



Lamoka-Waneta Lakes Association

SPRING PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

May 31, 2025—Tyrone Fire Hall

President Jay White, welcomed all LWLA members to the 2025 Spring Public Meeting at 10:05 a.m. Jay reminded members to make sure they have completed and submitted their LWLA 2025 Survey. Surveys can be dropped off in the box at the entrance, dropped off at Arrowhead Golf Course, Lost and Found or mailed to LWLA post office box.

Membership Report: in Bill Hassoldt's Vice President, absence, Corinne Julian, Treasurer gave the following report: We currently have 980 property owners and 549 (56%) members have paid their annual \$20 dues.

Treasurer's Report: Corinne presented the Profit & Loss Statement from last Fall's LWLA Public Meeting through May 31, 2025 Spring Public Meeting. Currently:

- Total Income is \$19,902.13
- Total Business Expense Credit Cards is \$628.09
- Total Business Expenses /NY State Sales Tax is \$164.01
- Total Operations Expense (Internet Expense; Lake Treatment Letter, Postage Mailing, Printing and Copying is \$1,383.05
- Other types of Expenses (Insurance, Miscellaneous) \$686.88
- Total Program Expenses: (Additional Mailing, Annual Membership Mailing, Breakfast expense, LWLA Clothing & Merchandise, Newsletter Packet) \$9,117.60
- Travel & Meetings (NYSFOLA Conferences, NYSFOLA Membership) \$1,244
- Net Income: \$6,678.50

Schuyler County Sheriff Rumsey, Steuben County Sheriff Allard reminded members that this year EVERYONE operating a boat or PWC need to have their Boater Safety Certificate. Sheriff Allard announced that the Boater Safety Course is offered each month at the Steuben County Sheriff's office. Other course offerings can be found at NYS Parks & Recreation Website. Sheriff Rumsey left pamphlets regarding paddlers. In accordance with NY and Federal Law, all paddlers (kayak, SUP (stand up paddleboards, Canoe, raft etc.) must have:

- Lifejacket
- Sound producing device (whistle)
- White flashlight (if paddling after sunset or in reduced visibility (fog, heavy rain etc.)

Sheriff Rumsey also shared that the big sheriff boat is back in service and will be on Seneca Lake, which will free up the 2 jet skis given to them by NYS Parks and Rec.

Sheriff Allard reported Steuben County uses two PWC and at least once a week will be on Waneta Lakes and have the jurisdiction to go into Schuyler County. The goal is to have a better presence on the lakes.

Question was asked if renters needed to have a boater safety certificate. Answer was if the individual had a boater safety certificate from another state it would most likely be reciprocated to NYS. However, unfortunately if you rent a boat, you do not need the boater safety certificate.

Comment was made, why would you want to rent someone a boat who did not have taken a boater safety course?

Josh Cole, Watershed Inspector Assistant for Schuyler County Public Health

Dept. was unable to attend the meeting. He did however pass along some information that Jay White shared with the members. (see attachments) The State Septic System Replacement Fund Grant is available and will reimburse those eligible up to \$10,000.

What is eligible septic system project?

- The replacement of a cesspool with a septic system.
- The installation, replacement or upgrade of a septic system or septic system components.
- The installation of enhanced treatment technologies.

Property owners should first reach out to the Schuyler County Watershed Protection Agency before filling out the applications. Also included, are applications for the septic system grant, septic design, and water wells. If anyone has questions, feel free to have them reach out to Darrel Sturgis, Watershed Inspector, or Josh Cole, assistant to Darrel.

Lake Treatment 2025:

Dennis reported that the 2025 Lake Treatment will take place on June 16th (rain date being, June 17th) As of this writing, the Lake Treatment has been pushed back to Friday, June 20, 2025 due to the high waters on Lamoka and Waneta Lakes.

In years past we never received the permits for the lake treatment until the day before we treated. Permits are in place for the treatment from the DEC. We will be treating 35 acres on Lamoka Lake in the Mideastern and Southwestern sections. We will be treating 50.1 acres on Waneta Lake, North end, Northeast, Northwest, Midwestern, Southwestern and Southeastern sections of the lake.

Solitude is the company that will be doing the treatment.

The \$152,000 budget for our Lake District is generated through our local tax assessment.

\$110,200 from Schuyler County

\$41,800 from Steuben County

Expenses:

\$9,000 for Schuyler County Waste Water

\$0 from Steuben, the Town of Wayne takes care of their own.

\$13,400 Plant Study. \$9,700 Schuyler, \$3,700 Steuben.

Based on the plant study results where milfoil is predominant and growing, are target areas for the following year treatment.

\$1,750 is used for the permit and administrative costs.

This year the cost for treatment and monitoring from three bidders, with Solitude coming in as low bidder was \$44,000 for Schuyler County and \$16,600 for Steuben. All money in excess of the income from the Lake District is put into a fund for future treatment. This year our treatment is light; there is no guarantee that next year will be the same. Thus, the need for the excess funds to be put into a reserve.

NYSFOLA Conference, April 25-26, 2025. Board members Steve and Sandy Tressler attended the conference as representatives for LWLA. A question was raised as to the new Wetlands Regulations. The Power Point, Navigating the New Freshwater Wetlands Regulations **is published on the Lamoka Waneta Lakes Website.** Steve addressed the issue that the Lake Management Committee does research on how to improve our lakes and finds what other lakes

are doing to improve their lakes. Yet, when Lamoka and Waneta Lakes attempt to use/follow other practices, we are denied or requested to obtain a permit from DEC that may be denied or costs \$10,000 or more. It becomes very frustrating!

The LWLA has begun working with Schuyler and Steuben County Sewer and Water Conservation Districts, which Patrick O'Shaughnessy explained:

Lamoka/Waneta Lakes Sediment & Nutrient Reduction Program Plan and Request for Funding:

Patrick explained that the projects would result in reducing sediment coming off the hills through such measures as cover crops, road ditch stabilization, retention ponds, hydroseeding, culvert upgrades, riparian buffers, stream crossings etc.

The program will focus on:

- Reduce the sediment and nutrient (nitrogen and phosphorus) loading into Lamoka and Waneta Lakes through targeted conservation projects.
- Emphasize education and public awareness about lake management challenges and solutions, utilizing signage, newsletters, and modeled after successful programs like Seneca Lake Watershed Care.

We are asking for the support of the membership that the LWLA Board approves transferring \$20,000 from the LWLA General Fund to LWLA Lake Improvement RESERVE Fund/Account for the 2026 program year.

- This funding is expected to support at least two conservation projects in the first year.
- The program will leverage partnerships with the Steuben and Schuyler County Soil Water Conservation Districts, who can also use these funds to secure matching grants.

Projects will be selected via a formal RFP (Request for Proposal process which will be managed by the LWLA Lake Management Committee:

- RFP issued: September 1, 2025
- Proposals due: October 1, 2025
- Funding Decisions: by December 1, 2025

Show of hands by the membership indicated everyone was in favor of supporting the funding. As one member commented, "why wouldn't we be doing this?"

Goose Control Programs: Kevin Morris explained that the Goose Deprivation Permit legally allows those on the permit to take geese with a shot gun, and also the addling of eggs by pouring corn syrup on eggs. This year the group addled 52 eggs on Red Bank Island, they have done many more in the past, but the spring weather has not been cooperative.

Lake Level and the opening and closing of gates: Kevin explained that we work closely with NYSEG. The dam was built in Bradford in 1928 and NYSEG continues to be the owner. We do weekly, (and recently daily) reading and communicate with NYSEG. Our target level is 1098.7. The decision to open or close the gates is usually determined by Thursday or Friday morning because it is difficult to get someone from NYSEG to come out on a weekend (would require overtime for NYSEG). Kevin reiterated that we have a very good working relationship with NYSEG and reminded members that every 3 years we draw down to 1095 in the fall to allow property owners to work on their lake front.

Environmental Impacts: Calvin Barnstead absent, Jay explained that at our May 17th Board Meeting, Calvin had inspected the Beaver cache they took care of last year and it seems to be good. At this point there is nothing on his "radar" and encouraged anyone who is aware of something his committee can do to contact Calvin.

Aeration & Fountains: Terry Fisk showed his Aeration system he purchased from Amazon and how it works and how it keeps the water moving and adds oxygen to the water, thus cutting down on HABs. Terry also uses a fountain in addition to the aeration system. Members asked questions and Terry is more than happy to help individuals if they are interested in putting in such a system at their cottage.

Boat Parade: Mary Tucker announced the 2025 Lamoka & Waneta Boat Parade Registration Form is now online! We are asking those interested in joining in the Boat Parade to fill out your registration online, OR pick up an application at Lost and Found or Arrowhead Creek Golf Course. All registrations must be submitted by June 27, 2025. Numbers will be picked up at Arrowhead Creek Golf Course and Lost and Found the week of July 1, times TBD.

Jay White directed the members to read the back side of the agenda for the 2025 LWLA Goals and Upcoming Events.

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.

The LWLA board is looking for the following:

Surveyor to aid in the installation of the three Lake Level Gauges.

Boat Parade Volunteers—line up, hand out registration numbers, photos

Suggestions, Concerns from members:

- Is it possible to video tape and put on YOU TUBE the public meetings for those unable to make the meeting on the specified weekend.
- Is there anything that can be done for those boats with high powered motors (200 hp) from racing up the lake and eroding the shorelines?

Having no further questions or concerns, the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

Mary Tucker, Secretary, LWLA