



# Onondaga County Legislature

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**WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE REVIEW OF THE 2014 TENTATIVE BUDGET  
ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION COMMITTEE DEPARTMENTS AND AUTHORIZED AGENCIES  
SEPTEMBER 24, 2013  
DAVID H. KNAPP, CHAIRMAN**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mr. Jordan, Mrs. Ervin, Mr. May, Ms. Williams

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mr. Holmquist, Mr. Kilmartin

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mr. McMahon, Mrs. Tassone, Mr. Plochocki, Mr. Shepard, Mrs. Rapp, Mr. Liedka and see attached list

Chair Knapp called the meeting to order at 9:29 AM.

**OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENT – pg. 5-8: David Coburn, Director**

Mr. Coburn provided hard copies and presented the following:

**2014 ANNUAL BUDGET**  
Ways & Means Committee Report

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**OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENT**

JOANNE M. MAHONEY, COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
DAVID COBURN, DIRECTOR



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**2013 – Year in review**

In 2013 the Office of Environment continued to carry out its role to help the County formulate environmental policy to ensure responsible planning and management of natural resources under the County’s control, to reduce environmental liability, to act as a liaison with environmental regulatory agencies, to facilitate coordination between County departments and to provide general assistance to departments that have environmental issues or questions. Key areas of involvement in 2013 are described in the following pages.

2013 – YEAR IN REVIEW



**Priority Areas of Involvement in 2013**

**1. Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)**

The Office of Environment is directing County efforts to cost-effectively manage the County’s response to the challenges posed by EAB.

EAB has now been positively identified in several locations in Onondaga County. With funds provided by the County Legislature in 2012 (\$96,250) and a state grant in 2013 (\$25,000), an inventory of ash trees on County-owned property (the County owns approximately 8,000 acres and 800 miles of highway right-of-way) is being carried out by the County Soil and Water Conservation District, and is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2014.

**Preliminary Inventory Data**

**Tree Diameter by 2" Classes**

Diameter (Inch)	Quantity
8	324
10	4797
12	4318
14	3950
16	2760
18	3274
20	2234
22	1300
24	604
26	167
28	283
30	133
32	188
34	124
36	75
38	44
40	22
42	19
44	8
46	5

**Potential Targets by Type**

2013 KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS



**Priority Areas of Involvement in 2013**

**Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) continued**

In 2013, in collaboration with the Onondaga County EAB Task Force, an extensive network of “sentinel trees” and “purple traps” were established in an attempt to detect EAB’s presence in the County and delineate EAB infestations in order to target resources and attempt to slow the spread of the beetle so that the cost of ash tree treatment or removals can be spread over more years.




KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2013



**Priority Areas of Involvement in 2013**

**Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) continued**

Areas within a 10-mile radius of captured beetles and/or known infestations are considered to be high risk areas for future EAB infestations.



10 mile radius around EAB, Onondaga County, NY  
Map created by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Onondaga County  
As of 8/28/2013

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2013



- Due to County’s good organization the DEC volunteered to conduct early detection, set up 120 purple traps
- Girdling tree stresses tree (strip of bark removed), draws the beetles in; check back in the fall to see if beetle is in the tree
- Early detection important part of management strategy

- Already able to identify 16 areas because of early detection
- High risk area extends to Onondaga Lake Park

**Priority Areas of Involvement in 2013**

**Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) continued**

The Office of Environment has been working with the County Soil & Water Conservation District and Parks Department in 2013 to develop an ash tree management plan for Onondaga Lake Park and to begin removing priority ash trees and to identify candidate trees for inoculation/preservation.

Ash tree inventory data has been used to prioritize ash trees in Onondaga Lake Park for removal or treatment.



Yellow: All Ash Trees  
Red: High Risk Ash Trees  
Blue: Stem or Canopy Problems  
Purple: Small Diameter Ash Trees

2013 KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**Priority Areas of Involvement in 2013**

**2. Onondaga Lake Phosphorus TMDL - MS4s**

**In 2013 the Director of the Office of Environment chaired the Central New York Stormwater Coalition TMDL Subcommittee created to help impacted MS4s consider alternative approaches to achieving compliance with the new Onondaga Lake Phosphorus TMDL MS4 requirements.**

MS4s (municipalities subject to the Phase II Stormwater regulations) within the Onondaga Lake Watershed (18 municipalities within the County) must now modify their Stormwater Management Plans and develop a "Watershed Improvement Strategy" to address the Onondaga Lake Phosphorus TMDL requirement to reduce phosphorus discharges associated with stormwater runoff by 18% by 2025.



The Watershed Improvement Strategy, which must be submitted to DEC by June 2015, must include approvable plans and schedules for completing, if necessary, retrofit projects (such as green infrastructure), including identification of project funding sources. Upon DEC approval, those plans and schedules will become enforceable requirements of the affected MS4's permits.

2013 KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- *Small section of Onondaga Lake Park; blue dots are not candidates for inoculation; purple dots are trees less than 6 inches in diameter*
- *Inventory powerful tool for managing decision in various locations*

- *Chairs subcommittee in the CNY Stormwater Coalition, having discussion with all MS4's to determine most cost effective way to comply with TMDL requirement*

**Priority Areas of Involvement in 2013**

**3. Onondaga Lake Superfund/Honeywell Issues**

**In 2013 the Office of Environment continued to coordinate the County's involvement and response to issues involving the Onondaga Lake Superfund cleanup and Honeywell-related issues. In cooperation with the County Law Department, the Office of Environment:**

- Successfully negotiated a seat at the table for the County to participate in Natural Resource Damages discussions with the Trustees for the Onondaga Lake Superfund Site.
- Continued to facilitate communication and coordination between County Parks, DOT and Honeywell with respect to extension and construction of the next segment of the Loop the Lake Trail adjacent to and over Nine Mile Creek and across Wastebeds 1-6.
- Continued to help guide efforts to seek to limit the County's potential liability for site cleanup costs associated with the Lower Ley Creek Site.
- Coordinated discussions with Lockheed Martin in pursuit of an Agreement obligating Lockheed to pay all "incremental" costs with respect to Bloody Brook Drainage District facilities or site maintenance issues.

2013 KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**Priority Areas of Involvement in 2013**

**Onondaga Lake Superfund/Honeywell Issues - continued**



In 2013 the Office of Environment coordinated discussions with Lockheed Martin in pursuit of an Agreement obligating Lockheed to pay all "incremental" costs with respect to Bloody Brook Drainage District facilities or site maintenance issues.

2013 KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- *Important to be involved with the Natural Resource Damages discussions; one day resources will be available for restoration projects of the lake*

**Priority Areas of Involvement in 2013**

**4. Climate Action Plan**

**In 2013 the Office of Environment continued to play a central role in the efforts of the County's Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee to implement recommendations in the County's adopted comprehensive Climate Action Plan to reduce the carbon footprint associated with County operations.**

The County has undertaken a number of energy and fuel reduction initiatives during the interval between baseline carbon footprint calculations and 2013. These projects, to name a few, include:

- Installation of solar photovoltaic at Beaver Lake Nature Center
- Lighting upgrades in 14 County buildings
- War Memorial cooling tower replacement
- Installed demand control ventilation in Justice Center
- WEP laboratory heat recovery coil re-location
- Installed LED lights at War Memorial
- Carried out district heating and cooling plant chilled water piping rerouting
- Installed new Board of Elections building HVAC
- Installed LED lights at OnCenter parking Lot (replaced diesel generator road lights)
- Installed variable frequency drives at various locations
- A "co-gen" facility at Metro Waste Water Treatment Plant became operational

2013 KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**Priority Areas of Involvement in 2013**

**4. Climate Action Plan - continued**

Following is a comparison of greenhouse gas emissions, in metric tons, between the baseline years and 2012:

Emission Source	Baseline Year(s)	2012	Percent Change
Gas & Electric from County Facilities	61,793	59,456	-3.8%
Fleet (gas and diesel)	8,357	7,757	-7%
Wastewater Process Emissions	4,817	4,525	-6%
<b>Total Emissions</b>	<b>74,967</b>	<b>71,738</b>	<b>-4.3%</b>

\* While it is clear that the trend between baseline years and 2012 reflects that the County is making progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, it is difficult to assess more precisely the extent to which this trend is a reflection of greenhouse gas reduction initiatives versus variation in meteorological conditions (temperature and precipitation) and/or other factors.

2013 KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2014 BUDGET OVERVIEW



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2014 Budget Overview

**TOTAL 2014 BUDGET: \$186,366**

- The majority of the Office of Environment Budget (95%) is charged against the Sanitary District (WEP) and the Department of Health (65% and 35%, respectively).
- The 2013 Budget included a \$250,000 appropriation from fund balance to begin managing ash trees on County-owned property (see page 15 for proposed EAB funding going forward).
- Absent the \$250,000 appropriation for ash tree management, the proposed 2014 Budget represents an increase of \$1,304 over the 2013 Modified Budget.



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2014 BUDGET OVERVIEW

2014 Strategic Priorities

**EMERALD ASH BORER:**

To manage ash trees on County-owned property, the 2014-2019 CIP proposes to initially create a \$2 million Capital Project, with borrowing to be authorized for an annual appropriation of \$500,000 per year for four years beginning in 2014.

**Purpose:**

- The Emerald Ash Borer has now been positively identified in several locations in Onondaga County. The clock is ticking.
- The inventory of ash trees on County-owned property, which in June was approximately half completed, had already identified the presence of over 25,000 ash trees.
- Treatment options for ash trees in County-owned parks, highway right-of-ways, wastewater treatment plants sites, drainage districts and other County campuses (e.g., OCC, Hillbrook, Board of Elections) include removal/replacement or inoculation of all ash trees. Based on the lessons learned in the Midwest, doing nothing is not a viable option.
- This amount (\$2 million) represents only partial funding for ash tree management in the years ahead. Upon completion of the ash tree inventory, it will be possible to develop a comprehensive ash tree management strategy and forecast actual long-term funding needs.



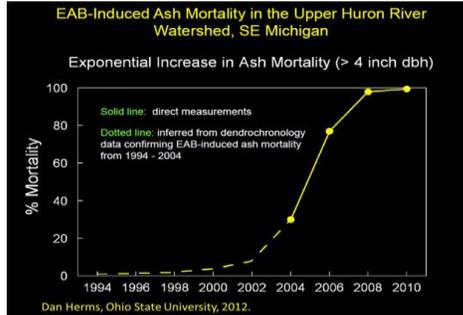
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2014 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

2014 Strategic Priorities

**Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) continued**

Ash tree inventory data and early beetle detection efforts are essential tools in attempts to slow the spread and flatten the EAB-induced ash tree mortality curve observed in the mid-west.



**EAB-Induced Ash Mortality in the Upper Huron River Watershed, SE Michigan**

Exponential Increase in Ash Mortality (> 4 inch dbh)

100  
80  
60  
40  
20  
0

1994 1996 1998 2000 2002 2004 2006 2008 2010

Solid line: direct measurements  
Dotted line: inferred from dendrochronology data confirming EAB-induced ash mortality from 1994 - 2004

Dan Herms, Ohio State University, 2012.



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KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2013

- Stressed - initial amount will grow substantially, EAB is here, clock is ticking
- In implementation mode

- Midwest municipalities advise acting proactively to avoid steep part of the curve; via early detection can implement measures to slow spread and flatten curve, buying more years to manage Ash trees and spreading out costs

2014 Strategic Priorities

**EMERALD ASH BORER (continued)**

Jim Tressouthik, City Forester, Homewood, IL - "Our aggressive management plan has been falling further and further behind. Trees being removed now – those that were green all summer and showed early fall color due to known EAB infestation – are brittle. When trees are felled this late in the infestation, branches blow apart dry, brittle and dangerous. Stem failure is on the rise on private property when compared to our municipal trees, although our removal plan has eliminated most of the problematic trees to date. Thankfully, Code Enforcement and beleaguered forestry staff have teamed up to address the worst of these trees on private property. **I wish I'd had the chance to start removals one year earlier, knowing what I now know."**

Bill Roessel, Manager of Forestry and Horticulture, Windsor, Ontario – "Looking back, we have learned a number of valuable lessons. First, never underestimate a new invasive insect or disease. From the beginning, we thought that there would be some sort of balance reached between the EAB and the City's ash trees. To date, this has not happened. The devastation and the economic impact have been catastrophic. Furthermore, never underestimate the speed at which the pest moves through your community. In Windsor, the EAB originally appeared to move slowly, and we only removed a few hundred trees. Starting in years three and four, however, there was a significant increase in infestation. **By year five, we scrambled to remove trees before they toppled over. The number of dead and dying trees on our streets and in our woodlots was staggering."**



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2014 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

2014 Strategic Priorities

**ONONDAGA LAKE SUPERFUND SITE**

In 2014 the Office of the Environment, in cooperation with the Department of Law will continue to:

- Participate in the Natural Resource Damages process with Onondaga Lake Superfund Site Trustees.
- Seek to limit the County's potential liability with respect to the LowerLey Creek site.
- Monitor Honeywell dredging operations and the Sediment Consolidation Area.
- Monitor and protect the County's interests with respect to Wastebeds 1-6 (County park land/West Shore Trail Extension).
- Monitor development of proposed remedies for WastebedB/Harbor Brook (site of future Loop the Lake trail extension).
- Protect the County's interests with respect to proposed remedies at the Murphy's Island site.
- Seek to limit the County's potential liability with respect to the EPA/DEC Cost Recovery Action.
- Monitor development of proposed remedies for the Lower Nine Mile Creek site.



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2014 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

2014 Strategic Priorities

### Onondaga Lake TMDL – MS4s

In 2014 the Office of Environment will continue to Chair the Central New York Stormwater Coalition Subcommittee created to help impacted MS4s consider alternative approaches to achieving compliance with the new Onondaga Lake Phosphorus TMDL MS4 requirements. Members of the subcommittee will be collectively exploring:

- The feasibility of meeting all MS4 TMDL compliance requirements through the formation of a single "Regional Stormwater Entity," which could involve inter-municipal agreements or the formation of a special district.
- The feasibility of all MS4s collaborating on the development of a single Watershed Improvement Strategy for MS4s within the Onondaga Lake Watershed, but with independent strategy implementation by each MS4.
- The feasibility of some, but not all MS4s within the Onondaga Lake Watershed collaborating on development *and* implementation of a Watershed Improvement Strategy.

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2014 Strategic Priorities

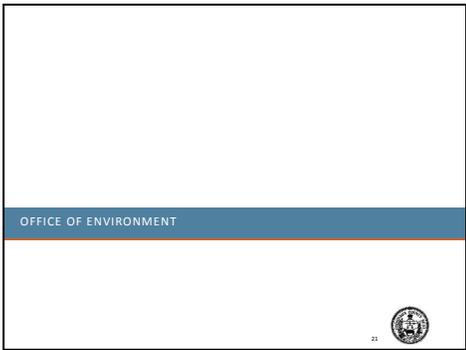
### Onondaga Lake TMDL for MS4s – continued

MS4 municipalities within the Onondaga Lake Watershed include Onondaga County, the City of Syracuse and:

Towns	Villages
Camillus	Camillus
Cicero	East Syracuse
Clay	Liverpool
Dewitt	North Syracuse
Geddes	Solvay
Marcellus	Marcellus
Lafayette	
Manlius	
Onondaga	
Salina	
Van Buren	

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• *State lumped all MS4s into one number, not individual wasteload allocations; Committee questioning how to fairly allocate costs amongst all municipalities*



Mr. May asked if there were any ideas of concepts for funding TMDL in the MS4s. Mr. Coburn responded:

- Premature to suggest where this is going to end up; believes we will be looking at some sort of IMA or a County Special District
- Shouldn't cost much to develop Watershed Improvement Strategy; cost comes if we don't meet the reduction requirement, then into retrofitting existing land to try and make up the difference
- May be able to find a funding mechanisms for strategy; only develop a Special District if necessary for retrofitting; unsure if DEC will accept this approach but worth pursuing
- Anxious to hear any other ideas for funding; keep coming back to the same places

Chair Knapp asked how the DEC determined what land would be in the MS4s. Mr. Coburn responded that it was strictly based on population density. Chair Knapp stated he was on the Lafayette Town Board when this all started. The property originally put into the MS4 was woods on a hillside. The town has spent thousands of dollars setting all this up for vacant woodland that wasn't even good for logging. Mr. Coburn added that whether their maps are accurate or not is another question, but you can see fingers extending all over the county where it follows development along one road or another based on density.

Chair Knapp stated this was a DEC initiative, approached several state representatives and they had no idea this was going on. He would encourage doing anything we can to maximize the collaborative effort amongst all the towns and the county. Mr. Coburn responded that the County has played a significant role in the establishment of the Stormwater Coalition. People have found this to be an effective mechanism for sharing information, developing strategies, exploring opportunities for sharing and more so now that we have the TMDL to deal with. One of the challenges the coalition faces is that not all MS4s are in the TMDL area, who pays what will be an ongoing question.

In answer to Mr. Jordan's questions, Mr. Coburn stated:

- Tree inoculation kills both the beetle and the larva; larva kills the tree

- Inoculating infested areas slows the spread; just cutting down trees forces adult beetles onto other trees – perhaps enhancing the spread; inoculation buys more time to treat trees in other areas and spread costs over more years
- Injected pesticide proven most effective and doesn't create exposure pathways; valuable community benefit
- Other option - soil drench applied annually
- Injected pesticide labeled 2 years - Midwest getting 3 years of benefit, some exploring inoculation every 4 years; also looking at inoculation of 30-40% of trees in an area one year, then another 30-40% the following year, etc.
- Inoculation costs dropping significantly; getting more years out of injection, don't have to do as many trees and price is lower; when first considered outsourcing costs estimated at \$10-\$12 per diameter inch, now \$5-\$7; compelling reason to consider inoculation for trees worth preserving: e.g., Onondaga Lake Park recreational economic benefit; use inoculant to buy time to take down those that don't make since - small diameter trees or trees with stem and canopy problems

Mr. Jordan stated that it would seem as if we should inoculate the smaller trees rather than the larger, if the cost is per inch. Mr. Coburn stated that a 4-6 inch tree doesn't have a large canopy and it won't take 30-40 years to replace. In addition, taking down the small tree is much less expensive than taking down a large tree. Most surveyed Midwest communities were taking down small diameter trees and didn't have to worry about them falling on targets.

Mr. Plochocki stated that he is very sympathetic to many issues beyond economics, the environmental, canopy and watershed issues. However, money is a problem in the legislature and he wants to make sure he has the correct answers for his colleagues; questioned timespan for trees falling down. Mr. Coburn responded:

- In 2-3 years all Ash trees in current infested areas will be dead, difficult to predict how rapidly this will spread to other areas
- Map of identified locations all within the city; 15 trees were girdled in rural and suburban areas - may find infestation there
- Beetle moves short distance on its own ¼ mile; people moving firewood, loggers moving downed trees or beetles on packing material tends to spread the beetle
- Lesson learned from Midwest – stay flexible so when circumstances change you can adapt your strategy
- Very likely significant numbers of trees will be falling down within 5-9 years

Mr. Plochocki questioned the economic value of the wood. Initially he had thought we would be able to pay the cutting cost from the economic value of wood, but has since been advised this is not the case. Mr. Coburn responded:

- EBA Taskforce exploring markets for wood waste
- 3/5<sup>th</sup> of the trees have no lumber value - small diameter trees, maybe good for mulching, firewood or biofuels but transportation distance limits effectiveness
- Mr. Burger inventoried north end of Willow Bay in Onondaga Lake Park for wood value, \$60k if taken down all at once; based on current contract rates cut down cost for the park would be \$1M – reducing cost to \$940k; need to consider value lost to gain offset
- Wood reutilization may help offset wood disposal costs; need to make sure removal bidders know we are aware of the value and give us a good price

Mr. Plochocki stated if we made the decision to cut everything, there doesn't seem to be a benefit to waiting, but there is a practical benefit to cutting sooner; volume cutting all at once, less infected wood more valuable and would get ahead of a market glut in the Northeast. However, he was cautioned that the economic benefit of doing everything all at once needs to be looked at carefully and asked for an explanation. Mr. Coburn responded:

- He is not an arborist or forester, has access to them but is not an expert; based on accessed information the beetle has been killing millions of trees for a decade and market hasn't been affected
- Could argue that inoculation of large quality trees every 3-4 years for the next 15-20 years, may have more value as there will be less Ash trees; unsure if argument is valid
- No compelling reason to move expeditiously and don't believe volume of trees could be removed all at once; in occupied areas with power lines, obstacles, safety considerations, underground utilities, etc.

Mr. Plochocki stated many would say inoculation is just delaying the inevitable. It is going to cost \$9-\$10 million to cut the trees and we could be spending another \$1 or \$2 million every couple of years for inoculation; economic benefit weighs in favor of just cutting. Realizing that Mr. Coburn is a fan of the 3-pronged approach, he asked that he explain what he sees as the value in inoculation, even from an economic standpoint. Mr. Coburn responded:

- 1 year ago his thinking was to focus almost exclusively on removal; due to research, better understanding and changing circumstances outlined earlier decided there are compelling economic, quality of life and strategic reasons for inoculation of some number of selected trees; slowing the spread, maintaining property value, etc.
- Current view still evolving, science changing as we speak, chances of developing inoculant lasting longer and costing less increases with every year of delay; for county sites and conditions majority of trees ultimately should be removed, remembering that every tree dies eventually
- Inoculation powerful tool for slowing spread and cost overtime, price is decreasing, length of time inoculant works is increasing due to better understanding, only need to inoculate a percentage of trees in an area - affords sufficient protection but doesn't protect every tree and cuts costs
- Not convinced that we can cut our way of this dilemma; in order to maintain quality of life and to be as cost effective as possible inoculation of some number of trees will have to play some role; what the balance is will have to be figured out collectively
- DEC estimates 13% of Onondaga County trees are Ash, some say it is a larger number percentage; believes we will have to have some removal, preservation and replacement with other species so we don't have complete loss of canopy, still have the value of the trees
- People strongly value trees, removing so many without the 3-pronged approach will generate an unfriendly backlash from the community; same approach those in the Midwest settled on

Mr. Plochocki asked what advice municipalities from the Midwest had for us. Mr. Coburn responded that basically they said to use this balanced approach and remain flexible so that when circumstances change, you can adapt to this changes.

Chair Knapp stated he and Mr. Coburn spoke before the meeting and agreed to hold a joint meeting of the Ways and Means and Environmental Protection Committees to discuss this topic further, once the budget has been completed. Mr. Coburn and his authorities will be here for questions and additional information.

Mr. Plochocki asked for his suggestions if we were to allocate some money during the budget process. Mr. Coburn responded:

- We need to spend money in 2014 and every year for the next 10-15 years
- Because of the Indian Bat the cutting cycle will be November – March, will plant trees in the spring and inoculate in spring and summer
- 10 mile radius around identified infestations extends to Onondaga Lake Park and many county roads, will want some amount of spring inoculation before trees get beyond the point where inoculant won't be effective; once the tree is dead or dying the cost of removal is greater
- Would like to come back once entire inventory has been completed, provide better numbers to plan long-term strategy; anticipate total costs, determine how many years to spread costs over and how we to allocate the various pieces

In answer to Mr. Plochocki, Mr. Coburn stated the Indian Bat is a rare and endangered species that hibernates in the quarry nearby; aren't allowed to remove roost trees during their roosting period. They are in hibernation from the end of October into April. We are entering into a compliance agreement with the US Federation Wildlife and the NY Natural Heritage program to make sure we are in compliance as we remove the trees. We are allowed to take down trees posing immediate risk.

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION – pg. 5-27: Tom Rhoads, Commissioner; Michael Lannon, Deputy Commissioner; Mary Voss, Administrative Director; Bonnie Karasinski, Fiscal Officer; Nick Capozza, Sewer Maintenance & Inspection Engineer**

Mr. Rhoads introduced his team as listed above and presented the following:

# 2014 ANNUAL BUDGET

## Ways & Means Committee Report

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### WATER ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION

JOANNE M. MAHONEY, COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
TOM RHOADS, P.E., COMMISSIONER





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### ONONDAGA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF WATER ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION



MISSION

To protect and improve the water environment of Onondaga County in a cost-effective manner ensuring the health and sustainability of our community and economy.

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SECTION I: 2013 – YEAR IN REVIEW




### Three Main Points of Today's Presentation

**1. Save The Rain = Green, Innovative, Sustainable solutions to stormwater and wastewater issues.**



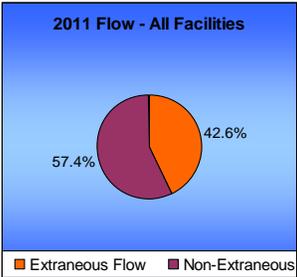




KEY POINTS FOR THIS PRESENTATION

### Three Main Points of Today's Presentation

**1. We must continue to Save The Rain. 43% of the water we treated in 2011 was clean rain water or groundwater! Extraneous flow costs us all more for labor, overtime, chemicals, and energy.**

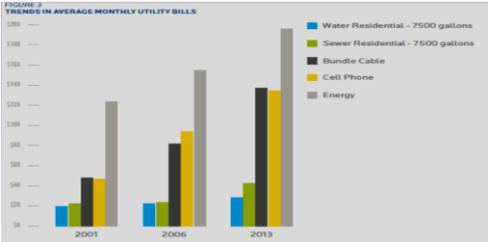




KEY POINTS FOR THIS PRESENTATION

### Three Main Points of Today's Presentation

**2. We are the County's Clean Water Utility – and not a general fund expense. WEP's 'utility costs' are proposed to be \$33.23 per month. Is clean water worth more than a cell phone, cable, or internet? WEP's monthly charge compares favorably to our gas bill, electric bill, any other utility, and national averages.**





KEY POINTS FOR THIS PRESENTATION

- *Would not have local economy without the ability to provide clean water*
- *A number of our WWTPs are now constrained – important to consider why we are asking for these funds*

Three Main Points of Today's Presentation

3. If we do not keep the water clean, or maintain our operations and equipment, it only costs us more later. **Consent Orders, Amended Consent Judgments, premium emergency repairs, and constrained assets limit economic growth.**




KEY POINTS FOR THIS PRESENTATION

Save the Rain Project Tour

Ready – let's **Save The Rain** – not pump it, store it, and treat it.

**Save the Rain**  
www.savetherain.us





KEY POINT – LET'S SAVE THE RAIN

Contracted Projects Save The Rain - Green Projects




**Save the Rain** projects are more than just rain barrels. **We are doing – porous pavement**  
Westcott Street Green Corridor Phase 1

**We are doing – rain gardens.** These are at the entrance to the zoo on Wilbur Ave.

**Save the Rain**



2013 PROJECT PHOTOS

Contracted Projects Save The Rain - Green Projects




**Save the Rain**  
**We are doing – a CSO treatment wetland pilot project at Harbor Brook**

**Save the Rain** projects are more than just rain barrels. **We are doing – green parking lots with bioretention and infiltration**  
Sunnycrest Park Golf Parking Lot

**Save the Rain**



2013 PROJECT PHOTOS

Contracted Projects Save The Rain - Green Projects




**Rebuilding community partnerships.** Instead of displacing residents to build treatment plants, Save the Rain projects are focused on sustainable solutions for our future.

**The Water Street Gateway Project prevents almost 1 million gallons of stormwater from entering the sewer and exceeding system capacity.** Save the Rain continues to earn national awards and recognition. Over 120 projects have been implemented to abate combined sewer overflows.

**Save the Rain**



2013 PROJECT PHOTOS

Award Winning Leadership Save The Rain



**UNITED STATES WATER PRIZE**

**In April 2013, County Executive Mahoney accepted the U.S. Water Prize awarded by the U.S. Water Alliance.**  
Save the Rain continues to earn recognition for leadership in green infrastructure implementation.

**Save the Rain**



2013 AWARD PHOTOS

Contracted Projects Save The Rain – Gray Projects



**Save the Rain**

Clinton Storage Facility  
Over three city blocks long and five stories deep a great project and also a \$75,420,843 consent order requirement



2013 PROJECT PHOTOS

Contracted Projects Save The Rain – Gray Projects



**Save the Rain**

Lower Harbor Brook Storage Facility  
A 4.9 million gallon storage tank and a consent order requirement under construction now, to be completed by the end of 2013.




2013 PROJECT PHOTOS

Key 2013 Accomplishments Toward WEP's Strategic Goals

**1. Outreach and Communication – Open, effective communications with staff, stakeholders, and the public.**

- U.S. Water Prize Awarded to Onondaga County for the Save the Rain Program
- Save the Rain Clean Water Fair – September 7, 2013
- Conducted Industrial User Award Ceremony
- Implemented a revised Ambient Monitoring Program in partnership with Honeywell
- Continued transparency and outreach via constant updates to the Save the Rain website <http://savetherain.us/>




Great volunteers from SUNY ESF!

2013 KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Key 2013 Accomplishments Toward WEP's Strategic Goals

**2. Staff Development – Promote and develop the best team possible.**

- Eight wastewater treatment plant operators recertified or certified at a higher level
- Operations staff completed over 25 certification courses while pursuing required wastewater licenses
- Regularly assigned mentors to all new hires and promoted co-workers to place team members on a track for success.



**TEAMWORK**

2013 KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Key 2013 Accomplishments Toward WEP's Strategic Goals

**3. Organizational Excellence – Do it safe, do it right, do it once.**

- Green projects in the award winning Save the Rain campaign now exceed 120 projects.
- Updated the Green Improvement Fund (GIF) to accommodate CSO capture success and improve economy and transparency.
- A second round of projects funded in the suburban Save the Rain program to reduce infiltration and inflow to the sanitary sewer system.




2013 KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Key 2013 Accomplishments Toward WEP's Strategic Goals

**4. Legacy Planning and Infrastructure Management – Share the information, document the knowledge, plan for the future.**

- Upgrades to department's computerized asset management system (Maximo).
- Continued expansion of centralized repository (SharePoint) for information.
- Capital investment and asset renewal plan developed to acknowledge the challenges associated with 5 of 6 wastewater treatment plants currently going through repermitting.

Example Risk Reduction Option	Reduces Consequence	Reduces Likelihood
<b>Capital Investments</b>		
Rehabilitation		✓
Replacement		✓
New redundant asset	✓	
<b>O&amp;M Protocols</b>		
Development of operating SOPs		✓
Improved planned maintenance procedures		✓
Enhanced monitoring through SCADA		✓
<b>Other</b>		
Demand management	✓	
Improved response and recovery	✓	
Reduce LOS with stakeholder involvement	✓	

2013 KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Key 2013 Accomplishments Toward WEP's Strategic Goals

5. Sustainability and Environmental Initiatives – Reduce and improve for environmental, social, and economic balance.

- The remarkable recovery of Onondaga Lake was widely recognized at the New York State Fair multi-participant exhibit.
- Implementing a pilot electro kinetic disintegration system for enhanced digestion of biosolids to produce more methane gas for beneficial reuse, first of its kind in North America; following on digester cleaning and NYSERDA cogeneration projects allowing conversion of waste into energy.
- Progress on Clinton and Lower Harbor Brook Storage facilities continues to successful completion of ACJ milestones, healing the Lake and tributaries.
- As part of the department's ongoing variable frequency drive project, replaced 7 VFD's in the system – one year simple payback plus National Grid incentives
- Recognized by the National Association of Clean Water Agencies for exemplary operations at five of six treatment facilities!
- Team efforts at Brewerton WWTP produced a result no less than stunning. In April of this year Brewerton used just 389,200 gallons of city water, an amazing 55% reduction, due to an all hands effort to optimize operation and maintenance of several systems!
- Second year of NYSERDA rebate for cogeneration yields a \$236,000 rebate.



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2013 KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In-House Work and Maintenance



WEP Flood Control – four flood districts protecting hundreds of millions of dollars of private property.



We are working hard at Oak Orchard WWTP too!



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2013 PROJECT PHOTOS

In-House Work and Maintenance (continued)



Metro WWTP Low Lift Pumps: WEP completed repairs of the rotating assemblies for Metro's low lift pumps. Teamwork resulted in no headwoks bypasses.



State-of-the-science equipment monitoring: WEP utilizes laser alignment as part of its Predictive Maintenance Program. This program saves energy and increases equipment life.



System Improvements: Metro digester project results in 20% increase in gas production and recovery for use as combined heat and power. Turning waste into energy!



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2013 PROJECT PHOTOS

Performance Indicators - WEP is the County Sanitary District's Water Cleaning Utility

- Total Wastewater Conveyed and Treated: 29 billion gallons
- Compliance of SPDES Permits (all six plants): >99%



- Industrial User Inspections: 100
- Industrial User Permits Issued: 20



- Samples Collected: 17,534
- Analyses performed: 115,066
- Information brochures on grease and wipes distributed



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2013 OVERVIEW – Dirty Water into Clean Water

Performance Indicators (continued)

- Number of Sewer Maintenance House Calls: 3,120
- Number of Pump Station Alarm Responses: 1,024



- Number of Pump Stations Maintained: 152
- Miles of Sewer Maintained: 2,083



- Number of Plumbing Inspections: 6,600



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2013 OVERVIEW – Dirty Water into Clean Water

Performance Indicators (continued)

- Maintenance Work Orders: 55,000



- Number of Fleet Work Orders: 4,700



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2013 OVERVIEW – Dirty Water into Clean Water

**Performance Indicators**



**The National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) awarded Peak Performance Awards to 5 of 6 Onondaga County treatment plants for consistent State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) permit compliance.**

2013 OVERVIEW - Dirty Water into Clean Water



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**SECTION 2: 2014 BUDGET OVERVIEW**

**VISION**

*To be a respected leader in wastewater treatment, storm water management, and the protection of our environment using state-of-the-art, innovative technologies and sound scientific principles as our guide.*



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**Strategic Priorities For 2014**

**DEPARTMENT GOALS**

**Staff Development**  
*Promote and develop the best team possible.*

- Minimize staff increases relative to increased CSO Infrastructure
- Increase worker safety by implementing enhanced measures

**Outreach & Communication**  
*Open, effective communications with staff, stakeholders, and the public.*

- Expand stakeholder education campaign
- Work with satellite collection system owners to develop infiltration and inflow reduction goals
- Examine sanitary district consolidation

**Organizational Excellence**  
*Do it safe, do it right, do it once.*

- **Fund projects with municipal partners to reduce Inflow & Infiltration (I&I)**
- Implement 2014 – 2019 CIP Projects – with a re-focus on all county infrastructure beyond ACJ projects
- Pump Station Upgrades (Oneida Lake and Salina)

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR 2014



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**Strategic Priorities For 2014**

**Legacy Planning and Infrastructure Management**  
*Share the information, document the knowledge, plan for the future.*

- **Asset Management - formalize asset system rating structure and prioritize maintenance and renewal needs**
- Optimize maintenance objectives via **asset management**
- **Fix it First** – intelligent **asset management**
- Plan and prepare for operational emergencies
- **Study Countywide Sanitary Consolidation and Rates**

**Sustainability and Environmental Initiatives**  
*Reduce and improve for environmental, social, and economic balance*

- **Continue Save the Rain national leadership in CSO abatement**
- **Green Initiatives – use of green and innovative technology to reduce inflow and infiltration (I&I)**
- Fulfill proposed New SPDES Permit Mandates (Metro, Brewerton, Meadowbrook, B'ville, and Oak Orchard)
- Final design of Metro WWTP Phosphorus Optimization Improvements
- Update SWMM Model and submit CSO Annual Capture Report
- Implement system wide efficiencies in energy use to offset Clinton and Lower Harbor Brook CSO storage projects by 2018

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

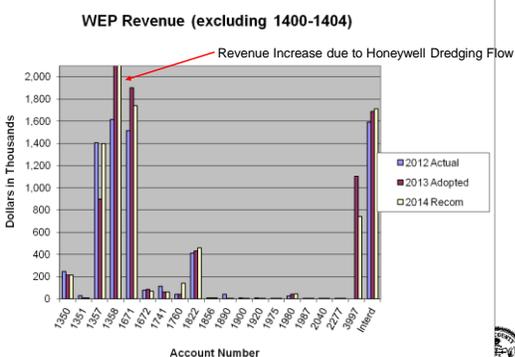


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**2014 Revenue Analysis**

WEP is funded by its Unit Charge and Charges to Users.

**WEP Revenue (excluding 1400-1404)**



2014 OVERVIEW Utility Charges, Not General Fund



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**1357 - Industrial Waste Surcharge**

For 2014 we are proposing an update to the industrial waste surcharge unit rates. Decreasing two rates per pound and increasing two unit rates based upon analysis of current treatment costs.

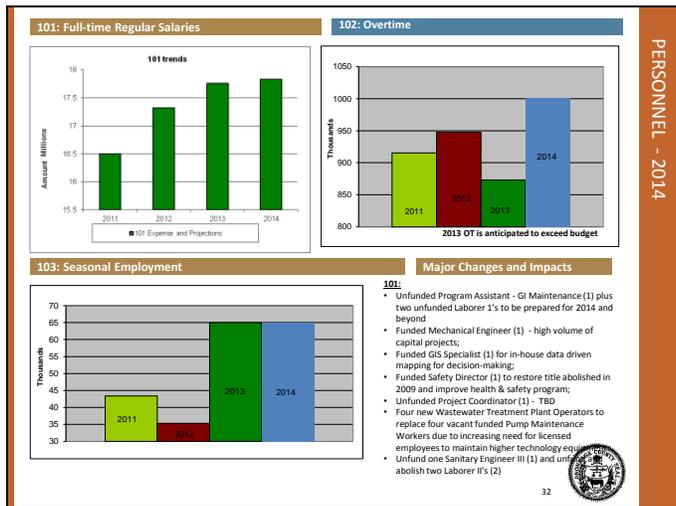
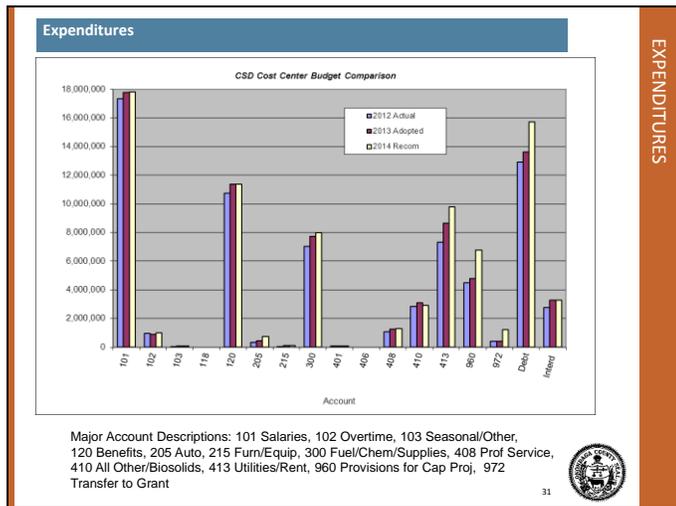
**1822 Plumbing Fee**

For 2014 we are proposing fee updates for plumbing inspection services. Fees have not been updated since 2006 and even as proposed will only cover about 80% of costs, the balance being covered by unit charge revenues. New construction should better support its cost share. Some fees were also reduced or eliminated to encourage inspection and support the mission of life safety in the code inspections.

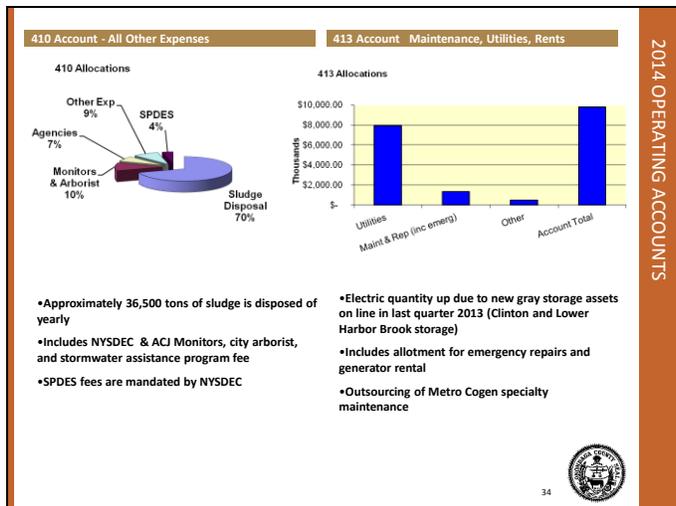
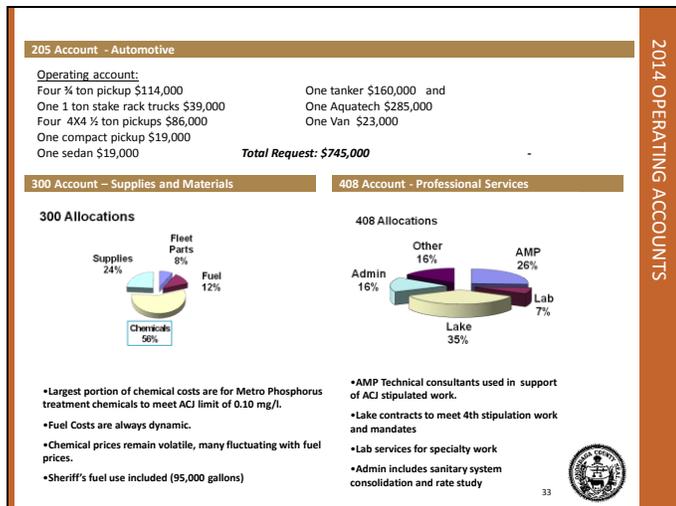
2014 Two Smaller Revenue / Fee Change Proposals



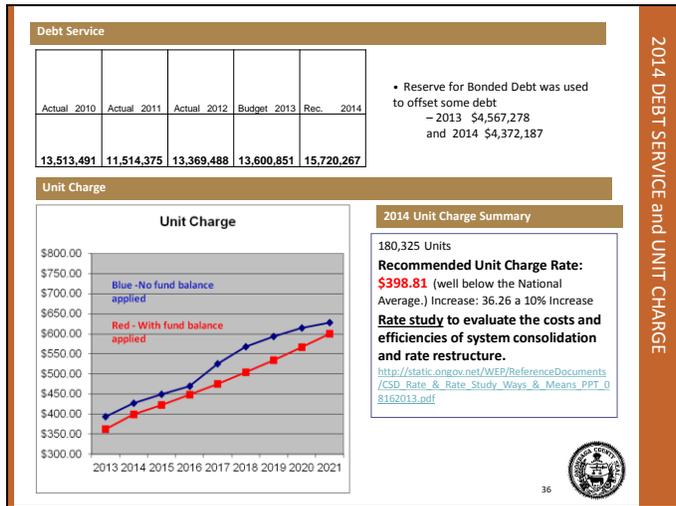
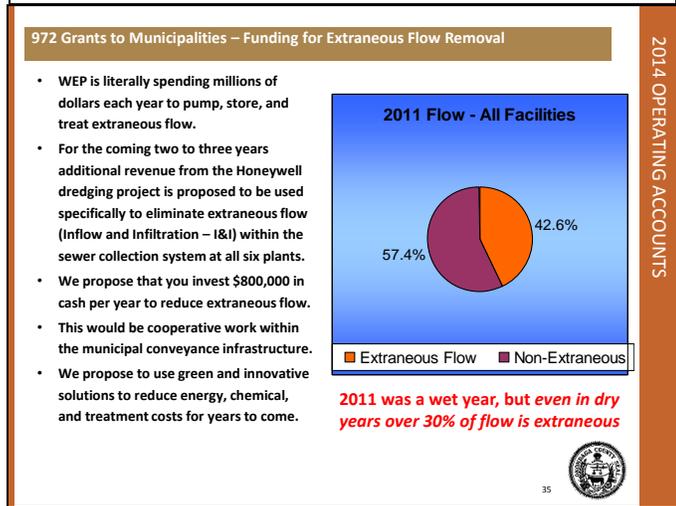
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• Significant amount of rain caused overtime allowance to be exceeded



- \$200k for sanitary consolidation and rate study
- AMP and lake work costs generally mandated by DEC



- Would like to complete some of the gray I&I projects already on hit list with these funds



Chairman McMahon stated the transfer to grant line has \$800,000 earmarked for some of the I & I projects received early in the year and asked what the other \$400,000 was for (**pg. 5-27 Line A668720**). Mr. Rhoads responded, primarily for the public education account; small monitoring of assets also associated with this.

Chairman McMahon asked where we are with regard to Oak Orchard WWTP. Mr. Rhoads responded:

- Has gone through several significant steps detailed on their web page; diverted Gaskin Road pump station from Oak Orchard to Wetzel Road WWTP
- Asking for \$1.3M in improvements to Oak Orchard, portion of funds will be used for flow diversion to Wetzel Rd
- Oak Orchard declared constrained asset by DEC regulations; proposed DEC rerate the plant, plant is going through significant amount of load but has weathered the storm; gold standard plant 2 years in a row, no violations; believe plant was rated to conservatively when previously rated
- 2019 start looking at potentials for any additional improvements at Oak Orchard via long-term Capital Plan

Chairman McMahon asked where we were with regard to putting holds on permits for the Oak Orchard area. Mr. Rhoads responded:

- Control is in the DEC's hands; had to submit report to them by August 1<sup>st</sup>, now the DEC has to come back to us
- Advised stakeholders to also bring concerns directly to the DEC; using this opportunity to help the DEC understand how important this is to our stakeholders in the Towns of Clay and Cicero, the Home Builders Association and industry in the area

Chairman McMahon stated that from a timeframe standpoint it sounds scary that this is in the hands of the DEC and asked for his professional opinion. Mr. Rhoads responded that he wished he had a good answer. We recently submitted a report to the DEC that had an agreement that they would try to review within 30 days and it took 158 days. We certainly would support the Chair and members of the legislature engaging with the DEC to help them understand the importance of this issue.

Chairman McMahon stated in the past dollars have been appropriated to Oak Orchard for numerous projects. His understanding is that some of the project accounts have a lot of money remaining and questioned what this was used for. Mr. Rhoads responded:

- Currently have a \$12M project at Oak Orchard
- 35 year old WWTP, concrete literally falling apart, areas where people wear hardhats as concrete ceilings are falling down, also has an old traveling bridge - unique piece of infrastructure; a lot of work needs to be done to keep plant operating at its current capacity
- Current capacity projects are being designed now, work will be let out next year and new improvements will be further down in Capital Plan currently proposed

Chairman McMahon asked how long ago these funds were appropriated; trying to get a better understanding. We appropriate money, don't hear updates but hear you are running into new spending. When we appropriate something and 2-3 years later there is still millions of dollars in a project, we want to know where we are in the project, what has been done, have we met the scope of the original request. We need a better understanding, especially with projects like Oak Orchard and Seneca Knolls that are facing potential capacity issues down the road.

**Chair McMahon asked for a memo on Project accounts detailing what has been done, what is remaining, and when we expect that work to be completed.**

Mr. May asked for an explanation of the proposed position changes. Mr. Voss responded:

- Net 5 new funded positions
- Unfunded Program Assistant for Green Infrastructure Maintenance and two Laborer 1's; all new construction requires maintenance, borrowing people from Flow Control to keep up, need focused effort to better manage maintenance
- Funded Mechanical Engineer based on high volume of Capital Projects to increase productivity; used for asset management initiative, understands what goes into asset management and the complexity; really want them to be looking at pumps and equipment
- Funded GIS Specialist housed at Flow Control to start mapping our assets; using technology for failures, down the road would like onboard tablets to download maps and information to crews in the field; still have maps rag paper, dealing with infrastructure built 100-200 years ago
- Funded Safety Director to restore title abolished in 2009, reinvigorate safety program; need someone with industrial hygiene experience due to new assets
- 4 new Wastewater Treatment Operators – industry has changed, DEC adds more responsibility to us each year; e.g., now want weekend sampling at day plants, requires someone certified to do sampling; want to improve overall work

by raising the bar for staff; Pump Maintenance Workers is a lower entrance level title, most operators now have 4 year science degrees and are getting licensed within 1 year; those licensed are much more valuable to us, can do more work; plan to phase out Pump Maintenance Workers via attrition; Operators are Grade 8, more technical title, provides better base to build from

- Unfunded a Sanitary Engineer III and abolished 2 Laborer II's to pay for the changes, also unfunded a Project Coordinator, title remains providing department flexibility

Chair Knapp stated that SCOPA was also looking to add a GIS Specialist and asked if this was a position that could be shared. Mr. Rhoads responded that there were certain parts that could be shared but they would need a fulltime person at the Henry Clay site entering data. We have miles and miles of pipes, very significant. One of our Capital Cash Projects proposes paying for a portion of some of the software. We have identified this need and are working closely with SCOPA but have determined the need to be at both places.

In answer to Mr. Jordan, Mr. Rhoads confirmed they supply fuel for the Sheriff's department (**referenced on slide 33 above**). In answer to Mr. Jordan, Mr. Morgan confirmed that this is charged back to the Sheriff's department and then shows up in their budget as an interdepartmental revenue source for WEP.

Mr. Jordan asked what impact White Pines would have on the WWTP system. Mr. Rhoads responded that it is hard to say right now; he is not the best person to speak to this. White Pines is going through growing pains and evaluating some of their different constraints. There was some approval for the extension of a sewer line. We are not directly involved in that. The IDA has been doing some of the engineering. There may also be transportation constraints and other consideration.

Mr. Jordan asked where the flow would go if someone were to move into White Pines. Mr. Rhoads responded that an allocation for that project was given to Oak Orchard. We are honoring all past commitments for development approvals; e.g., number of subdivisions and commercial developments still building out. This industrial development has received an allocation from us and this is why we did some of our work at Gaskin Road, to try to accommodate these additional build outs.

Mr. Jordan asked if they anticipated problems at Oak Orchard, when White Pines comes on board. Mr. Rhoads responded that we gave White Pines a very specific limit on gallons and the strength of flow we could receive because of these BOD issues. This is why we are asking for your help in supporting the entire sanitary district, about \$33 per month. Without that kind of support, we really can't have economic development. This is one of our bigger messages.

In answer to Mrs. Rapp, Mr. Rhoads responded that part of the professional services budget line includes a \$200,000 allocation for a rate/consolidation study. Mrs. Rapp stated that we are already proposing a rate increase and regular increase as we go forward. Mr. Rhoads agreed adding, we see a considerable amount of new debt coming online and that debt will put some stress on the sanitary district budget for a number of years in the future.

Mrs. Rapp stated that she has no argument with the rate increase. The taxpayers are getting a good value for their money considering the services they receive and the constraints we are under; just doesn't understand the need for the \$200,000 study. We know we need rate increases, have planned and saved for this. Mr. Rhoads responded:

- No stormwater fee in current rate structure; parking lots sending millions of gallons of water to be treated but not paying any fees, no incentive to add retention and reduce flow, homeowners and some businesses paying for their flow; also a lot of the high strength waste is not industrial – e.g., some of the hospitals on the hill
- Rate study would look at how rate is assessed throughout entire user base; would avoid the learning curve, make sure fees are reapportioned and accurately assessed; some town, village and city fees charged on top of our fees, might be better if consolidated

Mrs. Rapp responded that this makes more sense. We aren't looking at everyone getting a blanket increase across the board every year; rather it will be more pay as you play, in terms of what you are putting into the system. Towns and villages will be very open to talks of consolidation; they are getting underwater on sewer fees. Mr. Rhoads stated that some of their assets might be liabilities. We all want to take a good hard look at what we are doing. It probably makes sense to consolidate, but we want to seek outside assistance in this process.

Mr. May asked if the rate study would also address residential use verses a unit charge; small apartment or home will use much less than large eight bedroom, 4 bath home. Mr. Rhoads responded this is the sort of thing that is typically looked at; national averages based on certain number of gallons used, not perfect relationship, as there is a lot of I&I in the system. We won't get into counting fixtures but would try to incooperate the amount water used in different households; typically broken down into blocks, larger volume water users pay a larger amount for their sewer, it makes since and is fair.

Mr. May stated that the monthly sewer cost is pretty low and we spend a lot of time and resources to help people understand the importance of increasing capacity, green infrastructure projects and things of this nature. When anyone pays a fee or tax to government, the easiest thing for us to do is to talk about the tangibles they receive. There could be a lot of value for WEP and their initiatives to actually speak to what the regular value is. An ancillary benefit is being able to explain and have it resinate with people what you are doing to increase capacity and why green projects may be important in certain instances. You can't buy a cup of coffee for what it costs to flush all the toilets and dispose of shower water in your home each day. Mr. Rhoads responded that he appreciates the comment. All of our resources are so scares; it is a challenge for all of us to communicate well.

**Mr. Plochocki asked if the \$400,000 for the Nature in the City program was used to meet an educational requirement as part of the Save the Rain grant. Mr. Rhoads responded he couldn't answer if there was a requirement; doesn't know what the specific mandates are but will get back to him.** A portion of the \$400,000 goes to Baltimore Woods to work with the school districts. Baltimore Woods is very good about developing and tapering a curriculum that fits with the new requirements in the schools. Mr. Plochocki stated he believes the educational component was required with one of the grants and that \$400,000 of this line in the budget is trying to meet that need **(pg. 5-27 Line A668720)**.

Mr. Plochocki asked if there were funds going to any other educational programs in the WEP budget. Mr. Rhoads responded not for outside education; have training for in-house staff. This is a grant we provide through the transfer to grant expenditure line; goes to SU EFC, OEI, ASLF and the Nature in the City program for outreach education.

Mr. Jordan asked what plumping fees are now and what is being proposed. Mr. Rhoads responded:

- Lengthy table of fees; details have been communicated to some legislative team members
- Proposed inspection service fees include new residential construction, residential remodeling construction, commercial construction, multifamily construction, new water heaters, etc.
- Not all plumbing fees are increasing; proposing some changes, haven't changed since 2006
- Costs for personnel transportation and training for services should be self-funded by the work; proposed changes only covers 80% of plumping inspection work - balance being paid by basic unit charge
- Homes are increasing – formally had 8-10 fixtures, now seeing 30-40 fixtures; tiered fee for additional fixture homes
- Increase fairly insignificant; less than \$500,000 in all fees for the budget

In answer to Mr. Jordan, Mrs. Stanczyk confirmed she had received this information.

Chair Knapp referenced the overtime budget, noting that it decreased in 2013 and was now substantially increasing over the 2012 level **(pg. 5-27 Line A641020)**. Mr. Voss responded that the budget did not go down for 2013, it was cut; aren't through the year yet but will be going over budget, can't stop this from happening. Chairman McMahan asked what number they were looking at for 2013. Mr. Voss responded that he believes they will be going over about \$150,000; have \$140,000 left in the budget.

In answer to Mr. Knapp, Mr. Voss confirmed they were comfortable with the 103 line remaining static; significantly increased in 2013, staying the same for 2014 **(pg. 5-27 Line A6410300)**.

Chair Knapp asked if the increase in the 413 line was due to utility increases for the new storage facilities **(pg. 5-27 Line A6941300)**. Mr. Rhoads responded that utilities increased by over one million dollars. Also have some fleet work that has to be sent out for repair, have some unique assets in various departments and a maintenance contract for cogeneration equipment at Metro.

In answer to Chair Knapp, Mr. Voss confirmed we bought a new aquatech last year and are requesting a new one this year. Chair Knapp asked they talk about the usage of the aquatechs and questioned if they were

shared with other municipalities. Mr. Capozza responded that we use them in every community where we have an IMA contract. They are also used extensively at WWTP's and at wet weather facilities. They extract grit, debris and grease from sewers and for emergency services, to remove blockages during storms events. It doesn't matter if it is town, village or county owned sewer, we open it up.

Mr. Rhoads added that when the aquatech is used in towns, villages and the city, it is billed back; an important part of our cost recovery process. If we don't have these assets, our ability to serve is compromised. They are rode very hard, require a tremendous amount of people to operate and suck with such velocity that nails and other items will come through the heavy hoses. Even though they may not go many miles, the engines are set at full-bore to operate the machinery; trying to replace these assets on a schedule. Mr. Cappozza stated there are eight in the fleet; have been seeing an increase in down time, need to manage this for effective capacity within the system.

In answer to Chair Knapp, Mr. Rhoads responded that we are suggesting that we take a year off from the Suburban Green Infrastructure program. We say that with the request for you to consider funding the \$800,000 I&I, not approaching from a bonding standpoint, as we have done in the past. Suggest keeping the \$800,000 in the budget as the County Executive's proposal, to address some of the projects that we were not able to fund through this year's program.

Mr. Plochocki asked that they briefly discuss why the ¾-ton pickups requested need to be replaced, even though they have low mileage. Mr. Voss responded low mileage vehicles are typically plows and plant vehicles. They are in a highly toxic environment in terms of corrosion. We have wash bays and do our best to keep them clean but they get corroded quickly, just by nature of the chemicals they are around and what they do.

In answer to Mr. Plochocki, Mr. Voss stated that low mileage can be deceiving. If you look at the low mileage and compare it to the cost of maintenance over the last 12 months, there is a breaking point where it costs more to maintain a vehicle than it does to replace it with a new one. Once the cost of ownership is higher than the cost of purchase it makes more sense to send them to auction and put a new vehicle into service; will need less maintenance, have less time out of the fleet and cost less. Mr. Rhoads added that when you consider the severity of CNY weather, it is hard to keep a 13-14 year old pickup truck out plowing. We have a small universe we are plowing, don't travel the distance, but are still exposed to all the elements.

Mrs. Rapp asked if they considered applying for funds from the Sustainability NYSERTA Grant program to support one of their projects to reduce utility costs, adding it would be a perfect fit. Mr. Rhoads responded:

- Facilities, Metropolitan Water Board and Oak Orchard are being looked at for a solar project with SolarCity
- Our cogeneration project is a NYSERTA funded project; just received \$236,000 rebate check for this work
- Doing onsite electric kinetic disintegration of sludge, zero costs project being offered by Europeans and studied by Columbia University; will result in the recovery of additional digestion gas converted into energy
- Doing variable frequency drives throughout our plants
- All elimination for the Clinton project parking lot will be LED lighting; we are replacing old assets or acquiring new assets using the best valuable technology for the best price wherever we can

Mrs. Rapp stated the amount for utilities is almost unbelievable; need outside assets to help defray some of cost. Mr. Rhoads agreed, adding it is very hard. The DEC is coming down with new permits on so many plants. Those permits are pushing our chlorine limits to the affluent level of detection for the most sophisticated lab equipment, which means we have to eliminate all chlorine. This pushes you toward alternative technology, such as ozone or ultraviolet and both are huge energy hogs. As we move toward higher and higher levels of regulatory compliance, it eats into our operating budget with additional energy costs. This is a very difficult field.

## **METROPOLITAN WATER BOARD – pg. 5-71: I. Holly Rosenthal, Executive Director**

Ms. Rosenthal stated that WEP and MWB have a great deal of alignment, have ongoing collaboration in a number of areas we are working in and initiatives we are taking on. You will be able to see this as we go through the presentation.

Ms. Rosenthal provided hard copies to the committee and presented the following:

# 2014 ANNUAL BUDGET

## Ways & Means Committee Report

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### METROPOLITAN WATER BOARD

JOANNE M. MAHONEY, COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
 FERDINAND L. PICARDI, CHAIRMAN  
 I. HOLLY ROSENTHAL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR




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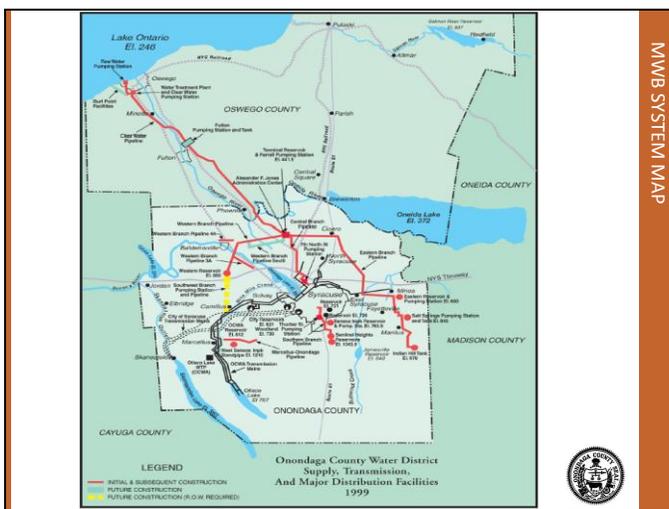


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*To provide clean, safe, reliable, sustainable and cost-efficient wholesale drinking water from Lake Ontario to the Central Upstate New York region. Integral to this mission is the MWB's role as an essential public health resource and economic development asset for the community.*

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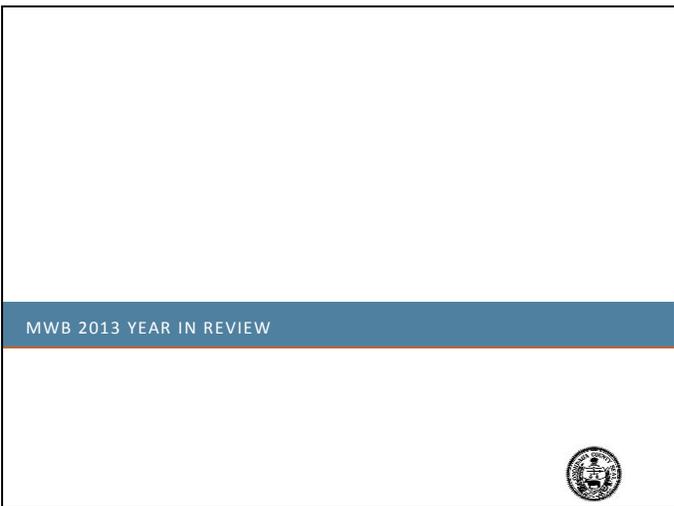
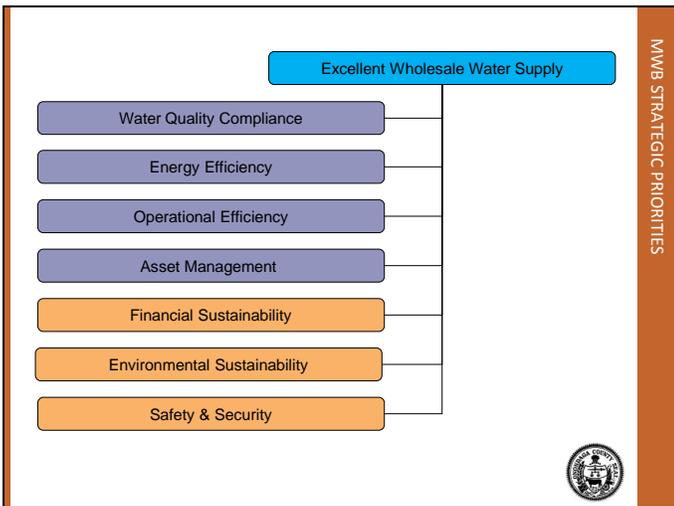
### MWB MISSION

MWB SYSTEM MAP

- *Have accelerated delivery of MWB's mission over the last 3 years, thanks to Co. Ex., Legislature and MWB staff; substantial improvements*
- *Delivering attention to water infrastructure sorely needed for so long*

- *Lake Ontario at lower elevation than Onondaga County; entire system based on pumping water from the lake into the county - translating into energy use*
- *Some capital projects underway to reduce energy consumption*



• *Items in gray are active deliverables, items in orange are the foundation or structural underpinning of our strategic priorities*

**ADMINISTRATION & MANAGEMENT**

Terminal Tanks (Ongoing)

- Second season of construction - currently on schedule for tank completion and operation by year end 2013, site completion 2014, with no increased costs to date.

Launched Comprehensive Asset Renewal and Energy (CARE) Program

- Farrell Pump Station Process Upgrades (pumps, motors, drives, hydraulic system): Completed design, bid and award of process improvements, resulting in a low bid which was on target with engineer's estimate. Pumps have been installed and are scheduled for completion in 2013 in coordination with Tank operations.
  - Projected Annual Savings of approximately 163,000 kWh and \$170,000 total savings through energy efficiency and market optimization, using 2010 baseline.
- Received Proposals for remaining pump station energy improvements, instrumentation, security and reliability upgrades. Awarded and initiated Energy Performance Contract, detailing specific scope of work and ordering long lead items.
  - Projected Annual Savings of over 3M kWh and \$500,000 total savings through energy efficiency, market optimization and operational efficiency, using 2010 baseline.

Advanced the implementation of Asset Management software scheduled to "go live" January 2014 and integrate with Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) upgrades being delivered in 2014 through the CARE Program.

Advanced the costs, feasibility and benefits of new revenue sources through partnership with municipalities and authorities.

Continued development of MWB workforce through Operator and Maintenance cross-training and cross-assignment, resulting in reduced overtime and travel, better ability to adapt to leave absences and retirement transitions, as well as improved communications and employee relations, despite unplanned vacancies and reduction in personnel.

Continued participation in the U.S. EPA **WaterSense** Program, a U.S. EPA partnership program which promotes the value of water efficiency.

Expanded technology implementation to facilitate modernization of data collection, communication, accounting and training procedures. Completed MWB-wide computer replacement with County IT. Other technology improvements will remain ongoing and be expanded through the CARE Program.

Continued American Water Works Association (AWWA) eLearning Program for Operator Certification Continuing Education to create consistency in quality of training, greater accessibility for off-shift Operators, and greater choice of course topics, while reducing travel time, expense and green house gas footprint.

Initiated High Tech Water Plant Operator and Asset Manager Training to prepare staff for upcoming technology implementation.

Advanced TRACC (Trust, Respect, Accountability, Communication and Collaboration), an on-going employee engagement process, particularly valuable in communicating with breadth of changes taking place through the CARE Program.

Continued development of MWB web site, including addition of Annual Lake Monitoring Reports and Capital Project reports. Construction Progress photos: [www.ongov.net/mwb](http://www.ongov.net/mwb)

MWB 2013 KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS  
PERFORMANCE EFFECTIVENESS: ADMINISTRATION & MANAGEMENT



- *Covered water storage obligated by 2015; will be delivered a year earlier than stipulation requires, within budget*
- *Collaborating with WEP on Maximo software and GIS; software used for hydraulic modeling system may be shared with WEP in the future*
- *MWB workforce has embraced technology and training*



MWB 2013 KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS  
WATER QUALITY: TREATMENT & TRANSMISSION

**TREATMENT & TRANSMISSION**

- Purified, treated and conveyed nearly 7 billion gallons (annual) of Lake Ontario water in compliance with New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) standards for drinking water, meeting or exceeding all state and federal regulatory requirements.
- Completed **Phase III Self Assessment Report** for the **Partnership for Safe Water** a cooperative effort between the U.S. EPA and five national water utility professional/trade/research associations. The Partnership is a peer reviewed self-evaluation program designed to assist in the optimization of treatment plant performance.
- Monitored and maintained water quality throughout the treatment, transmission and distribution system, through the performance of nearly 11,000 chemical, bacteriological and microscopic analyses by the MWB NYS Department of Health Certified Environmental Laboratory.
- Expanded Disinfection Byproduct (DBP) sampling to develop a strategy for improving water quality in outlying areas.
- Further increased savings through in-sourced management of Lake Ontario water quality testing performed by contract laboratories and support of the Annual Lake Monitoring Report.
- Began evaluation of process and facility needs in preparation for upcoming Capital Program improvements.
- Maintained aging Water Treatment Plant and Pump Station infrastructure as required in anticipation of upcoming Capital Project.
- Met quarterly with regional water agency/utility water quality managers to review current topics and best practices.



- *Sequel to CARE program will be improvements to the water treatment plant; currently using resourcefulness and duct tape to keep things together*

**DISTRIBUTION & STORAGE**

- Launched Meter Replacement Program to replace obsolete meters with advanced technology to be integrated into the CARE Program and provide more accurate, real-time data and more timely system trouble-shooting.
- Replaced and Repaired 7<sup>th</sup> North Street Pump Station Valves to improve maintenance logistics and reduce leakage.
- Progressed Right-of -Way clearing Program to improve daily and emergency access to MWB pipeline and appurtenances.
- Continued system-wide valve performance testing program and replacement of original line valves/operators as required.
- Coordinated upgrades to MWB Thurber and Seneca pump stations.
- Performed additional maintenance of Control Structure at Terminal Reservoir. The Control Structure is the main intersection of transmission piping from the Water Treatment in Oswego to Eastern and Western Tanks.
- Continued to develop and implement proactive asset management program for pipeline appurtenances and electrical and mechanical systems.

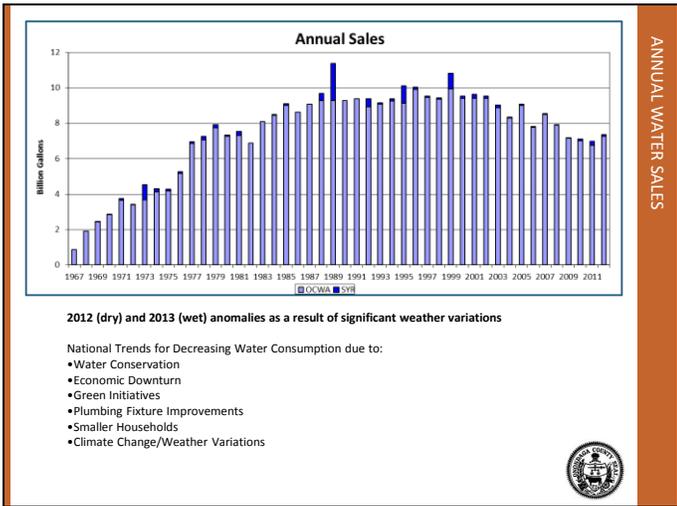
MWB 2013 KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS  
SYSTEM RELIABILITY: DISTRIBUTION & STORAGE



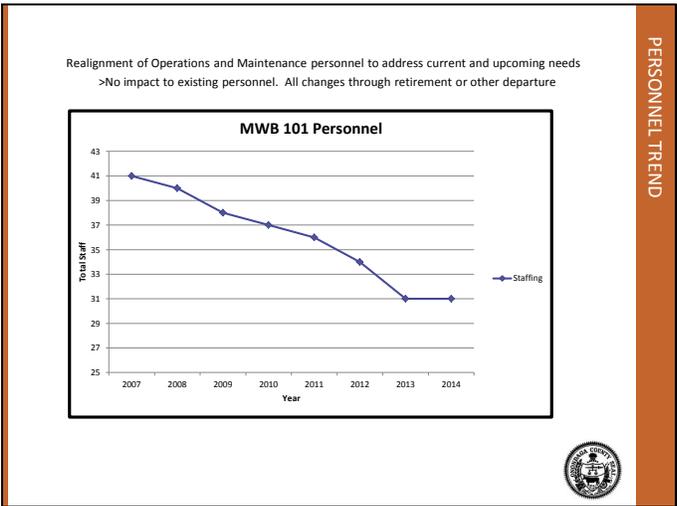
MWB CONDITIONS & TRENDS



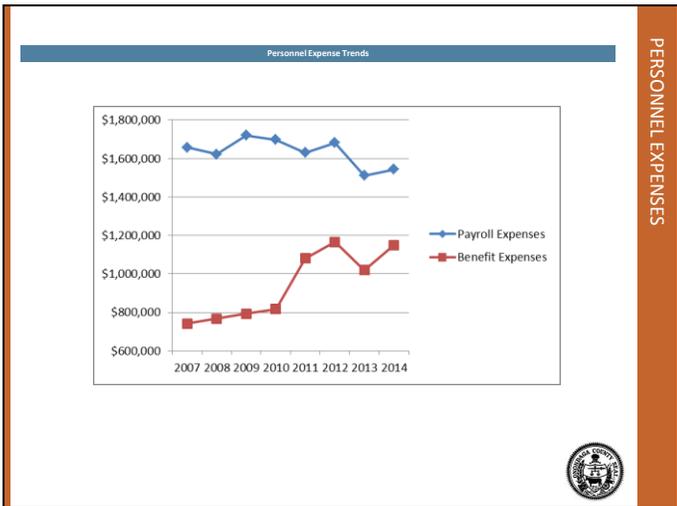
- *Now have programs to get ahead of repairs*
- *No longer able to get parts for 45 year old meters; new meters collect live flow information currently obtained manually*



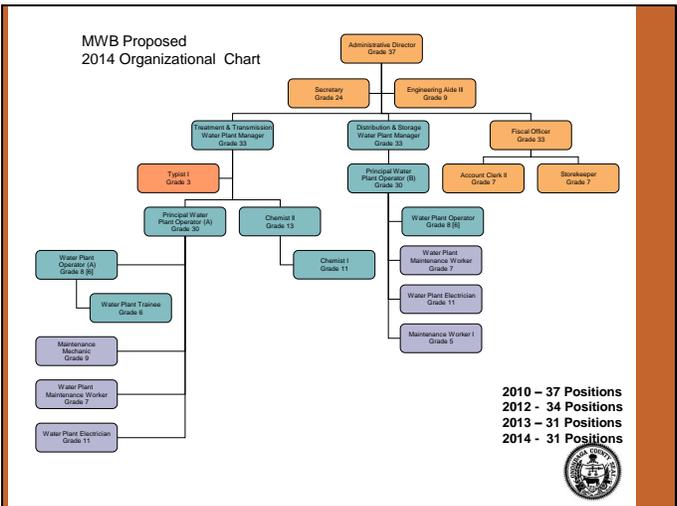
ANNUAL WATER SALES



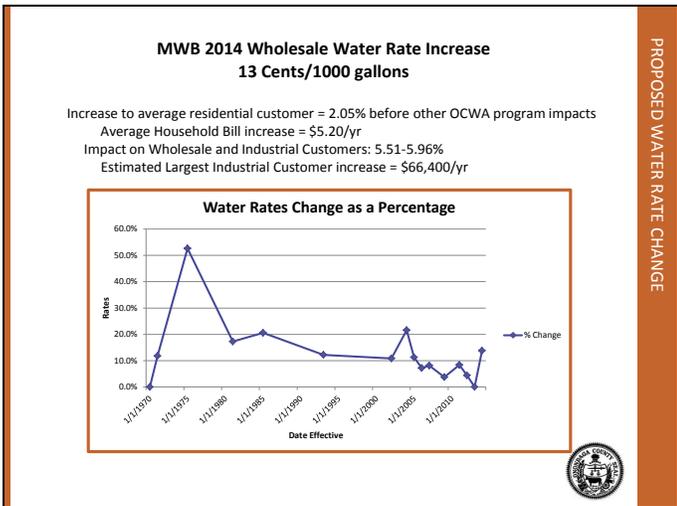
PERSONNEL TREND



PERSONNEL EXPENSES



- **1 change from budget book – replace typist 1 with account clerk; provides a small savings**
- **Shifting from water plant operators to maintenance personnel, doing more planned maintenance with greater operational efficiencies**



PROPOSED WATER RATE CHANGE



### MWB CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN



- **The rate will be at its highest point, but percentage of rate increase is not unprecedented**

**PURPOSE OF CAPITAL NEEDS:**

Currently, the MWB draws an average of 20 million gallons of water per day from Lake Ontario, starting at the intake in Oswego. The "raw water" is pumped to the Water Treatment Plant where it is filtered, treated and tested prior to the transmission of "finished water" through the MWB pipelines and pump stations to various storage facilities and customer connections.

The MWB system has been in operation for 46 years with few capital improvements and limited preventive maintenance funding, resulting in operational and energy inefficiencies, outdated instrumentation and controls and limited availability of replacement parts.

**PLANNED CAPITAL PROJECTS:**

**Compliance:**

**Terminal Tanks:** By the end of 2014, Terminal Reservoir will be replaced by two (2) 15 MG concrete tanks as a means of compliance with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT2).

**Standby Generation:** Emergency generators to assure pump station operation during power outages per Department of Health recommendations. Initial installation at Farrell Pump Station in 2014.

**System Reliability, Security, Energy and Operational Improvements:**

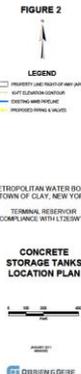
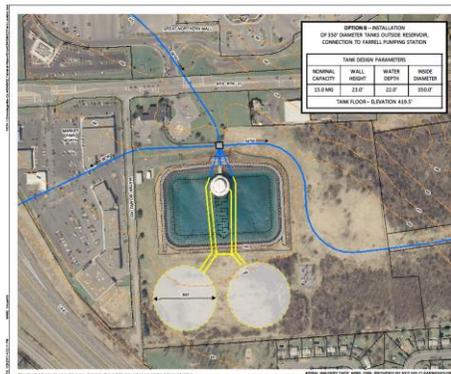
**Comprehensive Asset Renewal and Energy (CARE) Program**  
Replacement of original process and facilities infrastructure with premium efficiency improvements, including high-tech instrumentation and controls to optimize staff and energy resources and improve reliability and security.

**Water Quality:**

**Water Treatment Plant:** Various Water Treatment Plant (WTP) improvements in preparation for CARE and subsequent WTP capital improvement program.



2013-2014 MWB CAPITAL PROJECTS



2013: TERMINAL TANKS AND FARRELL PUMP STATION



2012: TERMINAL TANKS



2013: TERMINAL TANKS



• Last year's photograph of terminal tank progress on left and 2013 completed tanks on right



2012: TERMINAL TANKS



2013: TERMINAL TANKS AND FARRELL PUMP STATION





- *Energy savings guaranteed to be delivered by contractor, in the process of evaluating design to insure savings can be obtained before moving forward*
- *Pursuing all grants for this type of work*
- *Numbers don't include solar project; partnering with Facilities and WEP for SolarCity, hope to be successful in getting grant support for solar array on the tank roofs in Clay*

- *Rendering was done in 1967; looks a lot like this today – much work to be done from the roof down*
- *In process of evaluating work to be done at the Water Treatment Plant, will select contractor and begin construction in 2016*

In answer to Chairman McMahon, Ms. Rosenthal responded that the solar project was not in anyone's Capital Project budget, because it is a power purchase agreement. The developer SolarCity fronts all the capital costs and sells energy to the county for the rate that they have projected. SolarCity takes all the risk and invests all the capital. Chairman McMahon stated the legislature, as the executive branch of the government, sets policy and we have not set the policy to go forward with this; asked if this was coming before committee. Ms. Rosenthal responded that this is something that she would expect him to have a conversation with Mr. Millea about.

Chairman McMahon asked who the customers are that will be paying the rate increase. Ms. Rosenthal responded:

- \$ .13 increase to OCWA translate to \$.09 at OCWA; we provide half of OCWA's water daily, the rest comes from Otisco Lake; water from Otisco Lake at lower costs, diluting rate increase for their customers; all water districts currently served by OCWA within Onondaga, Oswego, Madison and Oneida Counties will see the rate increase through OCWA
- City of Syracuse will not pay more for water, uses MWB as supplemental supply; part of what allows them to work under a filtration avoidance permit and not to have to build a WTP; currently operate on expired agreement with City of Syracuse - flat fee for water received
- Town of Hannibal receiving full impact of rate increase; MWB is their sole water source

In answer to Chairman McMahon, Ms. Rosenthal stated the largest industrial customer is Anheuser-Busch.

**Chairman McMahon requested a breakdown of the industrial customers and the impact of the rate increase on them.** Ms. Rosenthal stated that Anheuser-Busch is about \$66,000 and Solvay Paperboard is less. There are a couple others. Chair Knapp interjected saying that Solvay Paperboard gets its water from OCWA, who would then pass on the rate increase. Ms. Rosenthal responded that numbers are the actual end costs; had conversations with OCWA as to how MWB's rate increase would affect industrial customers.

Chairman McMahon stated looking at this from a global standpoint, under the assumption that the rate increase stands, to avoid future rate increases what would you have to do, get more customers. Ms. Rosenthal responded:

- MWB was created in part to fund the central core infrastructure of the water system; historically costs have been on the ad valorem, when established there weren't enough OCWA customers to spread across the rate - would have been unreasonable cost for water

- 2 options - the ad valorem as a special district or the water rate; debt service will be increasing over the next several years resulting in an increase in the water rate or ad valorem
- Increasing water sales would be a real benefit, bringing in water needy business to the community, enticing them with low-cost high-quality water would be tremendous benefit to everyone; helps spread the cost of improvements
- MWB also has the right and ability to speak with other municipalities and authorities to sell water directly to them; have been exploring over the last few years, are looking at different options with respect to increasing customer base

Mr. McMahon stated this is important. WEP has made a strong assumption that they are going to receive the type of rate increases that they put forward each year. Although you haven't had a rate increase in a while and the rate is still low, our goal in Onondaga County is not be at the national average for anything, but to be below it. Just because our rate has been lower, doesn't mean that it is ok to increase. Alternatively, the types of Capital Projects that are nice to have but are need to haves will have to go by the wayside at some point. We need to make sure these types of rate increases aren't before us year in and year out, because the answer will be we are not going to entertain \$.13 cent increases every year. You need a raise now but going forward, charging the taxpayer more can't be the only answer to resolving our debt service problems. Ms. Rosenthal responded one of the benefits to the CARE program is that we will have a reduction in energy cost. There is consideration for using those energy savings to offset the debt service created by the improvement required to reduce the energy. This has been part of our discussion all along.

Mr. Jordan asked for explanation of the \$201,864 payment due in accordance with a Municipal Corporation Agreement (**pg. 5-72 and pg. 5-71 Line A694100**). Ms. Rosenthal responded:

- Coming to Legislature next month to ask for money not included in 2013 budget needed to pay the Town of Oswego
- 19 years ago made agreement with Town of Oswego to build their water infrastructure in exchange for tax exemption on our properties within their town; original agreement dated to expire 2012 - adjustment to agreement starting and ending 2 years later than anticipated; money wasn't included in 2013 but needs to be paid, 2014 will have the last payment of agreement and needs to be included in the budget; appears as if we have an increase of \$200,000, actually had oversight of that amount in 2013
- After 2014 they will be off our books and we will be tax exempt with the Town of Oswego

Mr. Jordan asked if we had been paying them \$201,000 a year, every year. Ms. Rosenthal interjected stating it has been about \$186,000 per year.

Mr. Jordan asked for explanation of the position changes (**pg. 5-73 and pg. 5-71 Line A641010**). Ms. Rosenthal responded:

- Create Civil Engineer 1 position, as CARE project moves forward will need someone with engineering background on staff; would like the person from early on in the project, will be knowledgeable about project; part of the process for delivery and capable of operations and management of project going forward

Mr. Jordan asked if this person will be assessing their capital needs. Ms. Rosenthal responded:

- Could be part of their role; want them involved in the CARE project as we implement new technology, replace pumps, motors and drives, will work with outside consultants, be familiar with strategy, construction and operations; once consultants pull out can help with management of the systems
- Grade change for 2 Principal Water Plant Operators; even compensation between WP and WWTP operators countywide, also manage a number of people that make more money than they do

Mr. May stated we have talked about the 20-25% energy saving with respect to the Capital Project and asked if she could speak to how this translates to budget dollar operating costs and debt service increases that will be seen as a result of these changes. Ms. Rosenthal responded:

- Depends how much we buy energy for; energy savings is a combination of efficiency and costs
- Know we can improve and quantify the efficiency, cost piece is somewhat variable; how much we buy the energy for or how much we can optimize our energy purchasing via how we use the system to consume power at the least costly times; through combination of those 2 things we can save \$670k over 2010 baseline; specific about 2010 baseline as dollar amount has decreased some over the last few years; \$500k would be a reasonable number annually

Mr. Plochocki stated the wheel loader was requested in last year's budget and funds were put into contingency. There is some consideration to putting it into the 2014 budget since they don't have it yet; questioned how badly they need it. Ms. Rosenthal responded that we planned to come to you next month to request that the funds be released from the contingency account for the loader, along with the \$186,000 that we need to pay the Town of Oswego. We believe we can project an adequate surplus within the 2013 budget

to fund the expenditures. We would prefer to move forward with it in this year's budget. If it is shifted to next year's budget, it has a potential impact on the rate again.

Mr. May stated technically you would be using surplus for what is owed to Oswego; the other piece is already budgeted in contingency. Ms. Rosenthal agreed adding they are now coming to the end of the third quarter and can assure Mr. Morgan that their projected year-end will be adequate for funding.

Chair Knapp stated the other employee wage line has really increased since 2012 and asked what she was using part-time employees for (**pg. 5-71 Line A641030**). Ms. Rosenthal responded:

- Brought Maintenance Mechanic back part-time, very valuable and knowledgeable about system; working hard to fill vacant maintenance titles
- Created part-time Water Plant Operator titles; allows experienced individuals who served as MWB operators to return and assist in managing unanticipated leave periods and overtime; has been effective in overtime management, flat line for 2014

In answer to Chair Knapp, Ms. Rosenthal stated OCWA has a WTP in Marcellus that treats Otisco Lake water. It has a capacity of just under 20 million gallons per day; maximum draw they are permitted to take from Otisco Lake. In answer to Chair Knapp, Ms. Rosenthal confirmed the balance then comes from MMB and is all treated, ready to go.

Mr. Jordan questioned the professional services line dramatic increase over the last couple of years. It is down from 2013 but still a large increase from 2012 (**pg. 5-71 Line A694080**). Mrs. Rosenthal responded:

- Variety of smaller projects outside of CARE that are essential repairs, also some support for SCADA system
- Large amount for lab costs, specific tests are outsourced

**Mr. Jordan asked is this was something new within the last couple of years, he would assume that they had to do this as well in 2012 and asked why it has increased so significantly. Ms. Rosenthal responded she would get back to him with the entire list of what is included, adding we have general services for engineering services, legal services, laboratory testing and consultant work for the SCADA system.**

Mr. May asked if the civil engineer position would offset some of the outside expenses. Ms. Rosenthal responded that it could. There are pros and cons to insource verses outsource. If we are outsourcing we get exactly the right person, for the exact job we want to complete and have choices of thousands of engineers in CNY to do this. If we have one individual, they typically have one area or another of expertise; may still go outside for certain projects. The civil engineer is intended to be focused on the infrastructure that is delivered under the CARE project going forward, but would be able to attend to some of those needs.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

KATHERINE M. FRENCH, Deputy Clerk  
Onondaga County Legislature