

Lamoka-Waneta Lakes Association

Incorporated 1965

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

SPRING

Public Meeting – May 29, 2021

Corrected Minutes (Under Questions & Comments—should have read Dredging and Harvesting)

Meeting started at 10:10 am

Welcome & President's Report:

Jay welcomed everyone to the Spring Public Meeting of the Lamoka-Waneta Lake Association.

Septic Repair/Replace Grant – Josh Cole, Schuyler County Watershed Protection Agency. (607-535-6869) jcole@co.schuyler.ny.us

Josh explained his role as the Assistant Watershed Inspector. He runs the inspection of everyone's septic system which must be done every 5 years. This year he has sent out 108 letters for those who need to have their septic system inspected this year. If you do not adhere to the letter and get your tank inspected, all non-compliant and past due accounts are turned over to the Town Attorney.

There is a grant that is available in Schuyler/Steuben Counties that will reimburse 50% of the cost to the property owner up to \$10,000. The grant may only be used to repair/replace, but not upgrade your system unless there is a problem that forces you to replace your current system. You do not need to be a permanent resident of the lake to qualify for the grant.

I emailed both Josh from Schuyler and Matt Sousa from Steuben, here are their replies:

In Schuyler County the grant is available to any property owner in the rehabilitation district regardless of occupancy.

Steuben County was awarded an additional \$170,000 in funding. Seasonal residents are eligible as long as they are located within 250 feet of either Waneta Lake or Smith Pond and have a septic system/holding tank that is failing or likely to fail. That said, the county is prioritizing year-round residents as replacing those systems will have a greater impact on water quality.

If you own an ATU (Aerobic Treatment System) by law it should be inspected by the service provider that installed the system and they would notify the Agency that the system is not working properly.

Josh explained that when he inspects for Property Sales, he needs to see tanks, baffles, and box.

They do share services with Town of Wayne (located in Steuben County) and inspect those septic systems every 3-5 years.

Question was asked if Josh could recommend someone to install the ATU. However, because Josh works for the County he cannot give a specific name, but if you contact his office, he can give you a list of names and contact information.

Josh reminded the attendees that if you see a sewer dumping into the lake to contact them immediately and they will investigate the issue.

The Watershed Protection Agency will do water testing for individuals for a fee of \$55. However, if you pick up the bottle and collect the water the fee is only \$50.

A LWLA Member thanked Josh for helping him when he purchased his property. Josh came out to see him and answered all the questions and helped explain the ATU system to him.

Boater Safety/Regulations – Steuben County Sheriff James Allard

Sheriff Allard reminded everyone that you must continue to wear your life jacket and carry a whistle until the middle of May or until the water is warmer.

He requested in the Steuben County Budget to increase the Navigation Water Patrols for two boats and PWC (jet skis) for a total of \$8,000. Steuben County Legislatures denied the request. His hope is to continue to make the request again to have more of a presence on the lakes (Keuka and Waneta). They are allowed to respond to calls on Lamoka, however, Lamoka is located in Schuyler County.

He did check on the Wake Zone Rule and discovered that it is up to the Town Municipality to pass the local law for the speed limit on Wake Zone, not the County. If you want to place a buoy in front of your property beyond 100 feet you must obtain a permit from the Parks & Recreation Department.

Boater Certificate New Law:

As of January 1, 2020, New York will begin a phase-in-by-age law that will require a new age group to become certified each year, requiring all motorized boat and PWC operators to pass a boater safety course and to carry a New York boater card by January 1, 2025. All motorized boat operators born on or after January 1, 1993, will be required to carry the New York boater card by January 1, 2020.

Question was asked if you were to rent a boat would you need the Boater Certificate. The answer is YES.

The Steuben County Sheriff Department is looking into holding the Boater Certificate course at the Wayne Fire Hall at no charge. Sheriff Allard also mentioned that the course is available online for a fee.

A member asked what can be done with the speeders on County Route 25 in the summer. Sheriff Allard explained that it was located in Schuyler County and would be passing the concern onto Schuyler County Sheriff Yessman.

Treasurer's Report by Corinne Julian

Corinne presented the attached Balance Sheet as of May 28, 2021. We currently have \$1,602.76 in the checking account, \$51,864.25 in the savings account, \$7,363.58 in assets (shed for the storage of the clothing, inventory of clothing) for a total of

\$60,830.59 The Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss statement will be posted on the LWLA website along with the minutes from the public meeting. If you have any questions, please contact Corinne johnandcorinne@roadrunner.com

A question was asked when the new directory will be available. Corinne explained that the Directory for the LWLA is published every 5 years and the updates to the directory are included in the Newsletter. If you do have a change of address, please notify Bill Hassoldt wfhas@stny.rr.com OR Corinne johnandcorinne@roadrunner.com

Membership: Bill reported that as of today, 5/29/2021 we have over 600 members bringing our membership over 60%

A question was asked if there were some way members could get benefits that non members are not entitled. Corinne explained that currently members receive the Newsletter and Magnets, and this year you must have a member on the golf team in order to participate in the LWLA Golf Tournament.

A comment was made that non members enjoyed the weed treatment without paying dues.

Dennis Fagan responded that 100% of the taxpayers pay for the Lake District \$153,000 revenue, which goes to the Septic Management System, Aquatic Vegetation Plan, and the cost of the Treatment to the lakes. (The study is done every 100 meters on Mud Lake, Lamoka, the Channel and Waneta Lake. You will see in your newsletter where the yellow and red dots on the map represent where the invasive milfoil is present and determines where we treat the lake).

Golf Tournament: LWLA Golf Tournament is scheduled for Saturday, July 17th. The stipulation this year is that you need at least ONE member of the LWLA on your team.

Update on the 2021 Lake Treatment—Dennis Fagan

We are currently scheduled to treat the lakes on June 14 & 15th with a rain date of June 16th.

Role of the LWLA – Jay White

Jay, president of the LWLA, explained that the Association is to monitor the water level. We are currently (5/29/2021) at 1099, which is flood level stage. We notify NYSEG to open the gates to get as close to our target of 1098.7. When we open the gates, it takes time to lower the level on Waneta (furthest point). When the gates are open Lamoka will go down, then the channel then Waneta. At the beginning Lamoka and the Channel will drop first until Waneta flows into those two bodies of water.

Dock Length: Jay researched and after many phone calls that brought him back to the first call, they asked him what his thoughts were. He explained:

- Your dock should be wide enough to be safe
- At 100 feet put a light at the end of the doc.
- Make sure it does not interfere with your neighbor.

They agreed and said to share that information when people ask about Dock Length.

Aeration System: Terry Fisk demonstrated his system in the front lawn of the Tyrone Fire Hall after the meeting. The purpose of the system is to add oxygen to the water to prevent water from becoming stagnant. A handout on DIY building an aeration system was available at the meeting, **OR** you can find the article on the LWLA Website under Resources.

Treating the Lake, yourself: You will begin to see Curly Leafed Pondweed that is now floating to the lake surface. This weed likes the cold water, as the water becomes warmer it begins to die and float to the surface – RAKE it out!
Every time it rains it erodes into the lake, the plants begin to grow closer and closer to shoreline so it is up to each individual to pull the weeds, and keep your septic system up to date to prevent it from flowing into our lakes. The weeds and raking leaves and grass clippings all add to the bio-mass in our lakes.

What happens if I do my own treatment that can be purchased legally in Pennsylvania for ponds? It is not sold in NY state and cannot be used in our lakes. A handout was available at the meeting on the DEC fines for dumping your own chemicals into the lake and a copy will be placed on the website.

The LWLA's goal is to make the lakes as nice as possible so everyone can enjoy!

NYSEG Plan—Kevin Morris presented the Water Level Management Plan they have been working on with NYSEG for three years.

Current proposal is: Summer 1098.7 May 15-October 15; Winter 1098.0; Spring 1098.7
The plan also includes the provision that every three years we will draw down 1097.5 to allow people to work on their shoreline, seawalls, etc.
The plan is currently out for DEC review.

Goose Deprivation: Kevin reported that we recently received our new permit and anyone interested in being on the permit can contact Kevin Morris morrisk@corning.com to place your name on the permit.

Questions & Comments:

- Jay reminded the members that **LWLA is currently looking for an Environmental Impact Coordinator** to address the issues that affect our lakes.
- CSLAP both Waneta and Lamoka are currently testing the water for clarity, temperature, etc. We joined CSLAP so we can be included in the State Data Base that will qualify our lakes for grants.
- Can the LWLA advocate with the Town and County to do a monthly pick up of weeds raked from the lake? *Jay reminded people that the compost sites will take the weeds. Can these Compost Sites and locations be put on the LWLA Website? Mary Tucker will look into the information and see that it is posted to the website.*
- What exactly do we treat in our lakes? *Dennis Fagan responded that we are treating for Eurasian Milfoil which is classified as an invasive species. On June 14th and 15th, we will treat 173 acres on Lamoka, 116 acres on Waneta Lake. The invasive species are brought into our lakes by boats. Jay reminded*

everyone if you are taking your boat in and out of our lakes to check to make sure it is clean!

- **Fishing Tournaments:** A member asked if we regulate the tournaments held on our lakes? The next tournament is scheduled for July 4th weekend the highest time of the season when residents are using the lake. Does DEC & the County monitor the Statutory Regulations during these tournaments? *Jay responded that the parking is enforced and there are “no parking” signs on one side of the road. Jay will ask Sheriff Allard to follow up on the parking issue.*
Terry Allison, spoke as a past president, saying when she tried to regulate the number of tournaments, she was told there are no regulations in the State of NY for Fishing Tournaments. Only way to have a say about Fishing Tournaments is at the State Level. She recommended we contact Senator Thomas O'Mara's office and he is aware of our lake and may be of some help in getting some form of regulation on Fishing Tournaments and our lakes.
A member said that he had just googled DEC and Fishing Tournaments and according to the DEC website there is regulation and it states that any tournament over 50 individuals requires a permit. Is this being enforced. *This is something we can look into and an Environmental Impact Chair would be very useful in this situation.*
- **Dredging & Harvesting**—A member asked why it is so difficult to get a permit to dredge the lake? *A company did approach Jay and asked if the LWLA would be interested in **harvesting** the north end of the lake where it seems to be worse for \$30,000. Jay said he was hesitant to pursue the issue as he lives at the north end of the lake and felt that it would not look good to the LWLA members if he took priority over others.*
As for dredging, Dennis Fagan told the members that it took 12 years to form a lake district and as for the dredging topic it is a big NO with the state.

Reminders:

- ✓ Tonight, May 29th First Flare Night at 9:00
- ✓ July 3, Second Flare Night, 9:30PM
- ✓ July 3, Boat Parade @ 2:00 (Lamoka meet at Baptist Camp, Waneta meet southeast end of Lake) Rain date is July 4th.
- ✓ July 10, Rummage Sale Weekend for both Lamoka and Waneta
- ✓ July 17th Golf Tournament, Captain & Crew. Contact Gary Gray at gigray1465@yahoo.com
- ✓ July 17th Pontoon Palooza 2:00 Waneta Lake
- ✓ August 7th, Pancake Breakfast 8-11 a.m. If able to help, contact Ed Sharpe at waneta4072@aol.com

- ✓ August 14th Pontoon Palooza Lamoka Lake
- ✓ August 28th – FALL Public Meeting @ Tyrone Fire Hall
- ✓ September 4 Third/Last Flare Night of the Season 8:30 p.m.

Jay thanked everyone for their attendance and appreciated everyone's comments and welcomed anyone who is interested in serving on the LWLA Board to give their name and contact information to Corinne and Bill at the table as you leave.

No further questions or comments the meeting closed at 11:25.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Tucker
Secretary, LWLA