

Minutes for Upstate NY SRA Business Meeting

June 20, 2013, 5 – 8 pm, Syracuse, NY

<http://www.sra.org/upstateny/>

Officers for 2012/2013

Peg Coleman, President
Michele Stephenson, Webmaster
Laura Steinberg, Councilor
Jiyoung Park, Councilor

Changhyun Kwon, Secretary
Bill Thayer, Treasurer
Swiatoslav Kaczmar, Councilor
Andrew Henwood, Councilor

Participants at June 20th Meeting: Peg Coleman, Valerie Luzadis, Peter McClure, Craig Milburn, Frank Moses, Chuck Muniak, Laura Rickard, Erica Tauzer.

Agenda

Tour of Onondaga Lake Visitor Center and Presentations on Cleanup/Restoration:

Upstate NY SRA members enjoyed a very informative tour of the recently completed Onondaga Lake Visitor Center in Syracuse. The three speakers who described their work at Onondaga Lake impressed Upstate NY SRA members with the integration of risk assessment, risk management, and risk communication efforts on the project.

- Erica Tauzer, a graduate student SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, introduced her work on local citizens' meanings of and attachment to the lake and forms of participatory engagement.
- Craig Milburn, Honeywell's Communications Director, presented some history on the lake, formerly known as the most polluted lake in the world, and progress on cleanup and habitat restoration. The displays, schematics, maps, and videos on cleanup design, technical innovations, and community engagement at the Visitor Center are exceptional (see <http://www.lakecleanup.com/>).
- Frank Moses, Director of the Montezuma Audubon Center, then led us outside on the deck and described extensive habitat restoration efforts and community engagement through the Onondaga Lake Conservation Corps.

Honeywell has partnered with Central New York scientists, engineers, skilled craft laborers, and community volunteers to clean up past decades of industrial contamination and restore habitats at Onondaga Lake. Participants saw evidence of the success of restoring habitat and ecosystems at the lake, including sightings of ospreys and other waterfowl nesting and feeding in the restored habitats near the dredging operation. The Visitor Center is open to the public, and monthly progress reports on the cleanup operation are posted online to encourage public participation in stewardship of Onondaga Lake and its wetlands.

Discussion Topic

A work plan developed by Peter McClure was discussed for a 2014 webinar series entitled *Scientific Studies of Water-Resource Impacts of Natural Gas Extraction from the Marcellus Shale*. Updates on the series will be posted periodically as invited speakers confirm their topics and availability.

Action Items

1. Peg Coleman will prepare and distribute minutes to officers and those who RSVP'd for the meeting. Peg will consider feedback submitted within one week of the meeting, make any appropriate revisions to the minutes, and submit the June minutes to our webmaster Michele Stephenson for posting on our website.
2. Peg Coleman will provide information at the fall quarterly meeting about the LinkedIn group for SRAonCampus to partnering ROs.
3. Peter McClure will explore opportunities to partner with EPA and other potential hosts of the webinar series and invite potential speakers.
4. Workgroups will be forming in the fall to align with operational procedures guidance prepared by the SRA Secretariat.
 - a) Chuck Muniak will begin considering amendments to Upstate NY SRA bylaws (see <http://www.sra.org/upstateny/bylaws>) and guidance from SRA Secretariat. Two ideas discussed were combining Secretary/Treasurer offices and adding a graduate student representative to our bylaws in advance of 2013 elections. An opportunity is available for an additional volunteer to join this workgroup.
 - b) Volunteers are needed to assist with organizing the fall election.

Next Meeting Anticipated in September/October (host and location to be determined)

Respectfully submitted by Peg Coleman

13 August 2013