

# Onondaga County Legislature

#### J. RYAN McMAHON, II Chairman

KATHERINE M. FRENCH
Deputy Clerk

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# WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE REVIEW OF THE 2017 TENTATIVE BUDGET AUTHORIZED AGENCIES – SEPTEMBER 19, 2016 DAVID H. KNAPP, CHAIRMAN

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Jordan, Mr. May, Mr. Shepard, Ms. Williams, Mrs. Ervin

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Kilmartin

ALSO PRESENT: Chairman McMahon, Mr. Burtis, Dr. Chase; also see attached

Chairman Knapp called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m.

Hiscock Legal Aid Society: Susan Horn, President; Suzanne Galbato, Board Chair (4-2; A658010, A658020)

#### FRANK H. HISCOCK LEGAL AID SOCIETY

County Legislature Budget Presentation September 19, 2016

Introductions: Susan R. Horn, President/CEO; Suzanne Galbato, Board Chair Addressing two programs that have been supported by the County for many years: (Lines A658010 and A658020 in the Budget)

The first line in the budget (A658010) is our Civil Program. The HLAS has been providing legal assistance though our Civil Program to individuals and families in need in our community since 1949 and has been an authorized agency of the County since the early 1950s.

We provide critically needed services to domestic violence victims, people facing homelessness due to foreclosure and eviction, to cancer patients, the unemployed and others in need. Most of our clients are working poor people with families and they live throughout our community. Our services benefit close to 3,000 people each year. During times of economic crisis and unemployment, the need for our services increases. We know from recent news reports that, sadly, the City of Syracuse has among the highest concentrations of poverty in the country. This year, we again expect to serve close to 2,000 people in need, only a fraction of the actual need in our community.

The statistics don't really capture the impact that our services have on the lives of the people we serve. We often say that we address issues that affect the survival of individuals and families and our clients themselves remind us on an almost daily basis that this is not an exaggeration. We hear often from clients that the work of our attorneys and staff has literally saved their lives. Sometimes it is by rescuing a woman and her children from domestic violence, sometimes it is by saving a family from homelessness by preventing a foreclosure; or by assisting a parent who received a cancer diagnosis to arrange for guardianship of her children; or by helping a struggling father to obtain the unemployment benefits he was wrongly denied so he can support his family.

These are just a few examples of the thousands of stories of people helped by Hiscock Legal Aid's Civil Program with your support. I was dismayed to see that the County Executive's budget recommends a decrease in our allocation back to the 2015 level. I ask that you at least restore funding to the current level.

The second budget line (A658020) is for our mandated programs. Since 2004, the HLAS has been the primary provider of mandated representation to adults in Onondaga County Family Court, providing legal representation to approximately 2,000 individuals and families in such matters as custody/visitation, abuse/neglect, proceedings for orders of protection and termination of parental rights each year. As part of that program, we work closely with the Child Welfare Court Improvement Project, which is led by Judge Pirro-Bailey. We have initiated innovative programs, such as the Visit Host Program, to increase visits by parents with their children in foster care, with the goal of reducing time in foster care and re-uniting families. Another innovative program is our "Removal Watch Program". Working closely with the Family Court judges, we have worked out a process by which we are notified (sometimes only minutes in advance) of a hearing to remove children from the home and place them in foster care. We immediately send an attorney from our Family Court Program to represent the parent in that hearing. The goal of this early intervention is to avoid foster care placement where at all possible and to initiate services for the client and family as quickly as possible where needed. We have been successful, not only in preventing the disruption and trauma of removal, but also in limiting the county's foster care expenses.

In addition our work in Family Court, the Society also provides mandated representation to well over 600 people in parole violation matters, appeals and extradition cases.

Once again, I was surprised and dismayed by the recommendation in the County Executive's budget to deny any increase to our mandated programs. Our request was for \$2,436,242. In addition to covering anticipated and unavoidable expense increases such as health insurance, this would allow us to add one full-time attorney position to our Family Court Program and to give our staff a minimal 3% salary increase. These are critical needs. As I mentioned, we anticipate being assigned to over 2,000 Family Court cases this year and we expect that to continue next year. We currently have 8.5 full-time equivalent attorney positions in this Program, plus one full-time Supervising attorney whose duties mean that she cannot carry a full caseload. As a result each of our attorneys is carrying a caseload of approximately 225 cases per year, an unacceptably excessive caseload. As further indication of that is that fact that the NYS Office of Indigent Legal Services has adopted Standards for Parental Representation that include a caseload standard of 55-65 active cases for an attorney at any given time. On August 18th, our three Parent Representation attorneys had active caseloads of 123, 144 and 158. Our three full-time Custody/Domestic Violence attorneys had active caseloads of 131, 140 and 161. As you can see, these caseloads are more than double the standards and are simply unacceptable. This is mandated representation. The County has an obligation to provide the resources necessary to meet the standards so that we can provide the required effective representation. I urge you to increase this budget line to the amount requested.

In total, the HLAS serves close to 5,000 individuals and families in need in our community each year and benefits far more. We are grateful for your ongoing support for our Programs and services and ask that you provide the resources necessary to enable us to continue to provide these needed and mandated services.

Thank you.

Chairman Knapp asked what the requested number is, and Ms. Horn responded the amount for the second line is \$2,436,242. Chairman Knapp asked how they finished in 2015. Ms. Horn answered there was a deficit of over \$100,000, and funds were transferred from the fund balance.

Ms. Horn replied to Chairman Knapp that the DeFrancisco bill passed by the Assembly and Senate would have the state take over the full cost of both indigent criminal defense and family court representation. It is all mandated representation. It would affect Hiscock and would be a benefit to the County; waiting on the Governor's action. Ms. Horn stated that many county legislatures have passed resolutions supporting this and encouraging the governor to sign. Ms. Horn urged the Legislature to do that, and will provide a sample of a resolution passed by another county if the committee would like. **Chairman Knapp asked Ms. Horn to provide a sample to Sue Stanczyk.** 

Mrs. Ervin is familiar with the work that Ms. Horn does, and has worked with young people that needed Hiscock. Mrs. Ervin is in favor of the Legislature helping.

Ms. Galbato urged the Legislature, on behalf of the Board and Chair-Elect, Virginia Hoveman, to seriously consider the increase Hiscock has asked for. This work affects the lives of people the Legislature represents. It affects housing, family and court issues at a time when poverty is as bad as it's ever been. The number of people affected is increasing, and this is an organization that does so much with so little. Thank you.

Assigned Counsel: Renee Captor, Executive Director; Francis Walter, Board President (4-2; A695000, A658030)

Ms. Captor:

- Provide mandated representation on criminal cases, and conflict resolution on family court cases and appeals; for all courts in Onondaga County
- Last year provided representation for about 15,000 cases; provided arraignment representation for another 6,000

Mr. Walter responded to Chairman Knapp that Ms. Horn gave the verse of the bill from the state. It has not been signed by the Governor, and Mr. Walter would encourage a memorializing resolution to the state or governor. Chairman Knapp asked if anything in the bill would change the way they do operations, or if it is mainly funding. Mr. Walter replied that the bill is mainly funding moving from the County to the state.

Mr. May asked about the increase of \$124,000. Ms. Captor said that is on the conflict line, which provides representation for family court, parole, extraditions, and appeals. Those numbers took a major jump in 2015, and expanded in 2016. Mr. May said the legal line is up \$124,000 and the conflict line is up \$71,000, and asked if it is case load. Ms. Captor agreed.

Ms. Captor answered Chairman McMahon's questions regarding the RFP for handling court settlements:

- There is an RFP out; done by County Purchasing
- Winner of the RFP will be doing what Assigned Counsel is doing
- Assigned Counsel has put in for the RFP; if they do not win, someone else will do it

Chairman McMahon asked who makes the decision on the RFP, and Mr. Morgan replied the RFP Committee (he is on it). It has not come up on the schedule yet. Chairman McMahon asked if Hiscock went in for the RFP, and Ms. Horn said yes. Chairman McMahon asked when the responses were due for the RFP. Mr. Walter answered the tentative date was August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Mr. Morgan commented that the calendar sets the dates of when the decision will be made, but they typically get pushed out for different reasons. Mr. Morgan will give Chairman McMahon the date. Chairman McMahon said a decision will be made sooner than later; what will the organization look like, and will dollars change? Mr. Morgan is not sure, and has not seen the RFPs.

#### Mr. Jordan:

- Attorneys in Assigned Counsel program get paid hourly; no contribution towards medical insurance or overhead
- If County moves away from current system, extra add-ons will be part of that budget; County will pay for things like stationary and medical expenses that they are not paying for right now
- Publicity of complaints from attorneys not getting paid, but when Mr. Jordan did work for Assigned Counsel, there were time periods for submitting vouchers; if not submitted in time, then questions were raised
- Some of the best attorney's in town do Assigned Counsel work at a low cost respectively

Mrs. Ervin said the Legislature needs to consider that nothing is utopian, and Assigned Counsel may not be the best the County can do.

#### **Cooperative Extension Association of Onondaga County:** (5-2; A659710)

# Cornell Cooperative Extension of Onondaga County 2015 Legislative Budget Presentation

#### David Duerr, CCE Board Member and President:

Hello I am David Duerr, I am your Cornell Cooperative Extension Board President and have also served as the Treasurer. I am also the Vice President of Empower Credit Union.

First, I want to extend my appreciation for the support that Onondaga County extends to Cornell Cooperative Extension. We could not function without your support.

When I was recruited to CCE Board, I really didn't know that much about Cornell Cooperative Extension. Since volunteering, I have been blown away by the programming, pragmatism, efficiency and impact that CCE has. It really is an interesting mission. Bringing education to everyday life for practical use. They like the special forces of education. The range of subjects they offer is equally amazing. From ticks to youth development to nutrition to dairy farming, to water quality to gardening and on. The programs impact all of our Onondaga County communities, urban, suburban and rural alike.

Your support last year allowed CCE to expand its tick and Lyme disease program across the County, protect farmland and, to expand our 4H program into urban communities. It has also allowed us to provide programing to our agriculture producers which create the County's third largest economic sector.

I have served on a number of Boards, and I can promise you that the resources that Onondaga County provides are well managed and well matched with additional funds.

Thank you.

#### David Skeval, Executive Director, CCE Onondaga

#### Intro

- **Programs:** 34 educational projects under 5 broad program areas; Agriculture, Environment, 4H Youth Development, Health/Nutrition and Community and Economic Vitality.
- Highlights: I would like to hit a few high points and then conclude with our request.
  - o Nutrition: SNAP Ed.
  - o Good stewards of County support: \$15 to \$85

- CYFAR and Citizen U
- o Food System, Garden based education
- O Dairy Accelerator Program
- o Dairy Profit Team
- o Farmland Protection (prepping applicants)
- o Food Preservation workshops
- ON Farm Fest Farm Tour
- o Work with Soil and Water, Farm Bureau, USDA

#### • 2017 Plans:

- o Expansion of Tick and Lyme disease programing
- Enrollment in the CCE Regional Agriculture Team (Field Crops, Organic Dairy, Farm Profit)
- o 4H Urban after school program
- o Apple Orchard Workshop

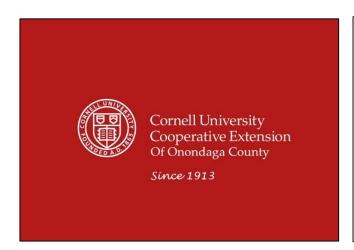
Our request to the County is for a \$30,000 increase in our appropriation (from \$186,979 to \$216,979). We are requesting level funding through WEP (\$156,979). The combined total funding would be an 8.7% increase from 2016. We would like to acknowledge that we are grateful for the funding we have received from the Onondaga County Ag Council. This funding will end March 2017. For every 15 cents of support we receive from Onondaga County, we are able to find and additional 85 cents to match it.

The additional \$30,000 would be used to support and expand our insect disease and invasive program as well as support a new agriculture program initiative. The insect and disease program has had increasing demands placed upon it and it will continue to expand, particularly as it pertains to deer tick s and Lyme disease. The new agriculture program initiative is to participate on the South Central Regional Agriculture Team. Participation on the Regional Ag Team would provide Onondaga County farmers and agriculture related business access to a wider variety of agriculture expertise then we can afford on our own. We should see a net gain in resources from our participation.

CCE will maintain or increase all other current programing by virtue of our ability to acquire other funding and its ability to attract volunteers. We are anticipating gaining additional outside funding in 4H/Youth Development, food systems, and forestry. CCE volunteers are key to our success and increase our staff's capacity by 28%.

CCE Onondaga has most of its employees' benefits paid for by Cornell University. The projected value of University-paid benefits in 2017 will be approximately \$561,388. This has given CCE Onondaga the ability to stretch its resources and attract quality staff. Additionally, New York State and Federal funding pays for the majority of our Executive Director position.

Thank you again to this Legislative body for providing the support to CCE Onondaga and making possible all of the programming we do.





SNAP Ed, store environment



4H Clubs



Urban agriculture and garden based learning



- Farm Land Protection pre application and site plans
   Local Agriculture Leader Use Leadership Institute



4H, Citizen U



4H Youth Fair and New York State Fair



Dairy Accelerator Program Dairy Profit Team Agriculture Production







# Food preservation



#### Deer tick, Lyme disease

- Tick and Lyme avoidance workshops
- Community process
- Tick and deer ecology



Tick and Lyme Disease Programing



Technical support for commercial agriculture production











#### Cornell South Central Dairy and Field Crop Team

- Dairy
- Livestock
- Grazing
- Forges
- Grains Organic
- Farm Business

Apple pruning for commercial owners

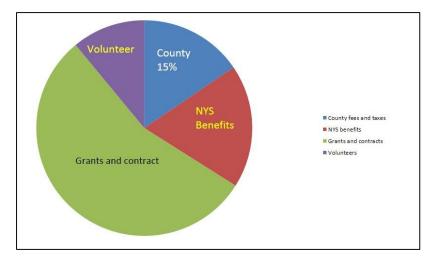


#### 4H after school program and club development



### CCE Onondaga 2017 County Support

- \$30,000 increase in appropriations (from 186,979 to \$217,979)
- Level funding from WEP (\$156,979)
- 8.7% increase
- Agriculture support



Chairman Knapp stated CCE has been a great partner to the County and the Ag Council. The farm tour this Saturday is a great undertaking, and will be very informative.

Chairman Knapp asked for an update on the ash borer. Mr. Skeval:

- Seeing result in east side of County and swinging to north; at very front end watching ash trees coming down
- Pompey lot of dead ash along Route 91; epicenter is East Syracuse and along Thruway
- Populations building causing mortality in trees; usually about 10 years to build population, then mortality comes rapidly
- Onondaga County being held as example on how to address this problem
- Michigan got it, but thought there was no issue, because trees were not dying; ecology and population curve of insect
  has to build before killing trees; when it kills, it does it very quickly, and overwhelms the resources and facilities of locale

Chairman Knapp thanked Mr. Coburn and Mr. Glazier for spearheading this effort.

Mr. Skeval commented that all the success in agriculture and the emerald ash borer could not have been done without partnering with fellow agencies; Farm Bureau, Soil and Water, and Farm Service Agency.

<u>Onondaga County Soil & Water Conservation District:</u> Mark Burger, Executive Director; Spencer Givens, Chairman; (5-2; A659720)



Mark Burger- Executive Director
F. Spencer Givens, III – Chairman, Board of Directors

## Soil & Water Conservation District – Onondaga County

Special purpose District created by Onondaga County Board of Supervisors on March 6, 1944

Mission: Promote excellence in the wise use of our rural and urban natural resources

Vision: To live in a society in which future generations have the natural resources to sustain and enrich their quality of life



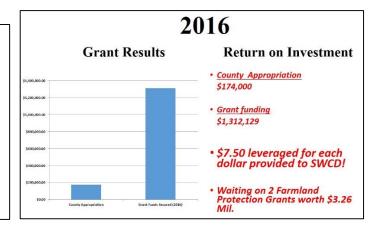
Earth Day Cleanup - 2016

# Municipalities that Partnered with SWCD - 2016 County Departments Towns Villages

 County Departments Towns Villages · DOT Camillus Camillus **Fayetteville**  Emergency Management Cicero Facilities Liverpool Clay • Health **DeWitt** Manlius • Parks LaFayette Minoa Office of Environment Lysander Skaneateles · SOCPA Marcellus

• SOCPA Marcellus
• WEP Otisco
• Van Buren

• OTHER: City of Syracuse, NYS DOT, T. Skaneateles, T. Pompey



Chairman Knapp asked if the \$174,000 include the Ag Council piece, and Mr. Burger said yes.



#### AQUATIC INVASIVES SPECIES

Water Chestnut Hand Pull – 19 Miles of Seneca & Oneida Rivers

-6 Weeks w/ 4 Summer Aides:

- ~ 32,000 pounds
- ~ 100,000 nuts
- ~ 1,000 # P removed
- ~ 200 # N removed





-Planted 130 new trees

-Injected ~402 Ash trees for: County Parks, Dewitt, Marcellus

-Marked 5,400 Ash trees for cutting in November thru April

-Loaned injection equipment to T. Clay



### HYDROSEEDING / STORM WATER MGNT.

Most Seeding Ever Done Worst Green Up 8 Construction Site Inspections 500+ Outfalls Inspected





#### AGRICULTURAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Responded to 1 manure runoff



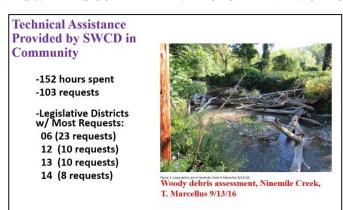
Hosted 1 Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue training

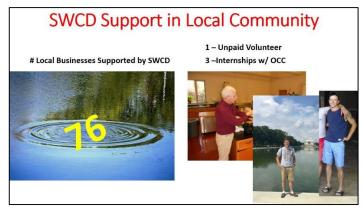


#### SWCD STREAM ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

- Limestone Creek, V. Minoa & T. Manlius
- Worked with CSX Railroad
- Voluntarily removed 100+ ties & old rail car parts
- More work to follow









Mr. Burger responded to Mr. May that the audit is near completion.

Chairman Knapp stated CCE and Soil and Water are two of the County's best kept secrets. They both know how to stretch a dollar, and leverage money to bring in more money.

#### Mr. May:

- During Ag and Farmland Protection Board proceedings over which farms to advance to NYS Ag and Markets, CCE and Soil and Water instrumental in getting through process
- Most importantly stepped up to bring 2 farms to NYS Ag and Markets on behalf of Onondaga County; important process to maintain agricultural character of Onondaga County

Mr. Burger said some farms have received letters that there application was not accepted, but Soil and Water, and CCE, have not received any of those correspondence yet. Mr. Burger thinks they are still in the running. Chairman Knapp said the number of applications was impressive; 22 (farmland protection program). CCE was a huge part in shepherding the process, and the same with Soil and Water who sponsored two applications.

#### Onondaga Historical Association: Greg Tripoli, Executive Director (3-33; A659560)

- OHA focus on Onondaga Lake once again the center of economic, recreational, cultural, educational development in the community; it's important to let folks know why
- Working on documentary on Onondaga Lake called "Beneath the Surface: The Story and History of Onondaga Lake"
- Hope to release in November; 1 ½ hours; goes through entire history of lake including Native Americans, salt operations, the resort era, etc.; also pollution and clean-up; will include the shoreline, Inner Harbor and Franklin Square
- OHA opened facility on east shore of Lake; Great Law of Peace Center brings story of Great Law of Peace to Onondaga Lake
- Another project OHA undertaking; asking for County support
- Working w/Woodbine Group in Franklin Square; convert old Gas and Light building into new facility called Lightworks
- Facility to include new brewery, bottling and canning plant, beer garden German style restaurant, large tasting room (taste only NYS products including beer, wine and food); also addition of Brewseum museum on brewing history
- OHA will take long term lease on portion of facility to develop and build out the Brewseum

- Brewseum history of brewing; also covers everything from immigration, to prohibition, speakeasies, marketing, to
  agriculture; this is an area where hops grow (perfect climate); once largest distributor of hops in country
- Tremendous attraction for tourism; sustainable development; working with historic building
- Great way to show how nonprofit and for profit organizations can collaborate; nonprofit art organization can add value
- Brewseum gives opportunity for retail presence; creating a number of products and new merchandise: t-shirts, sweatshirts, growlers, beer glasses, trays, bottle openers, coasters, etc.
- OHA owns recipes brewed here before prohibition; looking to brew those
- Opportunity to license products; Statue of Gambrinus will be iconic mascot; also license image to Lightworks if wanted
- One of the economic development initiatives OHA involved in; partnering with other organizations to add value to their project, and directly contribute to economic development; new business, new jobs
- Historic theme will set this brewery apart from the others; revitalizes neighborhood; connects lake to downtown area
- Requesting \$25,000 towards establishment of Brewseum; \$175,000 \$200,000 project
- In November, opened Skä•noñh Great Law of Peace Center; asked for County contribution of \$250,000 over 3 years to develop and build out center; OHA matched with over \$900,000 in Capital Improvement to a County owned facility
- Project finished on-time and within budget; first time since 1930 facility is open w/regular hours, fully staffed, 12 mos/yr

#### Chairman Knapp asked how the Skä•noñh Center is doing. Mr. Tripoli:

- Developing higher level educational programming; working with local schools because story not told in curriculum
- Academic collaborative: Syracuse University, SUNY ESF, Lemoyne College, Empire State College; working to develop large grants to develop curriculums to teach Native American history
- Working with Permanent Foreman on indigenous issues at the UN to be satellite facility
- Locally doing well; however walk in attendance will never be fully successful until driveways from either side of Parkway are aligned, and a traffic light is put up; no safe vehicular or pedestrian access from one side of park to other
- Lakeside of park has ~1.6 million visitors a year; Center has no way to access, because cannot cross Parkway
- Pleased with Center, the attention its getting, and sizable attendance
- Lots of school tours and school interest; particularly 4th 7th grade when covering Native American history
- OHA operates and manages the fort; not a living history facility, but story told interprets fort at time of the mission including who was there and what they did
- Fort history also delves into doctrine and discovery Papal bull created in 15<sup>th</sup> century between the Pope and Christian Kings and Queens of Europe that gave themselves right to plunder Africa and Americas; Christian explorers duty
- Mr. Tripoli stated the funds OHA is requesting are not in the budget, and he is unsure of how to handle this.

Mr. May asked about public and private integration for the new project, and what the plan is. Mr. Tripoli:

- Purpose of OHA to instill pride in place; Brewseum will promote entire brewing industry here from inception to local breweries; will have own brewer, but also promoting entire industry
- Tasting room develop products, but also highlight NYS and CNY; emphasis on beer with history theme that sets it apart; brewing from original recipes; promoting entire region
- Opportunity with licensing to retail to brewing beers; will help make OHA more sustainable
- Building up neighborhood; help connect all great things happening on lake and downtown
- · New jobs, new business, new attractions in building that has been vacant; for profit and nonprofit coming together
- Speaks to long term economic development; \$25,000 is a good investment in new business, which in turn helps nonprofit; additional diversified revenue; investment to provide great return

#### Dr. Chase asked where the documentary can be viewed. Mr. Tripoli:

- Another month post production work; will shop around to cable TV; November will schedule large red carpet premier of film and individual showings; hopefully see everywhere; working with local ABC affiliate; will be available on DVD
- National level stories: documentary has national leas: would like to sell to Discovery Channel or other

Mr. Tripoli responded to Mr. Jordan that Woodbine is the private contributor. There are a lot of private donors, and OHA has put in a consolidated funding application to Empire State Development for a grant through REDC (helped build Skä•noñh Center).

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMIE M. MCNAMARA, Assistant Clerk Onondaga County Legislature

### **ATTENDANCE**

COMMITTEE: W&M REVIEW OFAUTHORIZED AGENCIES

DATE: 9/19/16

NAME (Please Print)	/ ( DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
NAME (Please Print)  WHAM HOW	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY  OCH TOGGEN HILL
June Steomble	
Laui Cotter	11 11 4
Natalie Stetson	Erie Canal Museum
REHER CAPTOR	1 1 3 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1
REHEE Captor fran Cr/Ke	Assigned Coursel
MARK BURGER	On Cay SWCD
Gwyn Olenych	ON CLY SWED
Sumon	o Hoscocli ( sulto
Sumon DAVID SKEWAR	cc E Onondaga
Diana Lamson	
David Duerr	CLE Onondaga
Virginia l. Hoven	Hiscock Libert AiD
For Land	Ouer Soit & Water