

Lamoka-Waneta Lakes Association

Incorporated 1965

FOR THE BETTERMENT OF TWO OF THE FINEST LITTLE LAKES IN New York STATE

Public Meeting – May 28, 2016

Meeting started at 10:02 am

President Introductions

- Terry introduced herself and welcomed everyone.
- Thank you to those who donated to the weed treatment – collected about \$10,000
- What does the annual dues go to – Website webmaster, Lake testing, treatment mailings, newsletter (\$1700), magnets, membership mailing, etc.
- The current board of directors are very transparent. Who are they? They are just LWLA members that are elected by other LWLA members. They are not paid they are all volunteers and it is not an easy job.
- The lake is not a swimming pool and will always have natural weeds. The DEC only allows for treatment of Milfoil not natural weeds.

Treasury Report by Kurt

- Reviewed highlights of Treasury report that was handed out
- Explained used the current bank mainly because they are easy to work with and for location for him and Cartha who lives in Penn Yan
- Explained fixed assets are on the books based on what the original purchase price was.
- Starting now will only pay for 1 year dues at a time anything sent in over the \$20 will be counted as a donation. If already prepaid those are still in place.
- Want to thank everyone for their donations LWLA really appreciates it.

Weed Control and Lake District Tax increase by Dennis

- Lake level is down because DEC said it had to be dropped 6 inches before the weed treatment. Any complaints call Dennis and he will explain.
- Weed treatment
 - District has a 5 year permit which is the first of its kind
 - However new regulations related to containing herbicides to prevent it from going downstream to Mud Lake and Cohocton River - DEC wanted District to do a study on impact of treatment downstream
 - Instead of study Dennis wrote a long letter including findings since 2008
 - DEC accepted this but said had to drop lake level another 6" and close the gates for containment. They were worried would have another storm like last June and the treatment would not be contained.
 - Normal weather should bring lake back up by mid-June
 - Lamoka was treated last Tuesday and it was a good day no wind. Treated 119 acres on Lamoka only. Takes 3 days for herbicide to take affect –

DEC representative was here and would not let treatment start until confirmed lake level was appropriate.

- Waneta was treated last year. Plant study showed only 3 locations with very little Milfoil; that is why there was no treatment on Waneta.
- Review of Weed Treatment costs
 - 2016 Lakes' District budget
 - i. Revenues
 - 1. Schuyler County \$ 73,782
 - 2. Steuben County \$ 29,495
 - 3. Schuyler fund balance \$ 5,000
 - 4. LWLA Donations \$ 40,000 (LWLA reserve/donations)
 - 5. **Total Revenue \$ 148,277**
 - ii. Expenses
 - 1. Wastewater Management \$ 15,000
 - 2. Plant Study \$ 11,000
 - 3. Herbicide Treatment \$115,689
 - 4. Herbicide Monitoring \$ 3,750
 - 5. Administration \$ 2,000
 - 6. **Total Expenses \$147,439**
 - 2015 Lakes' District budget – last year for comparison – need tax increase
 - i. Revenues
 - 1. Schuyler County \$ 133,823.71 (taxes & prev. year excess funds)
 - 2. Steuben County \$ 53,579.49 (taxes & prev. year excess funds)
 - 3. **Total Revenue \$ 187,403.20 (includes District excess funds)**
 - ii. Expenses
 - 1. Wastewater Management \$ 15,000.00
 - 2. Plant Study \$ 11,000.00
 - 3. Herbicide Treatment \$ 155,455.00
 - 4. Herbicide Monitoring \$ 4,070.00
 - 5. Administration \$ 1,878.20
 - 6. **Total Expenses \$ 187,403.20(wiped out excess funds)**
- District Tax Increase
 - Today collected about \$103,000 from property tax. After expenses only leaves about \$75,000 for weed treatment which is no longer enough as seen above.
 - Tax started in 2003 with no increase so have not kept up with inflation costs. If own < 80' lake frontage from \$90 to \$135, > 80' from \$120 to \$180, and access from \$60 to \$90.
 - With increase in 2017 tax bill will generate about \$150,000 in future revenue per year.
- Terry's comments
 - When first started weed treatment Dennis was able to get \$300,000 in grants. Now grants are given to stewardship and water chestnut outbreaks. Invasive species not on grant list. DEC says what can and can't do but will not give us grant.

Lake Level - Terry

- DEC was not happy last June when NYSEG opened gates wide after storm because flooded downstream
- Now DEC mandates gates can only be open a little at a time for continuous flow.
- If people have complaints should call DEC so they get a lot of calls. When multiple people call president then president calls DEC it is only 1 voice, as opposed to if each person called DEC it would be many voices and have more influence.
- Climate change is happening. Many more weeds this year because of very short ice season this year.

Clothing – Chuck

- Clothing generates only a small profit which went to LWLA treatment donation this year.
- New item Pontoon Palooza T-shirts. This is a new event this year added to calendar second Saturday in August. Not just for Pontoons any boats can join. No Rain date. Waneta Inn after event on lake. See newsletter for details

Goose Control – Andy

- When first moved here thought mess on lawn was from dogs then realized was from Geese.
- What can you do to help – DON'T FEED THE GEESE
- When taking geese must stay within state and local laws. Must have a permit to participate.
- If leave a dead goose on lawn for 3 days other geese will stay away
- Other things to do - String across lawn this will trip geese. Dogs do scare geese away and plant bushes if geese don't have a clear view they will not come up on lawn.

Golf Tournament – Gary

- July 16 at Arrow Head in Wayne
- Can only have 10 teams so fill out your application

Power Canal Cleanup – Terry

- In the fall the blue green algae caused it to smell
- NYSEG did dredge but not sure how long it will last
- It is governed by the Federal Energy Commission agreement with NYSEG
- LWLA can only do so much here. People need to call Senator O'Mara with their comments. The more voices the better.

Aeration - Kurt and Terry

- Where does it stand - still waiting to hear from Senator O'Mara's office on the \$150,000 grant
- Will it work - people have installed various aeration devices with great success.
- Kurt's son took a 1 HP motor with a fan on it to blow the silt away. Later mounted it on a platform so it can be moved around. Creates a whirlpool to send oxygen down to eliminate muck. When you buy a motor buy an Ice bubbler motor it is the same as one for weed control but cheaper.
- Other people are using fountains to move water around. Does add oxygen to break up algae.
- Someone mentioned they called NYS health department. They say aspirates the blue algae problem but people who have researched and tried don't agree.
- John who lives on the cove talked about dredging the lake. Army Corps of Engineers mentioned NY State has 5 dredge machines. LWLA was told by DEC can't dredge. Maybe if designate as reservoir may allow dredging. It was suggested that John get on the board and head a dredging committee.

Volunteerism – Terry

- Volunteerism is dying subject in America – hard to get people involved.. Especially younger people
- Terry resigning as president along with Vice President, Treasurer and possibly Secretary. Terry has been on the board for 10 years along with many other board members. Existing board members moving, various health problems, etc. Suggests it is time for new energy and ideas from new people on the board.
- Bringing up now so people can get involved this summer and to plant the seed before the BOD elections at the next public meeting. All it takes is passion, enthusiasm and love of the lake to be on the board. GET INVOLVED NOW.

Suggestions/notes:

- Suggested BOD put together a good letter on what is needed then email to everyone on LWLA to have them send to Senator. Senator up for re-election and has competition this year
- Suggested LWLA have an attorney on retainer
- Gordon has weed samples. People can look at after the meeting. Also has rakes.
- Terry handed out new directive from DEC

Meeting adjourned - 11:10am

Next public meeting: 10:00 AM Saturday, **August 27, 2016** at Tyrone Fire Dept.

Respectfully submitted, Corinne Julian