



CANDLEWOOD LAKE AUTHORITY

P.O. BOX 37 • SHERMAN, CONNECTICUT 06784-0037 • (860) 354-6928 • FAX (860) 350-5611

Minutes of Meeting June 10, 2009

Attending:

P. Callahan New Fairfield
B. Kemble New Fairfield
R. Stroh New Fairfield
H. Berger Sherman
G. Hofsess Brookfield
P. Schaer Sherman (arrived 7:58PM)
F. Cioffi Brookfield
G. Dufel Danbury
H. Mayer New Milford (exit 8:10PM)

Absent:

R. Guendelsberger - New Milford
M. Toussaint New Milford
S. Murphy Brookfield
C. Reppenhagen Sherman
E. Siergiej Danbury

M. Howarth, CLA Public Ed. Director

L. Marsicano, CLA Executive Director
F. Frattini, CLA Administrative Coordinator

Recorder F. Frattini

Guests: M. Propper, Danbury
B. Lohan, Brookfield
L. Johnson, New Milford

Chairman, Pat Callahan, called the regular meeting of the Candlewood Lake Authority to order at 7:35 P.M. at Brookfield Town Hall, Brookfield, CT. Mr. Callahan welcomed the guests.

Secretary's Report: In the absence of the Secretary, Chairman Callahan noted that there were no corrections, additions or deletions to the minutes of April 1, 2009 and the Special Meeting of May 19, 2009 and asked for a motion, Glenn Hofsess moved to accept the minutes of the April 1, 2009 regular meeting and the May 19, 2009 special meeting, Bruce Kemble seconded and motion was voted with all in favor, minutes have been accepted as written.

Chairman's Report: Mr. Callahan advised that he would defer his report to comments during the meeting.

Vice Chairman's Report: Howie Berger reported that he attended the SMP Public Meeting and outlined the CLA position on the Recreational Safety on Candlewood Lake, noting that the CLA hopes that before the SMP is submitted to FERC FirstLight Power would address these concerns.

Treasurer's Report: Glenn Hofsess. Treasurer reported that the Statement of Income and Expenses for the months ended March 31, April 30, and May 31, 2009 had been prepared. He highlighted that all appropriations for the Towns have been received as well as the donation from FirstLight. Five thousand Five hundred dollars has been received for Project CLEAR. Expenses include the cost of the 5

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million dollar Umbrella policy in the amount of \$11, 379.00. This has been charged to line #313 Public Safety Insurance which is a large unbudgeted expense for Public Safety. He noted that he had spoken to the Committee Chair and they will be sure to stay within their budget to the end of June. He reminded all committee chairs to watch their spending this month and not to exceed their bottom lines. Rich Stroh, Public Safety Chair noted that they will scale back the weekday patrols to the end of the month, the Fireworks and Dragon Boat Races will be fully covered. Bruce Kemble moved to approve the Treasurer's Report of Income and Expenses for the months ended March 31, April 30, and May 31, 2009, seconded by Frank Cioffi and voted with all in favor. Reports have been accepted and filed for audit.

Executive Director's Report: Larry Marsicano noted that his report is attached to these minutes. He reviewed a few items covered: Shoreline Management Plan (SMP), Public Safety Issues, Watermilfoil Management, Milfoil Weevil Project, Project CLEAR, Report on Recreational Pressures on Candlewood Lake, Buffer Recognition Program, (Phyllis Schaer arrived at 7:58PM) NALMS Symposium, Lake Awareness Week, the legislative bill "An Act Concerning the Recreational Use of Candlewood Lake", Regional Bass Tournament 2010, presentation to CLUB-A, seasonal water monitoring has begun. He also reported on the One Book One Lake series being presented by the libraries of the five lake towns – our delegate Susan Murphy is doing a presentation this evening with Gary Smolem of FirstLight on the Candlewood Lake book they coauthored. Dragon Boat Races – still need volunteers to help out that day – please contact Mark Howarth at the office. He will be meeting with Senator McLachlan tomorrow to discuss lake issues. He had assisted two New Fairfield High School Seniors with a project concerning the lake – they researched and worked in the buffer garden – they also wrote an article which appeared in today's Citizen News.

Mrs. Frattini noted that as there was no regular meeting in May, the May Executive Director Report would be attached to these minutes.

Public Education Director Report: No Report.

Committee Reports:

Watershed Management: Harold Mayer, Committee Chair, noted that Gerard's Marina has donated \$500 to the Dragon Boat Races. On June 22 he will be advising Mr. Howarth and Mr. Marsicano more on how to produce a documentary for Project CLEAR. He advised that Mr. Marsicano's report on overcrowding on the lake is an excellent document. At the Executive Committee meeting it was decided that it will be submitted to FERC during the comment phase of the SMP.

Mr. Mayer left at 8:10 PM

Mr. Callahan advised the delegates that Harold Mayer, a WWII veteran who was wounded in action, will receive the Bronze Star on July 1st. Congressman Murphy has been instrumental in this award.

Public Safety: Committee Chair, Rich Stroh reported that this committee will stay within its budget.

Public Awareness: In the absence of the Committee Chair - no report

Equipment/Facilities: Bruce Kemble reported that the boats are running, the new T-Top on McKee II is working well, and the radio issues have been addressed.

Old/New Business:

Mark Propper asked if more debris appeared to be floating around this year. High water, amount of rain can attribute to that.

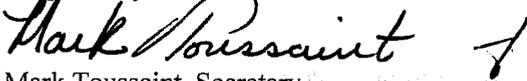
Mr. Lohan asked if the storing of docks on the weed beds such as Brookfield May Marina might protect the milfoil from a killing frost – it was noted that other marinas have the same practice. Mr. Marsicano noted that he would look into this.

Mr. Kemble questioned weed growth this year – Mr. Marsicano noted that it appears better than last year.

Mr. Lohan told the delegates that he had learned that no new moorings would be permitted at Candlewood Shores, the delegates advised that they were aware of the policy of FLPR requiring non-permitted mooring to be removed from the lake and that no new moorings would be permitted – but there may be exceptions such as an area where docks cannot be installed. He will be given information on whom to contact.

With no further business to come before the Candlewood Lake Authority, Mr. Kemble moved to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Schaer. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 P. M.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark Toussaint, Secretary
Frances Frattini, Administrative Coordinator

r/b/t

***These minutes are not considered official until they
have been approved at the next regularly scheduled
meeting of the Candlewood Lake Authority.***



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***Executive Director's Report
June 8, 2009
Larry Marsicano***

The following report summarizes activities between May 8, 2009 and June 8, 2009.

SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN

FLPR held a public meeting on the night of Thursday, May 21st to present the final draft SMP to be submitted to FERC at month's end. Following a description of the plan and the differences between this and the original SMP, government leaders and the public were allowed to comment and express support or concerns with the plan. Howie Berger expressed concerns of the CLA as discussed at the Special Meeting held on the night of Tuesday, June 19th. FLPR plans to submit the SMP to FERC towards the end of the month.

PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUES

The Sherman Delegates, Administrative Coordinator, and Executive Director of the CLA attended the Sherman BOS meeting on May 14th. On the agenda was a discussion of the deployment of the CLAMP, including insurance coverage, indemnification of Towns, vetting and training processes, and specific requirements regarding the carrying of side arms. The discussion included support from the BOS on the operation of our Patrol, and was very helpful for the CLA in moving forward in advance of Memorial Day weekend.

On Saturday, June 23rd we participated in the Sherman Memorial Day parade, showcasing one of our Patrol vessels and Officers in the parade. The CLA Operations Manager is deserving of thanks for his efforts preparing and towing the vessel for the parade.

Our Administrative Coordinator and I met with Attorney Kevin Roche who is representing our insurance company. Attorney Roche had received a request under FOI from CIRMA for certain records. Frances was able to provide everything requested either at that meeting or at a later date. The attorney feels the legal proceedings will go on for several years. The accident report from the CTDEP was released.

CANDLEWOOD WATERMILFOIL MANAGEMENT

As described in the News-Times on Monday, June 8th, we are partnering with Western Connecticut State University on research looking at the environmental conditions required to effectively kill the milfoil during deep drawdowns. Collections of live specimens of Eurasian watermilfoil were made on Thursday, June 4th. Experiments will be conducted at WCSU this summer. This will probably be the first of a series of experiments aimed at improving the community's ability to manage the milfoil.

FLPR submitted to FERC their Report on Nuisance Plant Monitoring at Candlewood Lake and Lakes Lillinonah & Zoar – 2008. As we requested at the FLPR's Technical Committee meeting held on March 25th, the CLA's report, *Investigations into Eurasian Watermilfoil Management by*

Deep Drawdown at Candlewood Lake, was included in FLPR's submittal to FERC in addition to the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station's *Invasive Aquatic Plants – Lake Candlewood, Lake Zoar Monitoring Report 2008*.

MILFOIL WEEVIL PROJECT

On Wednesday, June 3rd, FLPR presented a check for \$15,000 to First Selectman John Hodge of New Fairfield to fund additional weevil research. The originally proposed funding of the research from the Selectman's budget had become contentious with much of the debate being aired in the Citizen News. One such article required a response from the CLA which was published in the Wednesday, June 3rd edition. The funds from FLPR will be used exclusively for purchase of weevil eggs and larvae and visit by EnviroScience to assess sites, introduce organisms, and reassess in late summer. Contributions by the CAES, Dr. Marko, CLA, and WCSU are being absorbed by each and considered in-kind contribution to the project. The CLA is the coordinating agency for the project, which will include summer-long monitoring of the original sites and new site.

PROJECT CLEAR

The field research component for Project CLEAR is scheduled for Wednesday thru Friday and Monday, June 24th – 26th and 29th with the 30th spent by students synthesizing data and preparing presentation to be given the night of the 30th at the Sherman School. We have met several times with the Program Manager in preparation of the field days. Volunteers are being sought to help transport research teams by boat around the lake.

On Friday, June 5th Education Connection learned that the CT Department of Education elected to fund Project CLEAR for another two years (years 7 & 8) starting next year. A letter of appreciation should be sent to EC for their continued efforts.

On the morning of Saturday, June 6th we provided a class from New Fairfield High School opportunity to learn and do field research on the lake. The class had raised trout from eggs in the classroom in partnership with Trout Unlimited, released them at the mouth of the Sawmill Brook on Candlewood, and later boarded the ARK to become familiar with the ecosystem the trout would end up in.

REPORT ON RECREATIONAL PRESSURES ON CANDLEWOOD LAKE

The report has been completed. The Executive Committee elected to submit it to FERC after FERC notices the SMP and solicits comments from interveners.

BUFFER RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Work on the sign to indicate "Lake-Friendly Shoreline" is moving forward. Maps have been created and will become available on our website.

NALMS SYMPOSIUM / LAKES AWARENESS WEEK

Members of the CT Federation of Lakes (including me) are part of the Host Committee for the upcoming International North American Lakes Management Society Symposium being held the last week of October. In addition to assisting with conference planning, the CLA will be co-authoring several posters or presentations including: Analyses of In-use Vessel Density on Candlewood Lake; Use of Milfoil Weevils in Candlewood Lake; Candlewood Lake's Long-range Management Strategy – Project CLEAR.

With the help of Representative Mary Ann Carson, a proclamation declaring the week of July 12th – 18th as CT Lakes Awareness Week was signed and delivered to the CLA office. The

proclamation can be viewed at the www.ctlakes.org website under Hot Topics. We will be issuing a press release to local media on this.

LEGISLATIVE

House Bill 5823 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECREATIONAL USE OF CANDLEWOOD LAKE was passed by both the House and Senate. The bill requires the Commissioner of Environmental Protection, in consultation with the towns bordering Candlewood Lake, to make recommendations concerning the recreational use of the lake and report on those recommendations by February 1, 2010. For more information on the bill see www.cga.ct.gov/asp/cgabillstatus/cgabillstatus.asp?selBillType=Bill&bill_num=5823&which_year=2009

OTHER

I met with Paul Carter and Sylvia Morris of the Connecticut Bass Federation Nation who are preparing for a tournament scheduled 2010. We provided contact information and advice on who to contact. I was invited to stop by the weigh-in of a tournament held on Saturday, May 16th. I observed, men, women and youth involved in bringing in fish for weighing and returning the fish to the lake through a sophisticated system of oxygenated tanks. The CT Bass Federation Nation has made a donation of \$500 toward the Dragon Boat Race.

I presented the results of our investigations into drawdowns to CLUB*A on the night of Tuesday, June 2nd in a Power Point slide show. I was well-received and the presentation was greatly appreciated and "eye-opening" as one CLUB*A member stated. I also briefly discussed some of the findings from our recent recreational pressures study.

A voluntary contribution from FLPR, equaling the contribution of each municipality funding the CLA, was received on Friday, May 22nd and deposited.

CLA started its water quality monitoring program on June 2nd. This program entails visiting four sites on Candlewood Lake and one on Squantz Pond six times between May and October for collections of data and water samples.



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May 13, 2009
Public Education
Mark Howarth

Candlewood Lake Dragon Boat Race:

Our event planning and production process is continuing at an increased pace as our event date draws near.

- **Progress:** We have had regular meetings with our volunteers for the event to help with the planning of the dragon boat races. Sales kits were created and distributed several weeks ago and we are working hard on the sales process portion of the event but we need more help from everyone in order to make this event a success. We are also working with Jim Whitney of the Northwest Connecticut Convention & Visitors Bureau for our event. They have a lot of experience with event production and also with Lynn Deming Park, as they were involved with Paddle Days, which was formerly held there. They will lend assistance to us in a variety of areas for our event planning and production.
- **Insurance Permits & Applications:** Our permits have all been submitted and approved. We have permission from the New Milford Board of Education's Facilities Department to use the New Milford High School parking lot for our shuttle system. We also have received our Marine Event Permit from the DEP allowing us to set up our racecourse and create a no wake zone from the town launch north. I attended the April 14th meeting of the New Milford Park & Recreation commission to help us address additional questions regarding our event, such as banners and a flat fee we will pay the park to allow our shuttled racers and spectators into the park. Lastly, we are reviewing our event insurance options so as to find the best and most economical policy available to us.

2009 Project CLEAR:

The documentary group is an exciting new addition to Project CLEAR. The goal of that group is to create a documentary of the field days in June. If that documentary turns out as we intend, we will submit it to National Geographic, in the hopes that National Geographic will take an interest in Project CLEAR and perhaps even come to our field days in 2010. I will be heading up the documentary group, with direction from Harold Mayer, and on April 3rd and again on April 24th I led a classroom exercise at Western Connecticut State University

for different groups of CLEAR kids from the participating schools. There I taught them about documentaries and led them in an exercise to help them to begin thinking about the subject matter of our proposed documentary and different elements we might want to include in it. Many students have requested to be in the documentary group and we have asked interested students to fill out a short application telling us why they feel they should be selected for the group.



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Executive Director's Report
May 8, 2009
Larry Marsicano

The following report summarizes activities between March 31, 2009 and May 8, 2009

SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Several meetings were held with FLPR, the elected leaders of the municipalities, CT DEP, the Lake Authorities and others attending. These were on April 14th and May 6th. Many, but not all issues have been resolved. Still unresolved is an accounting of the level of overcrowding and user conflict issues on Candlewood and adequate measures to address them.

The most recent revision of the draft SMP included language in the section of Overcrowding and User Conflict (see Section X at <http://www.firstlightpower.com/generation/documents/SMP-Proposal-0509-part1.pdf>) that left open the door for a boat sticker program. But the section does little to describe the extent of the problem, including overcrowding issues as related to exercised and unexercised deed right docks. The revised language "*acknowledges that overcrowding may exist...during peak weekends of the boating season.*" It also states that FirstLight "*will review and support, as appropriate and to the extent reasonably feasible, a boat sticker program should such a proposal be presented to FirstLight by the SMP stakeholders.*" The only measure in the SMP (or RMP from before) to control overcrowding and user conflict is the limiting the number of power boats and PWCs at private docks to two each.

OTHER FLPR ISSUES

In response to communication problems that precipitated the CLA going to FERC with a question, a draft communication matrix was developed by the CLA and proposed to FLPR (see attached). On Wednesday, April 22nd the CLA met with FLPR to discuss communications and the issues associated with our call to FERC. FLPR did not view the communications matrix as a good solution to the problem. An alternative was weekly visits by Brian Wood of FLPR to update us on projects and activities on the lake. FLPR has also asked that they have an opportunity to review our report on Recreational Pressures on Candlewood (see below) before we submit it to FERC.

On April 15th we submitted comments on the minutes of the Technical Committee meeting of March 25th. Comments are attached to this report. The CLA report referenced in those comments is available on the CLA website.

On April 20th we submitted comments in response to a *Request for Comments to FirstLight Power Resources Services, LLC's 2008 Lake Advisory Committee Annual Report under the Recreation Management Plan*. Those comments are attached to this report.

PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUES

We have continued to work toward resolving the issue of indemnification of CLA lake patrolmen and staff, including having multiple discussions with Attorney Rich Arconti and representatives of insurance companies. On Friday, May 1st First Selectman Andrea O'Connor had convened a meeting with several of the other municipal CEOs to discuss insurance coverage. Also attending were State Senator Michael McLachlan, the CLA Executive Director and Administrative Coordinator and CLA board members Howie Berger, Bob Guendelsberger, and Phyllis Schaer. This discussion was continued following the SMP meeting on May 6th.

CANDLEWOOD WATERSHED INITIATIVE

I attended a CWI meeting on Tuesday, April 14th where I was asked to discuss the research of impacts of land use on water quality. I presented a history of such work in CT and elsewhere, including work done by the laboratory I managed in the 1990s at Connecticut College.

On Saturday, April 18th we collaborated with the Candlewood Watershed Initiative in providing a Soil Testing Day to the residents of New Fairfield and Sherman. Several seminars were also provided by experts in their fields: Greg Bugbee from the CT Agricultural Experiment Station on aquatic invasive plants and soils; and from Donna Ellis from UCONN Cooperative Extension on terrestrial invasive plants.

Approximately 280 soil samples were dropped off by 166 individuals for nutrient analyses by the CAES. Results will be sent directly to those providing samples with results from analyses and recommendations for soil enhancement, if necessary.

NEW FAIRFIELD WEEVIL PROJECT

The New Fairfield community continues to pursue funding to continue and expand the Candlewood Milfoil Weevil project. On March 26th the New Fairfield Board of Selectmen (BOS) voted 2-1 in favor of transferring \$15,000 dollars from one budget line to another to allow for use of those funds for the weevil project. On April 6th, the NF Board of Finance voted against that transfer of funds. Shortly thereafter, members of the NF lake communities initiated a petition to put the issue on the agenda of the upcoming Town Meeting and received enough signatures as to have the petition go before the BOS, who subsequently put the issue on the agenda of the April 23rd Town Meeting where the community overwhelmingly voted in support of the project. This resulted in the funding request going back to the Board of Finance who meets later this month. I attended and was asked to discuss the project at all three of those evening meetings.

We have continued to work closely with the Town in preparation of the project. We participated in a conference call with the First Selectman John Hodge and the Marty Hilovsky, President of EnviroScience, the consulting company who provides the weevils. We also worked with Selectman Ron Oliveri in providing a request for additional project funding through a grant program that he had already successfully applied to. The additional funding would be for the weevil project.

REPORT ON RECREATIONAL PRESSURES ON CANDLEWOOD LAKE

We continue to work on a report examining the recreational pressures on Candlewood Lake. The report is to be submitted to the Towns and to FERC. The report looks at a number of lines of evidence of overcrowding and user conflict on the lake, including the annual resident boat count, aerial flyover in-use vessel counts, in-use vessel density analyses, CTDEP permitted fishing tournaments, boating accidents, and user surveys. Also reported on is language in FERC issuances since 2004 regarding overcrowding and user conflict on Candlewood Lake and FERC's expectation of their licensee.

OTHER

I've continued to assist in the Dragon Boat Race efforts including coordinating a meeting with Danbury Chamber of Commerce Director Steve Bull on April 21st, discussing with the News-Times possibility of bartering for ad space, accompanying Mark in visits to local business, and discussing sponsorship with possible groups.

On the morning of April 28th I attended the breakfast sponsored by the Woman's Club of Danbury / New Fairfield where I received a check for \$500 to be used for summer interns.

Attended Executive Committee meetings on nights of April 1st and May 6th.

Attended Public Awareness meeting on night of April 16th.

Attended Watershed Committee meeting on night of April 28th.



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April 9, 2009

Mr. Robert Stira
FirstLight Power Resources
20 Church Street
Hartford, CT

Dear Bob:

I have reviewed the Technical Committee minutes from March 25, 2009 and I am submitting comments and recommended revisions below. Additionally, since the CLA's report was part of the meeting, I am requesting that it be attached to your submittal to FERC. I will send a final version in an electronic format shortly.

Item 1 – My notes indicate that Greg Bugbee requested surface elevations and flow rates for Lakes Lillinonah and Zoar, in addition to my request for Candlewood elevation data.

Item 2 – In the third paragraph of the Candlewood Lake section it starts by noting the substantial increase in acreage of Eurasian watermilfoil over the last several years. I think it would be important to note how substantial by the following revision.

The 2008 survey found a substantial increase in the acreage occupied by milfoil (451 acres), compared to the 2005/2006 (275 acres) and the 2007 (221 acres) surveys.

In the next sentence it states that the earlier surveys followed deep winter drawdowns. As my report indicates (see Fig. 1 in that report), the drawdowns of 2005 and 2006 were not classic deep drawdowns. Therefore I'm recommending the following revision.

The 2005/2006 survey was conducted following drawdowns that did not reach the traditional deep drawdown targeted depth or duration, while the 2007 survey was conducted after a deep drawdown that did.

Further down the minutes it states that I asked that milfoil coverage be represented as a percent of the littoral zone and that Greg wanted clarification on the definition of littoral zone. An alternative was provided and could be added to the minutes with the following.

One option was quantifying % coverage within a selected elevation (or depth).

Lastly in that section it states the Bob Gates requested that FirstLight be notified if the CLA were to move forward with the hand removal of the other two invasive plants in Candlewood. While the CLA would be happy to notify FirstLight if and when we move forward on this, my notes do not reflect nor do I recall that request being made at that time.

Item 4 – The second sentence should read:

His analysis indicates that changes in drawdown protocol since the late '90's led to shorter substrate exposure times, which may have resulted in less effective control of milfoil than had been the case in earlier years.

The second point I made at the meeting regarding that report was that during the current decade only two traditional deep drawdowns were conducted, prior to this year. I recommend adding the following.

Additionally, 2003 and 2007 were the only years in the current decade (until 2009) that "traditional" deep drawdowns were performed. Since the late 1990s, public perceptions are that the drawdowns are not as affective and therefore requiring modification, e.g. annual deep drawdowns, deeper (15 ft) deep drawdowns. Larry indicated that before those kinds of modifications are considered, FLPR should make every effort to conduct biennial deep drawdowns in a fashion consistent with how they were done from 1985 through 1995.

Lastly, at some point I stressed the importance of FirstLight and other Technical Committee members providing the general public educational opportunities to understand not only the ongoing mapping efforts, but also the decision-making processes that are involved with the drawdown, e.g. influences of precipitation, forward capacity markets, etc. on the ability to meet target depths; historical drawdown data; and adverse impacts of drawdowns. I recommend adding the following.

Larry stated that the members of the Technical Committee should participate in a public forum to discuss the mapping efforts and complexities involved with the drawdown, including its history and changes, FirstLight's considerations in making target depths at target dates, and concerns of CT DEP of the adverse impacts of drawdowns. A seminar in the fall is being considered.

Kind regards,

Larry

Larry Marsicano
Executive Director



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April 20, 2009

Mr. Bob Gates
Station Manager
FirstLight Hydro Generating Company
143 West Street Ext., Suite E
New Milford, CT 06776

Re: Comments on the 2008 Recreation Management Plan Lake Advisory Committee Annual Report

Dear Mr. Gates:

I have reviewed the 2008 draft Lake Advisory Committee Annual Report and wish to submit comments on the following:

- Overcrowding / Capacity Modeling
- Density Analysis
- Ramp Use and Assessments
- Fishing Tournaments
- Accidents on Candlewood Lake
- Lack of Management Measures
- LAC Meeting Frequency
- Forthcoming CLA Report

1. At the top of page 2 the draft minutes state:

L. Marsicano commented that according to the "Payton Capacity Model" recreational capacity on Candlewood is twelve (12) acres per boat, which means 450 boats is the maximum carrying capacity.

This inaccurately conveys the points I was trying to make. The point is that the aerial flyover data you provided, in conjunction with several models that are used to examine carrying capacity, would indicate that Candlewood regularly exceeds capacity. Michael Payton's capacity model takes into account a number of lake and vessel factors to establish a maximum capacity threshold of 448 operating vessels for Candlewood Lake. Using the standard of 12 acres per operating vessel applied in the Recreation Management Plan submitted to and approved by FERC, the projected capacity is estimated to be 452 operating vessels. Both of these very similar capacity thresholds are reached or surpassed on four of the six dates of the flyovers, with numbers of operating vessels greatly exceeding those thresholds on two of those dates.

2. I believed I mentioned that we were in the process of taking the map interpretations of the aerial flyover data and interpreting those data into a GIS to determine areas of the lake where recreational experience or safety is compromised due to operating boat densities. Appendix I to this letter provides an example of how the aerial flyover data is interpreted and analyzed for boat density in a GIS. Following that are density determinations for two of the six sets of flyover data. Please note the extent of area on Candlewood that seems to be in excess of safe boating density levels.

I believed that somewhere during the meeting I expressed appreciation for the data collected and provided by FirstLight.

3. In the CT DEP comments, they note that only 20 to 30% of the active boats are due to the ramps and therefore the overcrowding / carrying capacity exceedance is not driven by day boaters. I would argue that 20 to 30% is a significant contribution as are the contributions of private homeowners, and commercial, municipal, and private community marinas. The CT DEP's comment, however, does recognize that Candlewood exceeds capacity and is overcrowded.

As I have not read the report that came with the aerial flyover interpretation maps, I am a little unclear about the methods used to assess the state and municipal ramps. At the meeting Gary Smolen indicated that he alone drove to the ramps and assessed the number of trailers. Traveling to seven ramps along 60+ miles of shoreline in one day implies that one ramp might be assessed early in the morning while another is assessed later in the day. Thought should be given into a way of standardizing this data collection, perhaps by ensuring that all ramp sites are assessed within one hour of peak use time.

4. At the bottom of page 2 the minutes describe our concerns with fishing tournaments. I am certain that I framed these comments by saying that data on fishing tournaments should be considered surrogates for all forms of recreational use on Candlewood, and that unfortunately the only data on state ramp use is the tournament fishing data.

Candlewood has and continues to host disproportionately more tournaments than any other inland water resource in Connecticut. I did note the CT DEP's comments that Candlewood ranks well down the list on a tournament boat per acre basis. I don't believe this provides a good measure of the contributions of tournament fishing boats (or any recreational use vessel) to recreational pressures as a circular lake of a given acreage is much different than a lake of the same acreage but with long narrow fingers and channels, like Candlewood. There are calculations such as shoreline development that examine the differences in the two different kinds of lakes and if we are going to factor in area, then we should factor in other such variables.

I am aware that night tournaments are not a new phenomenon. Nonetheless, they are a concern, particularly since these events generally occur without any public safety presence (CTDEP ECON Police or CLA Marine Patrol) on the water. As the number of these tournaments continue to rise, as well as general use from other user groups, the frequency of unfortunate events, like that of the past summer where a tournament fishing boat and other boat collided resulting in two deaths and one critically injured, will rise.

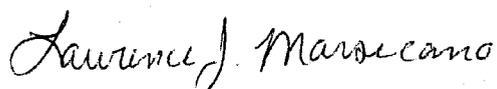
5. Another indication of the recreational pressures on Candlewood Lake, not discussed at the meeting, but available from the United States Coast Guard, is the number of accidents on Candlewood Lake. In 2008, the USCG reported 7 accidents which met State reporting requirements, 5 of which met federal reporting requirements. In Appendix II of this response I have provided a figure showing of the number of accidents on Candlewood Lake since 1995. You will note that for most years the numbers of accidents reported fall between 3 and 6. In two years, 1998 and 2004, abnormally high numbers were reported. However, despite attempts by the CT DEP and the CLA to increase boating safety patrols in recent years, no discernable decrease in number of accidents has occurred. Compared to the other large lakes in Connecticut, Candlewood Lake continues to have high numbers of accidents (see Appendix II) and remains in need of solutions to address overcrowding and user conflict.
6. As you know, these minutes reflect the second of three initial annual LAC meetings required by FERC. In the order modifying and approving the RMP, FERC required that the annual reports provide discussions of the extent of capacity related conflicts on Candlewood Lake and more importantly, how these will be managed. To date, no substantive measures to address overcrowding on Candlewood Lake have been developed out of the LAC meetings.

For example, last year I discussed the problem associated with not having data on the quantity of deeded right docks negotiated on Candlewood Lake in the past, both those rights that have been executed and those that have not. I also addressed the issue of the deeded rights associated with a large parcel being conveyed to each property in a subdivision developed on that original parcel. This issue remains unaddressed.

7. Part of the problem in fully identifying the extent of capacity and overcrowding-related issues may be due to the frequency of LAC meetings. Last year it was encouraged to have more frequent meetings than just a yearly meeting with the hopes of developing real management approaches for these complex issues. There was little to no discussion at the past LAC meeting on the value of expanding the frequency of meetings.
8. To help facilitate a better understanding of the overcrowding and user conflict issues, the CLA intends to submit to FERC its own report that provides the data I have presented here and other similar data. We encourage FirstLight to consider some of the recent recommendations at the SMP meetings to address overcrowding and user conflict, including the development of a boat sticker program.

Sincerely yours,

CANDLEWOOD LAKE AUTHORITY



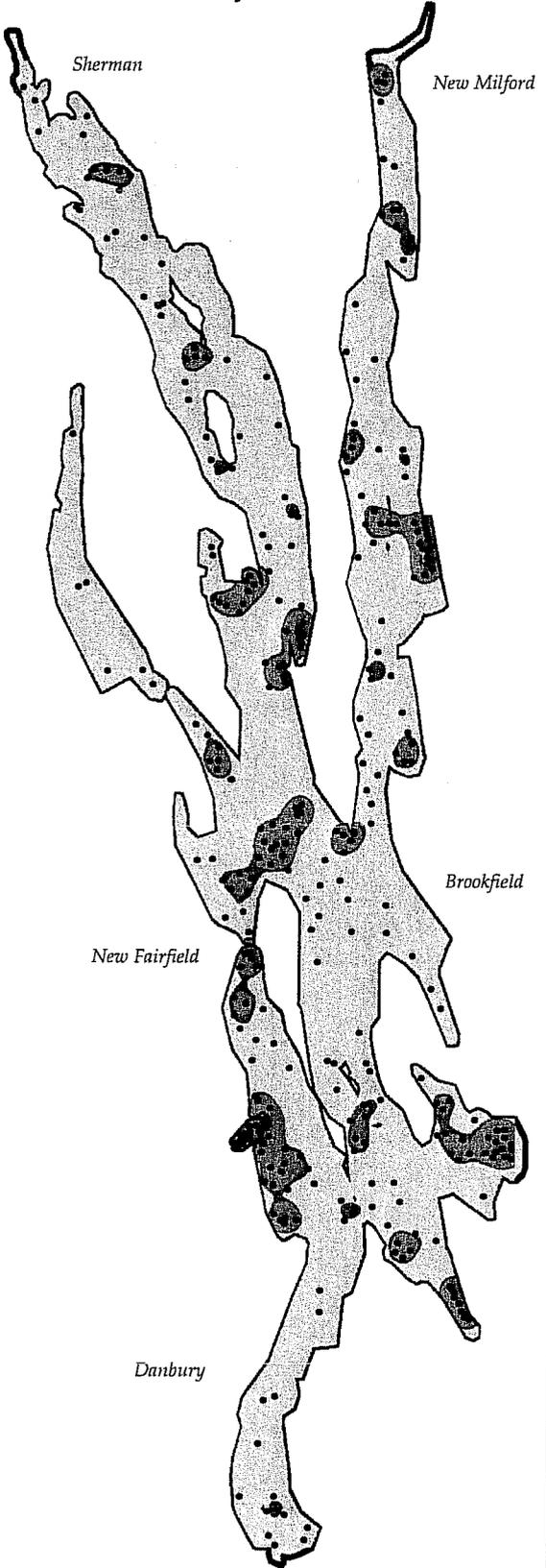
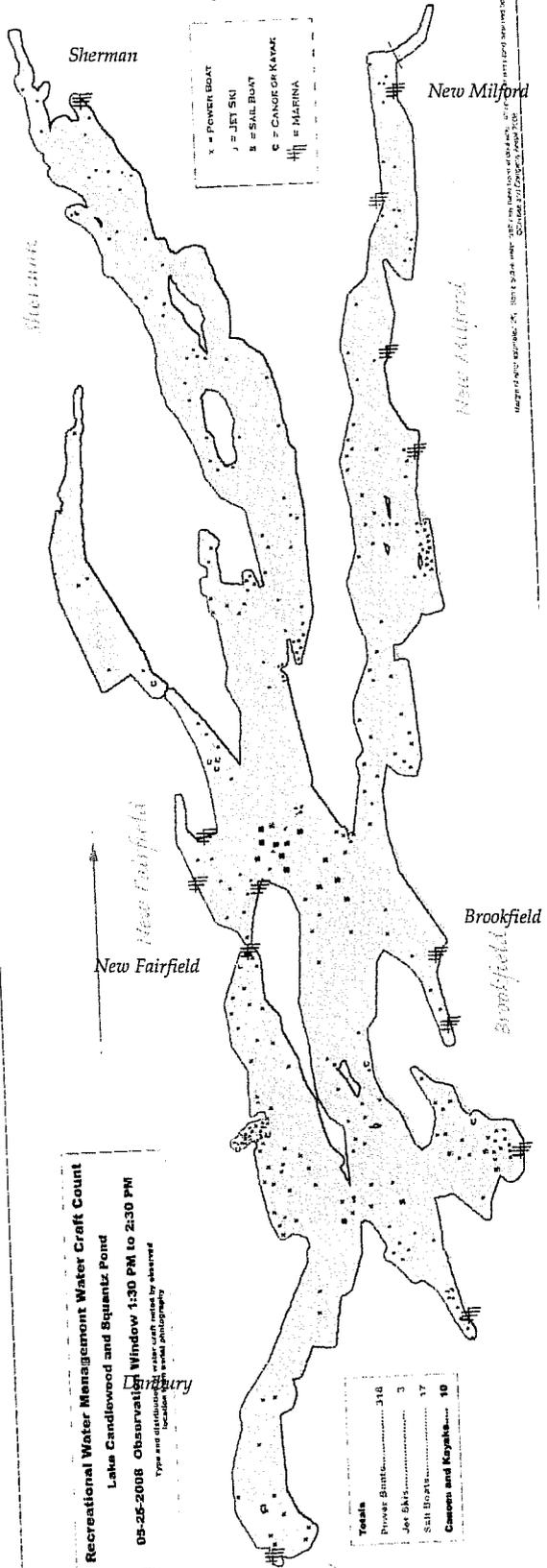
Laurence J. Marsicano
Executive Director

Appendix I

1. Maps showing the interpretation of the aerial flyover data into GIS for density analysis using the May 25, 2008 flyover data.
2. Density analysis maps for July 19, 2008 and August 31, 2008.

May 25, 2008

May 25, 2008



Candlewood Lake

Comparison of Aerial Interpretations of In-use Vessels with GIS Analysis



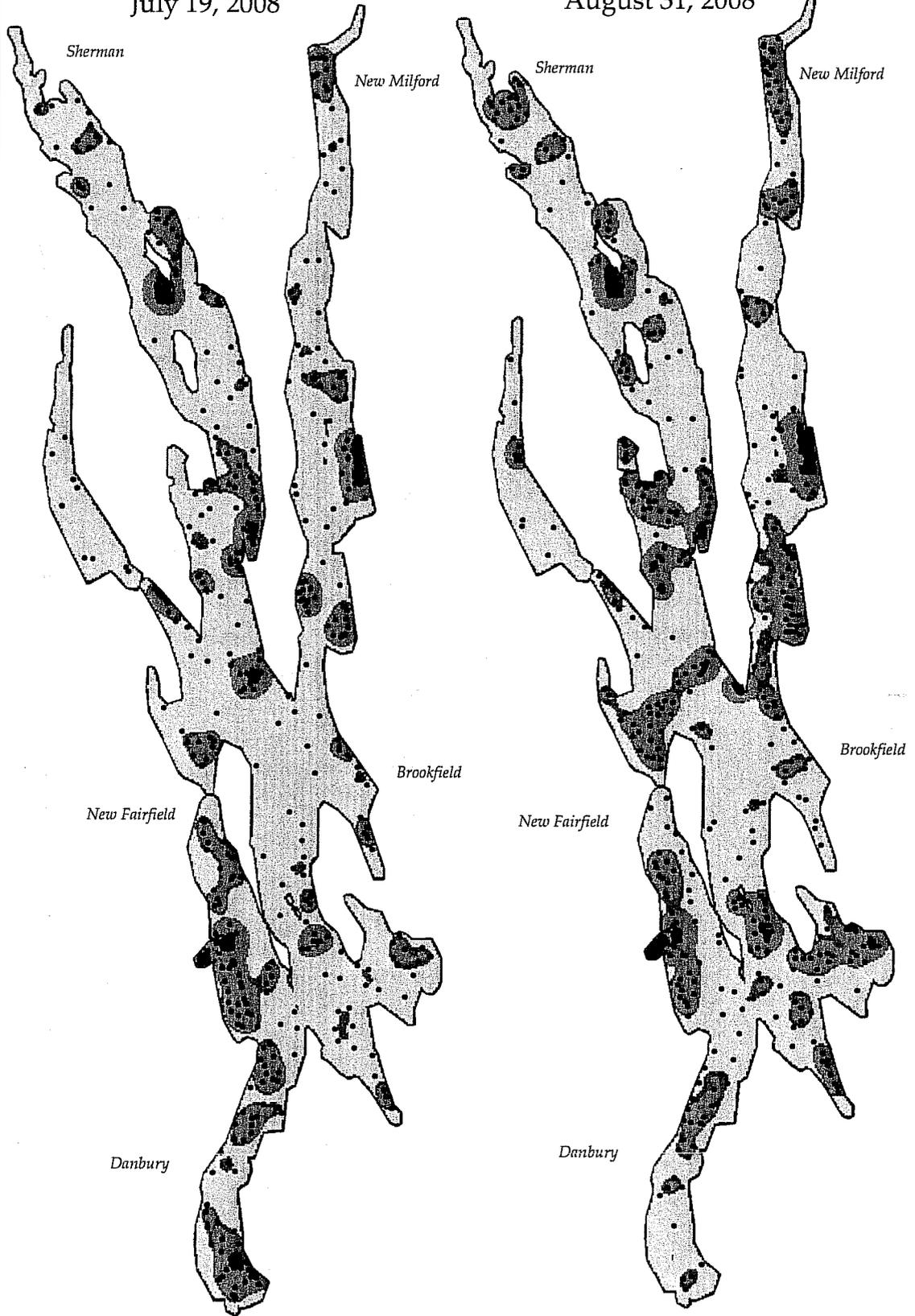
LEGEND

- Vessels
- > 10 Acres Per Vessel
- 10 - 12 Acres Per Vessel
- < 10 Acres Per Vessel



July 19, 2008

August 31, 2008



Candlewood Lake
Vessel Density Analysis

LEGEND

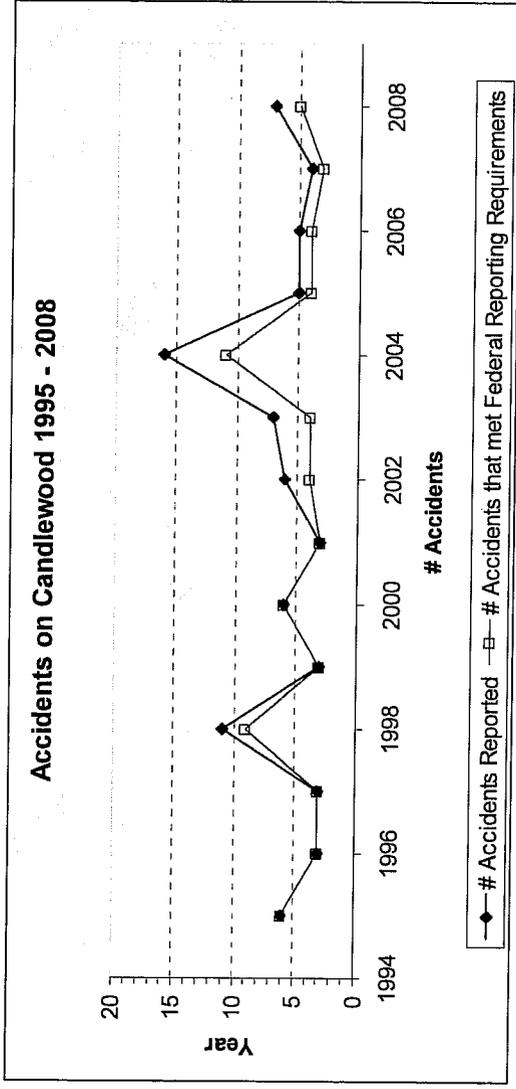
- Vessels
-  > 10 Acres Per Vessel
-  10 -12 Acres Per Vessel
-  <10 Acres Per Vessel

0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles




March 2009

Appendix II
 Data provided by Susan Tomczuk of the United States Coast Guard



of Accidents Reported

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Bantam Lake	1	2	1	1	4	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	4	0
Candlewood Lake	6	3	3	11	3	6	3	6	7	16	5	5	4	7
Housatonic	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lake Housatonic	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	1	1
Lake Lillinah	0	0	1	1	2	1	0	1	2	0	2	1	0	0
Lake Zoar	3	4	3	3	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Total	11	9	9	16	9	7	5	7	12	18	9	8	9	8



CANDLEWOOD LAKE AUTHORITY

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June 10, 2009
Public Education
Mark Howarth

Candlewood Lake Dragon Boat Race:

I have been focusing primarily on the dragon boat races since last meeting as we are now in the final phase of our event planning process.

