



CANDLEWOOD LAKE AUTHORITY

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

Minutes of Meeting October 12, 2011

Attending:

H. Berger	Sherman
P. Schaer	Sherman
E. Hayes	Sherman
H. Mayer	New Milford
J. Hodge	New Fairfield
J. Murphy	Brookfield
W. Lohan	Brookfield
E. Siergiej	Danbury
M. Toussaint	New Milford

Absent:

M. Calandrino	Danbury
B. Kemble	New Fairfield
R. Guendelsberger	New Milford
F. Cioffi	Brookfield

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

Recorder: E. Siergiej

Guests: D. Gilbert – CT Bass Federation Nation
J & S Wodarski, CLUB-A
M. Propper, Danbury

Howie Berger, Chairman, called the regular meeting of the Candlewood Lake Authority to order at 7:31 P.M. at Brookfield Town Hall, Brookfield, CT. He welcomed the guests.

Secretary's Report: Ed Siergiej, Secretary, asked if there were any changes to the minutes of August 10, 2011, John Hodge moved to accept the minutes of August 10, 2011 as written, seconded by Jerry Murphy and voted with all in favor. Minutes have been accepted.

Chairman's Report – Howie Berger, reported that on October 19th there will be a meeting with John Shue, Rich Laudenant, Chuck Burnham and Brian Wood of FirstLight

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with that it was the consensus of the Delegates to remove all reference in the letter to their financial and ISO New England commitments. Mr. Marsicano will make these adjustments to the document. Mr. Berger noted that the CLA should be viewed by all as an advocate for the Lake.

He reported on complaints from residents of Hollywyle Cove about large number of boats rafting in the Cove and discussed possible means of addressing this next season. This will be addressed by Public Safety Committee, the Chief and New Fairfield delegates.

He advised that he has reviewed the Draft report commissioned by the Town of New Fairfield on drawdown impacts on the lake by Dr. Knoecklein. John Hodge noted that FirstLight had scammed a copy of the report to review. Mr. Marsicano noted that it contains some interesting findings, he did review and made comments and returned it to Dr. Knoecklein and hopes that the final report will be available soon. Mr. Hodge noted that Dr. Knoecklein wants to look at how over the years if a freeze resistant milfoil has developed? He also wants to develop a standard method to study how it recolonizes. Mr. Hodge noted that Dr. Knoecklein had a free hand to do the study.

Mr. Lohan asked about the Zebra Mussel seminar that was held at WCSU – Mr. Marsicano advised that it was very interesting and that he has developed ties with the speaker.

Finally Mr. Berger congratulated Larry Marsicano, Mark Howarth and Phyllis Schaer for the HVA Watershed Conservationist awards that were given to them for work on zebra mussels.

Public Education Director: Mark Howarth noted his reports are attached to these minutes. He has been researching what goes into an effective appeal letter and has been working on it for this month. More Zebra Mussel signs were ordered, one each for Lakes Lillinonah and Zoar, which will be presented to them at their lake authority meetings and one to replace that one on Squantz Pond launch on Candlewood that was damaged beyond repair.

Committee Reports:

Public Safety: Jerry Murphy – Committee Co-Chair, reported that learning the DEP would not require the present lake patrol officer to under go the polygraph testing is a big plus to help keep some of the longtime members of the patrol. Chief Vane noted that they would like to hire 5 or 6 new officers. Right now there are 6 to 8 P.O.S.T. certified officers who have shown interest.

Equipment/Facilities: Ed Siergiej, Committee Chairman, reported that the patrol boats are out of the water, and the buoys will begin to be removed next week. It was pretty trouble free summer except for the PWC's which were finally resolved. Now they are just getting ready to button down for the season. Mrs. Schaer asked if there should be a notice in the local media about the buoys being removed – discussion followed. Mr. Berger will check with the attorney.

Mr. Berger asked about the idea of a CLA store for tee shirts, hats, magnets, etc., to help with the fundraising – Mrs. Schaer will check into this regarding sales tax, and any necessary permits. Discussion followed.



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Executive Director's Report

September 9, 2011

Larry Marsicano

The following report summarizes activities August 8, 2011 to September 9, 2011.

ZEBRA MUSSELS

The Zebra Mussel Task Force met on August 17th. Part of the meeting agenda was to review what has been accomplished up thru that meeting. A draft list is attached to this report. The draft interim report continues to be revised. On September 7th Phyllis Schaer, Gary Smolen of FLPR, Mark Howarth and I reviewed and revised the draft report page by page. On August 24th I met with our public relations / media consultant George Linkletter on final efforts by him on our behalf to promote appropriate invasive species prevention spread. Another community access cable TV program is being planned and would feature Greg Bugbee from the CT Agricultural Experiment Station who heads up the annual milfoil mapping efforts on Candlewood. We continue to facilitate the collections of samples for analyses of zebra mussel veligers and have also started developing expertise in efforts to assist in the analyses of samples.

EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL

We facilitated a visit and assessment of the milfoil weevil experimental sites on Candlewood Lake by EnviroScience on September 1st. Their report is due later this year. We continued to facilitate the field research by students from WCSU on those same sites and control sites.

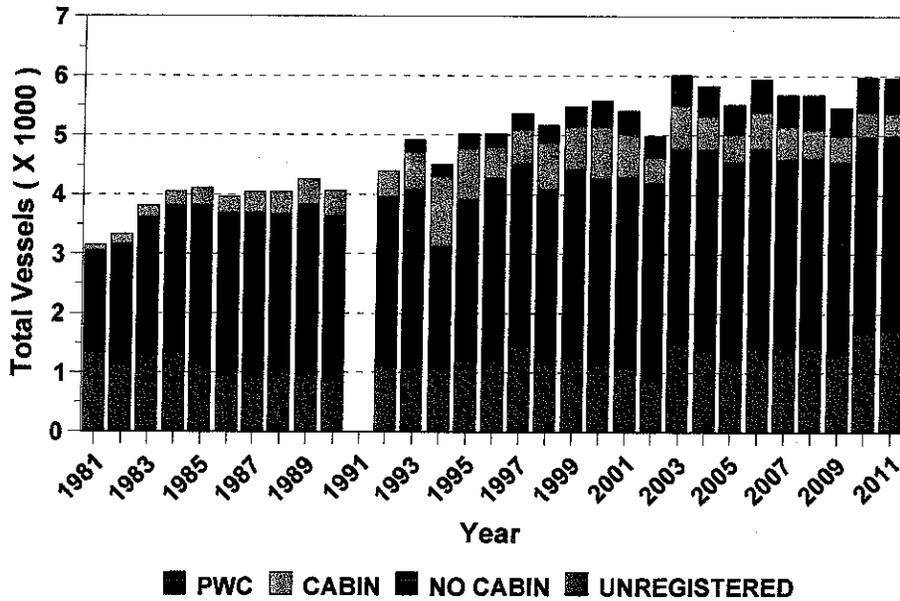
The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station performed their mapping of milfoil on Candlewood Lake for FirstLight Power Resources in fulfillment of the FERC-approved Nuisance Plant Monitoring Plan. The CAES researchers are finding the milfoil but it is well below the surface. It is unclear if the mapping has been completed.

Despite concerns regarding ice and snow cover and their effects on last year's deep drawdown, the milfoil has appeared to be far less invasive this season, and in many areas never broke the surface of the water. In addition to FirstLight conducting last winter's deep drawdown in a fashion more characteristic of the 1985 – 1995 period, there are other variable that may have affected the milfoil levels this year including lake level this summer and spring weather conditions.

We are still looking to schedule a meeting with FirstLight to discuss the drawdown for this winter.

RESIDENT BOAT COUNT

The annual resident boat count occurred during the week of August 15th. During the count, CLA staff visited the entire shoreline of the Lake by boat, and counted and characterized all vessels observed in the water and onshore. Preliminary results are shown below.



Year	Other	W/O	W/	PWC
2007	1407	3177	575	527
2008	1458	3151	491	577
2009	1317	3231	452	477
2010	1683	3284	433	578
2011	1748	3245	398	582

DRAGON BOAT RACES

Due in large part to Mark Howarth, the 2011 was a successful community event. Other important contributors included Shannon Ring and other CLA staff. A more detailed reporting of the event should be in Mark’s report. Our thanks and appreciation is also due to the sponsors, teams and volunteers.

OTHER

On the evening of August 11th I participate in the Friends of the Lake (Lillinonah) anniversary celebration held at the home of one of the FOTL Executive Board members. I was asked to briefly discuss the zebra mussel issue. Featured speakers included US Senator Richard Blumenthal and CT DEEP Commissioner Daniel Esty, who I was able to meet.

We have met several times with BSA Scout Dimitrios Psaltos regarding an Eagle Scout Project. We are focusing on a project involving the Buffer Garden to be implemented next spring.

HVA (con't)	<p>Haven Rowing Club</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Attempted making contact with the Lake Housatonic Paddlers Club ▪ Have posted information on their website and Facebook page
WCSU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Have collected samples for veliger analyses at Lakes Candlewood, Lillinonah and Zoar ▪ Have begun analyses of samples
Lakes Lillinonah & Zoar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Posted signage at ramps ▪ Held a public forum on the draft report ▪ Coordinated an Invasive Investigator training program ▪ Developed and sent out ~3,000 post card version of the CLEAN-DRAIN-DRY message ▪ Provided on-the-water transportation for veliger sample collections ▪ Volunteers on Lillinonah have conducted shoreline reconnaissance while the lake level was low
Other Stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Internet research was conducted to develop a list of educational material outlets ▪ A zebra mussel adult monitoring plan was developed and being implemented on Candlewood Lake

Zebra Mussels:

Zebra Mussel Task Force:

On August 17th the task force met again for several hours, our 6th meeting, to further our progress with the fight against the spread of zebra mussels. Larry, Mark, Phyllis and Gary Smolen also met to do a "page turn" of the interim report on September 7th. After going through the report and including edits made by others, we now have a nearly complete report, with only a few edits remaining.



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Executive Director's Report

October 6, 2011

Larry Marsicano

The following report summarizes activities of September 9, 2011 to October 5, 2011

ZEBRA MUSSELS

Samples for zebra mussel monitoring had been collected up through last week. Analyses using cross polarization microscopy and PCR continue at WCSU. We continue to look at rapid response plans from across the country in efforts to develop one for this area. We are attending the CT Aquatic Nuisance Species Working Group meeting later this month where one of the topics of discussion will be a state-wide rapid response plan for aquatic invasive species.

We continue to attempt to finalize the Interim Report. The latest draft (less the appendices) was released to Task Force members for review on September 30th. The appendices will be re-released for review soon. The only known unresolved issue in the draft text centers around one of the recommendation for PREVENTION AND CONTROL which currently reads:

- ***Work with FirstLight in Investigating Modifications of the Candlewood Lake Pump-up:*** *The Task Force agreed to investigate and recommend modifications to the pump-up of water to Candlewood Lake from the Housatonic River. The research should focus on feasibility of not pumping water from the River to the Lake during times when veligers are likely present in the River (see Appendix K).*

The Task Force also recognizes the value of the continued bi-annual deep drawdowns by Rocky River Hydropower Station in controlling nuisance weeds, and as a potential control of zebra mussels in Candlewood Lake. Any additional actions taken to prevent the spread of zebra mussels or aquatic nuisance plants should attempt to satisfy both lake environmental and safety issues and the economic factors of the Rocky River Facility.

An informative seminar was held at WCSU on September 28th and given by Dr. David Strayer from the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies in Millbrook, NY. Dr. Strayer is widely recognized for his work in understanding the impact of zebra mussels in the Hudson River. Dr. Wagener of WCSU and I had some opportunity to discuss the zebra mussel issue here in western Connecticut prior to the seminar.

On the evening of Friday, September 30th Phyllis Schaer, Mark Howarth and I, on behalf of the CLA and Zebra Mussel Task Force, received Watershed Conservationist Awards from the

FIRSTLIGHT POWER RESOURCES / FERC

The issue of future funding by FLPR has not been resolved. Another meeting has been scheduled for October 19th. The agenda, requested by FLPR, was discussed at the October 5th Executive Committee meeting.

Other upcoming meetings with FirstLight include the Lake Advisory Committee Meeting per the Recreation Management Plan, and the drawdown meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee, both scheduled for Monday, October 24th starting at 2:30 PM.

On September 23rd we received FERC's Order Modifying the Nuisance Plant Monitoring Plan at the request of FirstLight. FirstLight's request was made to incorporate some measures relative to the zebra mussel threat. Although CLA was supportive of the idea in theory, there were components in the FERC approved modification that were felt to be unclear or inadequate by the Watershed Committee that met on September 27th. At the direction of the Committee, an issuance was drafted requesting clarification and/or rehearing on the FERC Order. That draft should be discussed and approved for submittal to FERC. Submittals to FERC are due by October 23rd.

OTHER

I had the pleasure of speaking with Nick Spinelli of the Lake Wallenpaupack Watershed Management District for nearly two hours on September 29th. We covered a wide range of topics including each other's educational initiatives, watershed issues and interactions with the power company that owns the reservoirs. In the case of Wallenpaupack, the owner is Pennsylvania Power and Light, with which I've also had recent correspondence with.

We are requested yearly to submit a one-page summary annual report to the Town of Sherman by early September. That report was written and submitted to the Town of Sherman and all the member municipalities. The report is attached.



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October 12, 2011
Public Education
Mark Howarth

Appeal Letter:

We have been working on an appeal letter to be sent out this fall and researching changes we may make to previous years' efforts to make it more effective. A draft of the letter has been completed and reviewed, some quotes on pricing for printing and production are in already, and we continue to work on next steps.

September CandlewoodNews:

An electronic newsletter went out for the month of September. Topics covered in the newsletter include the 2011 Boat Count, 10 Things You May Not Know About the Marine Patrol, Tropical Storm Irene's Aftermath on Candlewood, 2011 Eurasian Watermilfoil, Update on Weevils, Storm Runoff, What Happens to Candlewood When It Rains, Storm Drain Marking, Home Storm Water Management and Candlewood's Wildlife.

Zebra Mussels:

Signage:

We will be producing two metal signs that will be displayed at launch sites on Lillinonah and Zoar in an effort to help educate boaters there that they need to take precautions not to transport zebra mussels to uninfected lakes such as Candlewood.

The graphics for the signs are done and approved and they will be moved into production.

ZEBRA MUSSEL ALERT

Invasive, non-native, zebra mussels have been found in these waters. After boating in contaminated waters it is critical that you follow the decontamination procedures below, if you plan to boat elsewhere.

Please do not launch your boat in other bodies of water if you have been in waters with zebra mussels and have not taken the below precautions.

The Danger	What You Should Do	Identification
<p>Boat, Property and Environmental Damage: In the right conditions, zebra mussels form the ability to rapidly reproduce and do extensive damage to a lake's ecosystems, property on a lake and to a fisher's fishing system.</p> <p>Sharp Shells: Zebra mussels have very sharp shell edges and attach to and blanket solid surfaces including docks, rocks on the lake bed and boat hulls.</p> <p>Unintentionally Transported by Boaters: Most lakes become infected with zebra mussels because boaters bring them from infected waters, to uninfected waters.</p> <p>Here Today, Here Tomorrow: There is no known effective method to completely eliminate zebra mussels if a body of water becomes infected.</p> 	<p>Please follow the below instructions for decontaminating your boat, tow vehicle and trailer BEFORE arriving at a new body of water.</p> <p>CLEAN</p> <p>GRAB</p> <p>DRY</p> <p>Boat, Trailer, Tow Vehicle, Wash, Rinse, Dry</p> 	<p>Larvae</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Too small to see with the naked eye. Float freely in the water column. Easily and unknowingly transported by humans. <p>Young</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Size of a grain of sand. Boat hull may feel gritty. <p>Adults</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fast growers, may be the size of your fingertips. Characterized by "zebra stripes" on their shells. Attach to any solid surface (including boats or aquatic plants). <p>For more information or sign-ups, please contact the Lake Lillinonah Society: 860-354-6928 or 860-354-6928</p> <p>For more information visit: www.lakecandlewoodauthority.org</p> 

Area Waters Known To Contain Zebra Mussels

If you boat in any of the below waters, please follow the above procedures **BEFORE** launching your boat in another river or lake.

Connecticut: Lake Lillinonah • Lake Zoar • East Twin Lake • West Twin Lake
New York: Hudson River • Lake George • Lake Champlain • Finger Lakes • Mohawk River Pennsylvania: Susquehanna River
Vermont: Ballston Lake • Lake Bomoseen Massachusetts: Laurel Lake • Upper Housatonic River