain public facilities, access to water and parks
3. Achieve “safe harbor” designation for Sandy Pond—involves public access, breakwall , dredging
4. Study impacts of liquid manure on lake water quality
5. Provide funds for septic system rehabilitation and education
6. Establish baseline data for watersheds—use local volunteers, students
7. Fund existing plans that promote coastal resources/lake as a destination
8. Increase habitat for shorebirds
9. Maximize collaboration between groups and communities in projects
10. Promote/fund better planning for infrastructure and sustainable growth—conduct a study of the local impact of installing water lines (on water table, growth scenarios)

## **JEFFERSON COUNTY**

1. Provide funds to the agricultural sector (farmers, agencies) to improve quality of water leaving the farm
2. Increase public education
  - a. Include several topics: natural ecosystems and cycles, marine regulations, management practices and alternative behaviors/actions that are environmentally-friendly, invasives, and stormwater
3. Create a sustainable development, Smart Growth plan for the rural, nearshore area that looks at zoning and identifies resources unique to the rural areas
4. Promote open space planning, update zoning and support local organizations like land trusts
5. Identify and control invasive species (Eurasian watermilfoil, zebra mussels, and swallowwort at Robert Wehle State Park)
6. Promote public sewer for Henderson Harbor (a documented problem, estimated cost \$13 million)
7. Implement streambank stabilization and restoration in the Sandy Creek watershed
8. Provide incentives for upgrades/repairs for septic systems.
9. Promote the fisheries resources in the eastern basin of Lake Ontario/St. Lawrence River
  - a. support the sport fishing industry by protecting/managing the resource
  - b. support Cape Vincent hatchery
10. Create an outlet for water quality data that is easy to use and understand
11. Expand cormorant research into St. Lawrence River/Cooperative research program with Canada