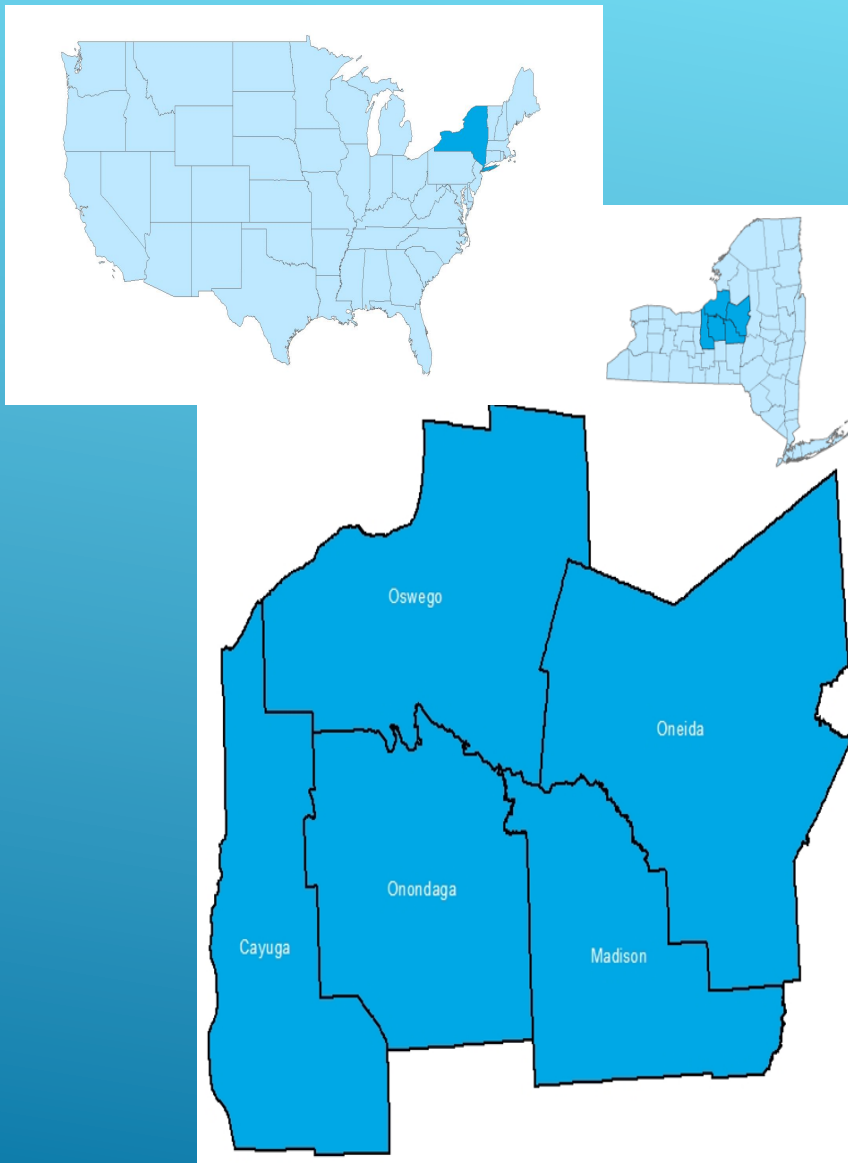




Water System Consolidation: The Good, The Bad and The Lies They May Tell You

**AMWA Executive Management Conference
October 15, 2018
San Francisco, California**

**Michael E. Hooker, Executive Director
Onondaga County Water Authority**



System Statistics:

***5 CNY Counties, 34 Towns, 15 Villages, 4 Cities,
103,666 Accounts, 500,000 People***

***95,273 Residential - 6,788 Commercial
51 Industrial - 18 Municipal Wholesale***

***2 Water Treatment Plants (20 MGD & 60 MGD)
47 Pump Stations
61 Storage Tanks (.5 MG - 30 MG)***

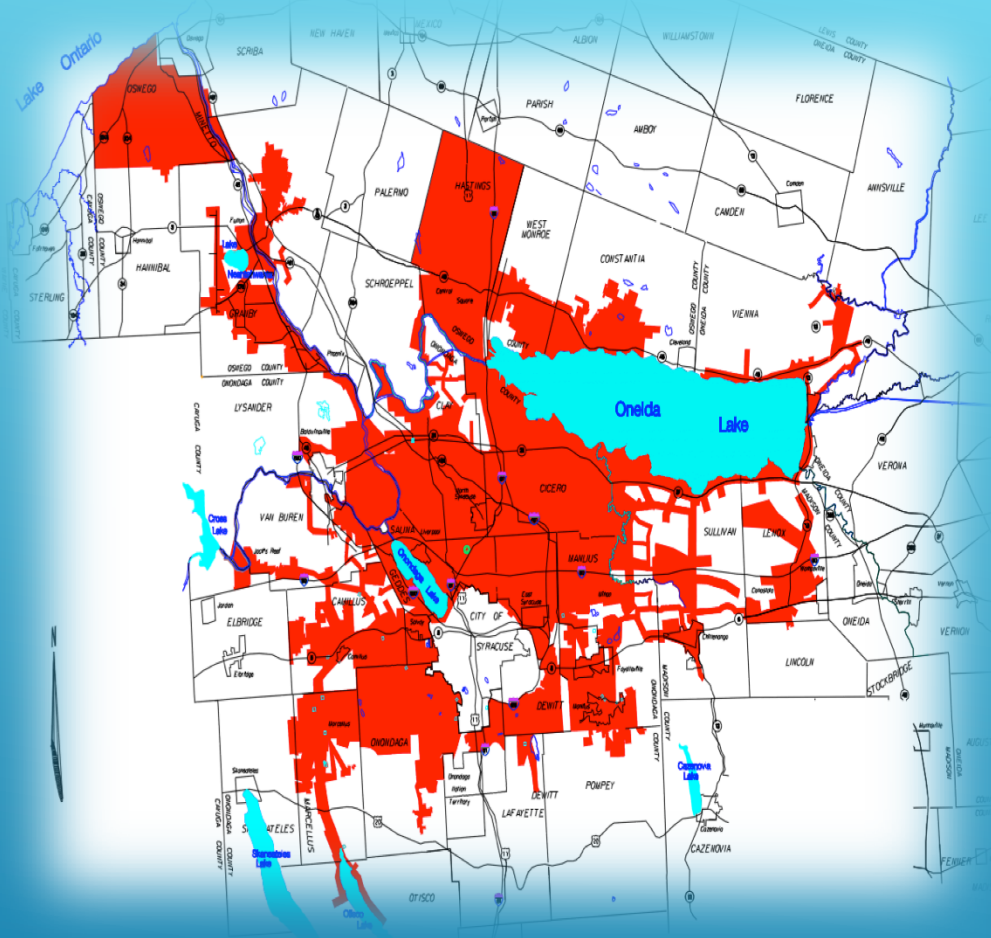
2,131 Miles of Main - 13,284 Hydrants

175 Employees

OCWA SYSTEM OVERVIEW

- **Total system delivery – 38 MGD**
- **From Otisco Lake WTP – 18 MGD**
- **From Lake Ontario – 19 MGD**
- **From Skaneateles Lake – 1 MGD**
- **Total Available Capacity – 73 MGD**
- **Population served – 500,000**
- **Storage facilities – 60**
- **Pumping facilities – 47**
- **2,131 miles of water main**
- **13,429 fire hydrants**
- **70 + Pressure Zones**
- **215 Sites**





Systems Added 1994-2018

(Retail and Wholesale)

Systems Converted from Wholesale to Retail = 7 (20,293 Accounts)

Stand Alone Systems Connected To OCWA (Retail) = 8 (4,909 Accounts)

New Constructed Systems Connected to OCWA (Retail) = 13 (5,058 Accounts)

Stand Alone Systems Connected to OCWA (Wholesale) = 2 (1,650 Accounts)

Systems Added 1994-2018

Wholesale to Retail:

Salina (1995)	– 7,500
Lakeland (1996)	– 569
Van Buren (2002)	– 2,552
Minoa (2006)	– 1,162
E. Syracuse (2008)	– 1,360
Marcellus (2009)	– 650
Camillus (2013)	– 6,500

New System Connected to OCWA:

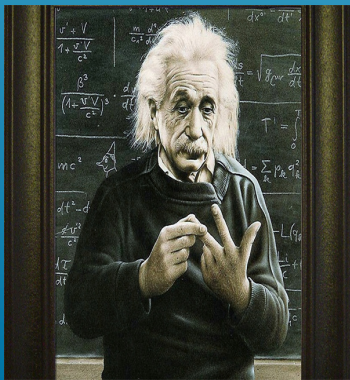
Seneca Hill, Volney (1997)	– 100
West Monroe (2000)	– 380
Hastings (2005)	– 1,078
Pompey (2006)	– 200
Granby (2007)	– 600
Volney Airport (2007)	– 230
Otisco Tri-town (2008)	– 600
Limeledge, Marcellus (2009)	– 150
Constantia (2011)	– 1,110
Lennox (2012)	– 90
Lennox (2014)	– 300
Volney W.D. #2 (2014)	– 150
Sterling, Cayuga County (2016)	– 80

Stand Alone to OCWA Retail:

Sylvan Beach (1994)	– 1,114
Oswego (1995)	– 1,564
Minetto (1998)	– 1,360
Central Sq. (1998)	– 626
Vienna, NS (1999)	– 410
Vienna, NB (2000)	– 226
McConnelsville (2006)	– 250
Lafayette (2007)	– 120

Stand Alone, Now Wholesale:

Hannibal, Town & Village (2005)
Phoenix, Village (2017)



Steps to Consolidation

First Contact and the Request

The Review & Evaluation

Budgets (O&M and Capital, Short-term, Long-Range, Retail vs. Wholesale)

The Offer

Public Referendum

Home Rule Legislation (If applicable)

System Consolidation



First Contact and the Request

Generally, starts as informal discussion between Town/Village Elected Official and OCWA Executive Staff

Once Town/Village is interested in reviewing a possible consolidation OCWA asks for request in writing

OCWA Board accepts written request and authorizes Executive staff to begin review of potential consolidation.



The Review & Evaluation



Assemble the Team Members and Begin Review:

Customer Services: Billing, Meter Reading & Meter Repair

Distribution Maintenance: Leak Detection, Leak Repair, Locators, Hydrant & Valve Maintenance

Operation: SCADA Techs, Pump Operations & Maintenance, Tank Operations & Maintenance

Facilities Maintenance: Assessment of Structures, Electrical Evaluation, PRV Assessment

Water Treatment / Water Quality: Regulatory Compliance, Water Compatibility

Engineering: System Map Review, Facility Records Review

Safety & Security: Vulnerability Assessment, Emergency Response Plan, Safety Records, Insurance

Financial Services: Income, Expenses, Outstanding Debt, Leases

The Offer

What's Covered:

Accept Staff Transfers: Some, All or None

Capital Improvements: Address Immediate Needs and Long-Term Plans

Assumption of Debt: Multiple Scenarios

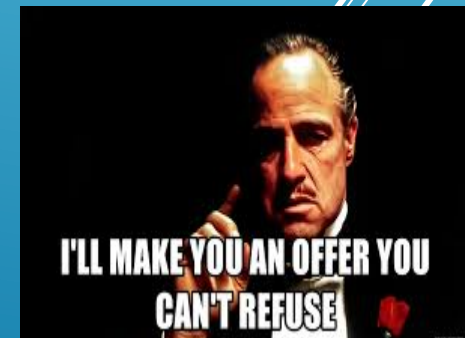
Meter Change-outs: Customers want to know the details

Water Rates: Applicable Residential, Commercial, Industrial Rates

Fire Protection: Public and Private

Lease Agreement

Operation and Maintenance Agreement



Public Referendum

Not always required, but always Recommended

Place Offer in Front of Public and Let Them Decide

Provide Utility Contacts (Name, Phone #, Email Address, Utility Web-Site)

Keep it Strictly Business and Remain Positive (the Facts and Nothing But the Facts)

Make Yourself and or Your Staff Available for all Public Hearings.



Home Rule Legislation

To Be Served By OCWA a Town Must Be Included in Our State Enabling Legislation.

Only an Issue When Expanding into Previously Unserved Areas

Requires Passage by NY State Legislature and Governor's Signature

Must be introduced by Community Seeking Service

Timing May be an Issue

OCWA provides Needed Language, but Approval Rests with Town.

Can't Enter Into Agreement Until Legislation Passes



System Consolidation

Pick a Date and Let Everyone Know (Provide Contact Names and Numbers: Billing, Emergencies, Water Quality)

On Board and Provide Orientation for Staff Transfers (If any)

Convert or Add SCADA from Town System to Your System (Let Staff do Their Job)

Add Customer Accounts (Convert Data or Manually Enter, but Start Day One)

Add Meter Records to System

Add Assets to Your Asset Management System

Integrate System Mapping Into Your GIS System (Provide Mapping to Your Locators and Your Distribution Maintenance Personnel)

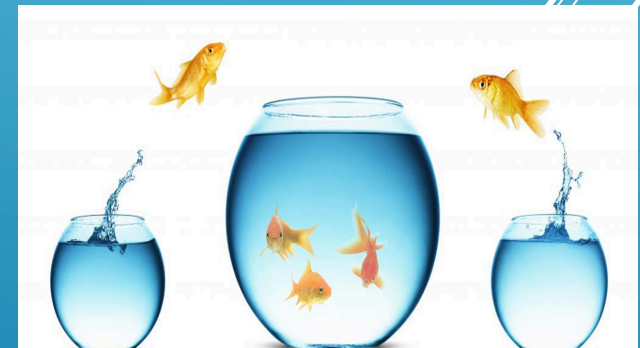
Add Hydrants to Your Hydrant Maintenance Program

Conduct Your Own All Hazards Vulnerability Assessment

Update Your Emergency Response Plan

Add Facilities and Vehicles to Your Insurance

Track the Budget and the Changes (Be Prepared to Answer Questions on How the Consolidation is Going)



Questions & Answers

