NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Regional Director, Region 7
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January 16, 2020

Skaneateles Lake Association, Inc.
Mr. Frank Moses, Executive Director
Dr. Paul Torrisi, President
P.O. Box 862
Skaneateles, NY 13152

RE: Carpenter Falls Public Access Improvement Project

Dear Mr. Moses and Dr. Torrisi:

Thank you for your continued advocacy, interest and feedback concerning the Carpenter Falls Public Access Improvement Project. Your comments and recommendations are acknowledged and very much appreciated.

I'm writing to provide an update on the project, and to provide response to your recommendations provided to the NYSDEC at the public meeting held this past August, and in a letter dated September 22, 2019. Project site studies and design work by the NYSDEC project team continues. No construction has taken place. Substantive project updates will continue to be posted on the Carpenter Falls Unique Area web page.

Recommendations and Items of Interest:

1. Nutrient reduction: Nutrients (specifically phosphorus) will not be produced in substantive amounts by construction of the project and could have a net reduction. The project design will employ best management practices for water quality protection during construction, as well as long term stabilization of the natural erosion currently taking place on the site, thereby protecting water quality and reducing impacts from public use of the site.

2. Water quality sampling and stormwater treatment - before any construction takes place, the final project design plans will be reviewed by the City of Syracuse, DEC Division of Water and the Finger Lakes Hub. The preliminary design for this project involves installation of a rain garden to treat post-construction stormwater runoff from the parking area, then infiltrating the entire 100 year 24 hour storm event into the groundwater. Green Infrastructure BMPs used to treat stormwater quality such as the rain garden planned for this project, require the installation vegetative plantings and groundwater infiltration of stormwater runoff. This allows nutrients to be removed by vegetation and filtration in the soil profile. Infiltration also slowly

recharges nearby watercourses and reduces peak flows, which closely mimics a natural system. Because water will infiltrate into the ground, sampling post-construction runoff directed to BMPs from this project may not be possible.

During construction, water quality will be monitored by completing routine visual inspections to determine if erosion and sediment controls are effective. Completing a visual inspection to determine if soil loss is occurring is the most effective means of monitoring construction stormwater runoff.

3. Landscape and planting designs: Consideration for this in areas surrounding the boardwalk, stone stairway, beneath and around the observation platform will be given in the final design. Shading of the forest floor by the forest canopy has naturally limited the establishment of natural vegetation in portions of the project area. The introduction of sunlight to the forest floor from light tree cutting in the project area will help promote natural regeneration. Establishing vegetation in the forest understory can be challenging under dense forest canopy. However, the NYSDEC will look for opportunities to enhance natural regeneration by supplemental planting of native woody plants along the footprint of the project site.

4. Water control along the stone stairway: The stone steps will be designed to minimize the potential of the stone stairs from becoming a concentrated runoff route and will reduce long term impacts from existing foot traffic on the site.

5. Interpretive and regulatory signage: an interpretive kiosk will be installed to inform and educate visitors and help foster stewardship. The kiosk will help focus public access on the designated boardwalk and viewing platform. Informal foot paths will be closed and barricaded with natural materials as practical. The NYSDEC State Forest Ranger Team will continue to educate visitors and enforce Department rules and regulations.

On behalf of the NYSDEC, I greatly appreciate the advocacy and support of the Skaneateles Lake Association. Please feel free to reach out to Supervising Forester and Project Manager John Clancy with any additional comments, questions or concerns that you may have. John is available at (**607) 753-3095 ext. 224** or John.Clancy@dec.ny.gov.

Respectfully,

Matthew J. Marko
Director

EC: Scott Cook, Research Scientist and Finger Lakes Water Hub Supervisor, DEC
John Clancy, Supervising Forester, DEC Region 7
Matthew Kazmierski, Nonpoint Source Program Supervisor, DEC Region 7