

**Comments from Core Team Meeting 1**  
**October 22, 2008**  
**Sandy Creeks Ecosystem-based Management**

*Note to Core Team: The comments recorded at the meeting (the bullets listed below) were grouped to support the consideration of priority actions. Please feel free to comment on the proposed categories.*

- (1) Need for public water and wastewater infrastructure to guide and mitigate population growth, protect resources: wetlands, surface water quality, groundwater quality, Lake Ontario and ponds
  - Water supply/systems for camps
  - Wastewater management
  - Water quality, inadequate treatment
    - Need for education
    - Will affect quality of groundwater & surface water (Lake Ontario, ponds)
    - With municipal water, will use more water, force installation of sewers
  - Threats to wetlands: nutrients, hydrologic modification, need both water and sewers
  - Sewers needed everywhere? Sandy Pond, concentrated area, high priority
  - Water systems are easier/more economical to install than wastewater systems (pumping)
  - Technology, laws for more effective on-site wastewater disposal systems
  - Water is the number one issue
  - With infrastructure comes development- zoning (spatial planning)
  
- (2) Potential impact of proposed bottling plant on water resources and broader ecosystem
  - Vulnerability to proposals for resource extraction (water plant)
  - Aquifer depletion (bottling plant)
  
- (3) Nonpoint source pollution issues
  - Manure management: is this a problem? Are there baseline data? Compliance with DEC regulations, monitoring
  - Upstream runoff and sedimentation, flows downhill
  - No dredging in 2008, Lindsay Creek to island, getting shallower, substrate was not sandy more organic (black), suspect erosion from upstream
  - Record storm event in 2008
  - Stormwater management
  - Data: Jefferson County WQCC, SUNY Brockport (check website): Concern for nonpoint source pollution, not just agriculture
  - Fear: agricultural waste affecting communities, education needed?
  - BMPs for forest, construction, agriculture, roadway maintenance, etc.: education

- Regulations already exist: enforcement, staff resources may limit effectiveness
- Agricultural producers (and others) need technical support
- Modeling nutrient and sediment loss for this watershed (Cornell)
- Is there an opportunity to streamline regulations? Not more, just better integrated?
- Economic viability (regulations on agriculture)
- State Parks perspective: top three issues are invasives, nonpoint source pollution, habitat loss
- Managing runoff that causes pollution, siltation and fish kills

#### (4) Acid rain effect on forest resources

- Acid rain, trees are dying by hundreds
- If local action will not be effective, report to Council (kick it up)

#### (5) Invasive species

- Diseases: botulism E, VHS
- Zebra & quagga mussels, swallowwort, giant hogweed, Phragmites, purple loosestrife: edge of field effects. Eradication not realistic option
- Incoming forest pests and pathogens
- Education key: PRISM, SLELO, CCE, local schools
- State Parks perspective: top three issues are invasives, nonpoint source pollution, habitat loss

#### (6) Emerging issue: energy generation and transmission

- Effects of energy: production and transmission ~ emerging issue
- Invasive species, also tie in to energy transmission corridor

#### (7) Managing the implications of a recreation-based economy

- Evaluation of recreation and tourism, socio-economic impacts
- Public access for fisheries
- Public access to water for fishing, boating, camping, hiking, etc
- Vehicles tearing up the trails, ineffective enforcement, degrading water quality and habitat, lax enforcement (courts?)
- Target education of town justices
- Education needed for entrepreneurs: SBA is a resource
- Population fluctuation, influx during summer and winter, recreational demands, tourism
- Challenge: rural character for people and the rest of the ecosystem, need balance

#### (8) Monitoring

- Need for monitoring program in whole watershed; in-lake buoy

(9) Effects on species/communities of concern

- Indiana Bat, Winona Forest
- State Parks perspective: top three issues are invasives, nonpoint source pollution, habitat loss
- Shoreline hardening, dams and barriers, connectivity VHS implications
- Human interventions may do more long-term harm than good

(10) Water level regulation

- Water level regulation

(11) Looking ahead to solutions

- Grant opportunities, build into third meeting (ongoing at THC)
- Grants: partnerships are an advantage