



# Onondaga County Legislature

**HASSINA K. ADAMS**  
Clerk

**NICOLE WATTS**  
Chairwoman

**SPENCER BERG**  
Deputy Clerk

## **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMITTEE MINUTES – JANUARY 20, 2026 GREGG ERIKSEN, CHAIR**

**MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Garland, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Meaker, Mr. Thompson**

**ALSO ATTENDING: Chairwoman Watts, Majority Leader Hernandez, Minority Leader May; also see attached list**

Chair Eriksen called the meeting to order at 1:16 p.m. and the previous meeting's minutes were approved.

1. **ONONDAGA COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY (OCWA)**: Mr. Jeffrey D. Brown, Esq., Executive Director; Andrew J. Weiss, P.E., Director of Technical Services; Geoffrey G. Miller, P.E., Executive Director of Operations
  - a. **INFORMATIONAL: OCWA Overview** (*Attachment No.1*)

*OCWA 2024 Consumer Confidence Report, 2024 Annual Report on file with the clerk*

- Onondaga County Water Authority began building water infrastructure around Otisco Lake in 1908
- OCWA was created in 1951 and acquired assets and began operations in 1955
- OCWA began with approximately 9,000 customers and 134 miles of water main and now serves approximately 107,000 metered accounts with over 2,200 miles of main
- Onondaga County Board of Supervisors created the Onondaga County Water District and the Metropolitan Water Board in 1962, and operated the water system in the district
- The Metropolitan Water Board functioned as a wholesale provider and OCWA was its major customer
- In 2017 the County entered into an agreement with OCWA to operate the consolidated system that OCWA now serves as both wholesaler and retailer in the five-county region
- OCWA serves approximately 500,000 people and provides backup supply to the City of Syracuse


*Mr. Meaker left the meeting at approximately 1:21 p.m.*

- OCWA directly supplies 33 towns and 13 villages and serves as a backup supply to five cities and the Village of Baldwinsville
- The system includes over 14,000 fire hydrants, 63 storage facilities, and 48 pump stations
- On a typical day, OCWA averages approximately 36 million gallons from three water sources
- Otisco Lake and Lake Ontario are directly operated by OCWA as well as the Otisco Water Treatment Plant, and Ontario Water Treatment Plant; OCWA also receives 2 million gallons per day on average from Skaneateles Lake through the City of Syracuse
- Receives a maximum of 52 million gallons per day and the combined source capacity for the region is approximately 83 million gallons per day

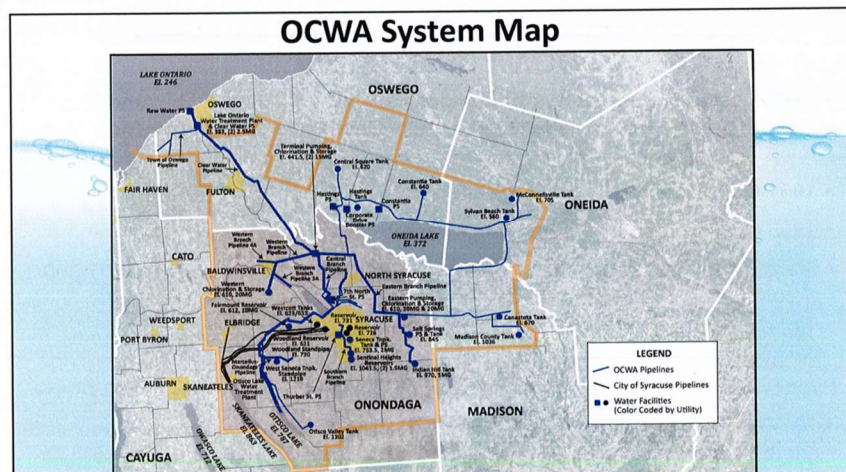
### Current System Statistics

- Population served:
  - +/- 350,000 OCWA
  - +/- 150,000 Syracuse (backup)
  - +/- 500,000
- Directly supply 33 towns and 13 villages
- Backup supply for 5 cities/village
- 14,200+ fire hydrants
- 63 storage facilities
- 48 pump stations

- Typical Average Daily Water Production:
  - Otisco WTP (Otisco Lake) +/- 17 MGD
  - Ontario WTP (Lake Ontario): +/- 17 MGD
  - Skaneateles Lake +/- 2 MGD
- Average Day 36 MGD, Maximum Day 52+ MGD
- Combined source capacity of 83+ MGD for the region



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- Slide 2: Map distinguishes OCWA transmission mains; blue transmission mains are affiliated with OCWA, black transmission mains are affiliated with the City of Syracuse
  - Three water sources identified on the maps
    - Otisco Lake (bottom of the screen)
    - Skaneateles Lake (City of Syracuse supply)
    - Lake Ontario (top lefthand corner)
- Transmission mains shown are 16 inches in diameter or larger
  - Transmission mains convey water all over and additional miles of smaller distribution mains exist throughout the system
- OCWA is not the only water provider in the region
  - City of Syracuse operates its own water system


- Towns of DeWitt and Clay operate portions of their own systems and are wholesale customers; City of Fulton operates its own system
- Village of Baldwinsville operates a groundwater well system
- City of Oneida operates its own system and maintains an emergency interconnection with OCWA

1/20/2026

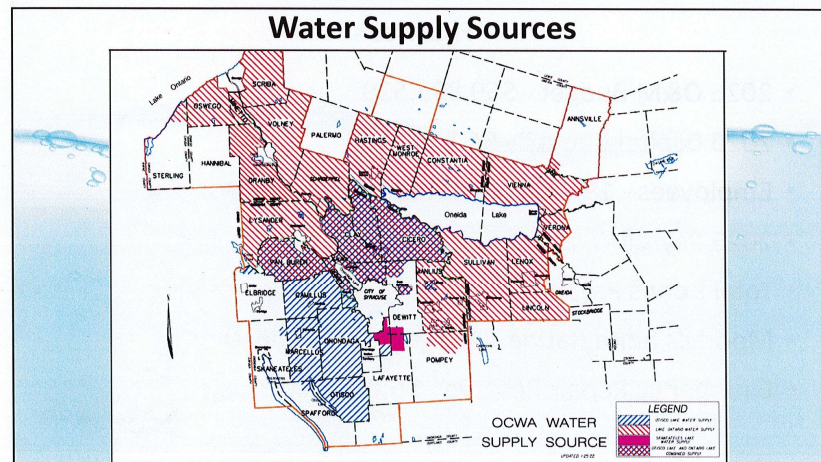
### Other Municipal Water Providers

Adjoining or neighboring water systems:

- City of Syracuse (emergency connection)
- Portion of Town of DeWitt (wholesale customer)
- Portion of Town of Clay (wholesale customer)
- City of Fulton (emergency connection)
- Village of Baldwinsville (emergency connection)
- City of Oneida (emergency connection)
- Village of Phoenix (wholesale customer)
- Town/Village of Hannibal (wholesale customer)
- City of Oswego (emergency connection)
- Town/Village of Skaneateles
- Jordan-Elbridge



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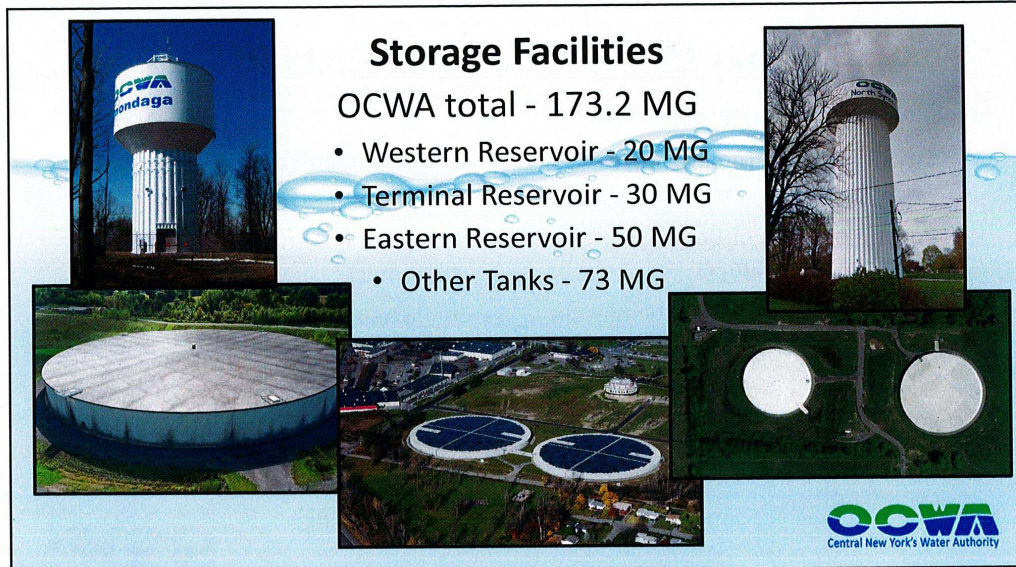
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- OCWA provides wholesale water to Phoenix and Hannibal, the Town and Village of Skaneateles and Jordan-Elbridge operate their own systems and receives water from the City from Skaneateles Lake
- Slide 3: Blue hatching identifies Otisco water, purple hatching identifies people who can get either Otisco or Ontario water, and red hatching identifies regions that typically get exclusively Ontario water
  - During the recent transmission main break, the system demonstrated resiliency and operational flexibility
  - Water was redirected into areas that do not typically receive that source

- Map also shows the five-counties OCWA serves, including Cayuga (upper left), Town of Sterling, Oneida County, Verona, Vienna, and Sylvan Beach

1/20/2026



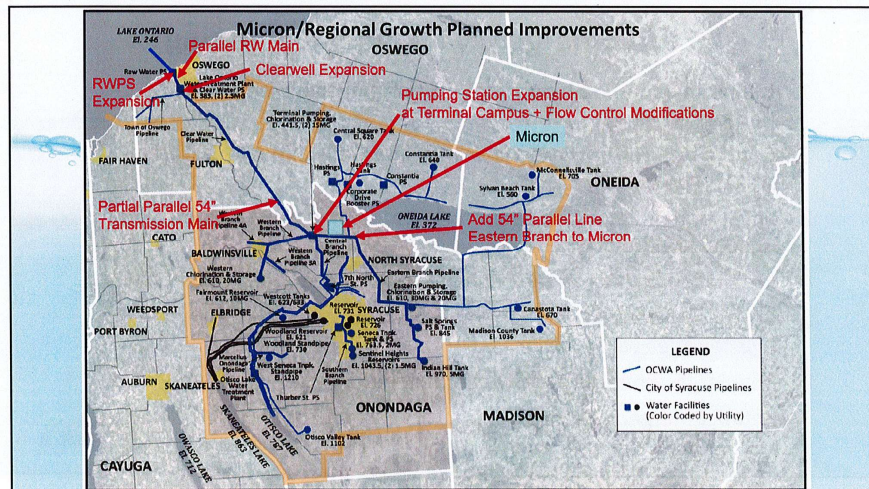
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- System includes approximately 173 million gallons of storage
  - Storage includes three major reservoirs and multiple tower tanks
    - Reservoirs include Western Reservoir, Terminal Reservoir across the Great Northern Mall and Eastern Reservoir in the Town of Manlius, Alverna Heights
- *Mr. Meaker returned to the meeting at approximately 1:26 p.m.*

#### Finances

- Operating budget is approximately \$70 million
- Capital budget is approximately \$40 million
- 187 full-time positions with no current vacancies, payroll is \$15 million
- Spent \$125 million on system improvements and outstanding bonds; holds second highest bond rating that's available, just below triple AAA
  - Emergency reserve sits at \$5 million
- Mr. Kelly: OCWA has its own independent budget that is not set by the County Legislature
  - Mr. Brown: Yes
- Mr. May: Can you expand on the structure of the reserves in the other areas? Is it by fund or by district?
  - Mr. Brown: It's based on the type of reserve we need

Presentation continued:



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- When OCWA took over operations of Lake Ontario system, it invested money into the system for improvements, approximately \$124 million has been invested in the Lake Ontario distribution system since 2018
- Transmission main inspection program uses electromagnetic inspection technology
- Ten-year capital improvement plan totals \$650 million, plan includes lead service line replacement in accordance with federal requirements
- Capital planning includes projects associated with projected regional growth including Micron
- Parallel transmission mains are planned to provide system redundancy
- Mr. Eriksen: For clarity on this slide, is this consistent with the MGD Micron is currently projecting?
  - Mr. Brown: Yes, the amounts are consistent
    - The gallons Micron is requesting have not changed
    - Phase One is roughly 16.8 million gallons per day

Presentation continued:

- OCWA has a computer system that monitors flows and pressures 24/7 called SCADA
- Hundreds of sensors detect issues; operators who are on duty 24/7, 365, who monitor pump stations, tank flows, and everything in the system
  - Leak detection staff go out daily at night with acoustical monitoring equipment to identify where breaks are
  - Electromagnetic sensor technology is used to perform condition assessment on all pre-stressed concrete cylinder pipes – main transmission lines are built with concrete
  - Prioritized based on consequence of failure, if it does fail, could water be supplied or is it isolated
  - Retained engineer to undertake the work

- Repair technicians on call, around the clock, who can call out repair crews to address emergency situations
- Interfaces with emergency management personnel in all five-counties OCWA serves and communicates with joint municipal water providers
- Retained emergency repair contractor on standby

#### Eastern Branch Transmission Main Break

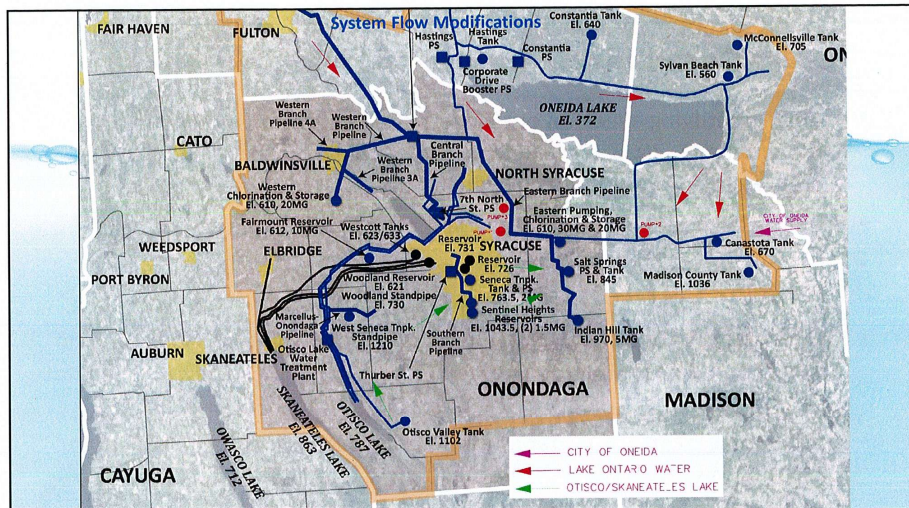
- Leak was identified on November 21st
- Initial summer repair was a typical blow-off valve repair, multiple repair attempts were made, however, subsequent failures were atypical due to soil conditions and safety concerns
- December 20<sup>th</sup> repair efforts all failed and soil conditions became insurmountable
- Worker safety could not be reduced
  
- Mr. Eriksen: The storage tanks that were filled to capacity, were those just the eastern storage tanks or were other storage tanks able to be used in reserve in an event like this?
  - Mr. Brown: Eastern and everything past eastern was filled to capacity
    - The ones on the west could not help
    - All storage that would have a positive impact was filled to capacity multiple times
    - The repairs could not be maintained due to worker safety concerns.

#### *Presentation Continued:*

- Multiple repair attempts were made, but they did not work
- Tanks were refilled and a second repair was attempted; however, worker authority could not maintain worker safety
- At the time of failure, water levels in the reservoir had dropped to critically low levels

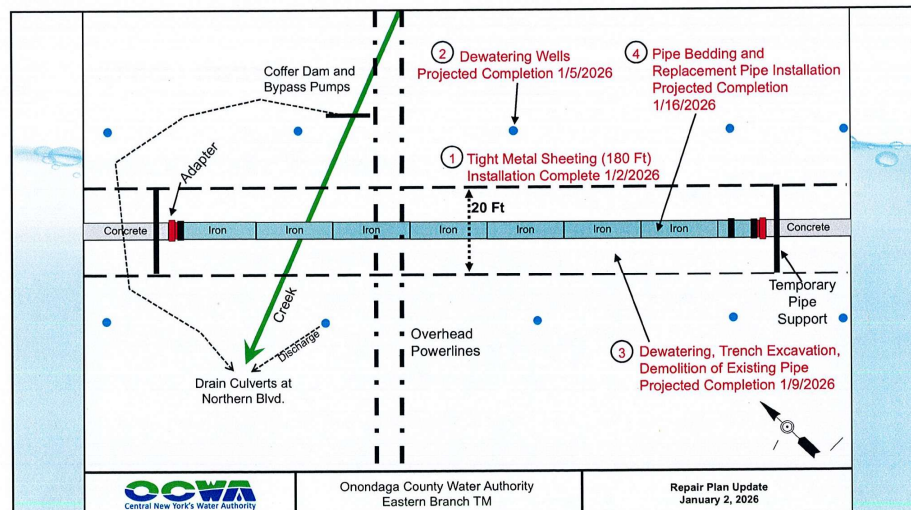
#### Emergency Response Coordination

- Voluntary water conservation was issued and the following day, it was elevated to a mandatory alert
- System flow modification were implemented to maintain service
- Emergency interconnections with neighboring utilities were activated
- By December 24<sup>th</sup>, requisite materials were acquired to initiate repair process
- Specialty contractors were retained
- Crews worked continuously except on Christmas Day
- Regular coordination occurred with state and county health departments and emergency management officials
- Maintained regular contact with all regulatory agencies throughout the repair process and started daily conference calls with all health agencies, including state and county health departments, and all emergency management officials from all five counties
  - Transitioned to calls once per day, which continues today; final meeting with the health department was held today



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- City of Oneida generously moved water into the eastern part of the OCWA system into Canastota Water Tank (pink arrow)
- Green arrows represent water that was moved and typically flows through the Town of DeWitt
  - City of Syracuse moved water through the Town of DeWitt into Manlius – most at risk of customers going out of water
- Red in the center represents emergency pumps that flowed water over areas that typically wouldn't see water flow and into the reservoir, included water from Otisco Lake
- At the top of Oneida Lake, water was moved around the top through Sylvan Beach and into the eastern part of the OCWA water system in Madison County



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### Repair Completion

- Inserted metal sheeting and dewatering wells
  - Retained specialty contractor from New Jersey to build wells and install bypass pumping

### Environmental Protection

- Repair process was conducted in stages, starting with the upstream portion (far left) and moved to downstream portion, ensuring each section was stable
- Piping was completed on the 17<sup>th</sup>

### Key Takeaways

- Central New Yorkers are resilient; customers stepped up, including residential, commercial, and industrial users
- Conservation efforts by customers made it possible to maintain service
- A potential situation where customers would lose water was avoided through system changes and staff response
- Employees and partner utilities were critical in providing supplemental water where needed
- Redundancy in the system is going to be more important than ever moving forward
- Redundant systems are being incorporated as part of Micron-related and regional growth planning
- Continued capital infrastructure investment is necessary to maintain system integrity
- Significant investment has already been made, with a long-term capital plan to continue improvements

### Questions/Comments from Committee

- Mr. Kelly: Is OCWA following best practices for routine surveillance and maintenance for transmission mains?
  - Mr. Brown: Yes, Electromagnetic inspection technology is used; due to cost (approximately \$1 million per mile) and the size of the system (over 220 miles of transmission main), inspections are prioritized based on probability of failure and consequence.
- Mr. Eriksen: You alluded to the fact that today was your final meeting with the health departments. Are the repairs over?
  - Mr. Brown: Yes, repairs completed on Saturday
    - Two sets of Line were sanitized and refilled
    - Two sets of samples are taken 24 hours apart; results expected tomorrow night
    - Normal eastern reservoir levels anticipated by Thursday
- Mr. Eriksen: How did OCWA's emergency plan management guide the response and repair process?
- *Mr. Brown asked Andrew Weiss to address the details of the repair process and implementation of the emergency management plan:*
  - Mr. Weiss: The emergency plan provides a management structure
    - Everyone knew their roles
    - The repair was extraordinary in scale, requiring specialized contractors and materials
    - Pipe is complete; water flowing soon
    - Restoration of the site (wetland area) will continue in the spring with DEC and Army Corps
- Mr. Eriksen: Was there any thought given to declaring this an emergency such that federal or state enforcement would come into play?
  - Mr. Brown: Discussed with the County Executive but did not pursue an emergency declaration because customers were not expected to go without water
- Mr. Eriksen: Anything from this that you can take into the next comprehensive plan?

- Mr. Brown: There will be some things we can think about post-mortem
- Mr. Eriksen: Is there a plan to reach out to some of the affected residents to see how this affected them and get feedback?
  - Mr. Brown: We stayed in contact with supervisors and mayors via frequent updates and will reach out to customers to thank them and get feedback
- Mr. Eriksen: One of the things I heard was OCWA's website crashed a couple of times. Is that something that can go into the next round of comprehensive planning?
  - Mr. Weiss: Website traffic exceeded anything seen before. We increased the website server capacity to mitigate future issues
- Mr. Eriksen: Is there a possibility to have a running update of the amount of water in reserve at various tanks and towers?
  - Mr. Weiss: Glad to take that feedback
    - We host the lake levels for the two lakes
- Mr. Garland: Could recent earthquake tremors in the area have contributed to the transition main break? It was stated that the tremors in the area occurred approximately one week prior to the incident
  - Mr. Brown: Thank you for letting me know
  - Mr. Weiss: We will take a look into that
- Chairwoman Watts: Could you explain how funding will work for system redundancies and the increased water needed for Micron development?
  - Mr. Brown: Last year's state budget included \$168 million for improvements, including the parallel eastern branch
    - Funding commitments have been made through Empire State Development to gain access to state funds
    - Negotiations are ongoing with Micron regarding cost-sharing
    - The effort will be a collaborative funding approach
- Mr. Kelly: Are there any concerns with cybersecurity that present challenges?
  - Mr. Brown: Key performance indicators are looked at on a regular basis
    - Robust systems in place to protect us
    - Over the past three months, nine advanced attacks were reported, remained below double digits since assuming position
  - Mr. Weiss: We work with partner agencies (e.g., CISA, Homeland Security) and third-party vendors
    - Systems are tested regularly and fortified; external monitoring is in place 24/7
    - Intercept attacks on a regular basis
- Mr. Meaker: Could you touch a bit on how safe the actual water is and what you do to protect it?
  - Mr. Brown: Reservoirs are closed and secured (fencing, cameras, and monitoring)
    - Prosecute trespassers when appropriate
- Mr. Kelly: It's not just the physical infrastructure that's under constant surveillance, but also the quality of the water, right?
  - Mr. Brown: Absolutely, we do twice the amount of water testing that's required a year, roughly 15,000 per year

- During the break, we increased the amount of water testing in the affected areas
- Mr. Eriksen: Earlier in your presentation, you noted 17 million gallons a day from the Otisco Lake that's typical – is there a stated limit to how much water can be taken from the lake by OCWA?
  - Mr. Brown: It's about 20 million gallons. Water is gravity-fed; sources do not require pumping
    - Ontario supply fluctuates
- Mr. Eriksen: Is that limited by federal statute?
  - Mr. Brown: It is currently limited to 63 million gallons per day
    - A request to increase to roughly 93 million gallons per day has been submitted
- Mr. Eriksen: Is there an inter-municipal agreement under which the shares of water are allocated for Lake Ontario?
  - Mr. Brown: There is a commission that oversees that
    - A request to increase intake has been approved by the DEC and sent into the Great Lakes Commission; they give final approval
- Mr. Eriksen: Are the capital projects being proposed with Micron-related expansion and anticipated regional growth?
  - Mr. Brown: Capital projects address Micron-related demand as well as broader system needs
    - Projects are informed by ongoing master planning and long-term projections
- Mr. Eriksen: Are these capital projects intended to meet OCWA's projected needs once Micron is fully operational in 2032 or 2033?
  - Mr. Brown: Current projections reflect anticipated system needs at this time
    - Projections may change through master planning process
- Mr. Eriksen: Beyond the 16.8 million gallons per day requested from OCWA, where is the additional water for Micron expected to come from?
  - Mr. Brown: The County is working on reclaimed water as part of the overall strategy
    - This approach supports both resiliency and environmental considerations
    - Working with WEP and the County
- Mr. Ryan: Are there any comparable issues that you're aware of, going on now, to those circumstances for other breaks or issues that might arise?
  - Mr. Brown: Not that we are aware. If we were aware of it, we would be addressing it
    - There was a break in the blowoff; it was a typical repair
    - November repairs were atypical
  - Mr. Weiss: Transmission mains typically have a much longer lifespan than valves
    - The summer repair was a routine valve replacement and did not indicate a larger issue
    - The November failure involved the transmission main and required an engineering and construction response well beyond a standard repair
- Mr. Kelly: Were you able to pay for all the repairs based on budgeted funds?
  - Mr. Brown: Final invoices are still pending
    - Emergency repair funds (approximately \$5 million) will cover most of the costs
    -

- Mr. Eriksen: Do you anticipate the capital projects will be funded through budgeted funds, bond issues or a mix of the two?
  - Mr. Brown: Mix of the two
    - Funding is expected to come from a mix of state funding, Micron contributions, normal revenues, and bonding

*Mr. Meaker left the meeting at approximately 2:15 p.m.*

2. **WATER ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION:** Cydney Johnson, Deputy County Executive for Physical Services; Odean D. Dyer, PE, Deputy Commissioner

a. **A Resolution Calling a Public Hearing in Connection with the Oak Orchard Industrial Sewer District within the Onondaga County Consolidated Sanitary District** (*Sponsored by Mr. Eriksen*)

*Mr. Meaker returned to the meeting at approximately 2:17 p.m.*

Mr. Eriksen requested a motion to approve the resolution. A motion was made by Mr. Meaker and seconded by Mr. Garland. Prior to the vote, Ms. Denton requested that the presenters be allowed to present, which was permitted.

Ms. Johnson:

- Requesting a public hearing for the creation of a special district for an Industrial Wastewater District for the Oak Orchard area
- It is an administrative mechanism and does not include a budget or dollar amount
- The purpose of the district is to allow for appropriate cost allocation and financial accountability

**Questions/Comments**

- Mr. Eriksen: The resolution is to schedule a public hearing?
  - Ms. Johnson: That's correct
- Chairwoman Watts: Could you give us a brief overview of the steps to establish it. What comes next after the public hearing?
  - Ms. Johnson: We were originally here in December and asked to be designated as an agency, which was approved
    - Commissioner hearing was held
    - This is the next steps to ask for a public hearing
    - Resolution will go before the Legislature in February after the public hearing where it will be voted on
  - Ms. Smiley: The process is multi-step
    - Requesting public hearing that will be adopted at the February Session
    - At February Committees, the resolution will be provided to approve the district
    - Review and approval by New York State
    - Adoption of a final resolution at a later stage after NYS review
- Mr. Kelly: Public hearing will be held prior to February Session, is that correct?
  - Ms. Smiley: It will be held right before the February Session. Correct

- Law: It is the discretion of the chairwoman to prescribe the hearing
  - It was not requested in the resolution
  - We can take it to be before the February Session if everyone is ready to vote on it, but it was not previously required until today
- Ms. Smiley: It has to go before the March Session
  - Voting will occur at the February Session

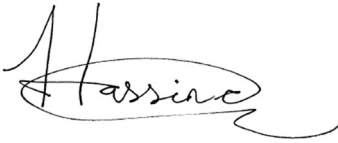
*A motion was made by Mr. Meaker, seconded by Mr. Garland, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.*

3. **DISCUSSION OF CORRESPONDING OUTSIDE BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:** Chairwoman Watts  
(Attachment No. 2)

- Legislature is responsible for appointments and confirmations related to various boards and commissions
- Two major tracks
  - Appointments put forward by the chair, minority leader and majority
  - County Executive
- Outside boards and commissions will be connected to a standing committee to be more involved in the appointment process and stay connected with what's going on
- An updated list will be sent outlining boards and commissions assigned to the Environmental Protection Committee
  - DEC Region Seven, Fish and Wildlife Advisory Board
    - Appointed by the County Executive
  - Deer and Tick Committee
  - Metropolitan Water Board
  - Onondaga County Fisheries Advisory Board
  - Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency
  - Forest Practice Board District Board
  - Soil and Water Conservation Board
  - Onondaga County Water Authority
  - Council on Environmental Health
- Committee to review updated list to fill vacancies
- Members encouraged to send prospective candidates' resumes to John DeSanties

The meeting was adjourned at 2:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



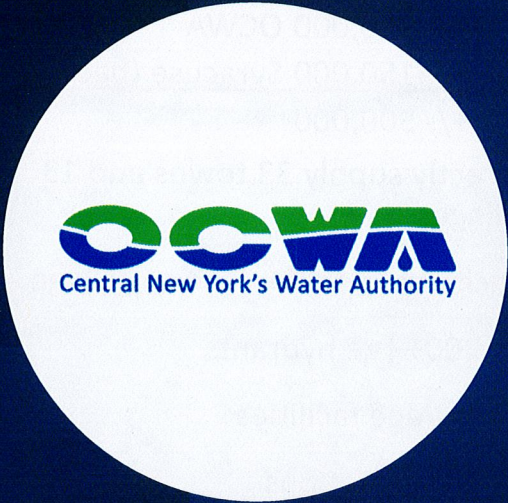
HASSINA ADAMS, Clerk  
Onondaga County Legislature

ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE: **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**  
DATE: **JANUARY 20th, 2026**

| NAME (Please Print) | DEPARTMENT/AGENCY |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Kelly Varamogiannis | DCFS              |
| Amy Cunningham      | DCFS              |
| Corey Aulick        | OCTID             |
| Kristi Smiley       | Finance           |
| JEFF Tiu            | OCTID             |
| Jason Dean          | Finance           |
| Carl Hammel         | Personnel         |

**Attachment No. 1:**  
**OCWA PowerPoint Presentation**





Onondaga County Legislature  
 Environmental Protection Committee  
 Jeff Brown, Executive Director  
 January 20, 2026

1

### OCWA Brief History

- 1908 Syracuse Suburban Water Company formed and financed by American Pipe Mfg. Company. Included new dam on Otisco Lake and transmission mains.
- 1951 OCWA created by NYS Legislature
- 1955 OCWA acquired water company assets and began operations
- Started with 9,119 customers served by 134 miles of main; now have 107,000 accounts and 2,220+ miles of main
- 1962 Onondaga County Board of Supervisors created the Onondaga County Water District (run by the Metropolitan Water Board) with access to up to 60+ MGD from Lake Ontario. Primarily a wholesale provider of water to OCWA.
- 2017 OCWA and MWB consolidated operations, with OCWA becoming the combined wholesale/retail water provider for a five-county area

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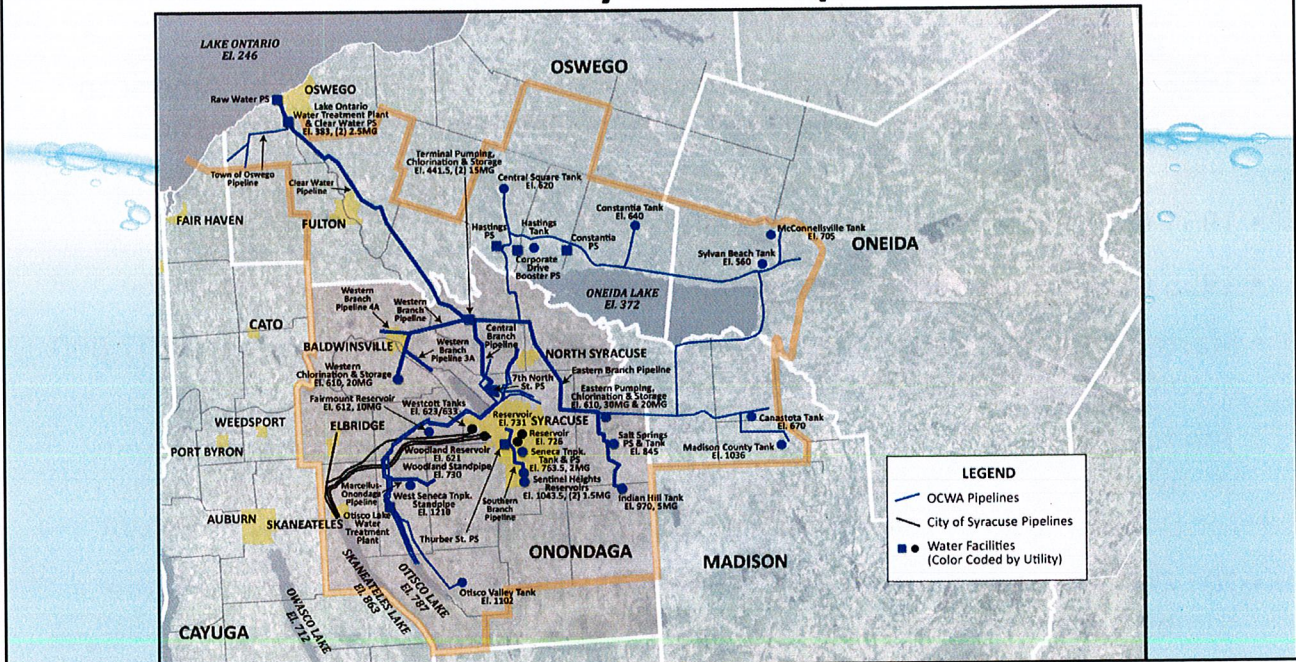
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## OCWA System Map



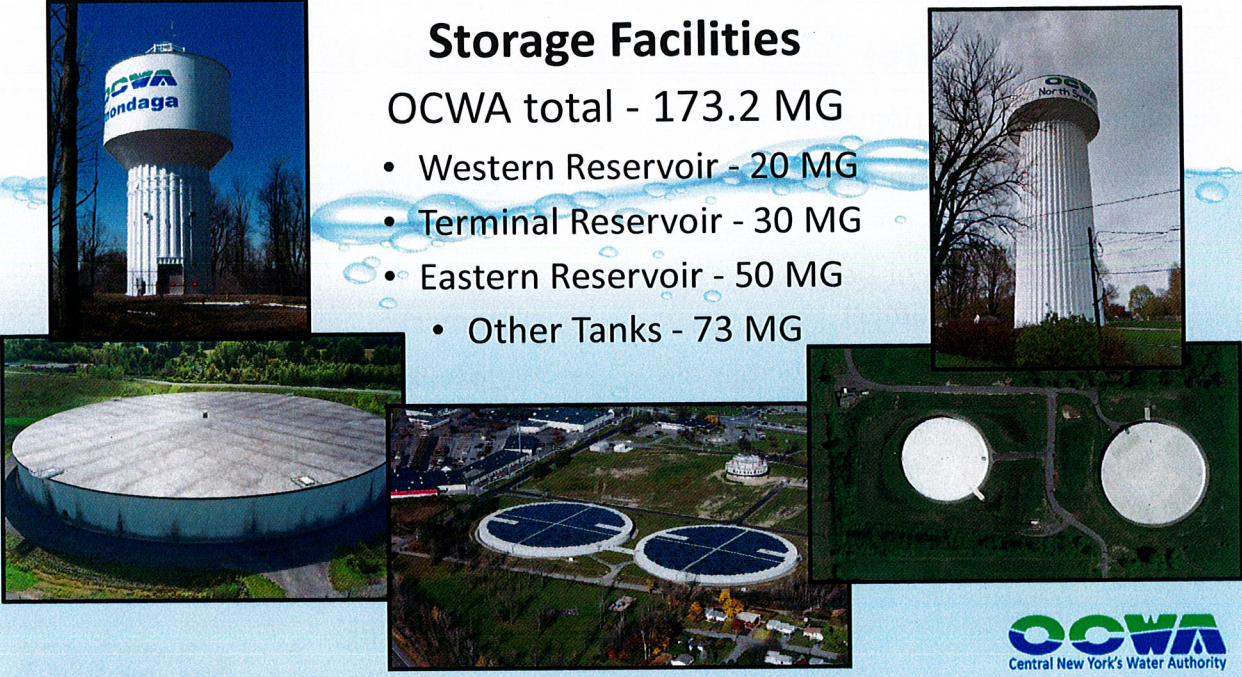

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## Storage Facilities

OCWA total - 173.2 MG


- Western Reservoir - 20 MG
- Terminal Reservoir - 30 MG
- Eastern Reservoir - 50 MG
- Other Tanks - 73 MG

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## Finances

- 2026 O&M Budget - \$69,893,529
- 2026 Capital Budget - \$40,739,154
- Employees - 187 budgeted full-time positions
- 2026 Payroll - \$15,309,140
- Total Bonds Payable - \$125,200,000
- Moody's Bond Rating - Aa1 (second highest)
- Emergency Repair Reserve - \$5,000,000



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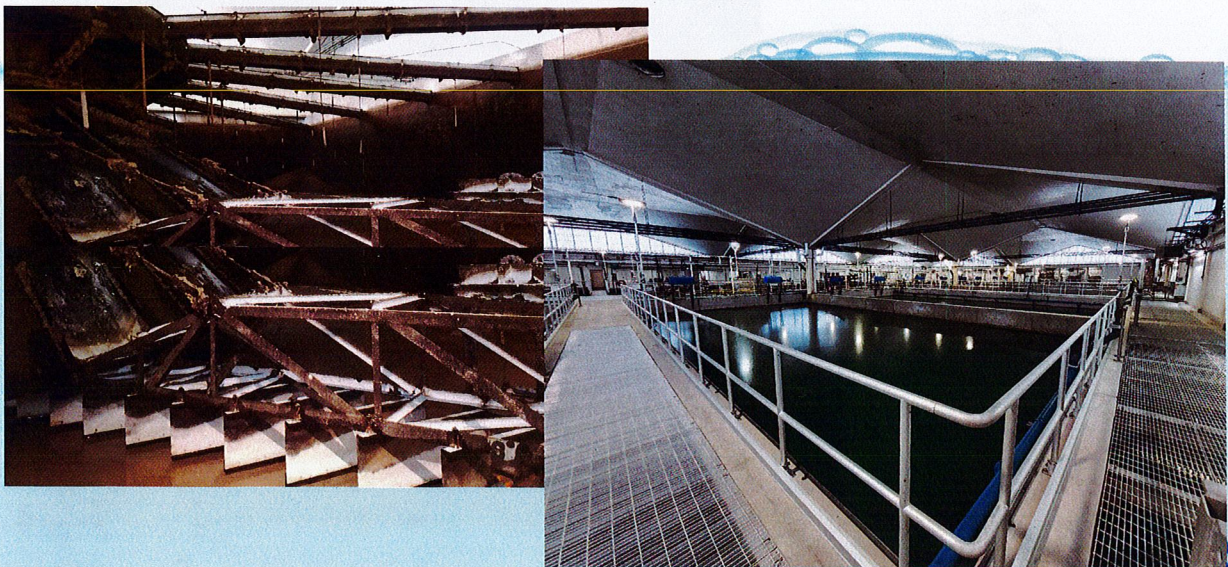
## Lake Ontario Water Supply Improvements

- 2018 Raw Water & Clear Water pump station renovations \$14M
  - 2019 Raw Water & Clear Water pump station power upgrades (electrical substations renovated and backup generators added) \$ 9M
  - 2021-2025 Water Treatment Plant renovation \$43M
  - 2023-2024 Raw Water transmission main inspection \$ 1M
  - 2024-2026 Farrell pump station expansion \$ 6M
  - 2025-2028 Finished water storage replacement/expansion \$51M
- \$124M**



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## Lake Ontario Water Treatment Plant Renovation



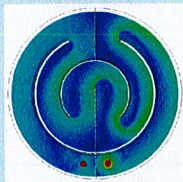
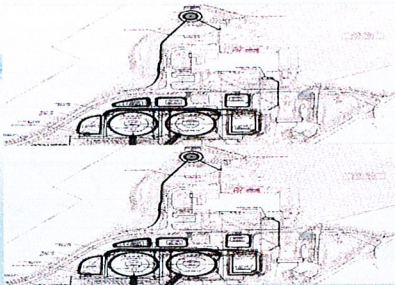
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## Raw Water Transmission Main Inspection



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## Finished Water Storage Replacement/Expansion



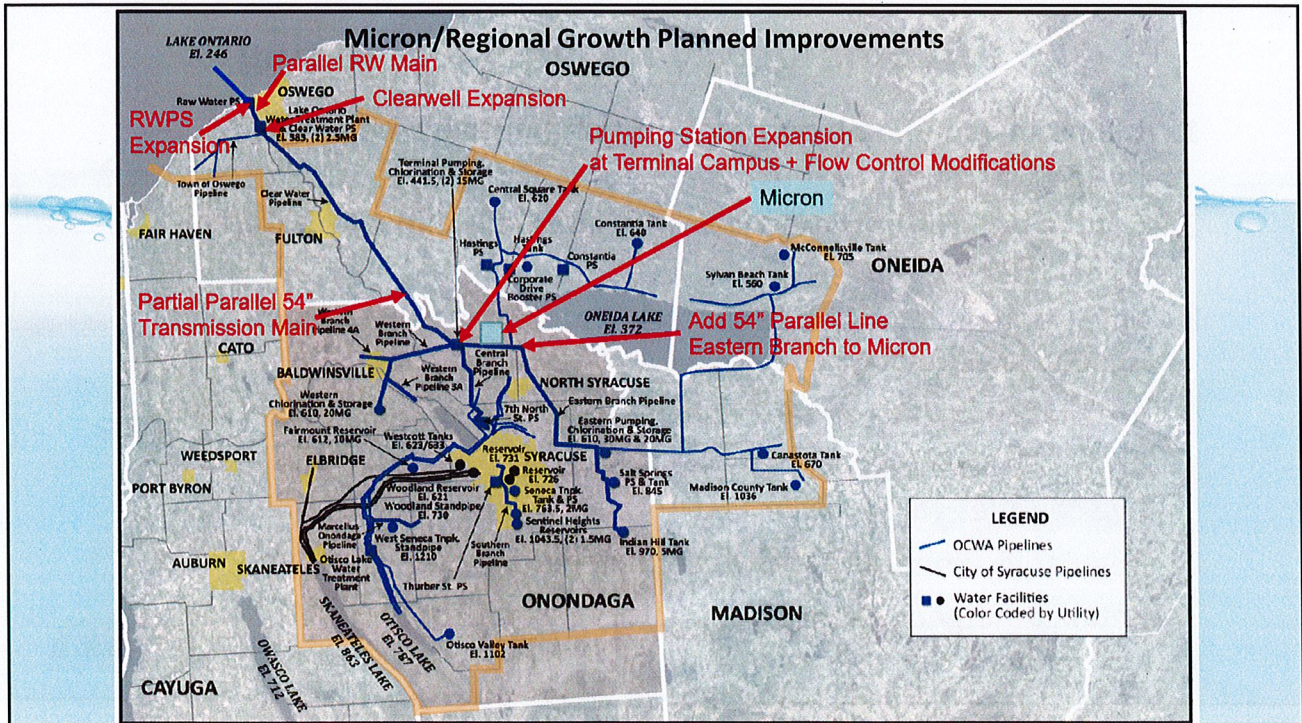
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# In-Progress/Planned Major Capital Projects

| Project***   | Year      | Estimated Project cost** |
|--|-----------|--------------------------|
| Clearwater Transmission Main   | 2025-2034 | \$ 250,000,000           |
| Annual Watermain Replacement and Relining (over 10-years)  | 2025-2034 | \$ 91,000,000            |
| East Branch Transmission Main  | 2025-2029 | \$ 54,000,000            |
| LOWTP Improvements - Finished Water Production - Clearwells  | 2024-2028 | \$ 47,000,000            |
| Transmission Main Work - Inspection/New/Repairs (Over 10-years)  | 2025-2034 | \$ 34,000,000            |
| Raw Water Transmission Main  | 2028-2033 | \$ 36,000,000            |
| Clearwater Pump Station  | 2027-2030 | \$ 24,900,000            |
| Lead Service Line Replacement (Over 10 years)  | 2025-2034 | \$ 20,000,000            |
| Raw Water Pump Station Improvements  | 2026-2030 | \$ 18,900,000            |
| Otisco Lake Dam Rehab and Site Pipe Replacement  | 2026-2029 | \$ 10,250,000            |
| Terminal reservoir - Farrell PS Campus - Electrical  | 2028-2031 | \$ 9,400,000             |
| Water Services to WPCP   | 2025-2027 | \$ 6,000,000             |
| Nine Mile Creek Banks, Bridges and Pipe Supports to protect Existing Mains   | 2026-2034 | \$ 5,000,000             |
| Thompson Road Tank Painting  | 2031-2033 | \$ 4,100,000             |
| Lake Ontario Water Treatment Plant - Lagoon and Residual Upgrades  | 2028-2029 | \$ 4,000,000             |
| Otisco Lake Water Treatment Plant Lagoon and Residual Upgrades   | 2030-2032 | \$ 4,000,000             |
| Solvay Pump Station Replacement  | 2025-2026 | \$ 3,800,000             |
| Brewerton Tank Painting  | 2027-2029 | \$ 3,600,000             |
| Liverpool Tank Painting  | 2028-2030 | \$ 3,600,000             |
| North Syracuse Tank Painting   | 2026-2027 | \$ 3,600,000             |
| Wolf Street Pump Station Rehabilitation  | 2027-2029 | \$ 3,200,000             |
| Howlett Hill Pump Station Rehabilitation   | 2025-2027 | \$ 3,200,000             |
| Small Pump Station Improvements - Varies   | 2025-2034 | \$ 2,500,000             |
| Makyes Tank Painting   | 2031      | \$ 1,500,000             |
| Abbey Road Tank Painting   | 2030      | \$ 1,500,000             |
| Chittenango - Underground Concrete Tank Rehab  | 2029-2030 | \$ 1,500,000             |
| Hidden Knolls Tank Painting  | 2025      | \$ 1,200,000             |
| Lake Ontario Water Supply Master Plan  | 2025      | \$ 1,000,000             |
| Tug Hill (Oswego) Tank Painting  | 2030      | \$ 1,000,000             |
| O.C.C. Underground Concrete Tank Rehabilitation  | 2033-2034 | \$ 1,000,000             |
| Thurber and Seneca Pump Stations - Third Pump (Demand Increase)  | 2026-2027 | \$ 1,000,000             |
| Kasson Road Pump Station Replacement   | 2027-2028 | \$ 875,000               |
| Lakeland Pump Station Rehabilitation   | 2031-2032 | \$ 500,000               |
| ** AACE Class 5 Estimates  |           |                          |
| *** Long Range Plan does not include recommendations from the Lake Ontario Water Supply Master Plan which is due in January 2026 |           |                          |
|  |           | <b>\$ 653,125,000</b>    |



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## OCWA Main Break Management

Our proactive inspection and leak detection program includes:

1. Computer system monitors flows and pressures 24/7/365 via hundreds of sensors that automatically detect issues
2. Operators monitor pump stations, tanks, flows, control valves and constantly scan for issues
3. Leak detection staff work daily with acoustical monitoring equipment throughout system
4. Electromagnetic sensor technology used to perform condition assessment of PCCP transmission mains (16" – 60"); prioritized based on consequence of failure and probability of failure
5. Predictive modeling being used to prioritize distribution main replacements utilizing GIS data
6. Repair technician on-call 24/7/365 who can call out repair crews to address emergency situations



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## OCWA Emergency Response Planning

1. Maintain and update quarterly comprehensive Emergency Response Plan
2. Conduct emergency exercises both internally and with external stakeholders
3. Participate in NYWARN (New York Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network)
4. Pre-stage large diameter transmission pipeline replacement parts
5. Regularly interface with emergency management personnel in all five counties we serve
6. Regularly communicate with adjoining municipal water providers
7. Retain emergency repair contractor on standby



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## Eastern Branch Transmission Main Break

- After identifying a leak on our Eastern Branch transmission main on November 21, 2025, storage tanks were filled to capacity and OCWA progressed a series of difficult repairs
- During each repair, a subsequent leak became apparent
- Soil conditions were very challenging, thus making durable repair difficult
- Ultimately, on December 20 the repairs failed as soil conditions became insurmountable with traditional approaches and worker safety could not be maintained
- At the time of failure, water levels in Eastern Reservoir had dropped to critically low levels as we attempted to make temporary repairs



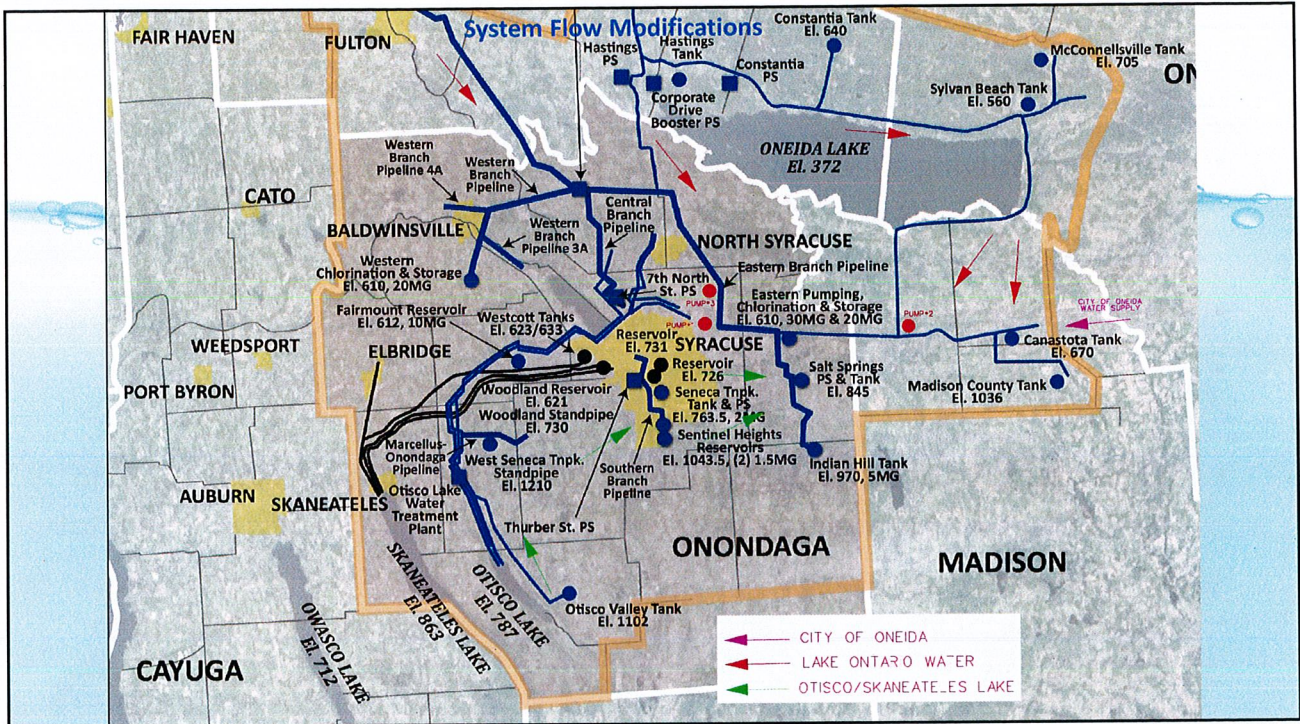
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## Eastern Branch Transmission Main Break (con't)

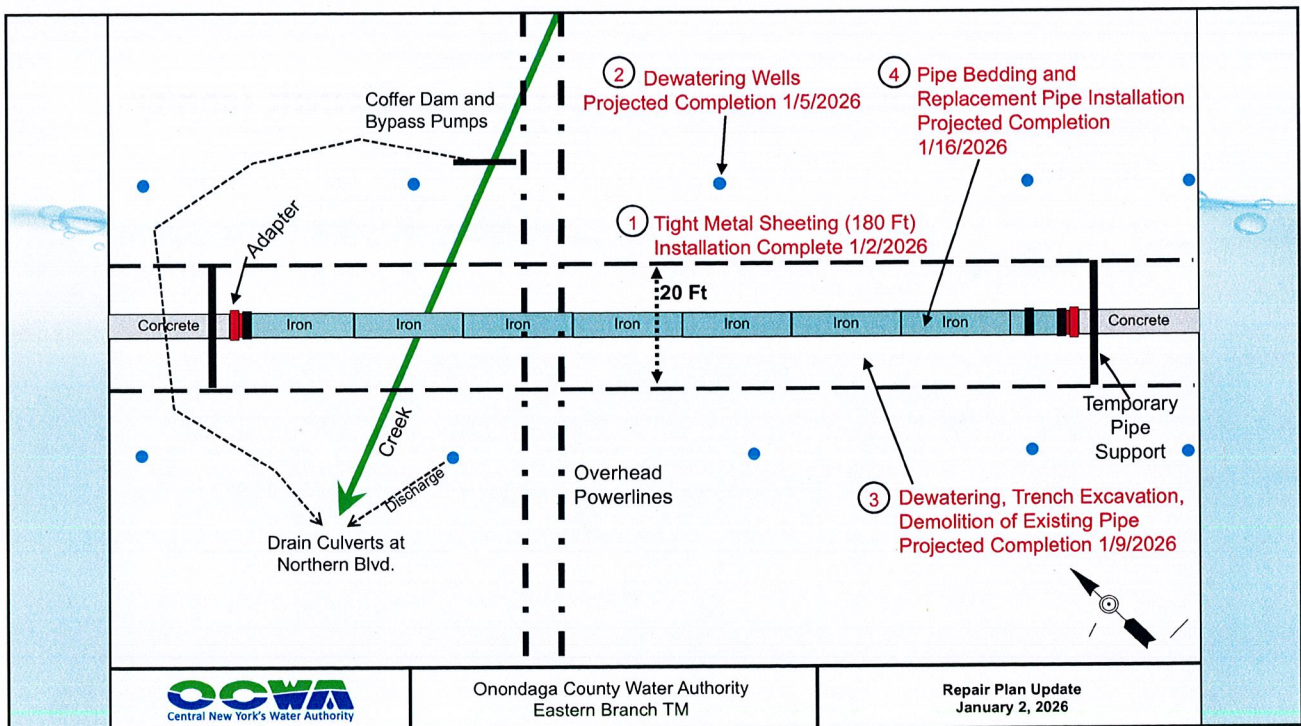
- December 20 – immediately issued voluntary water conservation alert which was elevated to a mandatory alert the next day
  - Implemented numerous system flow modifications to ensure all OCWA customers remained in water (see next slide)
  - Coordinated with neighboring water utilities (City of Syracuse, City of Oneida, & Town of DeWitt) to open emergency interconnections
  - December 24 – all materials, specialty contractors, and engineering was ready; sheet pile installation commenced
  - Crews worked 24 hours per day except Christmas Day
- \*\* OCWA maintained regular contact with regulatory agencies during this process and throughout the repair



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Onondaga County Water Authority  
Eastern Branch TM

Repair Plan Update  
January 2, 2026

## Key Takeaways

- Central New Yorkers are Resilient
- Potential Crisis → Manageable Challenge
- Redundancy is more important than ever
- Continued capital infrastructure investment is key to maintaining system integrity



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## Questions?



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**Attachment No. 2:**  
**List of Boards and Commissions**



# Onondaga County Legislature

HASSINA K. ADAMS  
Clerk

NICOLE WATTS  
Chairwoman

SPENCER BERG  
Deputy Clerk

## **OUTSIDE BOARDS & COMMISSIONS Environmental Protection Committee**

### **DEC Region 7 Fish and Wildlife Advisory Board**

Established by Article 9 Title 7 of 2010 New York Code ENV, this advisory board has 27 total members, three from each county. The goal of the advisory board is to bridge the gap between state conservation goal and property rights with one appointment from each county being a county legislator and representing the county, one representing the sportsmen of the county, and one representing land owners of the county.

*Appointing Authority:* Appointments are made by the County Executive and must be approved by the legislature.

#### *Current Appointments:*

- **Legislative Representative: VACANT** (was Legislator Hernandez)
- Sportsmen Rep: Stephen Wowelko
  - o Appointed on 9/3/2024
  - o Tern Expires 12/31/2027
- Land Owner Rep: VACANT

#### *Next Steps:*

- Determine who the legislature might ask the County Executive to appoint, all though he does not need to listen.

### **Deer and Tick Management Advisory Committee**

Established by Local Law No. 2-2016 and Resolution No. 39-2016, this advisory committee was established to advise the county on the creation and operation of Onondaga County's deer and tick management. The committee is composed of three ex-officio members including the Director of the Office of Environment, Chair of Ways & Means Committee, Chair of the Health Committee, and two more members are appointed by the Chair of the Legislature. **It is possible this committee is no longer relevant, last activity was in 2022.**

*Appointing Authority:* Entirely the County Legislature.

#### *Current Appointments:*

- **VACANT since 2022**
- **VACANT since 2022**

#### *Next Steps:*

- Determine committee legal status and usefulness.

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Phone: 315.435.2070 • [legislature@ongov.net](mailto:legislature@ongov.net) • [onondaga.gov/legislature](http://onondaga.gov/legislature)

### **Metropolitan Water Board**

Established by Local Law No. 2-1962 the Metropolitan Water Board is the administrative body of the Onondaga County Water District. The law establishes that the board has 7 seven members (but now only has 5) appointed by the county government. It appears that the board is somewhat redundant due to OCWA but exists to be the separate legal authority responsible for managing the water district. Interestingly the local law has a rule banning five members from being from the same political party.

*Appointing Authority:* County Executive four seats which do not need to be approved by the legislature. County Legislature gets to appoint one person, who serves as the chair and can cast votes in cases of tie.

#### *Current Appointments:*

- Chair (legislative appointment): William J. Barlow
  - o Appointed On: 12/5/2023
  - o Term Expires On: 12/31/2026
- Steven Morgan (CE Appointment)
- Mary Ellen Dougherty (CE Appointment)
- Nicholas Petrovich (CE Appointment)
- Franck Moses (CE Appointment)

### **Onondaga County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board**

Authorized by Section 302 of Agriculture and Market Law the County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board is an 11-member advisory body designed to protect the economic and environmental viability of farming by bridging the gap between local producers and government policy. Composed of active farmers, agri-business representatives, and key county officials, the board's primary power lies in its oversight of Agricultural Districts, where it evaluates the impact of land-use changes, approves formal protection plans, and acts as a watchdog against the siting of solid waste facilities on productive soils. **Despite the law clearly indicating it is the power of the legislature to make appointments, there is no record of that happening.**

*Appointing Authority:* Unclear.

#### *Current Appointments:*

- **Legislator: VACANT (was Legislator May)**

#### *Next Steps:*

- Understand the specifics of the law and scope of legislative power.
- Assign one legislator to serve on the board.

### **Onondaga County Fire Advisory Board**

Created by section 1903 of Onondaga County Charter and Sections 3.12 and 3.13 of the Onondaga County Admin Code, the Onondaga County Fire Advisory Board is an appointed body that serves as a primary consultant to the County Executive, the County Legislature, and the County Fire Director. Its core mission is to advise on all matters related to fire training and mutual aid programs to ensure the county's emergency response systems are efficient and well-coordinated. Comprised of 5 to 15 non-compensated members serving three-year terms, the board works in close cooperation with the New York State Division of Safety and the Office of Fire Prevention and Control to align local protocols with state standards.

*Appointing Authority: County Executive, with Leg Approval.*

#### *Current Appointments:*

- VACANCY
- Dennis M. Smith
  - o Appointed On: 6/4/2025
  - o Term Expires On: 12/31/2026
- William P. Murphy
  - o Appointed On: 2/4/2024
  - o Term Expires On: 12/31/2026
- James C. Perrin Jr.
  - o Appointed On: 2/4/2024
  - o Term Expires on 12/31/2026
- James J. Rolince
  - o Appointed On 2/4/2024
  - o Term Expires On: 12/31/2026

#### *Next Steps:*

- Be prepared to handle appointment to the board for first seat.

### **Onondaga County Fisheries Advisory Board**

Created via resolution 210-2008 to establish an advisory board that could become the proper place for discussing fishery related initiatives in Onondaga County. The board has seven members, two appointed by the County Executive, two appointed by the Chairperson, one appointed by the majority leader, one appointed by the minority leader and one recommended by the New York State Region 7 Fish and wildlife management board.

*Appointing Authority: Mixed*

#### *Current Appointments:*

Possibly all VACANT, unclear as there is no record of appointment resolutions.

- VACANT Seat, appointed by Chair
- VACANT Seat, appointed by Chair
- VACANT Seat, appointed by Majority Leader
- VACANT Seat, appointed by Minority Leader
- Recommendation by New York State Region7 Fish and Wildlife Management Board

#### *Next Steps:*

- Understand current appointments, determine who might be a good fit.

### **Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency (OCCRA)**

Created by Title 13-B of the New York State Public Authorities Law, the Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency (OCRRA) is a public benefit corporation governed by a 15-member Board of Directors. Its core mission is to manage the county's solid waste stream through an integrated system that emphasizes recycling, composting, and sustainable waste-to-energy recovery. The board provides essential oversight for the agency's fiscal health, environmental permit compliance, and long-term infrastructure planning. Comprised of non-compensated members serving three-year terms, the board represents a partnership between county and city leadership to ensure that regional waste disposal remains ecologically sound and economically viable for the community.

*Appointing Authority: Mixed*

#### *Current Appointments:*

- Dan Kranz (Appointed By County Legislature)
  - o Appointed On: 12/2/2025
  - o Expires On: 12/31/2026
- Barbra Stacer (Appointed By County Legislature)
  - o Appointed On: 12/17/2024
  - o Expires On: 12/31/2026
- Jennifer Wood (Appointed By County Legislature)
  - o Appointed On: 12/17/2024
  - o Expires On: 12/31/2026
  
- Bonnke Seakore (Appointed by County Executive)
  - o Appointed On: 12/3/2025
  - o Expires On: 12/31/2026
- Gregory S. Popp (Appointed by County Executive)
  - o Appointed On: 12/17/2025
  - o Expires On: 12/31/2027
- Elizabeth Bough Martin (Appointed by County Executive)
  - o Appointed On: 12/16/2025
  - o Expires On: 12/31/2028
- Vincent Mangan
  - o Appointed On: 12/16/2025
  - o Expires ON: 13/31/2028

### **Forest Practice Board – District 3**

Forest Practice Boards were established by the New York State Forest Practice Act passed in 1956 and amended in 1980 to help guide forest practices. Appointments were made to this board consistently up until 2010. **Likely defunct and no longer relevant.**

### **Onondaga County Soil & Water Conservation District**

Authorized by the New York State Soil and Water Conservation Districts Law and established by the Onondaga County Legislature, the Onondaga County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is a local governmental subdivision responsible for the conservation of soil and water resources. Its core mission is to provide technical assistance, educational programs, and administrative oversight to landowners and municipalities to mitigate erosion, protect water quality—particularly within the county’s critical lake watersheds—and promote sustainable agricultural practices. The Board of Directors, consisting of seven members including county legislators and representatives from the farming community.

*Appointing Authority:* Entirely the Legislature for at least two positions.

#### *Current Appointments:*

- VACANT (Was Legislator Olson)
- VACANT (Was Legislator Knapp)

#### *Next Steps:*

- Select the legislators who will serve.
- Determine what other appointments the legislature plays a role in for the board.

### **Onondaga County Water Authority (OCWA)**

Authorized by Title 7 of Article 5 of the New York State Public Authorities Law (the OCWA State Law), the Onondaga County Water Authority is a public benefit corporation tasked with the production, transmission, and distribution of a safe and reliable water supply for the region. Its mission extends beyond simple utility management to include significant environmental protection efforts, overseeing the infrastructure that serves Onondaga and neighboring counties. The five-member Board of Directors provides essential governance, managing the authority’s fiscal policies, large-scale capital projects, and compliance with state and federal water quality standards. These non-compensated members serve staggered three-year terms to ensure continuity in the oversight of the county’s most critical natural resource.

*Appointing Authority:* Onondaga County Legislature.

#### *Current Appointments:*

- Kenneth Gardiner (Appointed By County Legislature)
  - o Appointed On: 3/05/2025
  - o Expires On: 7/1/2027
- Anthony Geiss Jr (Appointed By County Legislature)
  - o Appointed On: 3/05/2025
  - o Expires On: 7/1/2027
- Benedicte H. Doran (Appointed By County Legislature)
  - o Appointed On: 3/05/2025
  - o Expires On: 7/1/2027
- Douglad R. Wickman (Appointed By County Legislature)
  - o Appointed On: 3/05/2025
  - o Expires On: 7/1/2027
- John C. Dougherty (Appointed By County Legislature)
  - o Appointed On: 3/04/2025
  - o Expires On: 7/1/2028