



Oneida Lake Association, Inc.—PO Box 3536—Syracuse, NY 13220
It's Your Lake—Help Us Preserve It!

October 2020 Board Resolution: New York State Budget Priorities for Oneida Lake¹

Whereas:

New York State predicts revenue declines and budget cuts as a result of the Covid-19 recession.

Whereas:

The Oneida Lake Association (OLA), Inc. is concerned that New York State budget reductions in the FY 2021 budget (enacted) and FY 2022 budget (proposed) may affect Oneida Lake. OLA has identified more than 15 at-risk state programs that help protect and promote Oneida Lake's natural resources, public safety, access, and angling.

Whereas:

OLA has identified three highest-priority targets to preserve or enhance funding in the FY 2022 budget: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) staffing levels, law enforcement, and Oneida Lake's 9-Element Plan.

- DEC funding for the Oneida Fish Cultural Station, seasonal staff, and technicians in Region 6 and Region 7. These programs and staff are the backbone of Oneida Lake walleye stocking, cormorant management, invasive species monitoring and management, and other activities needed to preserve Oneida Lake's natural resources.
- The New York State contract with Madison County (involving Cornell University, the Upstate Freshwater Institute, and the CNY Regional Planning and Development Board) to complete the 9-Element Plan for Oneida Lake, without which Oneida Lake cannot compete for Federal and State water quality funding opportunities.
- Law enforcement: State grants that support the Onondaga, Oswego, Oneida, and Madison County Sheriffs' marine patrols; and Department of Environmental Conservation funding for environmental conservation officer academies and equipment.

Then be it resolved that:

The Oneida Lake Association calls on all New York State elected officials and agency managers to advocate for funding for DEC's Oneida Lake staff and programs, the 9-Element Plan, and Oneida Lake law enforcement, in order to protect and promote one of Central New York's most economically and socially valuable natural resources.

¹ *Adopted by unanimous vote of the Oneida Lake Association Board of Directors and duly entered into the minutes of the Board's October 12, 2020 meeting.*