



Onondaga County Legislature

HASSINA K. ADAMS
Clerk

NICOLE WATTS
Chairwoman

SPENCER BERG
Deputy Clerk

MICHAEL CUSANO – CHAIRMAN **MEETING MINUTES OF THE** **FISHERIES ADVISORY BOARD – July 23, 2026**

MEMBERS PARTICIPATING: Michael Cusano, Ken Crane, Brian Kelley, Les Monostory, Eric Stanczyk

ABSENT: Jason Howard, William ‘Tim’ Brooks

GUEST: Gary Lopez

Chairman Michael Cusano called the meeting to order at 5:40 PM

Old Business:

Cusano went over the minutes from our previous meeting on May 28, 2026. Motion to accept the May, 2026 minutes. by Brian, seconded by Eric, and passed. Mike said that he will contact our County Clerk to find out if our Fisheries Advisory Board minutes are going out regularly to the County legislators.

New Business:

Carpenter’s Brook Fish Hatchery

The Hatchery is in production for trout to be raised and stocked in 2027. Eric and Brian said that the engineering and design plans for updates to the Carpenter’s Brook Fish Hatchery have been completed, and the Parks Department hopes to begin construction by late summer or fall based on those design plans.

Water Chestnut Control Update

An update on Onondaga County’s water chestnut control program will be presented by Mark Burger, director of the Soil and Water Conservation District program on Tuesday, August 4 at Muskrat Bay at 10 AM.

County Parks operations

Brian Kelley said that County Parks expects to open the expanded Onondaga Lake Park Marina and Boat Launch by early August. Paved access for Park visitors and anglers at the East and West Jetties along the Lake Outlet have been completed for the East Jetty and will be available along the West Jetty by later this year. In addition, the seasonal West Shore Deep Water Fishing Dock near Solway will also be placed in Onondaga Lake and discussions continue on creating a permanent structure.

Impact of NYSDEC’s recently adopted Trout Management Plan.

DEC’s new Statewide Trout Management Plan, whereby anglers may need permission from riparian streamside landowners in order to access trout streams, has resulted in a decline in available ‘open’ waters for trout anglers, according to Ken Crane, a Trout Unlimited member.

Statewide trout waters now have NYSDEC posted signs leading to newly closed streamside areas.

Information on riparian areas open to trout fishing are now available on DEC designated Public Access

maps. Ken was unsure if the former Public Fishing Rights signs and descriptions are still available along trout streams in Onondaga County. We will need to check with DEC's Cortland office.

Updated NYS Department of Health fish consumption advisories.

In April, the NYS Department of Health issued updated and more protective advisories for the consumption of fish caught in waterbodies statewide. The new Statewide Advice applies to most New York State fresh waters, and has changed from eating up to four meals a month of any fish to different advice for each fish species.

Anglers can check for waterbody-specific advice at www.health.ny.gov/fish. Overall, anglers are advised to eat less freshwater drum, white perch, larger walleye, and smallmouth bass.

Update on 2026 Bass Fishing Tournaments

Onondaga Lake has surprised NYSDEC officials and many anglers by ranking second last year statewide for bass fishing tournaments, hosting 48 tournaments, while Lake Champlain topped the list with 72 tournaments. Oneida Lake and Cayuga Lake tied for third with 45 bass tournaments.

Gary Lopez announced that the Bassmaster Open tournament is coming back next year at Oneida Lake in late July.

Adjournment

The FAB meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM. Next FAB meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 20, 2026 at 5:30 PM at the Onondaga County Parks office in Liverpool.

Minutes by Les Monostory, August 14, 2026.