

# CANDLEWOOD LAKE AUTHORITY

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

## Minutes of Meeting March 10, 2010

### Attending:

R. Stroh	New Fairfield
P. Callahan	New Fairfield
H. Mayer	New Milford
E. Siergiej	Danbury
G. Dufel	Danbury
H. Berger	Sherman
P. Schaer	Sherman

J. Murphy                      Brookfield

L. Marsicano, CLA Executive Director  
 F. Frattini, CLA Administrative Coordinator  
 M. Howarth, CLA Public Education Director  
 J. Yedowitz, CLAMP, Chief of Marine Enforcement

Recorder: R. Stroh

Guests:            M. Propper, Danbury  
                       J. McAlister, New Fairfield  
                       D. Gilber, Danielson, CT, CT Bass Federation Nation

### Absent:

F. Cioffi	Brookfield
B. Kemble	New Fairfield
R. Guendelsberger	New Milford
M. Calandrino	Danbury
C. Reppenhagen	Sherman
M. Toussaint	New Milford

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BY: *UK*

Howie Berger, Chairman, called the regular meeting of the Candlewood Lake Authority to order at 7:35 P.M. at Brookfield Town Hall, Brookfield, CT. He welcomed Jerry Murphy the new delegate from New Milford. Mr. Murphy said a few words about himself.

Secretary's Report: Rich Stroh, Secretary, noted that there were no additions, deletions or corrections to the minutes of January 13, 2010. Pat Callahan moved to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by Ed Siergiej and voted with all in favor, minutes have been accepted as written.

Chairman Howie Berger noted that the reports of the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Executive Director, Public Education Director and Public Safety would be combined into one report. He began with an overview of the past month reporting that there will be a Seminar at Wesconn tomorrow evening on the Recreation Pressures on Candlewood

Lake, other items that will be brought up during the meeting are the SMP, business cards and the General Orders for the Lake Patrol.

Mr. Berger reported that he and Mr. Marsicano had attended the Sherman Budget hearing and they were receptive to the CLA presentation- the new selectman had a number of questions pertaining to the CLA. There was also a positive response in New Fairfield, and also Brookfield. No news on Danbury and in New Milford the Mayor's position and questions on the budget were not favorable. Mr. Berger noted that the delegates should have more of an exchange with their elected officials on the CLA. As the CLA prepares the budget proposal before the December meeting, the delegates should meet with their town officials earlier (e.g. September/October) to get input. It was also reported that New Milford has a balance on this year's appropriation and Mr. Berger has asked New Milford delegate Mr. Guendelsberger to follow up on this.

Mr. Berger reported on the progress of the CLA on the initiatives outlined in the chart presented last month. Larry Marsicano showed a power point of some new software "Microsoft Project" which allows you to track a single project or a number of projects – he noted that this will be very helpful to get under control all that the CLA does. Mr. McAlister from the audience noted that it would help to let the public understand all that the CLA does. Mrs. Schaer noted that as a resident she had no idea of the scope and depth of what the Authority does, it would help to bring the message to the Community.

Mr. Berger advised that the Executive Committee thought it would be a good idea for the delegates to have a CLA business card and he presented a slide of a number of cards that have been designed by Mark Howarth – after some discussion the delegates chose the darker blue lake background (Upper right). Mr. Howarth asked the delegates for the info they would like on the cards and when all is received he will follow up with an order.

Joe Yedowitz, Chief of Marine Enforcement, spoke on the proposed General Orders that he has prepared for the Patrol, taken directly from the General Operating orders of the DEP. He gave a brief history of the evolution of the patrol from an agency with direct DEP oversight to where it is today as a patrol appointed by the DEP but now running on its own. The Executive Committee has requested that an attorney review the document and Ted Backer has been contacted for this. He asked the delegates to get to him any questions on the document within the next two weeks, then the Public Safety Committee will meet and assimilate the questions and prepare a final document for the next CLA meeting so that the delegates may vote on it prior to the start of the season. Discussion followed. Mrs. Schaer suggested that a copy of the final document be sent to DEP.

Executive Director Larry Marsicano noted that his report is attached to these minutes. He advised that FERC has noticed the SMP and comments are due by March 24, the CLA will note its concerns, and express support for approval with modification on

Public Safety Issues including future community docks, buffers, improved relations with the Utility and possibly a MOU on the annual donation. The history of the donation of the Utility was discussed, noting that it began around 1983-4 and has continued since then. Mr. Propper from the audience asked a question regarding the part of the ED report covering the nuisance plant monitoring report and meeting held on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, specifically the response of FirstLight to CLA's recommendation to conduct the biennial deep drawdown in a fashion similar to that of 1985 – 1995. Mr. Marsicano noted that there was no indication that FirstLight was agreeable or disagreed with the recommendation and that he followed up the meeting with an email clarifying the request and asking that the recommendation be reflected in the minutes of the Technical Committee meeting.

Patrick Callahan reported on a meeting he and Mr. Marsicano had with a friend and anonymous donor who will make a donation of twenty thousand dollars to underwrite the Clean Up and Dragon Boat Race. As he wishes to remain anonymous it may be noted as sponsorship in honor of the Project CLEAR students. Mr. Marsicano advised that the Clean Up date is May 22 and volunteers are welcome.

Equipment & Facilities: Committee Chairman Ed Siergiej advised that at the Executive Committee discussion on the new facility or lack thereof took place – he will follow up on pros and cons of locations and if the money that was raised at the first Enchanted evening can be used for preliminary work. One suggestion was to partner with other lakes for a regional lake center – he will report back next month. He also noted that he had obtained the architectural drawings from the City of Danbury on the facility that was planned there. Finally he noted that the new engine has been purchased and is on McKee I.

Jim McAlister spoke to the delegates about the Candlewood Watershed Initiative (CWI) a grass roots group of residents from New Fairfield who was brought together by watershed issues. He added that the time Mr. Marsicano has given them has been invaluable. They have had soil testing days for the past two years and will have one it again on April 17 this year. They are presently working on a Storm Drain Marking Project and have received a grant through the Connecticut Federation of Lakes. He asked that the Authority endorse the program. He has the lake communities in New Fairfield and has asked those in Sherman and would like to see this go around the whole lake.

Treasurer's Report:

Phyllis Schaer asked for a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report of Income and Expenses for the months ended January 31, 2010 and February 28, 2010 as presented, moved by Harold Mayer and seconded by Ed Siergiej. With no discussion the motion was voted with all in favor and Treasurer's Report for months ended January 31, 2010 and February 28, 2010 have been accepted and filed for audit.

Mrs. Schaer noted that with the budget adjustments made earlier in the fiscal year it will be necessary to ask for a motion to allow expenditures to exceed the line items as long as the committee's total budgets do not go over, moved by Harold Mayer seconded by Rich Stroh and voted with all in favor.

Mr. Berger reviewed the present committees and their members asking if there were any changes – committee assignments are as listed from 12/10/09 to 12/09/2010 and committee chairs will be as follows:

- Finance – Phyllis Schaer
- Equipment/Facility- Ed Siergiej
- Public Safety – Rich Stroh
- Watershed Management – Harold Mayer
- Public Awareness – Mark Toussaint

Mr. Callahan moved to accept the committee chairs as listed, seconded by Mrs. Schaer and voted with all in favor.

Mr. Callahan advised that as most serious accidents on the lake happen at night he is checking into a 6MPH speed limit from 11PM to 6AM. He noted that this is not without precedent, he will look into this and discuss with DEP. Mr. Berger added anything to make this a safer lake should be considered. Mr. Dufel asked will it be enforceable and why 6MPH and not 15? Mr. Callahan noted the precedent on other lakes is 6MPH and he will continue to look into this.

With no further business to come before the Candlewood Lake Authority, Ed Siergiej moved to adjourn, seconded by Harold Mayer. Meeting adjourned at 9:06 P. M.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard Stroh, Secretary

Frances Frattini, Administrative Coordinator

r/b/s



# CANDLEWOOD LAKE AUTHORITY

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## ***Executive Director's Report March 3, 2010 Larry Marsicano***

*The following report summarizes activities from February 4, 2010 to March 1, 2010.*

### **RECREATION / PUBLIC SAFETY MANAGEMENT**

A final letter from the Commissioner of the CTDEP, signed by the CEOs of our municipalities or their representatives was sent to the General Assembly's Environment Committee on February 1<sup>st</sup>. We received an electronic copy on February 18<sup>th</sup>.

HB 5241 – AN ACT CONCERNING CANDLEWOOD LAKE was referred to the Joint Committee on the Environment on February 18<sup>th</sup> and a public hearing was scheduled for March 1<sup>st</sup>. We notified the public of the bill and public hearing via our electronic distribution list and encouraged readers to submit testimony or contact their legislator. We were copied on a number of emails in support and one that opposed the legislation.

On March 1<sup>st</sup> I provided testimony on behalf of the CLA in support of the legislation at the public hearing. In addition to our testimony, we provided Environment Committee members a copy of our report, An Examination of Recreation Pressures on Candlewood Lake, CT (July 8, 2009) and our letter to FirstLight dated December 3, 2009. That letter contained comments on the draft submittal to FERC with minutes of the November 9, 2009 Lake Advisory Committee meeting, but more importantly a GIS analysis of density for each flyover date in 2008. I was also able to obtain a copy of the testimony of the CTDEP and have attached it to this report.

### **SEMINAR / FORUM ON RECREATIONAL BOATING ON CANDLEWOOD**

Plans have been finalized for the seminar on recreational boating at Candlewood Lake set for March 11<sup>th</sup> at WCSU. Presenting will be Eleanor Mariani (Boating Division), Tim Barry (Inland Fisheries Division) and I. After presentations Bill Foreman (Inland Fisheries Division) will join the speakers to take questions from the audience. The event is co-sponsored by the CLA and WCSU's Science at Night Program.

### **MS PROJECT**

As requested, we have begun experimenting with a beta version of Microsoft Project. The software is designed to aid in project management, assigning resources to projects, tracking milestones, etc. Previously, Committees were to work on goals and objectives for 2010. They were then asked to develop plans and timelines to meet these goals and objectives. These will be tracked using MS Project. A draft example of the use of the software is attached. Staff or Howie will be demonstrating use of the software

during the meeting. It is my belief that this product will greatly enhance understanding of all as to how much the CLA does in the course of a year.

### **SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

On February 24<sup>th</sup>, FERC noticed the Shoreline Management Plan and solicited comments, motions to intervene, and protests. The deadline for filing comments and /or motions is March 24, 2010.

### **NCD PLANT SALE / BUFFERS**

We collaborated with the Northwest Conservation District on their annual plant sale. Robin Zitter and I submitted an article on buffers that included recommendations on plant selections that was included in the NCD newsletter / plant order form. We also assisted in the distribution of the newsletter to selected areas on the Candlewood community. We will also distribute that publication to our electronic newsletter readers in the near future.

### **WATERSHED MANAGEMENT**

There have been a number of site project proposals along the shore of the lake. These include 4 Harbour View in New Fairfield; 8 Sylvan Road in New Fairfield, and Northwest Passway, Danbury. Gary Dufel and I have continued to review plans.

On February 22<sup>nd</sup> I attended the meeting of the New Fairfield Inland Wetlands and Conservation Commission and expressed concerns with 4 Harbour View, where ~12 trees above and below the 440 were removed. We have collected all relevant documents on this site, took our own pictures (also submitted to IWWC), and submitted a letter expressing our concern (attached).

At 8 Sylvan, a cart path is proposed down to the water's edge. We've been asked to look at this proposal. The cart path scenario led to the problem at 24 Woods Road, New Fairfield a number of years ago.

### **PROJECT CLEAR – CANDLEWOOD LAKE ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AND RESPONSIBILITY**

We worked with Dr. Theodora Pinou of the WCSU Biology and Environmental Science Department on her submittal of a grant proposal to the National Science Foundation entitled *A Community of Practice Approach for Environmental Stewardship*. In addition to the WCSU, CLA, Education Connection, and the surrounding school districts, FirstLight Power Resources has committed its support of the grant proposal. A summary of the proposal is attached. Requested in the budget of the grant was five percent of the CLA Executive Director's salary for the next three years. We anticipate hearing how the grant fared in two to three months.

We've worked with Education Connection to revise their budget to include ~4.3% of the Executive Director's salary.

## **NUISANCE PLANT MONITORING 2009 REPORT**

As part of the stakeholder group that participates in the meetings of FirstLight's nuisance plant monitoring efforts, we reviewed and submitted comments on the 81 page draft report entitled *Invasive Aquatic Plants – Lake Candlewood, Lake Lillinonah, Lake Zoar – Monitoring 2009* prepared by the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station. We met with FirstLight, CAES, and members of the other lake authorities on Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> to review and discuss the report. *Myriophyllum spicatum* (Eurasian watermilfoil) levels were down from 2008 but not as low as in 2007. Number of patches is up from 2008 but patch size was down suggesting that on very bad years, patches coalesce. Patch abundance in 2009 was lower than observed in 2008 or 2007. Other important findings include the increase in *Najas minor* and a decrease in native species.

As we requested, the investigative report we submitted last year on historical drawdowns was revisited. The correlation between timing and duration of deep drawdown and level of control as hypothesized in the report was reflected in the 2009 report of the CAES. I recommended that either FirstLight standardize its deep drawdown to be more consistent with that done between 1985 and 1995 or publically identify reasons why a deep drawdown varied from the traditional format. There are reasons why variations occur including flooding and market considerations. We will submit written comment to FirstLight to clarify our position.

The report will be available to the public soon.

### **OTHER**

Elizabeth Hearn from New Fairfield High School is performing community service for the CLA as part of her graduation requirement.

I met with Dr. Chris Kukk who introduced me to Shannon Ring who is interested in interning for the CLA.



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



Public Hearing – March 1, 2010  
Environment Committee

Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Amey W. Marrella  
Department of Environmental Protection

**Proposed Raised Bill No. 5241- AN ACT CONCERNING CANDLEWOOD LAKE**

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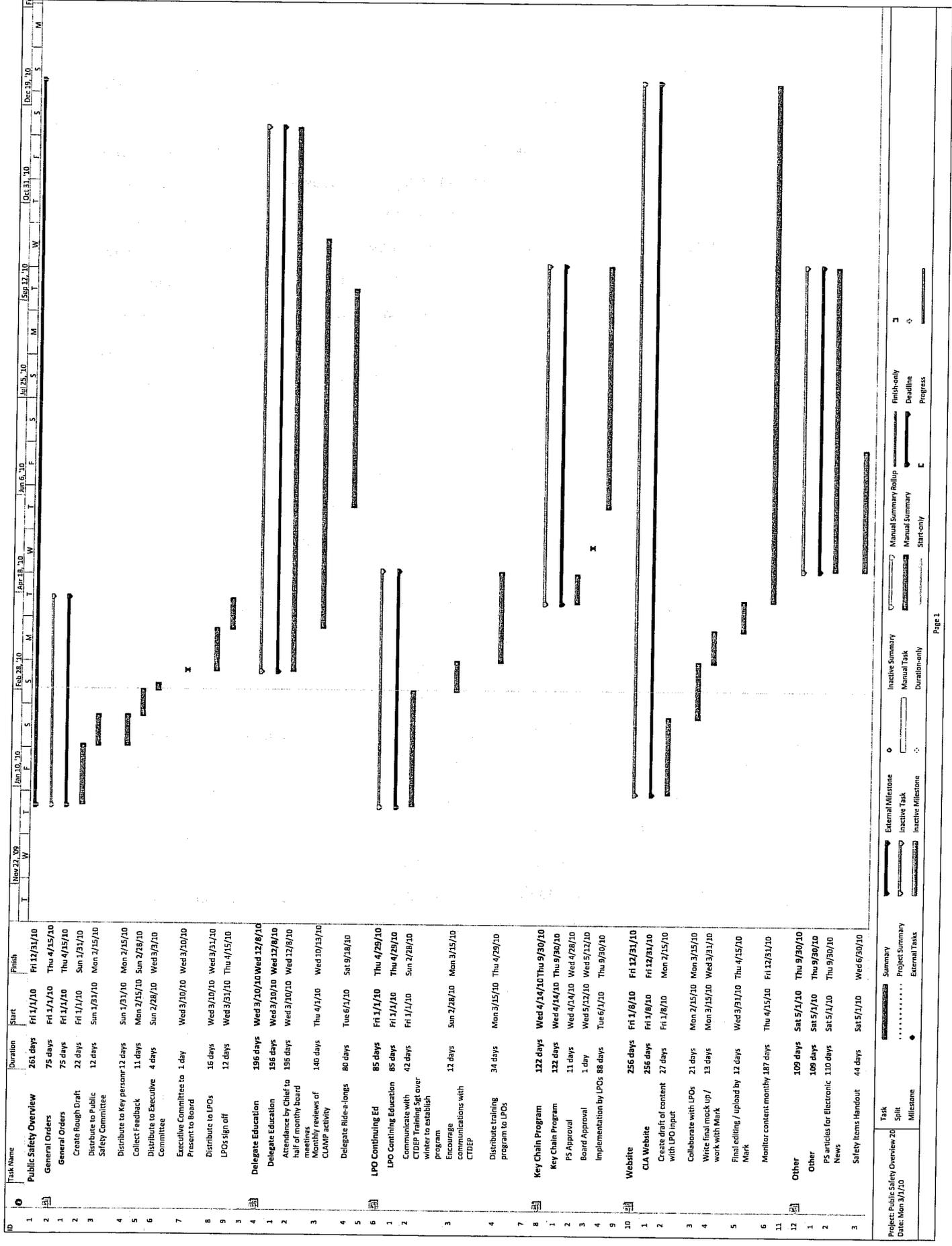
Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding Proposed House Bill No. 5241- AN ACT CONCERNING CANDLEWOOD LAKE. The Department of Environmental Protection (Department) supports this bill in principle, but urges the Committee to consider codifying the vessel length into statute rather than through the regulatory process as the bill directs.

The Department worked very closely with the Towns of Sherman, New Milford, Brookfield and New Fairfield, and the City of Danbury pursuant to Special Act 09-12, to establish common ground and identify concerns for boaters on Candlewood Lake. The Department has always been keenly aware of Candlewood Lake's unique importance in the state, but in keeping with the intent of Special Act 09-12, we undertook a re-evaluation of boating issues on the lake, resulting in recommendations submitted to the Environment Committee last month. These recommendations were based upon an analysis of data surrounding boater use of Candlewood Lake and discussions with the chief elected officials of the above-referenced communities.

As charged in the general statutes, the Department holds paramount the principle of uniform regulation on all waters of the state. However, in this instance, we are prepared to support a vessel length restriction on Candlewood Lake where an August 2009 survey found 110 of the 4,301 motorized boats on the lake were 26 feet or greater.

We are interested in working with the Environment Committee to codify Candlewood Lake's vessel length restriction into statute rather than regulation in order to expedite the implementation of this recommendation.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this proposal. If you should require any additional information, please contact the Department's legislative liaison, Robert LaFrance, at 424-3401 or [Robert.LaFrance@CT.gov](mailto:Robert.LaFrance@CT.gov).



External Milestone  
 Inactive Task  
 Inactive Milestone  
 Manual Summary Rollup  
 Manual Summary  
 Manual Task  
 Start-only  
 Finish-only  
 Progress  
 Deadline

Project: Public Safety Overview 20  
 Date: Mon 3/1/10

Summary  
 Project Summary  
 External Tasks

**Title: A Community of Practice Approach For Environmental Stewardship. An NSF- (ITEST) Strategies Project.**

**Project Summary:** Western Connecticut State University (WCSU), FirstLight Power Resources, Candlewood Lake Authority, Education Connection (a regional educational service center), and five regional Connecticut school districts will work collaboratively to train science teachers, and build a “Community of Practice” (CP) for environmental stewardship of Candlewood Lake. This CP will use year-round hands-on learning experiences that will better prepare middle, high school, and college students to participate in the teaching, environmental science, and resource management workforce. The CP will train students to use current technology in lake science and conservation management, and engage students to participate in discourse with lake community stakeholders.

The specific goal of this strategies project is to transform science teacher preparation through: 1) early exposure of pre-service students to secondary instructional classroom practices, 2) enforcing the infusion of math in the training of pre-service science teachers, 3) increasing technology and content support for teachers by community partners, and 4) strengthening the role of community service in science education.

**The intellectual merit** of this project addresses best practices in science teacher preparation, and best practices for developing successful community partnerships and support for student development and participation in STEM careers. The project also contributes to knowledge about instructional practices that help students achieve positive attitudes, disposition, and success in science programs both in and out of school. Additionally, the project examines master-teacher mentorship, and multi-contextual learning strategies as mechanisms for retaining urban and underrepresented populations in the sciences.

**The broader impacts** of this program improve middle and high school science instruction and teacher content knowledge by providing teachers with professional development and classroom support that integrates inquiry and technology in real life contexts. Thus project participants experience science as an alive, dynamic subject that is part of their community. Integrating the new lake science and energy lessons program into public school science curricula ensures that more than a few self selected students gain access to current state mandated content, and this integration sustains the civic stewardship activities needed to responsibly care for a community resource like Candlewood Lake. Additionally, integration into the curriculum contributes to a future well-trained workforce in natural resource and energy management that is invaluable for a sustainable middle-class community.



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**March 10, 2010**  
**Public Education**  
**Mark Howarth**

## **2010 Dragon Boat Races:**

Preparations are under way for the second year of the Candlewood Lake Dragon Boat Races, scheduled for August 21<sup>st</sup>, returning to Lynn Deming Park in New Milford. Learning from our experiences in our first year, we are looking to introduce a number of changes to the event this year to both improve it as well as increase the types and volume of marketing done to promote the event, with the overall goal being to build upon what we created last year and grow the event in size and popularity. With the positive feedback from those who participated last year, we hope to attract new teams from additional Candlewood Lake communities and area businesses who can use this event as a great teambuilding activity for their employees, in addition to teams made up of friends and families. We are planning on combining sponsorship opportunities for the races with the cleanup in order to offer sponsor packages that give sponsors exposure at both events.

## **Software:**

We are now beginning to use a variety of new software programs to help us in our daily efforts here. In addition to Microsoft Project which we have begun using as well as another program called SharePoint that Howie will be introducing us to shortly, I have been utilizing a variety of Adobe programs to allow us to improve the quality of the publications, graphics and other content we present to the public. Adobe Illustrator, which I had mentioned I am currently taking a class in, as well as Adobe InDesign and Adobe Photoshop are the primary programs currently being utilized. Adobe Illustrator has been used to draw a logo for our Dragon Boat Races to help us promote and give an identity to that event. We are using Adobe InDesign to create a new layout for our newsletters, one which will hopefully give it a more professional appearance. As we continue to learn about the program, we hope to offer interactive content in our newsletters, to increase readership and interest in them.

## **March Newsletter:**

We are in the process of writing a newsletter, with the new layout mentioned above, to go out shortly. At the present time, topics being covered include the boat length bill and Science at Night presentation, Candlewood Lake Cleanup

announcement, Dragon Boat Races, Soil Moisture monitoring, Soil Testing Day among a few others.

**Business Cards:**

The idea of creating business cards for our delegates was brought up at our last meeting. As a result, we created a number of different designs for business cards for our delegates. After a few changes, a design has now been agreed upon and we will now look to select a source to print those for us.



## Candlewood Lake Authority Marine Patrol

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### Monthly Summary for March 2010

The Patrol has started planning for the upcoming 2010 boating season. We're fully staffed (24 LPO's), in fact, 1 LPO that resigned at the beginning of the boating season expressed his desire to re-join the patrol this year, so we'll be staffed at 25 LPO's. As of the writing of this update, 75% of the LPO's have been re-certified in CPR and Basic First Aid (employment requirements). In addition, the Chief has set up a tentative re-qualification schedule with the CT EnCon Police for Firearms and Defensive Tactics. In addition, the patrolmen will all be required to attend a 3 hour CT Boating Law update/review, hosted by the CT EnCon Police.

The Chief has started to set forth a plan for his monthly training opportunities with the LPO's. Specifically, he is planning on hosting a "Sound Enforcement" training, where the LPO's will be qualified to check the decibel levels of boat engines. In addition, he is planning on hosting "Sexual Discrimination" training for the officers, and an assortment of other agenda topics.

Major progress has been made in the modification of our policy and procedures manual (a.k.a. General Orders) for the patrolmen. With the change in the CT EnCon Police relationship (that was made at the beginning of the 2009 boating season), we were forced to evaluate our past policy and procedures manual, and enhance the same covering all aspects of a Lake Patrolmen's employment. This will benefit our risk management for all parties involved.

From an administrative standpoint, the on-line scheduling utilizing Google Documents has been created and posted, several on-line documents have been placed on line for collaboration with fellow LPO's, all of our human resource type documents (W4's, I-9's, etc....) will be distributed shortly, the newly proposed General Orders will be reviewed with all 25 LPO's, and they will sign off on the same, Annual Performance Reviews for all 25 LPO's have been completed, distributed and almost all have been returned.

Before you know it, we'll be ready to "Hit the water!"

Sincerely,

Joseph C. Yedowitz, #851  
Chief of Marine Enforcement  
Candlewood Lake Authority

