

MEMORANDUM

TO: Lindsay Buck, Town of Stillwater

FROM: Norabelle Greenberger, LaBella Associates

DATE: February 14, 2022

RE: Saratoga Lake Water Quality Project – Status Summary

The Town of Stillwater has taken a proactive approach to dealing with water quality issues. In 2019, the Town finalized the Saratoga Lake/Route 9P Waterfront Revitalization Plan, which called for action on water quality issues. Building off that planning exercise, in 2019, the Town of Stillwater was awarded two grants to (1) prepare a water quality study to identify sources of excess nutrients and sediment entering the lake; and (2) develop a series of water quality improvement projects to address sources. Work was initiated in June 2021 and is being led by a project advisory committee comprised of Town staff and representatives from the Saratoga Lake Protection and Improvement District (SLPID), Saratoga Lake Association (SLA), and Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE). The goal of the project is to identify and prioritize the highest-impact stormwater mitigation and prevention practices.

In fall of 2021, the project consultant team conducted preliminary water contamination sampling and macroinvertebrate testing. The results did not show any glaring concerns, given current and future uses of the lake, and were in line with what would be expected given surrounding land uses. Additional sampling will be conducted in the spring and summer and will be presented in a report to be shared with the public upon completion. The report will identify sites that should be considered for water quality improvement projects (e.g., rain gardens) in consideration of their feasibility and benefits to lake water quality.

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