

LEVELER

E-Newsletter from the Lake Ontario Riparian Alliance

Issue 40 December 8, 2014

Grassroots Public Advocacy for the Protection, Restoration and Conservation of Lake Ontario
Beaches and Riparian Property

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Question for New Yorkers:

Why would the Nature Conservancy use its power to subvert the truth?

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The Nature Conservancy and its allies have taken a page from the playbook of large industrial polluters: if the facts are not on your side, hire a consultant and do a media blitz to spread misinformation.

As many of you have heard, the Nature Conservancy has begun running ads on radio stations. These ads, to paraphrase John Gruber, one of the developers of Obamacare, are to incite the public, with no knowledge of the real issues, into taking an action. Gruber admitted that the Obama administration went through "tortuous" measures to keep the facts from the American people. We see the same thing occurring with the advertisement of the Nature Conservancy.

The Ad states that the new plan, Plan 2014, will provide for the improvement of water quality. Nowhere in any of the research done by the Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Study was there provision or mandate from the International Joint Commission to improve water quality, only to look at water level regulation. We at LORA have learned that the NYSDEC (New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation) has identified five sanitary water systems that would be adversely affected by Plan 2014.

The Ad further states that the plan will improve protection of the shoreline by increasing natural shore protection, i.e., dunes and other natural barriers. However, to create the material to form these "dunes", there has to be destruction of other areas along the shore. What is known about the south shore of Lake Ontario is that the shoreline of Lake Ontario is, for the most part, 85% hardened, which means that property owners, both public and private, have used the current operation range to create protection of their property and other infrastructure.

Significantly, the plan will cause a minimum of three-four (3-4) million dollars in **unmitigated** annual damage to the six counties along the south shore of Lake Ontario. The main beneficiaries of this plan are the St. Lawrence River area and hydropower entities. The Lake Ontario Riparian Alliance has pointed out many times in past newsletters that the amount of annual damages could be two-three (2-3) times as much, particularly in light of the reliance on outdated and inaccurate data.

The Ad states that Plan 2014 will protect the shore from ravishment, if hurricanes like Irene were to impact the lake. The Nature Conservancy fails to tell the public that, after a period of historic very low water during the late 1960s, the shore was not protected when Hurricane Agnes hit Lake Ontario. At that time, the damage to just Monroe and Jefferson counties was near \$100 million dollars in today's dollars.

The Ad does state that hydropower entities will benefit from the plan, but there is no mention of the adverse effects the plan could have on the nuclear power plants on the lake. They may have to cut power production in times of low water, as Plan 2014 calls for, due to lack of cooling water for their systems.

The minimal benefits to recreational boating on the St. Lawrence River would not offset the loss the of a \$95-million dollar fishing industry along the south shore of Lake Ontario.

We at LORA find the Nature Conservancy's ad to be deceiving to the public at best, and, more accurately, a complete lie!

We need the International Joint Commission to take into consideration the "Human Environment" and not have damages occur to that segment of entities within the Lake-River system that is least able to absorb the damages that will take place solely on its shoulders.

It has come to the attention of LORA, by reading the Nature Conservancy's latest Annual Report, the Nature Conservancy has received funds coming from the NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation, in the amount of \$50 million dollars. We find it interesting that, in the IJC Working Group assigned the task of developing a new regulation plan since 2009, a member working for this same Environmental Facilities Corporation purportedly representing New York State. This gives the appearance of collusion and conflict of interest at very high levels.

It is time for you to call your representatives and express your concern against Plan 2014 and the misinformation from the Nature Conservancy.

Here is the Contact Information for our Elected Federal Representatives:

Congressman Hanna (East Side of Oswego River to the Oswego/Jefferson County Line)

Local Office Telephone # 315-724-9740

Washington DC Telephone # 202-225-3665

Address:

258 Genesee St.
Utica, NY 13502

Email: <https://hanna.house.gov/email-me/>

Congressman Maffei (West side of Oswego River to Williamson)

Incoming Congressman John Katko

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Oswego Office Telephone # 315-342-2192

Addresses:

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1 Clinton Square 2nd Floor
Syracuse, New York 13202

Oswego Office

100 North Salina Road 13 West Oneida St.
Oswego, New York 13126

Email: Bryan.Maxwell@mail.house.gov

Congresswoman Slaughter (Monroe County)

Local Office Telephone #585-232-4850

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Email: katie.lashomb@mail.house.gov

Congressman Collins (West of Monroe County to Niagara River)

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Senator Schumer

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Senator Gillibrand

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The United States Secretary of State

The Honorable John Kerry
Secretary of State
United States Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

We need everyone on the South Shore to call our representatives and express our outrage about Plan 2014!

For more information: <http://www.loranet.org/>

Past Newsletters: <http://www.loranet.org/levelerarchive/pastissues.htm>