

RESOLUTION NO. 1-7-80 A

WHEREAS, the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wis. has a responsibility to maintain the quality of the natural environment at a high level.

WHEREAS, Duck Creek has been identified as being nutrient rich, and that it contains high levels of fecal coliform (an indicator of human or animal contamination) near the outlet of the Oneida Village Sewage Lagoon.

WHEREAS, the Oneida Village is the major point pollution source in the entire Duck Creek Watershed.

WHEREAS, the design, existing condition, location, and maintenance of the lagoon is inadequate to properly treat the waste of the Oneida Village.

WHEREAS, the treatment of sewage is inadequate to meet Federal Water Quality Standards and potentially threatens the health of Oneida people.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Oneida Tribe of Indians perform an inquiry into the existing situation and be guided by this inquiry to take appropriate action to eliminate this problem.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such support (money) as necessary be made available to conduct this inquiry and that Indian Health Services be required to assume its responsibility as determined by this inquiry.

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I, the undersigned, as Secretary of the Oneida Business Committee, hereby certify that the Oneida Business Committee is composed of 9 members of whom 9 members, constitution a quorum, were present at a meeting duly called noticed, and held on the 7th day of January 1980; that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted at such meeting by a vote of 6 members for, 1 members against, and 1 Members abstained; and that said resolution has not been rescinded or amended in anyway.

Kanda L. Hubster
Secretary, Oneida Business Committee

Letter of Explanation
Oneida Village Sewage Lagoon

Results from the physical and chemical characteristics analysis done on Duck Creek by Foth and Van Dyke and Associates, Inc. showed Duck Creek to be "very nutrient rich". Phosphorus levels have reached 10 times and Nitrate levels 244 times the amount needed to produce algae blooms. Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) levels and Fecal Coliform counts have been highest near the out-let of the Oneida Village Sewage Lagoon. BOD and Fecal Coliform are indicators of organic waste.

The aeration system at the sewage lagoon was observed on 12/19/79. At this time about 30% of the aeration tubes were completely closed. Another 20% had only a very minimal flow. And, the remaining 50% were only about half open. Thus, less than 25% of the tube aeration holes were open.

On 12/21/79 I spoke with Tracy Axleburg of Hinde Engineering Company. Hinde Engineering designed the sewage lagoon for the Oneida Village. Axleburg stated that the design capacity of the Oneida Village Sewage Lagoon was 5000 gallons per day influent flow and a strength of 400 mg/L BOD. Presently the sewage lagoon is receiving 20,000 gallons per day (4 times the design capacity) at a strength of about 300 mg/L BOD.

There is no question that a problem exists at the Oneida Village Sewage Lagoon. It is important now to determine the extent of the problem. This will require a commitment by the Tribe to finance an analysis of waste water samples for about a six month period. This analysis will indicate whether the present system can be upgraded or whether a completely new system is needed.

A new treatment facility would require an enormous amount of money. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is the largest funding source for sewage treatment facilities. The EPA allocates this money in Wisconsin through the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). To receive a grant the Tribe must get on a priority list established by the DNR. This list would indicate the need of the Tribe for a treatment facility as compared to other applicants state wide. If the Tribe would rate high on this priority list 75% of the funding for a treatment facility planning and construction would be available. Additional funding sources can make up part or all of the remaining costs.

To get on the priority list the Tribe must prepare a Plan of Study. Paramount in this study would be an analysis of the effectiveness of the present situation and the impacts on the water resources caused by this situation. Therefore, sewage water analysis is a very important aspect of the Plan of Study because it quantifies the variables which relate to effectiveness and impacts.

If the Oneida Village Sewage Lagoon would rank as a high priority in the state and a new treatment plant was realized an area beyond the Village of Oneida would be sewerred. This could open previously unsuitable land (due to non-percability) for residential development. This would mean that not only would the Tribe control their pollution of the creek but they would open lands for housing.

If sampling would be conducted on a once a week basis and eleven chemical parameters were run on three separate sample sites, the cost for sampling would be approximately \$200 per week.

The Oneida Coastal Management Program proposes to continue its work on this project. The intent of the Oneida Coastal Management Program is to locate funding for the waste water analysis. Conduct the sampling program. Identify a consulting firm to evaluate the samples, determine the extent of the sewage lagoon problem and aid in the preparation of the Plan of Study. Also, if appropriate, the Oneida Coastal Management Program would seek to identify and confirm funding of a new sewage treatment facility. The Oneida Coastal Management Program would continue to insure the proper implementation and maintenance of any waste treatment facility that would be planned.

On 12/20/79 this resolution was passed by the Land Committee in a special Meeting, 3 voting for and 0 against.

Michael Schape