



Lamoka-Waneta Lakes Association

Board of Directors' Meeting

May 17, 2025—Tyrone Town Hall

Meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by Jay White, President.

The following members were present: Terry Allison, Calvin Barnstead, Debbie Cooper, Ron Dixon, Dennis Fagan, Terry Fisk, Claud Gingrich, , Corinne Julian, Kevin Morris, Patrick O'Shaughnessy, Gary Rose, Jim Russell, Ed Sharpe, Cameron Spicknall, Linda Spicknall, Sandy Tressler, Steve Tressler, Mary Tucker, Beth Woods, Jay White

Absent: Jesse Cates, Jody Christen, Cartha Conklin, , Gary Gray, Patty Gray, Katherine Hammill, Bill Hassoldt, Christine Parulski, BethAn Parulski-Seager, Jaci Riorden, BarbRussell, Ward Votava, Barbara Walls, Tom Webb

Guest: None

April 26, 2025 Board of Directors Minutes: Approved with the changes that Dennis responded to Gary Rose's questions regarding taxes.

President's Report: Jay spoke briefly of the meeting he and Bill had with the Town of Wayne, Supervisor and board members. The town of Wayne is very much interested in working with the LWLA in addressing the north end canal. Town of Wayne requested a letter explaining what the LWLA does and invited Jay and Bill to attend their board meeting in June. Letter was sent in Board packet.

Vice President/Membership Report: Bill Hassoldt, absent.

Treasurer's Report: Corinne presented the Balance Sheet as of April 27, 2025 and shared the April 25, 2025 Community Bank Accounts.

Corinne explained that the LWLA laptop is out of date and unable to update software.

Motion made by Gary Rose and seconded by Terry Fisk to approve the purchase of a new laptop and updated Quick Books software not to exceed \$1,000 **Motion approved**

OLD BUSINESS:

Proposal for Testing to Monitor Different Algal Categories in Lamoka and Waneta Lakes during the summer of 2025. The proposal was sent to board members in their monthly packet. Terry estimated a budget for the monitoring program as follows:

- Laboratory Analysis at UFI: 16 analyses at \$25 each = \$400
- Shipping (estimated \$18-\$25; 8 shipments to lab at 25/each = \$200
- Microscopy for this project and suspected CHABs: No cost (Typically \$70-\$100 each)
- Reporting and Dissemination: No cost to LWLA
- Total Budget: \$600

A motion by Jim Russell, second by Gary Rose to approve \$600 for the above proposed testing to monitor different algal categories in Lamoka and Waneta Lakes during the summer of 2025. **MOTION APPROVED**

Lake Treatment 2025:

Dennis reported that the 2025 Lake Treatment will take place on June 16th (rain date being, June 17th)

In years past we never received the permits for the lake treatment until the day before we treated. He was happy to report that this year he had received the permits last week and we are all set for June 16th.

NYSFOLA Conference, April 25-26, 2025. Steve and Sandy Tressler attended the conference as representatives for LWLA. A handout of “take aways” and a power point of Navigating the New Freshwater Wetlands Regulations was handed out.

NEW BUSINESS:

2025 LWLA Goals: The following suggestions were offered by members of the board to establish the following goals for 2025:

- Address the North End Canal on Waneta Lake
- Increase relationships with area towns of Bradford, Orange, Tyrone, and Wayne through individual face to face meetings.
- Grow relationships with lake residents. EX: Lake days (this goal will require a VOLUNTEER to spearhead a Marketing Committee.)
- Establish a Lake Friendly Program
- Install the three Lake Level Gauges made by the Schuyler County Highway Dept.
- Collect Precipitation Data from Lake Residents—Need Volunteers willing to collect and report data.
- Work with townships to get better monitoring of septic systems, especially those of VRBO’s. Also, work with them to have a VRBO septic systems inspected every 1-2 years.

2025 Suggested Spring Public Meeting Agenda Items:

- Schuyler & Steuben County Sheriffs to address Boater Safety updates and classes.
- Lake Treatment June 16, 2025
- Lamoka/Waneta Lakes Sediment & Nutrient Reduction Program Plan and Request for funding.
- Goose Control
- What does it mean when Gates are open or closed?
- Show & Tell of Aeration & Fountains
- Boat Parade

Committee Reports

- **Clothing:** Tom Webb absent

- **CSLAP:** Sample jars will be shipped over Memorial Day weekend and we will be testing four times this year as opposed to the eight samples we did in the past. Testing will be done June, July, August and September.
- **Environmental Impact Chair** –Calvin checked the canal at the Beaver Cache site and all seems to be good. At this point Calvin has nothing on his radar for Environmental Impacts. He asked Board Members if they are aware of any issues to pass the information along to him.
- **Goose Control:** Kevin reported that due to the weather this spring they were only able to go out once and addled about 52 eggs on Red Bank Island.
- **HAB Report:** No report
- **NYSEG/Lake Level:** We are currently at 1098.8 The heavy rains caused the lake level to get away from us. We went from gates opened at 18” to 24”. NYSEG came out at 6:30 p.m. to open the gates to 24”. Dennis reminded Kevin and the Board that the lake needs to be at 1098.7 with stop logs fully in with gates fully closed by June 16 for the Lake Treatment to take place.
- **Lake Management Committee:** Patrick O’Shaughnessy is asking the board to approve the initial launch of a watershed-wide Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Program for Lamoka and Waneta Lakes to focus on practical, cost-effective conservation projects that reduce sediment and nutrient inflow. The approach has been recommended by Jerry Verrigni, Schuyler County Soil and Water District and provided the association with the ability to select the projects we feel will have the maximum benefit to our lakes. The projects would be funded in 2026.
Patrick was asking for the Board support to present the proposal to the Membership at the Spring Public Meeting on May 31, 2025.
Motion by Steve Tressler and Calvin Barndstead that the Board approve the project as proposed by the Lake Management Committee (see handout) with the stipulation we had the support of the general membership at the May 31, 2025 Spring Public Meeting before the board approves the \$20,000 for the 2026 project(s).
- **Steuben/Schuyler Water Quality:** Bill Hassoldt & Cartha Conklin Absent.

OTHER: Gary Rose asked if the Board was aware of the developments of Community Bank. Board members were aware of the reorganization and closing of some branch offices. Kevin Morris asked if our accounts were covered by FDIC and the answer was yes. No action taken at this point.

Having no further business, a motion to close the LWLA meeting at 11:29 a.m. was approved.

Mary Tucker
Secretary, LWLA

Take Aways from 2025 NYSFOLA Conference

The use of ARCGIS (geographic information system) to exactly locate septic systems around lakes is a useful tool to predict which systems may have the greatest impact on lake water quality. This system shows the most likely drainage routes and how these interact with septic systems. **(Otsego Watershed Supervisory Committee and Student Oneonta)**

The analysis of past and present data (rain amounts, air/water temperature, water chemistries, and dissolved oxygen) is becoming more important in order to identify trends and predictions for lake water quality. Intensity of rain events is becoming more frequent and is having a greater impact on water quality. **(Students Oneonta Biology Department)**

A 15-year study of herbicides (SONAR and ProcellaCor) has shown a rebound effect between treatments. When treatments are applied every other year, areas treated experience a rebound the next year. **(Director Upstate Freshwater Institute)**

The use of lake-wide aeration alone has little impact on the formation of HABs. Formation is more closely related to nutrient levels and rain events. **(SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry)**

Internal loading becomes a great factor during drier springs and summers. Less external loading; the release of nutrients from sediment has a greater impact on HAB formation. Increasing air and water temperature are having a great impact on HAB formation. Cyanobacteria can use organic phosphate to a much greater extent than other algae. When curly pond weed dies off and water temperature increases, there is a great degree of decomposition, which leads to an increase in organic phosphate, which leads to increasing HAB formation. External loading is more of a factor in rainy years due to the increase of SRP (soluble reactive phosphate) directly into the lake. The increased rain also causes more release of nutrients from septic systems into the lakes. Past ten years have shown no single treatment to be successful at totally reducing HABs for extended periods. Must use a multilevel approach: nutrient treatment, direct oxygenation (aeration has not proven as effective as oxygenation), reduction in external loading, and septic system improvement. **(Senior Technical Director of Ecological Services, Princeton Hydro)**

Electrochemical ozonation at lake level has proven to be effective. The system can be mounted on a boat; a small electrical charge passed through a three-membrane system disrupts HABs and toxins associated with them. At a preset time, it can only treat 5000ml per hour. It is more practical for smaller lakes and drinking water systems. **(Clarkson University)**

Many people expressed how important community and local government involvement is to reach any type of lake improvement goals. Suggestions were to stage a Lake Days that center around educating lake residents, using giveaways, creating contests for "Most Lake Friendly Resident", getting local businesses involved, free food, and producing videos. Many expressed how important it is to keep social media up to date (Facebook, Instagram, and web pages). **(Open discussion with SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry)**

Lake in Westchester County requires special permitting of lake homes used as vocational rentals. They also require a permit for any tents along the lake, even if they are in the yard of the home. Homes used for vacation rentals must have their septic system pumped more frequently. **(Discussion with lake association president)**

Take Aways from 2025 NYSFOLA Conference

According to **Krista Spohr, environmental specialist with DEC**, the new Freshwater Regulations, Article 24, are basically being developed as they are implemented. Exempt activities are: 1) ordinary maintenance and repair of existing structures and improved areas such as maintaining existing lawns and landscaped areas; 2) seasonal installation and removal of docks; 3) boating, fishing, and other outdoor recreational activities. New regulated activities are: 1) new construction of buildings, driveways, and accessory structures; 2) excavation, dredging, and draining; 3) clear cutting vegetation; 4) installing and expanding new docks; 5) applying pesticides/herbicides. The jurisdiction no longer is tied to the maps. The wetlands and adjacent area in a 100-foot radius is regulated.

The **National Lakes Assessment** program completed a study in 2022 of all lakes in the nation. They found that one-half of all lakes in the US are in poor condition. Poor biological conditions were twice as likely in lakes that had had shoreline repairs and excess vegetation. Must remember that lakes provide water for drinking and have lower allowed units of chemicals than lakes used only for recreation. The funds from the Clean Lakes Program are being used for water source lakes, not recreational lakes. However, can possibly get funds from the US Army Corps of Engineers Environmental Research and Development center.

NYSFOLA Strategic Planning: they developed a full-time executive director in 2023. A consulting firm to develop an action plan to help lake organizations, diversify revenue streams, and encourage membership of younger people.

MAKING MEDIA WORK: This is the best way to generate funding. Need to contact local daily or weekly newspapers, television and radio stations as well as bloggers. Need to keep the website up to date and active. We can develop story ideas and develop media contacts.

NY GREEN AMENDMENT (NOT) PROTECTING OUR LAKES: The amendment reads "Each person shall have the right to clean air and water and a healthful environment." There are no definitions in this amendment, making it easy for judges to deny any decisions because there are no definitions. It does not create any significant protection for the citizens or environment.

PROPOSED HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM LEGISLATION: Two bills are currently proposed in the state legislature; both are the same. The Senate has passed it in the committee, but the other one is still in the committee. There are five provisions to the program:

- Comprehend statewide data collection and analysis report
- Create HAB database
- Create rules and regulations
- Program development for lakes that do not have current programs
- Make funding available to municipalities, community-based nonprofits, or academic institutions
- DEC will distribute funds. If the bill is passed, it will take effect one year from the date it is passed.

MEMBERSHIP IN NYSFOLA AND CSLAP IS NECESSARY FOR ANY HOPE OF GETTING ANY FUNDS.