

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Division of Fish and Wildlife, Bureau of Ecosystem Health

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Dear Chautauqua Lake Partnership,

We are writing to invite you to participate in an important working group session facilitated by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) focused on future wetland permitting of regulated activities near Chautauqua Lake. This collaborative session will be held on October 29th, 2024, from 4:00 to 6:00 PM at Chautauqua Suites and Expo Center, and your organization's input is vital to our success.

As you are aware, starting January 1, 2025, additional areas of Chautauqua Lake will be regulated under the Freshwater Wetlands Act (Article 24 of NY Environmental Conservation Law). To support a streamlined and efficient permitting approach for routine activities within these regulated areas, the DEC is working to develop a general permit. This working group session will be a critical forum for sharing ideas with DEC regarding which routine activities should be included in a general permit.

We are inviting representatives from approximately 20 stakeholder groups to this working group session and request that only 1 representative from your organization attend. This will provide an opportunity for focused dialogue among the interested groups while ensuring that DEC can develop a permit that considers the perspectives of all interested stakeholders. Please know that this will not be the only time to participate in the development of the general permit. Rather, this is the initial step on the path forward to a general permit. There will be a public comment period on the draft general permit once it has been created with the input gained during this working group session.

Your participation will play a key role in shaping the parameters of a general permit that balances the interests of various lake users with the environmental stewardship goals mandated by the Freshwater Wetlands Act. We look forward to your valuable contributions and hope you can join us for this important meeting.

Please confirm your organization's attendance and the name of your representative who will be attending the working group session by Monday, October 7th, 2024. Feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns regarding this meeting.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the health and sustainability of Chautauqua Lake.

Sincerely,



Roy "JR" Jacobson

Bureau of Ecosystem Health
Habitat Protection Section Head
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

