

# Lamoka-Waneta Lakes Association – Board of Directors Meeting

May 20, 2017

**Meeting called to order at 10:01 a.m.**

**Present:** Patrick Allison, Terry Allison, Calvin Barnstead, Kurt Bischoff, Al Buckland, Cartha Conklin, Ron Dixon, Sean Fitzpatrick, Rick Game, Al Gerth, Heidi Gerth, Claude Gingrich, Gary Gray, Corinne Julian, Dene Karaus, Kevin Morris, Barry Pappas, Chuck Rybak, Joan Rybak, Gordon Shafer, Ray Stebbins, John Thatcher, Tom Webb, Jay White

**Guest:** Terry Fisk

**Absent:** Ed Sharpe, Richard Stewart, Andy Strawhand, Carolee Thatcher, Mary Kay Tucker

The minutes of the April 15, 2017 Board Meeting were approved unanimously pending the correction of the spelling of Darrel's name. Mary had already corrected this in the April minutes but Corinne printed wrong version for the board meeting.

**Introductions:** Terry welcomed Board Members and was pleased that there was such a great turnout with everyone back from the south.

**Old Business: No Old Business**

**New Business:**

**Treasurer's Report:** Corinne went over the LWLA Balance Sheet as of May 20, 2017.

Total Assets – \$32,085.29

Checking Account Balance - \$1,535.63

Savings Account Balance - \$23,186.08

Total Fixed Assets - \$7,363.58

The activities since the April 15, 2017 meeting included:

- Income – Dues \$480 (YTD \$8400), Donations \$125 (YTD \$4750) and Savings Interest \$.47
- Expenses – LWLA Insurance \$599.78, Calendar magnets \$549.46, Newsletter \$2526.84 and a Donation Refund \$50 (person did not realize could no longer prepay)

**Membership Update:** 525, out of 985, members paid the LWLA membership dues to date. That means ~52% of the members have paid their dues. The membership application has been updated to clearly state that LWLA no longer accepts prepayment for future years. If any board members know of new lake owners please let Corinne know so the LWLA membership database can be kept up to date. Also starting with the 2018 membership the membership application mailing will be sent out by December 1, 2017. This is being done to give members more time to send in their dues before the newsletter is mailed in April. Remember, only dues paying members now receive the LWLA Newsletter.

**Lake Treatment 2017:** Terry read Dennis' email. If cannot draw down the lake level by Monday the lake treatment will be postponed until Tuesday. People were concerned that with the rain forecast it might get pushed to June. Terry confirmed if the treatment cannot be done in the upcoming week there would be no treatment this year.

Gail from DEC will bring the permit with her on the day of the weed treatment.

Gordon mentioned debris collects at dam and slows the lake level draw down. Previously, the LWLA asked NYSEG to dredge the area but there were no funds available.

Dene mentioned that he thinks that the new bridge between Waneta and Lamoka may have settled dropping lower. The concern is this could be causing incorrect lake level readings on the gauge on the bridge. Gordon said the bridge is not sitting on landfill but rather built on foam. It was checked a couple a years ago and the lake level gauge was correct. Gordon and Rick will contact the engineers that built the bridge to come out and check it again.

It was mentioned that there are actually 3 gauges around the lake and they appear not to read the same level. NYSEG owns the gauge on the bridge. When the dam is open and water is flowing the gauges will not read the same. It then takes a day to level after the dam is closed. LWLA purchased an automated gauge but due to lack of cell phone service it never worked properly so it was removed.

There was a motion approved to spend up to \$75,000 to conduct a survey and correct, if needed, to ensure proper lake level readings using the gauge on the bridge that connects Lamoka and Waneta Lakes.

**Public meeting preparation:** Topics will be Lake Treatment Review, Solar Energy by Cooperative Extension and Boater Safety and Labels for floating devices by Greg Little from Coast Guard. For questions Terry will ask people to write down questions then BOD experts can follow up 1 on 1 with the individuals. Terry would like to keep the meeting to 1 hour since it is a holiday weekend.

Someone mentioned that one of the questions maybe about where the LWLA is on the aeration project and that we should be prepared to discuss. Terry reviewed that the aeration project ended by recommending individual aeration systems. It was just too expensive and the LWLA could not gain agreement on the location of the trial area. The cost just for the trail area would be \$150,000 that did not include the cost to expand to both lakes and ongoing maintenance costs. LWLA was looking at an estimated total cost of \$500,000 which was cost prohibitive to complete the aeration project. It was then suggested a FAQ document be put on the LWLA Website.

There is also a misunderstanding that the aeration solution would eliminate the weeds. That is not true, aeration would help eliminate Algae not weeds. Jay White is working with Susquehanna Base River group on lake stagnation issues.

It was also suggested to reach out to the farmers again to discuss things they can do to help for example, to create a pond to collect water so it does not flow into lake.

#### **Committee Reports:**

**Clothing:** Chuck reported that the inventory was at a good level. He is looking at a different supplier in Watkins Glen run by young enthusiastic people. This would also be closer to pick up orders. The LWLA discount is based on our initial order. He is also looking to add more ladies' clothes to inventory. He should have everything worked out by the pancake breakfast. Lastly, Cook's will no longer be selling LWLA products because he is not having the little store this year.

**Channel Inspection Team:** no discussion at this meeting

**Goose Control:** Gordon reported there are Goslings out on lake so we did not get all the eggs. Andy is waiting for LWLA goose hunting permit. If you reported hunting geese to Andy last year you are automatically on permit for this year. If not, you will be removed this year. If anyone would like to be added to the permit please notify Andy.

**Golf Tournament:** Gary will get with Chuck to order items for tournament. Motion was approved to allow up to \$500 spending for tournament needs. Gary will have signup sheets at public meeting. Someone asked if individuals could sign up. Gary noted that usually teams of four signed up together but if you don't have a team contact Gary because sometimes there are cancelations.

**Lake Level:** Today lake level is 1098.4 down .1 from the day before. The gates were opened further yesterday to get lake level down for weed treatment. Rick is reading lake level twice a day, sometimes 3 times a day. NYSEG has been very responsive, coming to adjust gates on dam days, nights and even weekends.

Gordon reviewed with NYSEG their lake level plan that came out in 2004. LWLA objected to the plan back then because it said NYSEG did not have to adjust lake level until at 1099.2. LWLA thought that was too high. DEC objected to lake level draw down at end of November. They felt that was too late and would not give animals time to settle deep enough into mud for winter. Gordon did not realize until last year that the plan was being used and was not changed. Gordon proposed LWLA renegotiation the plan. It was suggested that LWLA wait until the survey of the bridge gauge was completed.

Was also suggested that DEC be made aware on Monday, when come down for weed treatment, of the possibility of gauges being wrong.

**Environmental Impact Committee:** Nothing reported at this meeting

**Fundraising:** Nothing reported at this meeting

**Lake Testing:** Ron will be going out this weekend to start testing.

**Membership Development:** Nothing reported at this meeting.

**Newsletter:** Nothing reported at this meeting.

**Navigational and Recreational Law:** Experts from Coast Guard will be at LWLA public meeting.

**Pancake Breakfast:** Will discuss at next board meeting

**Steuben/Schuyler Water Quality Reps:** Cartha and Kurt attended last meeting. They reported that the ability to track those who did not pump their septic tanks has been improved and a possible \$250 fine may be applied for each year they are out of compliance. Also the letter sent out notifying people they are due for septic pumping has been updated with stricter language. If you want to report a septic problem you report it to the code officer.

On our lakes people do not have to pay for the inspection at time of pumping, the Lake District pays for the inspection. An individual pays for the pumping and any repairs. It was noted that people are probably not pumping because they are concerned about the cost to repair if out of compliance.

Cayuta Lake is starting to enforce Septic pumping requirements. On this lake individuals have to pay for inspection.

Switching topics a new invasive weed was reported, Mile a Minute. It is land based and spreads fast.

The Finger Lakes Institute wanted to jointly sponsor a LWLA boat inspection steward program. Cartha reviewed what the LWLA responsibilities would be and her concerns about liability. The LWLA looked at a lake steward program in the past and no one wanted to volunteer. There is also no ability to clean the boats off if a problem was identified at the Lamoka Waneta boat launches. Someone mentioned that Keuka Lake stewards were paid. It was noted that only some Keuka stewards were paid through a grant and their association still had to commit to a certain number of volunteers. . It was decided to not proceed with the Finger Lakes Institute. Cartha will let them know.

**Other Business: None**

Meeting adjourned at 11:14.

Next Meeting: June 17, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. Tyrone Town Court

Respectfully Submitted,

Corinne Julian for Mary Tucker, Secretary

**Calendar of Events: 2016-2017 LWLA Calendar of Events:**

- May 27 & August 26 Public Meetings @ Tyrone Fire Hall
- July 1 (9:30 p.m.) & September 2 (8:30 p.m.) Flare Nights
- July 1 (2:00 p.m.) Boat Parade (Lamoka, meet at Baptist Camp, Waneta meet at South end of lake.
- July 15 Golf Tournament
- July 22/23 Lamoka Lake Rummage Sales/July 29-30 Waneta Lake Rummage Sales
- August 5—Pancake Breakfast 8-11 a.m.
- August 12 – Pontoon Palooza 2:00 p.m.
- Board of Director’s Meetings: April 15, 2017, May 20, 2017, June 17, 2017, July 15, 2017, August 19, 2017, September 16, 2017, October 21, 2017 (All meetings are held at the Tyrone Town Hall at 10:00 a.m.