

Lamoka-Waneta Lakes Association - Public Meeting – August 29, 2015

Opening: 10:06AM “Let’s get started.”

Board Members:

Present: Terry Allison, Kurt Bischoff, Cartha Conklin, Ron Dixon, Terry Fisk, Sean Fitzpatrick, Al&Heidi Gerth, Gary Gray, Jean Hubsch, Dene Karaus, Chuck Rybak, Gordon Shafer, Ed Sharpe, Patty Smith, Andy Strawhand, Carolee Thatcher, John Thatcher

Absent: Al Buckland, Dick Fagan, John Herbert, Chris Kain, Kevin Morris, Joan Rybak, Brian Smith, Rich Stewart, David Wallace

President’s Report – Terry Allison

Thank you all for coming today and thank you all for your support throughout this past year. We’ve done a lot and seen a lot happen.

- Weed treatment costing \$162,000 – had some successes and failures which Dennis Fagan will tell us all about.
- Held a Public Forum in May in which we had a panel of people tell us about their techniques and solutions to deal with lake weeds. One result is we see a lot of personal water aeration systems popping up all around the lakes.
- June 14th brought us the Flood of 2015 with lakes coming up more than 1 ½ feet due to a deluge of rain. We had docks floating and all sorts of debris in the lake waters. As a result we had the Schuyler County Sheriff enact a boater advisory and changed to a boating ban for about a two week period of time. A big thank you to everyone who complied with the restrictions and helped to enforce them on people who did not. Also a big thank you to all of the folks who cleaned up after the waters receded, especially those who helped neighbors in need.
- We have beautiful lakes, cottages and properties. It makes you proud to be a part of it.
- We need to be more proactive than reactive to be prepared for future bad-weather situations.
- The Bradford dam had problems with the gate mechanisms in April-May which NYSEG is supposedly still working on getting remedied.
- A new automated device for monitoring the lake level was ordered and received but not yet installed as we are waiting to find the best location to install it.
- Earlier this month we had a semi-trailer loaded with salt dive into the Tobyhanna dam at the bottom of CR 23 in Tyrone. Dennis Fagan will give an update on that in a little while.
- NYSEG has informed us that they will be dredging the old power canal at the north end of Waneta either late this fall or early next spring to remove a silt build-up that is stagnating the waters there.
- Septic systems pumping and inspections are continuing all around the lakes.
- Flare night is next week – Labor Day weekend – Saturday night starting at 9:00 PM.
- The LWLA published a newsletter last spring which was full of information.
- We did a pancake breakfast on NASCAR weekend.
- We try to keep everyone informed through multiple modes of communications including newsletters, emails, Face Book posts and a recently re-designed website -- check it out!
- Lastly, our proposed aeration experiment for the north end of Waneta Lake has been stalled due to a lack of funding. Dennis Fagan and Senator Tom O’Mara are working on getting us a \$150k grant. Our project is on the state’s pork-spending list of things that may be done.

Treasurer’s Report – Kurt Bischoff

Kurt provided a paper printout of the financial activities from 9/23/14 through to 8/29/15. The current status is:

\$14,354.96 in Checking account

\$20,174.83 in Savings account

\$34,529.79 subtotal

\$ 500.00 in Petty Cash

\$35,029.79 Total cash on hand

\$ 7,363.58 in Fixed Assets (shed, water testing equipment, lake level device, etc)

\$42,393.37 in TOTAL ASSETS (does not include clothing and flares)

There were no questions or discussion.

Weed Survey Report – Dennis Fagan

But first a brief report on the salt truck crash:

This was the second such crash in about 3 years. The first one was a US Salt truck, this one was a Cargille salt truck. Luckily no one was injured. The truck and contents were removed and the damage to the spillway has been repaired. The road is posted and prohibits heavy trucks. The county Sheriff patrols the road looking for and ticketing truckers. The Schuyler County Highway Dept. has gone to the salt facilities in Watkins Glen and asked them to remind truckers to use alternate routes. The Highway Dept. may post additional signage and hand out fliers to the truckers coming out of the salt facilities. The GPS systems have been asked to remove the CR 23 route from the truckers' GPS programs and maps.

Back to the plant survey:

Lamoka Lake seems to be going through what Waneta did about 5 years ago. A population explosion of zebra mussels has increased the clarity of the waters, increasing penetration of sunlight which ultimately means weeds have better conditions to grow. The increased growth is mainly Southern Naiad and Elodea, but Eurasian Watermilfoil is also present. EWMF was found in 80 sites versus 63 sites the previous year. Of the 80 sites, 35 were in the main body of the lake, 8 were in the lower channel and 40 were in Mill Pond. EWMF was mostly found in the north-west, south-west and south-east quadrants of Lamoka Lake. Mill Pond was not treated this year due to monetary constraints. Even worse, we do not have enough money to treat all the sites on Lamoka next year; we will have to make decisions on priorities. This year's rake toss data shows an overall decrease in zero/trace/sparse areas and an increase in moderate/dense areas on Lamoka Lake compared to 2014 data. (Below, reprinted from Dennis's handout)

Lamoka Lake Plant Densities, All Species (from two rake tosses in each survey area)

<u>Amount/Description</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>
• Zero: None	13	4
• Trace: Small hand full or less	112	75
• Sparse: Two hands full	108	67
• Moderate: An arm full	79	95
• Dense: Greater than an arm full	26	97

Waneta Lake is showing improvements in weeds, likely due to the increased turbidity of the water. Eurasian Watermilfoil was only found in two sites this year versus 26 last year. One of the EWMF sites was treated last spring, the other area had not been treated; both are at the north end of the lake. The prevalent plant species in Waneta Lake are Southern Naiad and Coontail, with percentages similar to last year's results. Rake toss data reflects an overall increase in zero/trace areas and a decrease in sparse/moderate/dense areas on Waneta Lake compared to 2014 data. (Below, reprinted from Dennis's handout)

Waneta Lake Plant Densities, All Species (from two rake tosses in each survey area)

<u>Amount/Description</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>
• Zero: None	9	11
• Trace: Small hand full or less	64	158
• Sparse: Two hands full	83	54
• Moderate: An arm full	65	47
• Dense: Greater than an arm full	55	6

After Dennis presented the results Gordon Shafer informed everyone that he had brought in a "salad buffet" of some plants he had picked out of Lamoka yesterday. He had individual samples of Southern Naiad, Eel Grass, Eurasian Watermilfoil and Coontail available for everyone to see, and he would be available for Q&A after the meeting.

Dennis ended by saying he was working with Schuyler County, Tom O'Mara and the state government to obtain funding for our aeration experiment.

Committee Reports:

Clothing – Chuck & Joan Rybak

Have had \$1,640 in sales this year which is a bit lower than last year. Had new designs and the sailboat logo items have sold out. Merchandise has been displayed for sale at both public meetings and also at the pancake breakfast. You may also find the merchandise at Gary Cook's stand. Chuck and Joan say they will also take orders over the phone.

Flares – John Thatcher

Flare night is Saturday, September 5th starting at 9:00 PM. LWLA is getting out of the incendiary stick flares business but you will still be able to get them at retailers around the larger lakes. We will continue to offer the LED flares.

Goose Control – Andy Strawhand

“DO NOT FEED THE GEESE” – It's against the law. By the way, geese help spread the weeds from one location to another by ingesting plants and excreting viable fragments on lawns and in the lake. Efforts to control the goose population around the lakes includes adding eggs in the nests each spring and legal shooting of nuisance geese. Adding involves finding nests and treating them with corn oil – addled eggs do not hatch. The LWLA also has a license to SAFELY shoot up to 100 nuisance geese each year – so far we've only had 17 reported. Volunteers are needed to help in both efforts.

Golf Tournament – Gary Gray

A good time was had by all. This was the 4th year of the tournament. Plans are being made for next year's event. Sign up early as there is only room for 10 teams.

Lake Level – Terry Fisk

The level is 1098.63 this morning. The dam has been closed with a stop block in the notch to provide an overflow at 1098.5. For the last 5 to 6 weeks the gauge says we've been between 1098.65 and 1098.75 with light rainfalls followed by periods of sunlight and evaporation. The 1098.5 notch overflow is dry though which indicates the CR 23 bridge has settled and the gauge mounted on it is now off by about 0.2 feet. In other words, 1098.7 is actually 1098.5. The gauge will be recalibrated when we get the electronic level monitor installed and calibrated.

Gary Light Memorial Pancake Breakfast – Al & Heidi Gerth

There were about 200 people served and the event earned about \$200. Thanks to all who helped set-up, prepare food and serve meals. Planning to do it again next year.

Steuben/Schuyler Watershed – Cartha Conklin & Kurt Bischoff

Actually called “Water Quality Committee” but they work with the watershed districts. Schuyler meets about every two months. There will be a household electronics and hazardous waste collection for Schuyler and Yates county residents on Saturday, September 19th. You must register in advance. (Kurt had a short stack of forms available for anyone after the meeting.) The collection includes tires: cost is \$2.50 on-the-rim and \$1.75 off-the-rim.

Nominations & Elections – Sean Fitzpatrick & Dene Karaus

- Five members of the board have decided to “retire” at the end of their current terms: Dick Fagan, Terry Fisk, John Herbert, Jean Hubsch and Chris Kane. Our heartfelt thanks go out to each of you for your years of service.
- Twelve members of the board are returning for the second year of their current terms: Al Buckland (W), Ron Dixon (L), Sean Fitzpatrick (W), Gary Gray (W), Chuck Rybak (L), Joan Rybak (L), Gordon Shafer (L), Patti Smith

(L), Richard Stewart (W), Andy Strawhand (L), Carolee Thatcher (W) and John Thatcher (W). [6 – Lamoka, 6 – Waneta]

- Six members of the board have agreed to serve another 2-year term if elected: Al Gerth (L), Dene Karaus (W), Kevin Morris (W), Ed Sharpe (W), Brian Smith (L) and David Wallace (L). [3 – Lamoka, 3 – Waneta]
- Two new people wish to join the board of directors if elected: Billy Croft (L) and Barb Scharett (L). [2 – Lamoka, 0 – Waneta]
- Nominations were called for from the floor but none were received.
- This brings the members of the board to 20; 11 representing Lamoka and 9 representing Waneta. Our by-laws call for a maximum of 30 members.
- The four officers of the board are each elected for 1-year terms. There are no term limits on the positions of Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer but the office of President is limited to a maximum of four consecutive years. This year's proposed slate of officers is as follows:
 - President: Terry Allison (W) - (This would be her 3rd year)
 - Vice President: Cartha Conklin (W) - (Returning)
 - Secretary: Corrine Julian (W) - (New)
 - Treasurer: Kurt Bischoff (L) - (Returning)
- This brings the total number of the LWLA Board of Directors to 24 with an even split of 12 persons from each lake.

- A motion was made to close the nominations and accept the slate of board members and officers as presented above. Voting was 100% approved and none against. Congratulations to all.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:21 AM

Respectfully submitted,
Terry Fisk