

Lamoka-Waneta Lakes Association – Board of Directors Meeting

September 16, 2017

Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m. by President Jay White

Present: Terry Allison, Kurt Bischoff, Cartha Conklin, Terry Fisk, Rick Game, Al Gerth, Claud Gingrich, Corinne Julian, Dene Karaus, Kevin Morris, Don Robbins, Chuck Rybak, Joan Rybak, Gordon Shafer, Ray Stebbins, Carolee Thatcher, Mary Tucker, Tom Webb, Jay White

Guest: Dennis Fagan

Absent: Patrick Allison, Calvin Barnstead, Al Buckland, Ron Dixon, Sean Fitzpatrick, Heidi Gerth, Gary Gray, Barry Pappas, Ed Sharpe, Richard Stewart, Andy Strawhand, John Thatcher

The minutes of the August 19th Board Meeting and August 26th Public Meeting minutes were approved as presented.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Treasurer's Report: Corinne Julian went over the LWLA Balance Sheet as of September 16, 2017 and Profit & Loss Statement January 1 through September 16, 2017.

Checking Account Balance-- \$1,095.20

Savings Account Balance-- \$21,615.60

Total Fixed Assets -- \$7,363.58 (no change from last month)

Total Assets -- \$30,074.38

Net Income \$5,963.30

A donation of \$300 was made to the Tyrone Fire Department as we have done in the past. The \$300 covers the use of the Fire Department Building \$100 Spring Public Meeting, \$100 for August Public Meeting and \$200 for the Pancake Breakfast.

Corinne has ordered window envelopes for membership notification. The window envelopes makes it easier to match the ID member number. Corinne will be mailing out membership application for new members and renewal membership by December 1st.

Treasurers' Report Accepted as Presented.

Corinne needs to look for a new laptop to enable her to separate the software and data of the Vice President who will be taking over Membership and the Treasurer software and data. Rick recommended that she also look for an external hard drive to back up the data. The bylaws allow the purchase of the hardware up to \$500 without a Board vote. Corinne will update the Board at the October 28th meeting.

President's Report: Jay shared his conversation with an individual at the north end of Waneta regarding weeds. The individual was wondering why there were so many weeds and why couldn't the association just take care of them and treat them. Jay explained the treatment process, cost, the grant application, DEC approval, etc. The individual thought that the state took care of the cost and did not know why they could not eliminate all the weeds. Jay encouraged the individual to become involved in the Lake Association and attend

the meetings. Jay reminded Board members that part of our function is to spread the word regarding what is going on within the Association so the correct information is out there as opposed to rumor.

The NYSFOLA Fall Conference will be Saturday, October 21st at Silver Lake. Anyone interested in attending please let Jay know and he will submit your registration.

Don reminded Jay that it was also the date for our October Board Meeting. Due to the conflict of meetings the Board agreed to change the October Board Meeting to Saturday, October 28th.

Jay also apologized to Claud regarding the short notice of the Finger lakes Watershed Alliance Meeting to be held September 18th at 2:00, Jay just received notice and it is too short of notice for Claud to attend the meeting.

Jay contacted the DEC regarding the issue of dredging. They are extremely busy with Lake Ontario and assured Jay that when they are done they will get back to him. He requested they consider sending a representative to the Spring Public Meeting.

Gordon believes that we need a skilled kayak person to look at the end of Mill Pond and in front of the dam. There is a buildup of silt & debris of brush and trees that needs to be cleaned out. The last time this was done was 2008. The kayak individual would have the best opportunity to get close enough to determine the amount of buildup and allow us to make a decision on how to remove the debris.

Gordon reported that during drawdown, the pond in front of the dam was nearly empty, and you could look up at the lake and water was coming down in a little river to the pond. Gordon reminded the Board that the gates can be open, but the debris and buildup of silt is an obstruction that needs to be addressed. The level eventually got to 1097.9.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

CLOTHING: Chuck will be putting together an order for the Spring Public Meeting. He will be taking an inventory before the next meeting and will report out at the October meeting. He reminded Board Members if they were purchasing logo clothing to notify him immediately it will help with a more accurate inventory.

A Board Member asked who our supplier was for clothing. Chuck said he uses Unique Solutions as our clothing supplier.

GOOSE CONTROL: No Report

GOLF TOURNAMENT: No Report

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT—No Report

LAKE TESTING – Tom reported that Waneta was tested last week and the clarity was not good. He also said they are still experiencing problems with the equipment.

NAVIGATIONAL & RECREATIONAL LAW – No Report

STEUBEN/SCHUYLER WATER QUALITY REPS -- The next meeting will be held on September 28th in Montour Falls. A report from Orange, Tyrone & Wayne has contracted to work together regarding the monitoring of septic systems. She has not read the entire report, but what she has read she believes that it should give more “teeth” to the enforcement of septic tank inspections.

OTHER—

- Terry Allison reported that they are beginning to work on the 2018 Directory and will be soliciting advertisers. She will be sending out an e-mail to the Board and current LWLA members requesting if they own a business or are aware of a business and would like to advertise in the 2018 Directory to fill out the form and send it to her.

LAKE LEVEL— There was a lengthy discussion regarding the water level, draw down level and date for the draw down.

Here are some of the comments made during the discussion:

- Rick reported we are currently at 1098.9 and talked with NYSEG to open the gates before it reaches 1099. They opened it 12 inches. The level set point steady state is 1098.7 and we have not met steady state this year. He told the Board that NYSEG will not keep coming out 2 and 3 times a week. So if the Board chooses to a lower level it is not controllable.
- Gordon reminded the Board that NYSEG is following the plan before the notch is put in. 1099.2 is too high when they open the gates then close at 1099.05. The plan reads that it is the discretion of the operator. It is possible to change the plan, but you need to go through the process. Gordon was part of the group when the plan was written and with all of the input that was given the plan came back with numbers that to his recollection no one had agreed to.
- Jay shared that he continues to receive complaints the water is too high. Why is this year different than the past? Nothing is new with the gates. The higher the water the more flow over the notch.
- One member commented that the problem is when you open the gates you need to wait for NYSEG to close the gates. If rain is predicted you want to wait to close, but then the predicted rain does not occur. Rick assured the Board that NYSEG is very cooperative and accommodating when he calls them.
- Clear message is that lake residents either love the higher level or they hate it.
- Another member commented that the level of the lake and the septic issues is related to the water table. We have a high water table. When the lake is up and water is flooding your yard you will experience difficulty with your septic system.
- Someone else offered the opinion of running the level too high that maybe we cannot control it at 24 inches, then open to 48"; the concern is downstream flooding.
- Dennis Fagan shared that for the last 2 ½ months he has monitored downstream and never saw the water level in the creek anywhere near flooding over the bank. He monitored Rt. 226, Sanora Road crossing the creek, Rabbit Road, Aulls Road. Saw the chemical all the way to Savona with no effect on the Cohocton. He reminded everyone that the last two years we have had all the extremes one summer dry and drought conditions followed by wet conditions this summer.
- Gordon believes the notch stop logs should be a little lower. His neighbors on Lamoka are seeing erosion because of the high water and wake level, which brought up the topic of a sea wall. Corinne had a neighbor who wanted to put in a sea wall and the DEC denied their request. It was felt that the DEC was not granting any more new sea wall requests. Gordon found that they keep changing their mind on sea wall design. Chuck recommended that to continue to try with DEC.
- Rick commented that if the notch is lowered 1099.2 is too high; 1099 just below to open gates. The lake cannot stay below 1099. He also said that the stop logs work, but do not work quickly.
- Dennis asked how many stop logs are there and can you have up to 3 stop logs. Consensus was there are 2 stop logs at 2.5 and .5
- Dene asked if there was a target level everyone would be happy at? He said here is one .5' stop log and two .25' stop logs.
- Comments from members: 1098.7 very few complaints, top of the stop log. Close level at 1098.7. Gordon said that his neighbors would not be happy with a control level of 1098.7. They would prefer 1098.5 half log.

Recommend wet year 1 log in and dry year 1 ½ logs. Normally have a wet spring and dry summer, but this year we were out of sync. We have had many different scenarios over the past years. Gordon would like to see a target like 1098.6 with a plus or minus of 3 if 1099 open and 1098.3 close.

- Kurt asked if the issues were due to the fact that NYSEG has been bought out and is that the reason they are slow on opening and closing on weekends. Rick assured the members that they are very responsive.
- Question then is; do we operate at a .5' stop log or .75' stop log?
- Dennis referred to the HUNT survey that Gordon had sent the members. (See attached). The survey shows 3.2" deep 1099.29 at the top of the stop logs. Numbers are consistent when we treated. At the end of July you could have dropped to 1098.8/1098.7 and let the notch do the work. Dennis said in his opinion it was left too high and nature took it higher.
- Again, the question, where should the target be? One member proposed we open before 1099 and close at 1098.7
- Gordon explained that 1098-1099 NYSEG tried to hold the level. He felt that "the Plan" has been ignored in the past up until the last two years.
- Consensus was to open at 1099 and close at 1098.7 and we should meet with NYSEG to update the "the Plan" document.
- Dennis reminded Board Members that we have the survey data from HUNT and he will ask the County Highway Dept. to adjust gage at the boat launch then meet with NYSEG to adjust "the Plan." He also said the gage at the dam needs to be updated and moved so it can be seen.

Draw Down Level & When:

Gordon reminded the Board that the history with NYSEG was to draw down to 1096 on October 15th. Since the 1990s the final level was near 1097.5

Consensus was to go with history to Draw Down October 15th to 1098.0/1097.5 target remove the stop logs on October 15th. Need to open the dam to remove the stop logs and get to 1097.5 and then let the notch at 1098 take over for the winter.

Rick needs to coordinate with NYSEG to schedule the October drawdown and schedule a get together to discuss the survey and to make the required changes to the gages and documents for lake level number changes. The new survey results in changes for the datum for MSL (NAVD88). The change seems to measure the lake level about .25' higher.

Calendar of Events:

- NYSFOLA Fall Conference October 21st 10:00 a.m.3:00 p.m.
- Board of Director's Meetings: **October 28, 2017** (All meetings are held at the Tyrone Town Hall at 10:00 a.m.)

Meeting adjourned at 11:19 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Tucker, Secretary

