

The camp program committee met via conference call on March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009. The following update from Oswegatchie was read to the committee:

“The start of 2009 for Oswegatchie has been steady compared to years past. All weekends since New Years have been booked by FFA chapters. As spring approaches we are preparing our sugaring operations. Last fall we doubled the size of our sugar bush, thanks to many volunteers and financial contributions to the development of the bush. Ray Lighthall, retired ag teacher, committed \$2,000 for expanding our bush, and purchasing much needed modern equipment. As of this writing we have produced nearly 10 gallons of light to medium syrup. (best ever produced at Camp O).

After a generous offer of support from Terry Hughes and Ag Outreach, we are offering our ELP programs over three sessions this spring. This program is being offered to our ag programs at \$18 per student. For two days and two nights over 120 students will engage in a combination of environmental and leadership topics.

Improvements at Oswegatchie are continuing as well. This winter we secured a new dishwasher for Sutliff lodge. This is a two year, interest free lease. At the end of two years we will own the equipment outright. We have also nearly completed construction of a new 38 by 80 pavilion located at the end of the new Berkey Bathhouse. The only items remaining to complete is the pouring of the sidewalks under the eaves, and the closing in of gable ends and installation of ceiling. Both gable ends and ceiling will be completed using our own tongue and groove lumber produced by our teachers. Additionally we have invested in Getman lodge, replacing all the rotten logs facing the lake with PT, 4X4 studs and sheathed with plywood. This simple process has stopped the front of this lodge from rotting any further. This surface will be replaced with either a stone or milled log siding. There is no other plans for major projects this year, unless some grant opportunities are approved. Stay tuned.

Summer Camp planning is well underway. We have planned our budget for summer camp for a zero increase. However early indications are positive that we may in fact have an increase this year. Staff hiring is 95% complete, with a great number of FFA and non FFA applicants. The staff is showing signs of a great team for the coming summer. Additionally we are focusing our attention on low cost programs to enhance the program this summer. The staff at Oswegatchie are looking forward to a great summer working with a new team of State Officers. This years team left an indelible mark, and will be hard for the next team to meet. I thank this years team for their extraordinary dedication to your FFA Camp.

Lastly we are honored and excited to be hosting the NYAAE conference once again this year. We look forward to working with the NYAAE team to plan a great conference. We hope to see you this year at Camp O. “

The committee then discussed whether or not the committee needs to still exist as a standing committee to the governing board. Reasons for getting rid of the standing committee included that the committee often did not have issues to be brought in front of the governing board. Reasons for keeping the committee included a way of providing feedback about camp to the governing board and to the foundation board, and to maintain a link between the association

and the foundation. At state convention, the committee receives feedback about camp in order to make recommendations to improve the camp.

The committee recommends that the camp program committee remain a standing committee to the governing board.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Corey Reed – Chair  
Tina Caden  
Thomas Fessenden  
Andrea Presher  
Mr. William Stowell-Trustee