



CANDLEWOOD LAKE AUTHORITY

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

Minutes of Regular Meeting August 13, 2014

Attending:

P. Schaer	Sherman
E. Hayes	Sherman
H. Berger	Sherman
H. Mayer	New Milford
M. Toussaint	New Milford
J. Wodarski	New Milford
J. Murphy	Brookfield
W. Lohan	Brookfield
B. Brown	Brookfield
C. Robinson	Danbury
D. Rosemark	Danbury
J. Hodge	New Fairfield
B. Kemble	New Fairfield (arrived 8:08PM)

Absent:

E. Siergiej	Danbury
N. Gyle	New Fairfield

L. Marsicano, CLA Executive Director
F. Frattini, Administrative Coordinator
D. Vane, Chief of Marine Enforcement

Recorder: H. Berger

Guests: M. Propper, Danbury
S. Wodarski, New Milford

Phyllis Schaer, Chairman, called the regular meeting of the Candlewood Lake Authority to order at 7:32 P.M. at Brookfield Town Hall, Brookfield, CT. She welcomed the guests.

Secretary's Report: Howie Berger, Secretary, noted there were no corrections to the minutes of the June 17, 2014 Special Meeting. *Jerry Murphy moved that the minutes of the June 17, 2014 Special Meeting be accepted as written, seconded by Bill Lohan and voted with all in favor and John Hodge abstaining, motion carried, minutes accepted.* Also there were no corrections to the minutes of the July 9, 2014 regular meeting, *Bill Lohan moved to accept the minutes of the July 9, 2014 meeting as written, seconded by Ed Hayes and voted with all in favor, motion carried and minutes accepted as written.*

Mr. Berger wanted to thank the staff and especially Mark Howarth for a great job at New Milford Village Fair Days.

Chairman's Report: Mrs. Schaer reported that Committee Assignments had been sent to the delegates and asked that the committee chairs be approved as required by the By-Laws. *Jerry Murphy moved to approve the Committee Chairmen for 2014, seconded by Bill Lohan and*

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BY: 

voted with all in favor. Motion passed. Mrs. Schaer reported that she had been reviewing delegate attendance and committee participation. Delegates are required to serve on at least one committee and active participation is important to the work of the CLA. She advised that the delegates need to improve attendance at CLA meetings and participation on committees to keep up to date on CLA activities. She reported on the July 15th presentation of New England Environmental (NEE) on Water Quality which confirmed CLA's findings over the last thirty years – noting that watershed and the increase in shoreline development are key issues that impact and effect water quality on Candlewood not drawdowns. Milfoil control in the report was insufficiently researched notably the cost of the grass carp. A meeting to review Dr. Knoecklein's latest report has been scheduled for September 3rd. A request for his report was issued by one of the First Selectman weeks ago but no report to date. A letter has gone out to the Town CEO's asking for their authorization to submit a grant application to the State for 50% funding for the grass carp project. She has been working with Sophia Licht of New Fairfield who has been doing a number of jobs for the CLA working toward her Girl Scout "Gold" Award. Mrs. Schaer will be attending the August P&Z meeting in Sherman to discuss zoning issues that are important to lake protection and support a walkover septic ordinance similar to New Fairfield. A visit to Lake George is planned for September 12th and asked any delegate who would like to go to contact the CLA office. She also reported that she has contacted some local NY lakes regarding their experience with grass carp and a representative of Lake Mahopac would be willing to come and speak about their success.

Vice Chairman's Report: Mark Toussaint noted that there was no Public Awareness Committee meeting this month. He reported that at Village Fair Days he observed that the level of knowledge of the public has shown that the CLA is getting its message out. Dragon Boat Race practices have been ongoing for the past two weeks and the event is coming together nicely. Some volunteers are still needed in some areas this weekend to help at the Race. Also an email fundraising letter should be ready to go out next week.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Lohan, Treasurer, advised that the audit is ongoing and last fiscal year's deficit is subject to the audit. There is no financial report until the audit is completed but he did report that Brookfield and Sherman have paid their 2014/15 appropriation in full, Danbury has paid one quarter, New Milford has paid \$50,000 (leaving a balance of \$10,646) and nothing from New Fairfield. Also Danbury did pay the 2013/14 appropriation balance in July.

Executive Director: Mr. Marsicano advised that his report is attached to these minutes. Some items covered were Water Quality noting that this year transparency is very good – much better than last year and advised that the weather (e.g. not as warm as last summer) is the reason for the better clarity. Secchi Disk volunteer monitoring program has begun with ten sites around the lake this is in addition to the Town Parks, which were begun last year. Other Items were:

- The NEE Report on Candlewood,
- AIS Grant Program,
- CLA invited to FirstLight's meeting on Dr. Knoecklein's report,
- Zebra Mussels,
- Leadership Danbury participation
- Perkin Elmer's Community Service Day
- Expanding the Sr. Environmental Corps - presently a group of New Fairfield Seniors pick up water samples from 18 sites around the lake for bacteria testing - Mr. Marsicano has been speaking with Brookfield Senior Center about participating.

Bruce Kemble arrived at 8:08 PM

Public Education Director: Public Education Director, report is attached to these minutes. Mr. Howarth was not in attendance as he was overseeing Dragon Boar Race practice.

Committee Reports:

Public Safety: Ed Hayes, Co-Chair, reported that the communication system is a major concern of the committee with the State DEEP changing the frequency and the CLAMP needing to upgrade to meet this change – and today he has received some information regarding the cost from the vendor the CLA uses and who has the contract from the State that upgrading the radios will be closer to \$2,700 per unit which will be under ten thousand for three units (McKee I and II and the Steiger) and not over twenty thousand as previously thought. He will contact Senator McLaughlin with these new figures for the grant that they are trying to locate.

Mr. Marsicano wanted to note the appreciation of the residents of Hollywyle Cove to the Lake Patrol for their coverage in that area noting that the behavior of rafting boats has improved. He also noted the increase in the number of PWC's operating and rafting together on the lake.

Public Awareness: Mark Toussaint, Co-Chair had nothing further to report.

Watershed Management: Harold Mayer, Chairman, read from an article in *The Spectrum* regarding the findings of the consultant hired by the Towns that said, "Dr. June-Wells 6 month study confirms what a CLA study had previously found". The committee has asked the Executive Director to investigate protective regulatory measures implemented at large lakes, would like to organize a public presentation for the CLA to share findings on water quality and weed management and to bring the Action Plan with recommendations back to the Towns.

Mr. Marsicano noted that the insurance liability issue with Praxair has not yet been resolved – this is for the Zebra Mussel research up in Lee, MA.

Equipment/Facilities: In the absence of the Committee Chairman, Mr. Marsicano noted that the Operations Foreman would be having surgery due to an accident that occurred while working on the ARK II when he fell between the boat and the dock and injured his shoulder. This will mean that help will be needed for the removal of the buoys in the fall and asked if anyone would be willing to help.

Old Business: None

New Business: Mrs. Schaer again asked that if any delegate would like to go to Lake George on September 12th to let the office know. Also if anyone would like to visit any local lakes she would be willing to arrange short trips to visit.

Mrs. Schaer then opened discussion on an email that she had forwarded to all delegates that had been written by a delegate to the First Selectman of New Fairfield who forwarded it to the CEO's of all the Towns and it was sent to the CLA Chairman by one of the CEO's. Mrs. Schaer advised that the email does not reflect the positions of the CLA or respective Committees. She believed that the actions are in direct conflict to the CLA By-Laws and Mission Statement. Mrs. Schaer read from Article V of the CLA By-Laws which states in part "Principal Committees shall NOT commit the Authority to actions, or positions without the approval of the Authority....." Discussion followed. John Hodge noted that the Authority has gone over budget for the past three years and cannot continue to operate like that, it must remain within the budget – the Towns need the Lake Authority but the Authority cannot continue to keep

overspending. He advised that the email was not sent as a delegate of the CLA. Wherein Bill Brown asked Mr. Hodge directly "what is your end game?" Discussion continued. Mr. Toussaint advised that his committee has historically raised funds to cover the budget shortfalls and strongly disagreed with statements made by Mr. Hodge. Ed Hayes expressed his support of the Lake Patrol and all members of the CLA agreed and disagreed with Mr. Hodge that the Patrol should be taken over by the State DEEP. Dan Rosemark made a motion then deferred to Mr. Berger allowing his motion to die. Howie Berger noted that there appears to be a disagreement between Mr. Hodge and the CLA Board that was expressed in the email.

Mr. Berger then *made a motion to request that the Chairman respond to First Selectman Bill Tinsley with advice from the Executive Committee, if necessary, to include:*

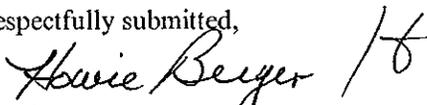
1. *Individual agendas/opinions do not represent the position of the Lake Authority*
2. *CLA has historically raised funds to offset the budget shortfall of not having all of its operating expense for Water Quality and Marine Patrol covered by the member Towns.*
3. *CLA as per our mission is committed to public safety and the Marine Patrol.*
4. *CLA would welcome any request to discuss the work of the Authority and finally,*
5. *Committee input would be sought prior to submittal.*

Motion seconded by Mark Toussaint. Discussion on the motion followed – delegates can disagree but cannot move forward when the CLA is trying to do what is best for the lake – if not the CLA, then who advocates for the Lake? With no further discussion, the motion was voted with all in favor and John Hodge abstained. Motion carried and the Chair will prepare a response according to the motion.

Any and All Business:

With no further business to come before the Candlewood Lake Authority, *Chris Robinson moved to adjourn, seconded by Harold Mayer. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 P. M.*

Respectfully submitted,



Howie Berger, Secretary
Frances Frattini, Administrative Coordinator

r/b/lm

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



CANDLEWOOD LAKE AUTHORITY

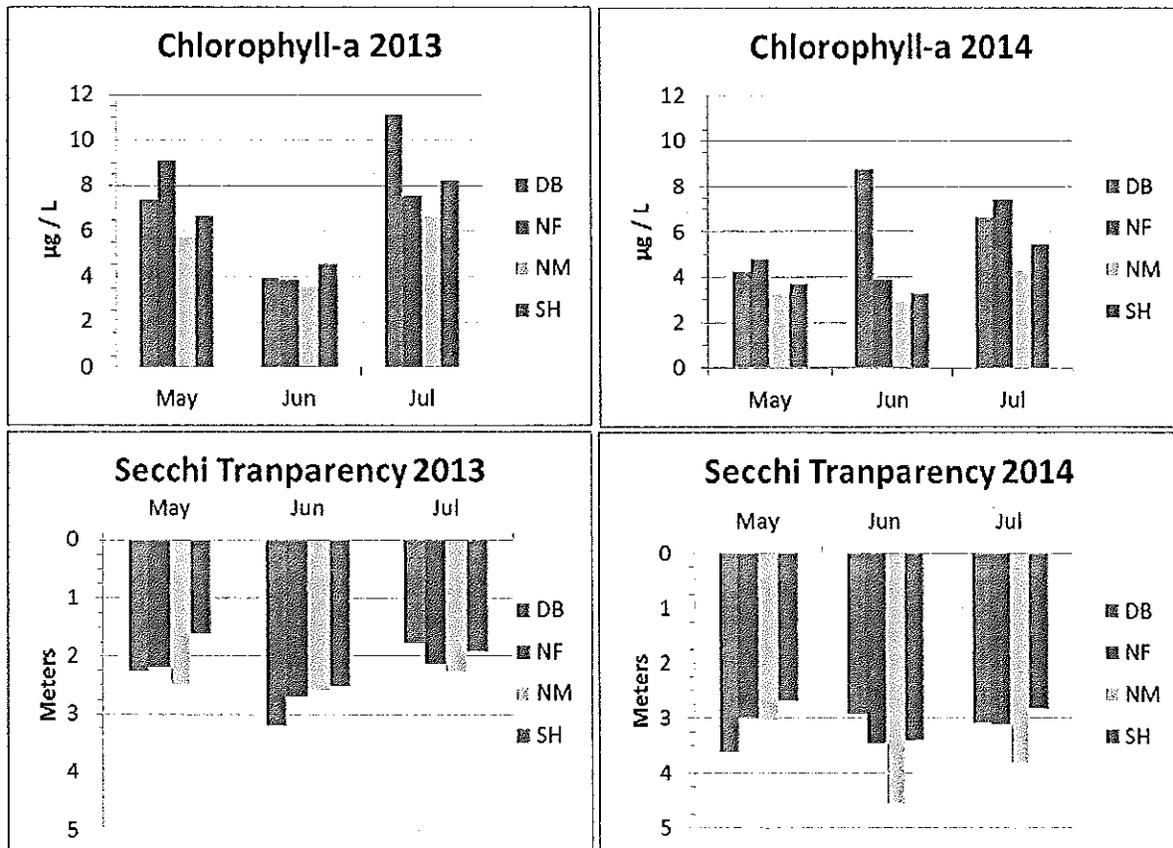
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Executive Director's Report ***August 8, 2014*** ***Larry Marsicano***

The following report summarizes many of the Executive Director's activities from July 3, 2014 to August 7, 2014.

Water Quality

Water quality continues to be good relative to last year. Secchi transparency or water clarity has been higher this year while chlorophyll concentration or the algae productivity in the water column has been down. See below.



NEE Report on Candlewood Lake

On July 15th we attended a presentation by Dr. Mark June-Wells of New England Environmental who was contracted by the municipalities to study conditions at Candlewood Lake because of perceived discrepancies between CLA's characterization of historical water quality and that of FirstLight and their consultant, Dr. George Knoecklein. Dr. June-Wells' analyses supported our interpretation of the data collected on Candlewood over the last 30 years. Dr. June-Wells was also asked for an assessment of options and recommendation for milfoil management. His recommendation was a combination of herbicide and diver assisted suction harvesting. We did not agree with his assessment of the costs of a triploid grass carp program and have drafted a letter which includes our information on the estimated costs.

FirstLight's Request to Present to CEOs

On Saturday, July 26th we were included in a response email from Brookfield First Selectman Bill Tinsley to Brian Wood of FirstLight. Earlier that day, Mr. Wood has sent an email exclusively to the offices of the Chief Elected Officials of the CLA member municipalities, as well as Dr. Knoecklein and Dr. June-Wells. Mr. Wood was requesting a date to present the water quality findings of Dr. Knoecklein from his work last year and this year. In his email to the CEOs that was not sent to the CLA, Mr. Wood concluded...

As we move forward the knowledge of a qualified Limnologist will be essential to understanding where we are today and in the past, where we go from here, how we monitor the lake moving forward and what we all do together to mitigate or manage it moving forward together.

In his response, which Phyllis and I did receive, First Selectman Tinsley requested that the CLA receive an invitation and that he receive a copy of the report or findings which Dr. Knoecklein will be presenting.

On Thursday, July 31st we received an email from Susan Starr from New Fairfield First Selectman's Office with an invitation to the meeting scheduled for September 3rd at 10am in New Fairfield. To date, no report or findings have been transmitted to Mr. Tinsley.

AIS Grant Program

On Thursday, July 31st we received correspondence from CT DEEP on the RFP for the Grants for Municipalities for Aquatic Invasive Plants. The State has made \$150,000 dollars available for grants for either diagnostic feasibility studies or control and management programs. A triploid grass carp program would fall under the latter category. In order for a Lake Authority to submit a grant we need authorization from the member municipalities. The grant program is a 50% matching program. A fairly detailed (instructions say no more than 20 pages plus maps and attachments) grant must be received by the CT DEEP by September 15th. A letter to the CEO's requesting their authorization has been drafted and provided for editing to Phyllis.

Secchi Monitoring and Volunteer Program

We have continued to work on a Volunteer Secchi Disk Monitoring Program. To date four of the five town beaches are collecting Secchi transparency data. We also have asked, via our electronic newsletter, for 10 community volunteers to participate. We had an immediate response and by the date of the board meeting, I anticipate almost of volunteers will be collecting data on a regular basis. The map to the right shows the location of the sites where Secchi transparency is or will be measured as part of this program. Red circles indicate the community volunteer sites; yellow circles denote the town beach sites.



As part of this initiative, I have been working with Howie Berger to create an app so volunteers with Smart Phones or Android-based wireless devices could enter the data remotely and we could automate the tracking of the Secchi transparency.

Zebra Mussels

Samples collected from Zoar and Lillinonah continue to have high numbers of zebra mussel veligers. Veligers have not been detected in Candlewood samples.

We continue to investigate ways of partnering with Praxair to do the CO2 study. The study has been postponed until we can develop a mutually agreeable method of partnering with Praxair.

Leadership Danbury

On Thursday, July 24th, Phyllis, Ed Hayes, Jerry and I participated in the Danbury Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Danbury Program. After lunch at Down the Hatch the ~25 members of this year's class listened to us discuss the lake and CLA for approximately 30 minutes. Afterwards, a boat ride was provided courtesy of the CLA, the Schaefer's, and Jerry.

Perkin Elmer Employees

I was invited to address employees of Perkin Elmer prior to their Corporate Community Service Day on the Lake which occurred on Wednesday, August 6th. Tim Watko, who also participates in our Clean Up day in May, coordinated this effort.

Expanding the Senior Environment Corps

A group of seniors from the New Fairfield Senior Center continue to provide valuable help with our bacteria monitoring program. Each Tuesday they drive the perimeter of the lake and collect water sample at swim beaches for *E. coli* analysis. The Director of the Center, Kathy Hull, and I have been trying to expand this program to other centers around the lake. On Friday, August 1st I met with the Director of the Brookfield Senior Center, Ellen Melville, who is excited about the prospect of engaging some of her members to participate in this program.



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**August 13, 2014
Public Education
Mark Howarth**

Village Fair Days:

We had another successful Village Fair Days this year. Our third time in a row at this event. We had a dual-purpose booth. Half of the booth was dedicated to education and outreach, with information on algae blooms, zebra mussels and Eurasian watermilfoil, in addition to boating safety. The other half of the booth was dedicated to Candlewood Lake merchandise sales.

Both the sales and education at our booth went very well, with hundreds of people stopping to talk to us and/or buy merchandise.



Dragon Boat Race:

We are in the final stages of preparation for the dragon boat races.

We have been hosting practices for the past three weeks, on weeknights and weekend mornings, with the teams.

We are looking forward to another exciting event this year.

CLAMP PFD Program:

We have printed the backs of the PFD's for the CLAMP PFD Loaner Program, as well as created two forms that will need to be filled out with each loaner vest handed out. The vests will be kept on board the two Patrol Boats and are ready for use.



e-Newsletters:

We sent out two e-Newsletters last month.

The latter one focused on our volunteers Secchi Disk monitoring program where as the prior one recapped our 2014 Candlewood Lake Clean Up, understanding green algae in the lake, and the Candlewood Lake Pump-out Boat.

