



# Lamoka-Waneta Lakes Association

## Board of Directors Meeting

**July 8, 2023—Tyrone Town Hall**

Meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Jay White, President. The following members were present: Terry Allison, Cartha Conklin, Jamie Day, Ron Dixon, Dennis Fagan, Terry Fisk, Claud Gingrich, Bill Hassoldt, Kevin Morris, Chuck Rybak, Gordon Shafer, Ed Sharpe, Mary Tucker, Ward Votava, Tom Webb, Beth Woods, Jay White

**Absent:** Calvin Barnstead, Al Buckland, Gary Gray, Patty Gray, Corinne Julian, Wayne Lynch

**June 17, 2023 Board of Directors Minutes:** Motion by Chuck Rybak, Second by Bill Hassoldt. Approved Unanimously, without any corrections.

**President's Report:** Since the treatment of the lakes in June, Jay has received a number of messages, phone calls, etc. from people on the lake feeling they do not have a voice in what we do and yet they are paying the Lake District Tax each year and have no voice in what is being done with the tax money. The confusion is the Lake District Tax money does not come to the Lamoka Waneta Lakes Association. We operate on the \$20 membership dues collected each year. It is the Lake District Commission that decides where to spend the tax money. Jay will put the following information on our Facebook page to clarify the difference between the LWLA and the Lake District Tax revenue.

The Lamoka/Waneta Lakes Protection and Rehabilitation District is actually two districts, one for Schuyler County and one for Steuben County and as such, they are a part of each County's government. An Intermunicipal agreement between the two counties established a Commission in 2002 to oversee and administer the district programs. These districts are taxing entities and generate approximately \$100,000 annually to support their water quality programs. The nine-member commission has six representatives from Schuyler County and three from Steuben County as follows:

### Schuyler County

- 1 County Legislator (currently Dennis Fagan)
- 1 Town of Tyrone Representative (Cartha Conklin)
- 1 Town of Orange Representative (Jeff Sutton)
- 1 Lamoka Lake Property Owner (Gordon Shafer)
- 1 Waneta Lake Property Owner (Kevin Morris)
- 1 Ex-officio Schuyler Co. Soil & Water Conservation District

### Steuben County

- 1 Town of Wayne Representative (Stephen Butchko)
- 1 Waneta Lake Property Owner (Nancy Gabel)
- 1 Ex-officio Steuben Co. S&WCD

In addition, the commission coordinates directly with the President of the LWLA and sometimes we have joint meetings with their board.

**Vice President/Membership Report:** Bill reported that 2 additional people have joined the LWLA. Currently have 589 members, but we are still down 40 people. May pick up more members at the Pancake Breakfast, August 5<sup>th</sup> and the Fall Public Meeting on August 26<sup>th</sup>. Some members have requested additional material in the Spring Newsletter packet. (Ex: magnet). After a discussion it was decided that it is recommended that if you would like an additional magnet, include the request on the membership form.

**Treasurer's Report:** No report (Corinne absent)

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Lake Treatment:** Treatment took place on June 19 on Waneta Lake. Lamoka Lake did not receive the treatment this year due to the results of the rake toss showing little or no sign of milfoil. No problems were experienced with the treatment. Dennis did a post treatment on June 20 taking two samples from the north end of Waneta and the Boat Launch at the bridge. Recorded 2 parts per billion. A second sample was taken five days later and it was non-detectable at the boat launch bridge.

Dennis remarked that the weed bed on the surface is now less because of the milfoil treatment. Adirondack Research Institute Plant Survey will be done in August. The field work done on the rake toss is needed to determine what they find and what the extent of treatment will be for 2024. The data and recommended treatment will then be submitted to each county for their budget in October—we are part of the county's budget. Dennis reminded members that we currently have \$70,000 in the fund balance for future treatments.

Kevin Morris and Ward Votava both shared that they are seeing a lot of milfoils wash up on their beaches. Dennis asked that they email him the locations. Jay mentioned that CSLAP on Waneta and Lamoka will also begin to look for a rise in the milfoil.

**NYSEG Update:** Kevin sent a draft to NYSEG making minimal changes to the original document to get approval from NYSEG/DEC/LWLA so we can move on in agreement.

**CD3 Waterless Cleaning Systems**—Jay has contacted the representative via phone and email and has had no response.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Beth Woods shared a sign she had ordered from Amazon to notify anyone coming into her lake front that aerators are in use. She has posted the sign on her dock. Comments were made that many new aerators are popping up around the lakes.
- Dennis introduced Kristen VanHorn, Director of Planning for Watkins Glen to share her advice on how Watkins Glen went about the Occupancy Tax on Short Term Rentals. The LWLA is concerned with the increase in Short Term Rentals having more people exceed the septic system capacity.

Kristen shared that the problem is on all the lakes and that Watkins is the only lake that has a law. The focus of the 2019 law was to make the rentals safe. Kristen handed out copies of the 2019 Watkins Glen Short Term Rental Law and the adopted January 18, 2022 Article 23 Zoning Law on Short Term Rentals.

Watkins currently has a limit to 80 STR (70 at the beginning of the regulation, 10 in a lottery system, and the remaining on a waiting list. They are also discovering they are not receiving as many requests for STR as the market is beginning to be saturated.

Difficulty is regulation and they depend on the owner to abide by the law. Schuyler County currently has an occupancy tax and is extending it to the Short-Term Rentals on the lake. Owner must register with the County Treasurer. Watkins occupancy tax 95% goes to tourism. LWLA would like to keep the revenue to be used for the benefit of our water quality on both lakes.

After listening to Kristen's information on Watkins and Short-Term Rental policy it was decided that the LWLA would develop a committee to meet with the Town Supervisors and approach the subject of having the occupancy tax be shared with the LWLA. The following members volunteered to serve on the committee: Jay White, Terry Allison, Cartha Conklin and Dennis Fagan. They will report back at the August 12, 2023 meeting.

## **Committee Reports**

- **Clothing:** No Report
- **CSLAP:** We have completed 5 testing samples as of August 6, 2023.
- **Environmental Impact Chair** –no report (Calvin absent)
- **Golf Tournament:** No report (Gary absent)
- **Goose Control:** No Report
- **HAB Report:** HABs reported around lakeshores on Waneta Lake and are also showing up on Lamoka Lake.  
If you have any questions regarding an aerator system, contact Terry Fisk (607-731-8863) or Ward Votava (607-382-1433) on Waneta Lake.
- **Lake Level:** 1098.8 Gates Closed. **2023 is the year we will be drawing down!**
- **Lake Management Committee:** After speaking and meeting with a variety of representatives from the area, the committee has decided to slow down and begin to build a relationship with the townships of Bradford, Orange, Tyrone and Wayne, and explain that our lakes are top receivers for state grants and working together and building a partnership is beneficial to both parties.
- **Pancake Breakfast:** Need to post signs around the area and on Facebook pages. Set up will take place on Friday, August 4, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. at the Tyrone Fire Hall.

- **Steuben/Schuyler Water Quality:** No report.  
**The Tyrone Planning Board will hold a Town Meeting on Monday, August 7 from 6:00-8:00 pm to go over the Tyrone Survey Results.**

**OTHER:**

Having no further business, a motion by Bill Hassoldt and a second by Terry Allioson to close the LWLA meeting at 11:36 a.m.

*Mary Tucker*  
Secretary, LWLA