



CANDLEWOOD LAKE AUTHORITY

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

Minutes of Regular Meeting March 11, 2015

Attending:

P. Schaer	Sherman
H. Berger	Sherman
G. Linkletter	Sherman
P. Eng	New Milford
M Toussaint	New Milford
J. Wodarski	New Milford
J. Murphy	Brookfield
B. Brown	Brookfield
W. Lohan	Brookfield
C. Robinson	Danbury
D. Rosemark	Danbury
E. Siergiej	Danbury
J. Hodge	New Fairfield
B. Kemble	New Fairfield

Absent:

L. Marsicano, CLA Executive Director
F. Frattini, CLA Administrative Coordinator
M. Howarth, CLA Public Education Director

Recorder: M. Toussaint

Guests: S. Randall, Sherman
S. Wodarski, New Milford
J. McAlister, New Fairfield
S. Tuz, *News Times*

Phyllis Schaer, Chairman, called the regular meeting of the Candlewood Lake Authority to order at 7:46 P.M. at Brookfield Town Hall, Brookfield, CT. She welcomed the guests.

Secretary's Report: Howie Berger, Secretary, noted there he had received a note regarding an addition to the minutes of the January 14, 2014 Regular meeting from John Hodge as follows: "The CLA is still seeking an opinion on – Can funds which are restricted by the CLA be released to be used for covering CLA operating expenses or overruns in the budget? And "Is the CLA required to operate within its approved budget and not overspend the town approved CLA Budget?" *Mr. Berger moved that the amendment from Mr. Hodge be included as part of the minutes of the January 14, 2015 meeting, seconded by George Linkletter and voted with all in favor. Mr. Hodge made a motion to accept the minutes of the January 14, 2015 regular meeting as amended, seconded by Dan Rosemark and voted with all in favor. Minutes have been accepted as amended.*

RECEIVED FOR RECORD
DANBURY TOWN CLERK

2015 MAR 16 A 10:59

BY: 

Chairman's Report: Mrs. Schaer reported that she and Mr. Marsicano had met with stakeholders involved in the Voluntary aquatic invasive species inspection / decontamination program at the Brookfield Town Park which is based on programs in Vermont, Maine and Lake George. Hope that this will be a model for the other Towns on the Lake.

Before the report continued there was a motion by George Linkletter seconded by Bill Brown to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2015 Special Meeting, motion was voted with all in favor and John Hodge and Peter Eng abstaining.

Mrs. Schaer asked the delegates if they have any business that they would like discussed, they can send a memo prior to the meeting or just bring it up under Old or New Business. She noted that the FERC ruling on the Vegetated Buffers had been discussed at previous CLA meetings. She reported on attendance at the Lake Advisory Committee and Nuisance Plant Monitoring Meetings and read from a January 20, 2015 letter to FERC from First Light Power Resources on the Lake and River Advisory Committee as follows:

"The degradation of Candlewood takes water quality and the resurgence of cyanobacteria algal blooms did not occur overnight rather over the past 85+ years since the lake was created. FirstLight's neighbors have armored the shoreline, modified the littoral zone, developed the watershed and installed countless unmanaged storm water conduits into the lake. Many past or current neighbors have without FirstLight's permission cleared our trees and understory, mowed, graded, filled, terraced or modified our shoreline lands. Many of these unpermitted uses or trespasses occurred long before FERC Licensed the Project. All of these activities over 85+ years have introduced extensive volumes of Phosphorus into the lake through a process called "Eutrophication", and today a process defined as "internal loading" is the primary driving force for future algae blooms, not the presence or absence of vegetated buffer."

Regarding the Lake Advisory Committee Minutes the CLA and other stakeholders submitted comments to FERC and these were not submitted to FERC by FirstLight. Discussion followed and it was noted that FERC may request all comments. It was suggested that the comments could be submitted to the five lake towns and if no objections then they could be sent to FERC. Discussion followed on the topic of the "pump-up" water temperature to prevent transporting Zebra Mussel veligers – it had been at 50 degrees but 59 degrees was considered but now is considering 54 degrees. The scientific literature indicates that zebra mussels can spawn at 50 degrees but "primary" spawning occurs at temperatures starting in the high 50s.

Discussion on the stocking of the Grass Carp followed noting that information will be available at the State of the Lake, in local news media and possibly with a Science at Night. Also, DEEP will require that the CLA hold two public meetings to educate the public about the Grass Carp.

Mrs. Schaer reported that she had learned that FirstLight Power will be donating ten thousand (\$10,000.00) dollars to the CLA for the next fiscal year, this was learned after the proposed budget has been submitted to the Towns. This is down from the \$50,000 that had been received previously. FirstLight will now have a Grant Program that can be applied to for additional funding. The Towns are aware of this shortfall in the CLA proposed budget for 2015-2016. Discussion continued. Noting that on other FERC licensed lakes the licensee pays for the safety patrols – discussion followed on the origin of the Lake Patrol, the State's responsibility and that of the Lake Towns. Mr. Berger urged the delegates to contact their CEO's to discuss this topic with them and enlist their aid in having FLPR return to their prior funding levels.

Mrs. Schaer reported that the revised MOA between the CLA and DEEP for the Lake Patrol has been sent to the Towns for review.

Vice Chairman's Report: Mark Toussaint reported that at the Public Awareness Committee meeting this evening they worked on the Agenda from the State of Lake meeting to be held on March 21, 2015 at the Candlewood Lake Club. He also noted that fundraising is on target so far this year.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Lohan, Treasurer, reported that revenues are doing well and committees are at about 70% spent thus far and including miscellaneous expenses at about 79% spent to date. It appears that additional funds might be needed to the end of the fiscal year. With no further discussion, *Jerry Murphy made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report of Income and Expenses for the months ended January 31 and February 28, 2015 as presented, motion seconded by Mark Toussaint and voted with all in favor. Motion carried and Treasurer's Report of Income and Expenses for the months ended January 31 and February 28, 2015 has been filed for audit.*

Executive Director: Mr. Marsicano advised that his reports for February and March are attached to these minutes and noted that Mrs. Schaer covered most items. He reported that he had the peer-reviewed Journal "Lake and Reservoir Management" which contains the paper he co-authored on the winter drawdown variables on how to kill milfoil. He passed a map with proposed locations for releasing the Grass Carp, discussion followed and it was suggested that if delegates had other locations that should be considered to let him know. DEEP will be the agency approving the stocking locations.

He will participate in a Career Day in Brookfield later this month, he had received a note from Education Connection advising that this may be the last year for Project CLEAR as the funding has been cut. The CLA will be participating in the New Milford Park and Rec. summer program with a Lake related experience for the participants.

Public Education Director: Mark Howarth advised that his reports for February and March are attached to these minutes. He asked the delegates to follow up with invitation to their CEO's to the State of the Lake. Everyone including delegates should register on line.

Committee Reports:

Public Safety: Jerry Murphy reported that the committee will have its first meeting of the year later this month. Mrs. Schaer noted that she is preparing a Grant Application to FirstLight for the radios.

Public Awareness: Mr. Toussaint noted all was covered previously.

Equipment/Facilities: Ed Siergiej, Committee Chairman, reported that everything is still covered with snow. Last year a tree fell on the small utility boat and it has been replaced with a small bow-rider that was obtained in a trade for a donated pontoon boat. He hopes to have this boat ready for this season with proceeds from the sale of an old motor and trailer. He noted that DEEP has been asked if the CLA can keep the old buoys from Lattins and Squantz Coves to replace some of the CLA's older ones. Regarding the radios for the Patrol it was suggested that the portables be purchased first and then the mounted ones. He also reminded everyone that the engines are aging although at the end of last season everything was working well, they will not last forever.

Watershed Management Committee: Howie Berger, Committee Chair noted that the committee will be meeting next Tuesday.

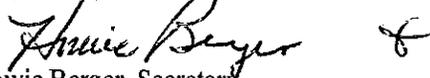
Old Business: John Hodge asked that at the next meeting the delegates discuss and vote to agree not to go over budget, review the opinion from the Auditor, the opinion from the Attorney on the release of the restricted funds, and a commitment to stay within budget. Discussion followed and it was agreed that the Chairman would have these items open for discussion at the next meeting.

New Business: George Linkletter commented on alerting the CEO's of the possible deficit for this fiscal year. If you anticipate a shortfall you should let the Towns know and that the CLA may have to ask them for additional funds to cover expenses to the end of the fiscal year. Discussion followed. *Mr. Linkletter made a motion to alert the towns that in this fiscal year it is projected that it is possible that the CLA may go over budget by as much as Twenty-five thousand (\$25,000.00) dollars (or the amount determined by the CLA Treasurer) and include the reason for this deficit. Seconded by Dan Rosemark and voted with all in favor. Motion carried.* The Chairman and Executive Director will work on this letter to the Towns.

Any and All Business:

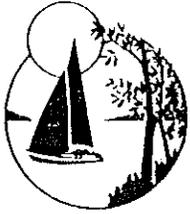
With no further business to come before the Candlewood Lake Authority, *Chris Robinson moved to adjourn, seconded by John Hodge. Meeting adjourned at 9:51 P. M.*

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.



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Executive Director's Report

March 6, 2015

Larry Marsicano

The following report summarizes activities from February 9, 2015 to March 6, 2015.

Funding Reduction by FirstLight

On Friday, February 20th late in the afternoon we received a call from FirstLight's Len Greene informing us of the new corporate policy to fund the lake authorities at the same level (\$10,000) and initiate a competitive grant program for not for profits in the 48 towns along the Housatonic River. This comes after we submitted our budget request to the towns with an anticipated contribution of \$60,000 from FirstLight. While we have received nothing in writing from FirstLight on this, we also learned that FirstLight verbally informed the CEO's of the towns as well. We have prepared and electronically sent out a communication to the elected leaders expressing our concerns and provided them historical perspective. You all should have received it electronically.

Budget Process

On Saturday morning, February 28th all Sherman Delegates and I attended the Sherman Budget Hearing where our budget request was discussed. The Selectmen who also serve as the Board of Finance were very supportive and appreciative of the work we do and will do their best to support our budget. Joe Wodarski, Phyllis and I (along with Sui Wodarski and Len Schaer) attended the meeting of the Joint Town Council / Board of Finance Budget Hearing to discuss our budget on Wednesday night, March 4th. The Council expressed appreciation for the budget presentation detail and for the work we do and asked good questions which we were able to answer. We have been working with Mayor Murphy on an alternative funding source for the radios. After that meeting the Mayor shared some thoughts on how we might address the shortfall created by the reduction of support by FirstLight. We will be meeting with the Brookfield Board of Finance just before our March board meeting on March 11th.

Memorandum of Agreement with CT DEEP

A number of us, including Public Safety and Executive Committees, CLA Chief of Patrol Doug Vane and me have been working on the renewal the MOA with the CT DEEP regarding the operation and oversight of our Marine Patrol. A final draft has been sent to the CEOs requesting that legal counsel from at least one town reviews the document and then authorizes us to sign it and send it back to the CT DEEP.

Aquatic Invasive Species Initiatives

Phyllis and I met with the CT DEEP regarding a permit application for stocking the triploid grass carp (TGC) in Candlewood. CT DEEP representatives were Peter Aarrestad who is the Director of Inland Fisheries and Mindy Barnett who administers the TGC permits. Good progress was made and we have continued to work on a project management plan with the CT DEEP. Attached is a map of possible stocking sites with sizes of fish that would be stocked.

Part of that project management plan may include a fish tracking study. This study would be in conjunction with WCSU, CT DEEP, and a member of the lake community interested in funding this. I have been preparing a preliminary budget and written proposal at the request of the party interested in funding this.

I have spoken with several members of lake communities along Squantz Pond about the prospect of stocking triploid grass carp (TGC) there. Currently the State does not want stocking in Squantz Pond but they do not appear to be requiring that a barrier be created between Candlewood and Squantz at the Rt. 39 Causeway meaning that TCG could migrate to Squantz from Candlewood. Part of the reasoning behind not wanting to stock in Squantz Pond is the lack of weed mapping data. Squantz Pond has not been mapped as part of the Nuisance Plant Monitoring Plan per the FERC license, even though FERC looks at Candlewood as if Squantz is part of it. For example in the license FERC describes Candlewood as 5,600 acres which is far larger than just Candlewood alone. FERC also requires mapping of Lillinonah and Zoar on alternate years, but makes no mention of Squantz in the license even though it contributes to hydropower generation.

We continue to work to develop a plan for the boat and trailer inspection / decontamination project being piloted by the Town of Brookfield. We have recently reached out to the Lake George Park Commission to see if they would provide decontamination training with the high pressure / hot water decontamination unit that the Town of Brookfield has committed to purchasing to pilot an inspection / decontamination program. The unit First Selectman Tinsley is buying is identical to the units used up at Lake George.

FirstLight's Nuisance Species Monitoring Meeting

On Wednesday, February 25th stakeholders of the Technical Committee for Nuisance Species Monitoring Plan met to discuss the draft reports on the Eurasian watermilfoil by the CT Agricultural Experiment Station and on the zebra mussels by Ethan Nedeau. We received the draft reports the day of the meeting so we did not have time to review in advance but we have 30 days from the date of the meeting to submit written comments which FirstLight has the discretion as to which parts they will include and respond to as part of their submittal to FERC based on which comments they feel are germane.

Total acres of milfoil mapped in August of 2014 was 477 acres which is only 28 acres less than the maximum mapped (2012) in the eight years the CAES has been doing the mapping. Of special interest in the discussion of zebra mussels monitoring was the decision by FirstLight to raise the temperature threshold at which pumping of water up to Candlewood Lake would

cease to prevent introduction of zebra mussel veligers. Historically, FirstLight stopped pumping when temperatures at Great Barrington, MA reached 50 °F which is when adults are capable of spawning. Based on their consultants field research and recommendations they had decided to increase the cutoff to 59 °F which is closer to the “primary” spawning temperature. FirstLight is now considering lowering the threshold to 54 °F.

We also learned at the meeting that FirstLight is contemplating the use of CO₂ to rid zebra mussels from some of their infrastructure or equipment.

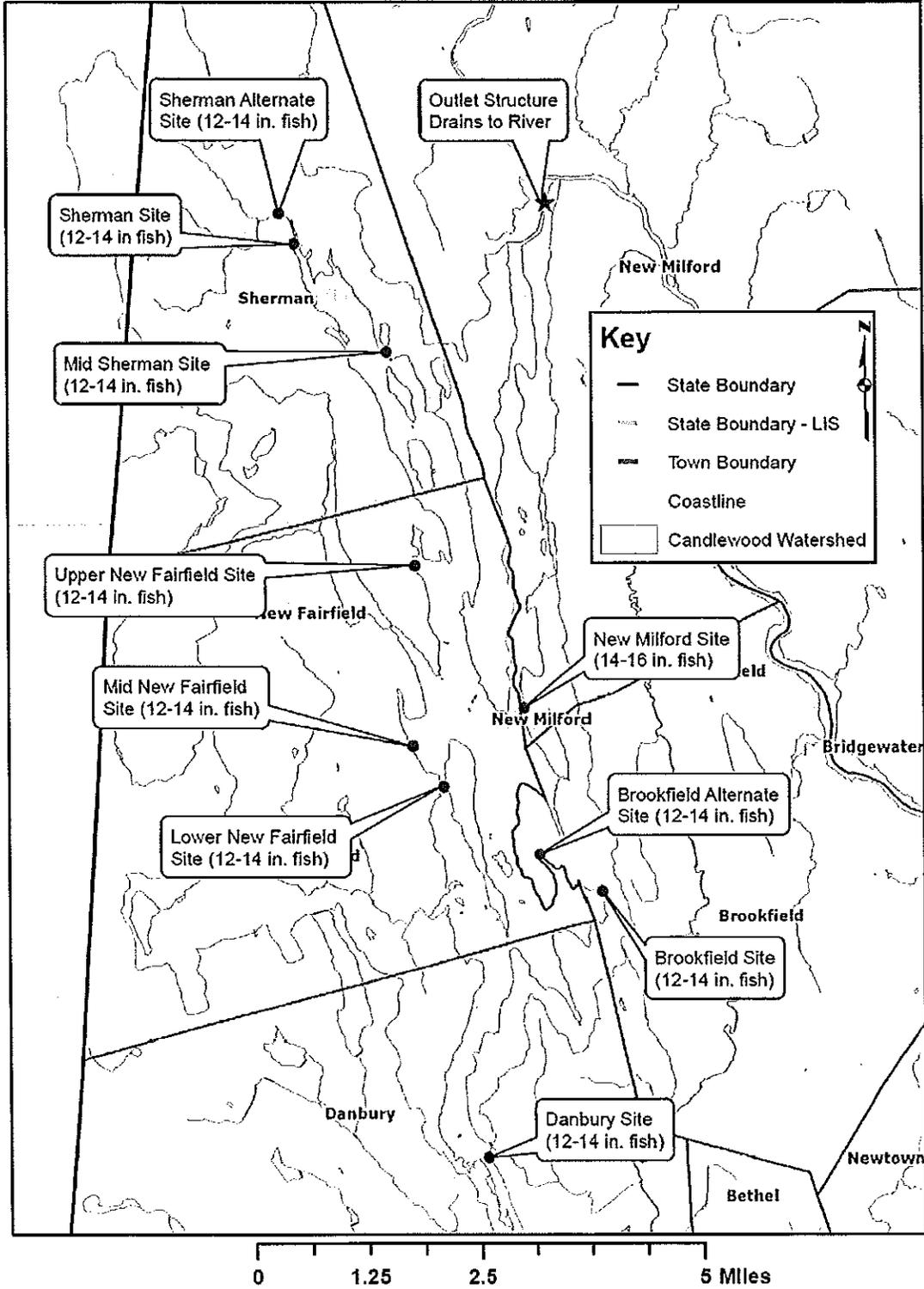
Land Use Regulations / ACTION PLAN

I continue to work with WCSU students and graduate students on examining what our towns have done with local land use regulations since our ACTION PLAN recommendations back in the early 2000s. Part of that project includes investigating the feasibility of a Candlewood overlay.

Site Plan Review

We were asked to provide comments by the City of Danbury on proposed activities at 51 Cedar Drive in Danbury and did so in mid February.

Proposed Stocking Sites, Fish Size and Location of Outlet Structure





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March 11, 2014
Public Education
Mark Howarth

State of our Lake:

The 2015 State of our Lake will be held on March 21st at the Candlewood Lake Club in New Milford.

Registration has been open for a couple of weeks and we notified our email readers and social media followers of the event a couple of weeks ago.

So far, sign ups have been going well, with nearly 60 people already having registered online, from a wide variety of communities, businesses and organizations.

We will allow up to around 100 people to register for the event, at which time we will have to close registration.

This year's format will be slightly different than in the past, with what we hope will turn out to be an even more engaging event. Rather than the CLA present and speak on multiple subjects, followed by Q&A like we did last year, we will cover a topic and respond to audience questions before moving on to the next topic.

2015
STATE OF OUR LAKE

An Update and Discussion With
Candlewood Lake Community Leaders

March 21st 2015
Candlewood Lake Club - New Milford
9:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Over 70 Lake Communities Invited!

Presented By
CANDLEWOOD

LAKE AUTHORITY

Online Store:

We created some new items for our store and got a great response to them, most notably our new sweatshirts. The promotion of the items led us to what was likely our largest weekend of sales yet. We are creating more and will be selling them both online and at our events.



Candlewood Lake Clean Up:

We have confirmed the date for the 2015 Candlewood Lake Clean Up. It will be held on Saturday May 16th, with the 17th as a rain date.

We have confirmed the park's availability with New Fairfield Park and Rec and we're looking forward to another successful clean up.

We will begin advertising the event in April, at which time we will open up our registration for the event. As in the past we will be looking for enough volunteer boat captains to transport our volunteer clean up crews.



Fundraising / Dragon Boat Races:



We are in the process of designing our new 2015 sponsor marketing materials and once again will be sending those out to all of our potential event sponsors for this year in the hopes of increasing our sponsorship from last year.

As in recent years, we will be offering "dual event" sponsorships. Sponsors who wish to join us later on can still come in as single event sponsors of the dragon boat race only.

We are also continuing to work on early dragon boat race preparation in anticipation for this year's event, with a goal of more teams and a higher fundraising total in 2015.



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Executive Director's Report
February 9, 2015
Larry Marsicano

The following report summarizes activities from January 9, 2015 to February 9, 2015.

Budget Process

The CLA Chairman and I met with Mayor Patricia Murphy of New Milford and her Director of Finance Ray Jankowski on January 29th to discuss our budget proposal. The meeting was constructive with the Mayor and Mr. Jankowski providing some recommendations and insights. There are no other meetings scheduled at this point. We have requested that the Danbury Delegate attempt to schedule a meeting with Mayor Boughton of Danbury to discuss our proposal.

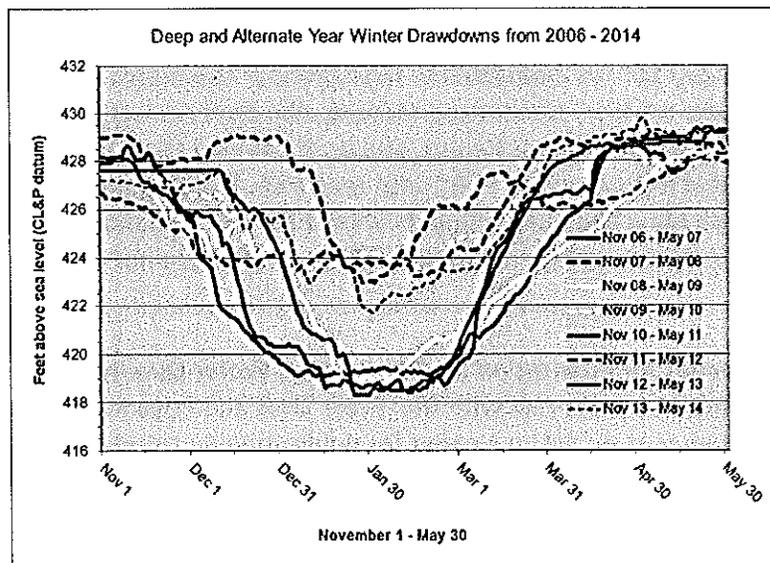
AIS Initiatives

On February 4th, we met with the other members of the AIS working group at the Brookfield Town Hall to discuss implementation of the *Volunteer Inspection / Decontamination Program* for the Brookfield and Lattins Cove Boat Launches. Phyllis and I will be developing a draft program to present to the group.

I recently received from FirstLight the lake elevation data I had requested to chart last year's drawdown. The chart below will be used by the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station as part of their report on the mapping of Eurasian watermilfoil in Candlewood. In the report they will also add to the chart the acres of milfoil cover for each year they have mapped it.

Acres of Eurasian watermilfoil from 2007 – 2014. * Acres in 2014 based on discussions with CAES.

Year	Acres	Year	Acres
2007	221	2011	331
2008	451	2012	505
2009	373	2013	259
2010	461	2014	475*



I have been working in collaboration with others from Western Connecticut State University on a report on zebra mussel monitoring efforts in in 2013 and 2014. The report will cover:

- Veliger monitoring at Lakes Candlewood, Lillinonah and Zoar and elsewhere along the Housatonic River up above the abandoned papermill in Lee, MA using CPM
- Veliger monitoring use PCR
- Detection of veligers at the pipe in the abandoned papermill on the Housatonic River
- Artificial substrate monitoring
- Analyses of zooplankton (other than ZM veligers) community and size structure

Proposed Septic Walkover Program in Sherman

We have participated in two public informational meetings in Sherman to hear the public's feelings on a proposed septic walkover program similar to the one used in New Fairfield. The first was on Saturday morning, January 17th; the second was Friday night, February 6th. The CLA recommended a septic walkover program as part of its ACTION PLAN initiative. The walkover program was listed as the first priority. The list of all recommendations is provided below.

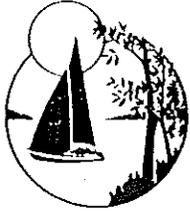
PRIORITY 1: SEWER AVOIDANCE, SEPTIC TANK CLEANING AND INSPECTION
PRIORITY 2: STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AND IMPERVIOUS SURFACE STANDARDS
PRIORITY 3: REGULATORY BUFFERS AND MINIMUM LOT AREA REQUIREMENTS
PRIORITY 4: SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENT STANDARDS
PRIORITY 5: PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT UPGRADE
PRIORITY 6: CLEAR CUTTING, EXCAVATION AND GRADING STANDARDS
PRIORITY 7: PREAMBLES OF ZONING REGULATIONS IN ADDRESSING LAKE
PRIORITY 8: RESIDENTIAL UNDERGROUND FUEL STORAGE TANKS
PRIORITY 9: FLOOD PLAIN MANAGEMENT
PRIORITY 10: HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS CHEMICAL STORAGE
COMPREHENSIVE PRIORITY: PUBLIC EDUCATION

Lake Advisory Committee Minutes, CLA Comments and FirstLight Responses

On January 16th we submitted to FirstLight our comments on the minutes of the November 25, 2014 Lake Advisory Committee Meeting, the draft Annual Buffer Progress Report, the draft Annual Seawall Progress Report, and draft Sanitary Facilities Report. On January 30th FirstLight submitted their report to FERC with responses to comments by LAC members. Both the FirstLight filing and our comments with additional explanation have been distributed for your review. Written comments of the LAC members were not included in the FirstLight's filing to FERC.

Manuscript for Publication on Candlewood Water Quality Trends

I continue to collaborate with Drs. Peter Siver and Priya Kohli at Connecticut College and Dr. Josie Hamer at WCSU on a paper for publication on trends in water quality in Candlewood since 1985 using advanced statistical analyses. Our goal is to have a complete first draft by March.



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January 16, 2015

Mr. Richard T. Laudenat
FirstLight Hydro Generating Company
143 West Street, Suite E
P.O. Box 5002
New Milford, CT 06776

Re: Comments on November 25, 2014 Lake Advisory Committee, draft Annual Vegetated Buffer Progress Report, draft Annual Seawall Report and draft Annual Pump-out Report

Dear Mr. Laudenat:

Thank you for consideration of the following comments on the LAC meeting minutes and the annual reports and also in consideration of plans for future LAC meetings. Some of our concerns were echoed by a number of those attending and were related to the scope of topics including those topics that members were wishing to discuss and the time allotted for the meeting. In the future I would encourage revising the format, e.g. discuss recreation issues one day and shoreline management another day. I do acknowledge and appreciate that the format for our November 25th meeting was changed from the originally scheduled conference call to a face to face meeting with option to call in and encourage you to continue with that format.

Meeting format did not allow adequate time to cover all topics. As noted above, this resonated with many attendees.

Early in the meeting Ms. Schaer asked how much of the shoreline on Candlewood Lake has been developed. Minutes show that Mr. Wood responded that the information was not readily available; however all of that information is available in past FLP FERC filings. I have provided that data below in Appendix 1.

Recreation Management

The minutes reflected my request to receive the aerial flyover maps. I had originally requested the maps and draft reports at least several weeks in advance of the meeting in email

correspondence to either Brian Wood or Len Greene of FirstLight. In 2009, Northeast Generation Company provided me the maps several months before the meeting and I was able to have in-use vessel density analyses completed and mapped which was valuable information and provided as part of NGC's submittal to FERC in 2009. Our intention is to continue with the vessel density tracking. The information is a most helpful tool to all of us on the LAC in understanding stresses on the Lake and evaluating recreational conflicts. We appreciate your sharing the flyover maps with us in a timely manner to provide a more beneficial use of the data collected. If agreeable, I would share the analyses with LAC members and submit it to FERC as a supplement to your filing. I would have preferred to share it at the November 25th meeting and have it be part of your submittal to FERC. But as noted at the meeting, there was a delay in your own receipt of the material. Please consider where possible having those materials available in advance of the next LAC meeting when flyover data will be presented.

The density analysis is a way of gauging overcrowding in addition to simple numbers.

During discussion of 2014 flyover data, Mr. Wood indicated that peak activity in 2014 had actually decreased compared to the 2009 data. I have provided that data for comparative purposes below.

Table 1. Summary of in-use boating activity on Candlewood Lake collected by flyovers on selected six summer weekend days and holidays in 2009 (Cordes and Co., 2009) and on one date in 2014. Counts are compared to a theoretical in-use carrying capacity of 448 vessels based on Michael Payton's model for vessel carrying capacity (CLA, 2009).

Date	Powerboats	Sailboats	Canoe/Kayak	PWC	Total	Carrying Capacity
May 25, 2009	318	17	10	3	348	Not exceeded
June 21, 2009	426	3	9	13	451	Exceeded
July 12, 2009	417	9	12	12	450	Reached
July 19, 2009	476	4	14	21	515	Exceeded
August 9, 2009	403	11	5	17	436	Not exceeded
August 31, 2009	581	10	20	26	637	Exceeded
2009 Mean	437	9	12	15	473	Exceeded
July 6, 2014	449	10	29	21	509	Exceeded

Certainly when comparing total vessels observed on August 31, 2009 to July 6, 2014, there is a decrease in peak activity. It is important to note that with the exception of the August 31, 2009 count, all other in-use vessel counts in 2009 were similar or less than that observed in July 6, 2014. I look forward to receiving the maps and data for the other five flyover dates in 2014 in the near future.

Sections highlighted in yellow were not responded to in FirstLight's FERC filing. Text in green font was rationale for our comment. Text in blue font were sections CLA comments included in the FERC filing. Text in red font was FirstLight's response in their filing.

I questioned the interpretation of overall decreased peak activity based. Given the lack of time, I shared my thoughts... but did not perhaps phrase this in a way that required a response.

There was a comment not reflected in the minutes but quickly mentioned for which I am requesting clarification. That is the status of vessels moored and not moving in open waters. Will the maps show those vessels or just the vessels that are moving and will they be considered in-use? I believe that vessels moored in the open water and/or rafting, e.g. in Hollywyle Cove, the cove at Dikes Point or anchored in front of Chicken Rock, represent an in-use vessel. Those spaces occupied by those moored and/or rafting vessels are clearly compromised in terms of use by other boats.

FirstLight will indicate all vessels on project waters and indicate if they are underway or not underway. These maps will be filed in correspondence with the FERC form 80.

During the discussion on potential increased boating overcrowding due to subdividing existing large parcels along the lakeshore, such as Vaughn's Neck, the minutes reflected Mr. Wood stating that this issue is outside of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and FLP jurisdiction and is entirely within local municipal control. Minutes reflect Mr. Randall disagreeing with FLP's interpretation and stating that FLP has a responsibility to mitigate overcrowding.

It is important to note that Northeast Generation Company who purchased the project from CL&P in 2000 agreed to allow CL&P to reserve the rights to pass and repass to the water of Candlewood Lake, to construct and maintain protective construction such as seawalls or riprap substantially along the shoreline of the lake, and to construct and maintain docks of simple construction on the 6+ miles of shoreline surrounding the 710 acre Vaughn's Neck parcel and elsewhere on Candlewood Lake. Didn't the transaction between CL&P and NGC in 2000, which has potential to exacerbate the overcrowding problem, require FERC approval? Could you please clarify this point so we have a better understanding of the issues? If yes, wouldn't mitigating increased boating overcrowding due to sale and development of CL&P properties fall within the FERC purview as well as local jurisdiction?

FERC approved the Transfer of License on November 17, 1999.

I was asked for a simple clarification regarding FERC purview on something FERC approved and how it might impact future overcrowding.

Later in the minutes there was some reference to stakeholders providing recreational use statistics. Please include Appendix 2 in the event you did not receive the data from me earlier in the year.

Sections highlighted in yellow were not responded to in FirstLight's FERC filing. Text in green font was rationale for our comment. Text in blue font were sections CLA comments included in the FERC filing. Text in red font was FirstLight's response in their filing.

Shoreline Management

Under the heading of *LAC Shoreline Management Plan*, the minutes reflect the three reports being provided and stakeholders being notice of the 30 days to comment on those plans as well as the minutes. Later Mr. Wood explained that timely comments would be appreciated to ensure FLP can meet its FERC deadlines and *that the agenda items that FLP is required to cover have been met*. Some of us received one or all of the reports; some of us did not. On December 17, 2014 electronic versions were sent out and the comment period was extended to January 17, 2015. The extension period was greatly appreciated namely because of the difficulty in providing meaningful comments in an appropriate timeframe. You may recall that very few comments were received last year when several important draft reports were distributed for a 30 day comment period following November 6, 2013 LAC meeting. As recommended with the availability of the flyover maps, having draft reports in advance of the LAC would provide for more meaningful and collaborative dialog.

Thirty days to review and comment on the reports and the minutes is not adequate and there is nothing preventing FirstLight from circulating the reports earlier and then giving us thirty days to comment after the meeting... if getting thoughtful feedback and comments is the goal. As it currently stands we get all the reports the same day as when the clock starts ticking on comments.

While the draft vegetated buffer report provides information on buffers being established, where already established and where they are planning to be established we are also interested in knowing the status of properties where work was done below the 440 without permits, and then ceased by either the municipality or FirstLight. For example, at 32 Greenwood Road in New Milford, the shoreline configuration was notably altered by backfilling a new seawall several years ago. This was after the shoreline vegetation was completely removed which we informed you of in 2009. We appreciate sensitivities when properties such as this are in litigation but don't believe that listing those properties and their status would compromise any legal action. Can you provide a list of properties like 32 Greenwood and their current status?

FirstLight responded to this request by the CLA last year. "FirstLight Response: FirstLight generated Attachment B Enhanced Vegetated Buffer Report to show its progress in re-establishing buffers in 2013. Site plan review is not a responsibility of the LAC. Many site plans are available at your Town Halls. The process for buffer approvals is clearly defined in the Shoreline Management Manual (AKA Vegetated Buffer Plan)"

2014 Vegetated Buffer Progress Report

We share concerns with others regarding accurate reporting of transfer properties along the shoreline of Candlewood Lake. We shared this concern in our December 12, 2013 comments on

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the draft Annual Vegetated Buffer Progress Report which we received on November 6, 2013. In our 2013 comments we stated:

As noted in the Ordering Paragraph (E) the report shall include any changes to property ownership that would trigger the licensee to require a landowner to install a vegetated buffer. We did not observe any discussion or listings of changes to property ownership. We conducted a preliminary review and found that as many as 50 transfers of properties have occurred on properties abutting the project on Candlewood Lake since March 28, 2013. Can you provide detail on how you plan to fulfill this FERC requirement? We are happy to share our list upon our request.

In your submittal to FERC you replied:

FirstLight will obtain the relevant property transfer records from the towns and enter them into a database, currently in development, that will enable FirstLight to provide written notice of this requirement to purchasers of abutting lands outside the boundary who also purchase adjacent lands within the boundary. The same database will be used to ensure timely compliance with the requirement. This system will be employed in 2014 and the list of changes in property ownership or other actions requiring a vegetated buffer will be included in succeeding year reports. Realtor and Contractor Education regarding the vegetated buffer requirements will also begin in 2014.

Our research indicates that as many as 27 homes on the shoreline were sold between January 1, 2014 and August 23, 2014. Attachment B – Table 1 – 2014 Vegetated Buffer Report indicates that there were only 13 transfers. Has your system in obtaining relevant records from the towns and the database you were developing been in use for all of 2014? If yes, can you help us in understanding these discrepancies? We did note that you will be requesting the updated Municipal Tax Assessors Grand Lists for 2014 current parcel ownership data and agree this may improve tracking of future required buffers post the sale of adjacent properties.

FirstLight is operating a database to issue permits and updates ownership annually. With regards to discrepancies see S. Randall 1 above.

S. Randall 1:

FirstLight bases its tracking on the Municipal Tax Assessors data, the transferring of permits and the information is dependent on the updating of the Municipal tax data annually and not the MLS.

We appreciate the data provided in Attachment B – Table 1 – 2014 Vegetated Buffer Report. We would only request that the table include the town where a property is located, perhaps to the

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right of *ADJACENT ADDRESS*. We also recommend adding the date in which the property was sold in order to better understand and perhaps resolve discrepancies at noted above.

FirstLight does not track adjacent property sale dates rather we track permit transfer dates. FirstLight will consider including the Town in next year's report.

We are also interested in knowing the total number of abutting properties that are in need of buffering. In the survey work you had done last summer to identify non-project uses below the 440, was there any data collected as to the type of vegetated buffer currently existing on project land on an abutting property by abutting property basis? If yes, can you include this in the report and share that with the member of the Lake Advisory Committee?

FirstLight did not inventory vegetated cover during the structure inventory.

Buffer Acceleration

The CLA has a long and well chronicled history of advocating for reestablishment of vegetated buffers along the shoreline of Candlewood Lake as part of efforts to reduce nutrient and other pollutant loading to the lake. As such, we share the concerns Scott Randall expressed at the November 25, 2014 LAC meeting and support the comments he filed with you on January 12, 2015. We are sensitive to the fact that the current language on buffers in the SMP, including the five year window to reestablish vegetated buffers, was crafted with input from the Chief Elected Officials from our surrounding municipalities. But even now, at least one of those municipalities is investigating measures at the town level to mitigate nutrient export including buffers, a well-established BMP for lake health.

We believe more can be and should be done to expedite establishment of vegetated buffers on FLP project lands. For example, milestones could be created that ensure a buffer is completed in some reasonable timeframe. For example, within the first 18 months of a transfer a planting plan could be required, in year 2 or 3 initial steps could be required to establish the buffer, e.g. stop mowing those areas to be planted and plant parts of the buffer, etc. These sorts of milestones could prevent situations where after 5 years nothing has been done and FLP has to start taking actions to force compliance.

See FirstLight response in CTDEEP 7 and NPS 3 above.

CT DEEP 7:

FirstLight disagrees with the CTDEEP's and other stakeholders requests to make the future grandfathering conditional on any requirements or conditions. The format, process and implementation of the Non-Conforming Structure Inventory Report was filed with the FERC on October 27, 2014, letters to all Rocky River neighbors were sent out soon after that and are

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neighbors are working through the process now to come into compliance. FirstLight has no plans to alter the current process underway, implement additional requirements and/or conditions. This complex process is fragile, new and complicated enough for our neighbors, however the requirements to install vegetated buffers will stand alone under the recently FERC approved November 17, 2014 Vegetated Buffer Plan.

NPS 3:

FirstLight believes that these two compliance processes as approved by the FERC in the SMP for grandfathering and vegetated buffers are unrelated and should remain so. See CTDEEP 7 response above for more details.

The idea of attaching standards for vegetated buffers to the grandfathering of non-conforming encroachments, particularly when those non-conforming uses were never addressed with passed licensees, is at the very least deserving of discussion among stakeholders concerned with the future of the lake.

See FirstLight response in CTDEEP 7 and NPS 3 above.

2014 Annual Seawall Report

We are delighted to hear that FirstLight increased its shoreline monitoring activities during the 2014 summer season and plans to perform annual winter drawdown inspections to prevent unauthorized commencement of construction on seawalls. It has been our experience that many of the unauthorized activities along the shoreline of the Lake occur during the winter and during the weekends when local land use offices are closed.

On page two of the report it states that FirstLight reviewed permits for forty-two existing unpermitted seawalls. Can you clarify what you mean by unpermitted seawalls? Were these seawalls constructed in the past by abutting property owners that did not have deeded rights for a seawall? Or was the completed project not in compliance with original permit?

FirstLight identified all seawalls it permitted in the report as required, “unpermitted seawalls” are walls that were identified as existing prior to the issuance of the permit.

We are aware of FirstLight’s efforts to promote sloped riprap as opposed to vertical seawalls. Can you include some discussion in the report as to the progress being made there? We think this is an excellent approach and will also provide some a greater measure of protection against erosional forces such as wave action.

FirstLight continues to promote alternative shoreline designs such as those contained in our manual that dissipate wave action. Thus far none have been permitted.

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Lastly, you list those properties where permits were issued for seawalls along the shore of the Lake. Was there any seawall projects started or completed that did not have permits which required an action by FirstLight and or the local Land Use Enforcement Officer? Can you list those (or the total numbers...if legal issues prevent disclosure)and the corrective action taken?

FirstLight issued permits for all new seawalls in 2014.

2014 Annual Pump-Out Report

We appreciate FirstLight's candor in reporting on efforts to increase the availability of pump-out facilities on Candlewood Lake and to improve public access to sanitary facilities by boaters recreating on Candlewood Lake. We would recommend requesting from CT DEEP and adding to your report any details they may have on the number of pump-outs they provided on Candlewood Lake for each season they have operated the pump-out boat on the Lake and days / hours service was available. This would be helpful in assessing degree of pump-out service needed and utilization of available service.

This would seem to be a good thing to know and legitimate recommendation.

There is still some uncertainty as to whether the CT DEEP intends to operate their pump-out vessels in the 2015 season. Can that be addressed in the report?

FirstLight understands from discussions with the CTDEEP that it intends to operate the Candlewood Pump out boat and transition its operation to a Municipal agency or entity in the future.

Map / GIS DATA

In Article 407 of your 2004 FERC License there is a provision for sharing existing digital mapping data upon request. The digital mapping data is an excellent tool for following many variables on the shoreline and working together to better address watershed and recreational issues. In your October 27, 2014 filing with FERC on Non-Conforming Structure Inventory Report for Rocky River Impoundment you discussed some of your digital mapping capacity and the kinds of data you have. We would like to meet in the near future to discuss the sharing of data. Our immediate interests are in a GIS shape files on parcels abutting the project land on Candlewood Lake. Can you please provide that with appropriate accessory files and attribute tables.

FirstLight has collected its GIS parcel data from the Municipalities for which the CLA works so there is no need to provide any additional data.

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Thank you for consideration of these comments. We look forward to reviewing your responses to these in your submittal to FERC.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laurence J. Marsicano". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L'.

Laurence J. Marsicano
Executive Director

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Appendix 1.

Percentage of different shoreline conditions on Candlewood Lake as reported in the SMP submitted to FERC in 2006. Notes/Questions were not part of the submittal to FERC.

Abutting Land Use	Percent	Note/Questions
State Open Space	4	Pootatuck State Forest?
Local Open Space & Recreation or Land Trust Lands	3	
Regulated utility land	16	Does this mean CL&P land?
Street, Roads or Highways	8	
Residential Development	58	
Industrial or Railroad	1	
Institutional Property	1	Danbury FCI
Wooded, undeveloped residential land	8	Privately owned, undeveloped

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Appendix 2. Supplemental Recreation Data

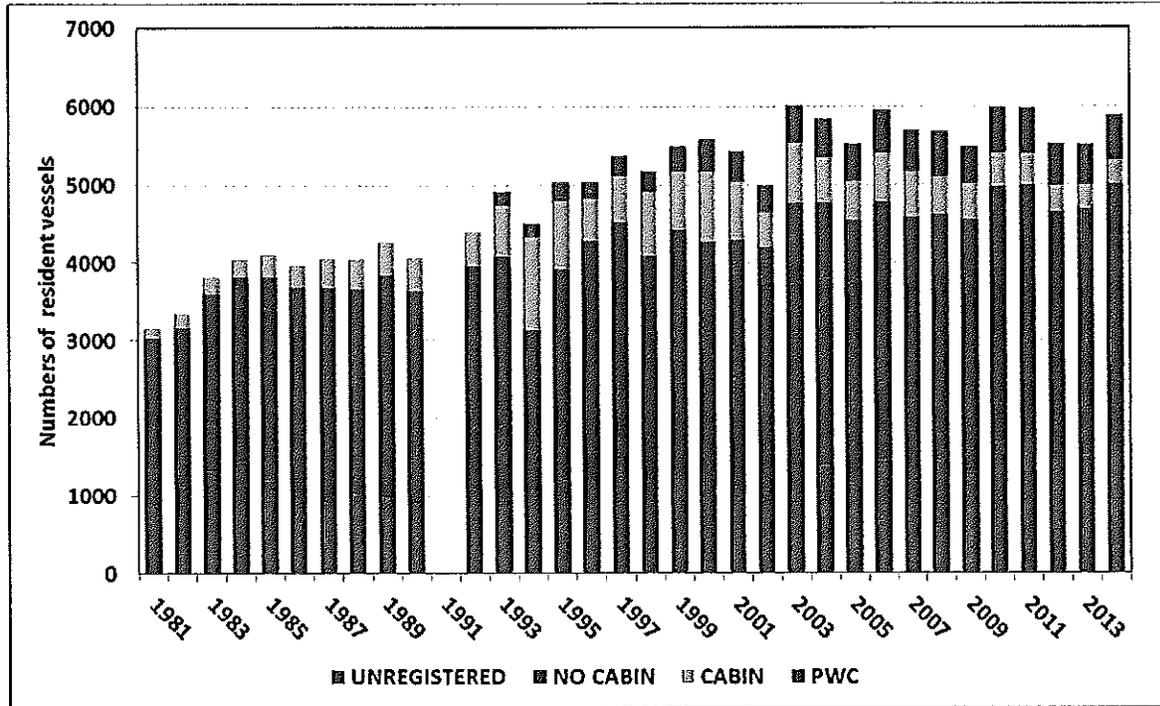


Figure 1. Change in resident vessel numbers from 1981 thru 2014.

Table 2. Data detail from resident vessel counts conducted from 2005 thru 2014.

YEAR	UNREGISTERED	NO CABIN	CABIN	PWC	TOTAL REGISTERED	TOTAL VESSELS
2005	1268	3269	497	487	4253	5521
2006	1446	3329	621	549	4499	5945
2007	1407	3177	575	527	4279	5686
2008	1458	3151	491	577	4219	5677
2009	1317	3231	452	477	4160	5477
2010	1683	3284	433	578	4295	5978
2011	1748	3245	398	582	4225	5973
2012	1507	3134	340	536	4010	5517
2013	1522	3167	300	520	3987	5509
2014	1663	3338	304	577	4219	5882

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January 30, 2015

FERC0059/60

Kimberly D. Bose
Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Mail Code: DHAC, PJ-12.3
888 First Street N.E.
Washington, DC 20426

FirstLight Hydro Generating Company
Housatonic River Project No. 2576
Report of Lake and River Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes with Comments

Dear Secretary Bose:

FirstLight Power Resources Services LLC (FirstLight), as agent for FirstLight Hydro Generating Company, the licensee for the Housatonic River Project FERC No. 2576 (Project), hereby files meeting minutes and stakeholder comments of the 2014 Lake Advisory Committee (LAC) and River Advisory Committee (RAC) meetings.

Pursuant to the Commission's March 27, 2013, Order Modifying and Approving Shoreline Management Plan¹ for this Project, FirstLight is required to meet at least once each year for the first three years following approval of the Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) with the LAC and the RAC and submit a report to the Commission. The materials provided to the consulting parties for comment were the 2014 Seawall, Pump-Out and Vegetated Buffer Annual Reports, and the LAC and RAC meeting minutes. Committee consultation and FirstLight's responses are included below along with the meeting minutes and agenda. No changes were made to the consulting reports from those provided for comments.

FirstLight scheduled both the LAC and RAC to occur on November 14, 2014 at its offices and provided a conference call number as requested by stakeholders.

In addition to the stakeholder comments received and responded to, FirstLight would like to add the following general comments to the record. FirstLight understands the stakeholders desire to improve the water quality of Candlewood Lake through the timely restoration of a vegetated buffer strip along the shoreline within the FERC project boundary. FirstLight believes the timeline of 5 years after the transfer of a permit to a new owner is reasonable and achievable. Future requests for new non-project uses will also be required to come into compliance with the terms of the vegetated buffer program.

¹ *FirstLight Hydro Generating Co.*, 142 FERC ¶ 62,256 n. 5 (2013). As discussed in n.5, FirstLight's proposed SMP proposed meetings at least once each year for three years following approval of the SMP, after which FirstLight would determine whether any additional meeting are necessary before reviewing, updating, and submitting any proposed changes to the Commission for approval every six years (see Exhibit I to proposed SMP). The Commission accepted this proposal. See Ordering Paragraph H.

The degradation of Candlewood lakes water quality and the resurgence of cyanobacteria algal blooms did not occur overnight, rather over the past 85+ years since the lake was created, FirstLight's neighbors have armored the shoreline, modified the littoral zone, developed the watershed and installed countless unmanaged storm water conduits into the lake. Many past or current neighbors have without FirstLight's permission cleared our trees and understory, mowed, graded, filled, terraced or modified our shoreline lands. Many of these unpermitted uses or trespasses occurred long before FERC Licensed the Project. All of these activities over 85+ years have introduced extensive volumes of Phosphorus into the lake through a process called "Eutrophication", and today a process defined as "Internal loading" is the primary driving force for future algae blooms, not the presence or absence of a vegetated buffer.

FirstLight believes that public education, future permitting and the implementation of the vegetated buffer plan and an associated Shoreline Management Manual ("SMM") will, in time, reduce the inflow of phosphorus from the watershed. The lake's water quality degradation has occurred over many decades and it will take decades to resolve one action at a time.

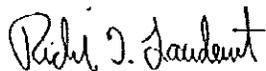
However, the proactive management of storm water as defined and included in the SMM will provide much greater results in attenuating phosphorus sources than the restoration of vegetated buffers removed in the past. The expediting of the installation of native plants will not curtail future algal blooms in the near term. These collective management efforts will take time, education and partners who have jurisdiction far beyond the reach of FirstLight and the Project Boundary.

FirstLight proposes that stakeholders approach the Municipal Land Use Agencies surrounding the reservoir to initiate watershed wide overlay zones to aid in reducing and defining the point and non-point sources of Phosphorus entering the lake.

FirstLight understands some stakeholders' desires and support for decreasing the timing on implementing compliant vegetated buffers within the Project boundary at the Rocky River project to protect and enhance water quality. FirstLight has made many concessions and negotiated many complex compromises as part of the relicensing of the entire Housatonic River Project over the past fourteen years. The final approval of the SMP and its associated plans in 2014 was a milestone for the Project. At this point in the SMP time must be allowed to implement these programs, educate the public, and comply with the conditions as set forth in the plan and its programs. Modifications to the vegetated buffer plan and SMP will undermine the founding philosophy of grandfathering².

For additional information, please contact Richard Laudenat at (860) 350-3617 or richard.laudenat@gdfsuezna.com

Very truly yours,
FirstLight Power Resources Services, LLC
as Agent for FIRSTLIGHT HYDRO GENERATING COMPANY



Richard T. Laudenat, P.E.

² Definition of "Grandfathering" :is a provision in which an old rule continues to apply to some existing situations while a new rule will apply to all future cases.

2014 Annual Lake Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda
Recreation and Shoreline Management Plans

November 25, 2014 from 9:00am – 10:30am

9:00am LAC Recreation Management Plan

1. Introduction of members present (Sign In)
2. Discuss status of recreational facility improvements
 - a) Stevenson Station Facilities
 - New Kiosks, Maps, Signage for 2014
 - b) Shepaug Station Facilities
 - New Kiosks, Maps, Signage for 2014
 - c) Dikes Point Facilities (Annual Maintenance)
3. FERC FORM 80 – Data gathering in 2014
Letters sent out to all agencies and entities
4. Discuss recreational and capacity issues
 - a. Lake Zoar
 - b. Lake Lillinonah
 - c. Lake Candlewood-2014 Flyover & Overcrowding Report

10:00am LAC Shoreline Management Plan

5. Annual Vegetated Buffer Report (See Draft for 30 day Comments)
 - Targeted Re-vegetation Sites
 - See sites in Shoreline Management Manual Appendix D
 - Stevenson and Shepaug initial site plans
6. Annual Seawall Report (See Draft for 30 day Comments)
7. Pump-out Progress Report (See Draft for 30 day Comments)
8. Comments/questions from members and others in attendance
 - a) Items for Discussion to include milfoil, sterile grass carp, 2014 debris management, weeds and algae, additional concerns
9. Adjourn 10:30am

2014 Annual Lake Advisory Committee (LAC) Meeting Minutes
Recreation and Shoreline Management Plans

November 25, 2014 from 9:00am – 10:30am

Meeting convened at 9:05 a.m.

LAC Recreation Management Plan

B. Wood asked each of the members to introduce themselves:

First Selectman Bill Tinsley, Town of Brookfield, CT

Phyllis Schaer, Town of Sherman

Larry Marsicano, Candlewood Lake Authority (CLA)

Scott Randall, Town of New Milford

Shannon Young, Lake Lillinonah Authority

Kevin Mendik, U.S. National Park Service

R. Michael Payton, CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP)

Richard Laudenat, FirstLight Power (FLP)

Greg Petriccione, Lake Lillinonah Authority (LLA)

Gary Fillion, Lake Zoar Authority (LZA)

Bob Hannon, CT DEEP (Phone)

Len Greene, FLP (Non-Member)

Stuart Piermarini, FLP (Non-Member)

Lauren Richardson, FLP (Non-Member)

Brian Wood, FLP

B. Wood discussed the status of all the recreational facility improvements at Shepaug, Stevenson and Rocky River Stations. All of the signage kiosks received updated new recreational facility maps, a letter was posted describing the facilities and location map was also included. A photo of a representative kiosk is attached below.

B. Wood discussed that the FERC FORM 80, recreational use data gathering began in the spring of 2014 and FLPR mailed out letters to all agencies and entities who may be able to supply recreational use statistics from their facilities and or knowledge.

B. Wood asked for the members to discuss any recreational and/or capacity issues they may have experienced on Zoar, Lillinonah or Candlewood in the summer of 2014.

L. Marsicano asked if the candlewood flyover maps were completed. B. Wood responded that maps would all be made available when they were completed. B. Wood then asked if there were any capacity related issues at Lake Zoar or Lake Lillinonah.

S. Young responded that there were none at Lillinonah that he knew of for the 2014 season.

P. Schaer asked how much of the shoreline has been developed. B. Wood responded that the information was not readily available; however all of that information is available in past FLP FERC filings.

M. Payton discussed the recent CTDEEP upgrades made to the state boat launch on Lillinonah and asked for feedback on the improvements. P. Schaer responded that the improvements were well done. M. Payton detailed improvements to launch. B. Wood discussed the collaborative efforts between FLP and CT DEEP during construction. S. Young indicated that the LLA has received positive feedback from local boaters. M. Payton discussed safety issues associated with swimming and dog walking at the boat launches throughout the State. He also asked that these unauthorized uses be reported to CTDEEP, because tickets will be issued for unauthorized use. He elaborated that state laws can be enforced by local law enforcement officials on state property, urging enforcement by locals. M. Payton added that issues could be reported to CT DEEP by calling 860-424-3333. B. Wood offered to explore signage supplied by FLP. M. Payton stated that parking and capacity is always an issue on state property at many of the salt and fresh water launches.

B. Wood discussed the overcrowding issues on Candlewood Lake, stating that July 6, 2014 was recognized as the peak day of activity with 449 power boats, 21 jet skis, 10 sailboats, and 29 canoes/kayaks underway on the lake at the time of the flyover. S. Randall asked whether the peak day activity had been trending upwards from preceding years. B. Wood stated that the peak activity had actually decreased this year, attributing the decrease in part to FLP efforts to remove unauthorized boat slips, including 115 slip marina in 2014.

S. Randall raised concerns about potential increased overcrowding due to subdividing existing large parcels along the lakeshore, such as Vaughn's Neck. B. Wood stated that this issue is outside of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and FLP jurisdiction and is entirely within local municipal control. S. Randall disagreed with FLP's interpretation and stated that FLP has a responsibility to mitigate overcrowding. R. Laudenat stated that the majority of deeded rights have already been executed and that the concern was not overwhelming at this time. B. Wood explained that FLP's Overcrowding Plan was recently approved and FLP will be proceeding with mooring removals to allow for more recreational space in the near future. S. Randall stated his expectation that FLP will deny requests to add new parcels when possible.

B. Wood discussed Vaughn's Neck as an example of FLP's willingness to work with locals to permit clustered common uses, such as those in Danbury to reduce shoreline impacts. He continued to explain that FLP continues to remove unpermitted moorings and slips, further stating that increased enforcement is currently taking place and will continue through 2015. B. Wood explained that of particular concern are the unused moorings in front of single family dwellings within the navigable channel. M. Payton stated that CT DEEP can help with the mooring issue through increased enforcement if these mooring impact navigation.

L. Marsicano raised concerns that as part of overcrowding, noise issues arise on Candlewood. P. Schaer asked if state statute could be amended to address this issue. B. Hannon stated that noise ordinances were strictly under the purview of local municipalities, not state law. L. Marsicano stated that he had pursued initiating municipal noise ordinances and the Chief Elected Officials had no interest in pursuing his inquiry. P. Schaer stated that a uniform ordinance throughout the communities would be helpful. B. Wood stated that FLP has reported noise issues to the local authorities in the past and would continue to do so when possible and appropriate.

G. Fillion raised concerns that the drawdown on Lake Zoar was one month later this year than in previous years. He asked if this was going to occur into the future.

B. Wood stated that the drawdown was approved to coincide with a major transmission line replacement being done by Northeast Utilities, which made this year an anomaly.

G. Fillion voiced his disappointment with FLP's response to his request for a cleanup of exposed woody debris during the drawdown. B. Wood stated that FLP is not obligated to address woody debris during drawdowns, the Debris Management Program is over at the end of the recreational season. B. Wood stated that FLP has mobilized divers and boats in the past but is under no obligation to continue the process. He indicated a willingness to discuss future requests on a case-by-case basis and added that maps and photographs of the issues must be provided prior to drawdown to schedule vendors. B. Wood also added that tree stumps or other items within one hundred feet of the shoreline or in less than four feet of water are not boating hazards, and boaters enter those waters at their own risk. M. Payton added that permits may be required to do work on the dewatered lake bed or adjacent to the lake shoreline. G. Fillion stated his interest in additional commitments from FLP to clear issues during drawdowns. B. Wood stated that there are other factors that must be considered when removing debris from the lake bottom, including fish habitats. B. Wood reiterated that FLP is under no obligation to remove debris from the Lake bottom but would be willing to work on the issues if feasible in the future. M. Payton brought up boating accidents and stated that within 100' from shore the law addresses speeding issues.

S. Young stated that a reasonable debris management compromise is to subcontract for bigger equipment on a longer timeframe, such as a three year contract. He stated that funding would be needed to help subsidize these costs.

G. Fillion stated that there were no other recreational issues on Lake Zoar this year outside of the previous issue described.

B. Wood asked if there were any boating accidents. Both L. Marsicano and M. Payton replied affirmatively, though Payton pointed out that environmental factors were most often not the cause and that human factors were the primary issue. S. Young pointed out that the Marine Patrols increased enforcement on Lake Lillinah helped to reduce the public safety issues this year.

LAC Shoreline Management Plan

B. Wood then discussed the "Annual Vegetated Buffer Report" provided to each of the stakeholders at the meeting for 30 day comments. He described the "Targeted Re-vegetation Sites" selected by FLP and the schedule proposed for proceeding with the installation of these sites. B. Wood displayed draft planting and conceptual design plans for the Stevenson and Shepaug locations. B. Wood then described the "Annual Seawall Report" provided to each stakeholder for 30 day comments. B. Wood also described the "Pump out Progress Report" provided to each stakeholder for 30 day comments. B. Wood explained that timely comments would be appreciated to ensure FLP can meet its FERC deadlines and that the agenda items that FLP is required to cover have been met. P. Schaer asked if there were any seawalls planned but not permitted. B. Wood stated that FLP does not track non-permitted requests or rejections. B. Hannon asked how many non-conforming seawalls currently exist. B. Wood stated that the numbers of uses and linear feet of seawall is available in the Non-Conforming Structure Inventory Report submitted to the FERC in October 2014.

Comments/questions from members and others in attendance

B. Wood then explained that several of the Members had asked that things be added to the agenda for discussion, they included; CLA's management plans for controlling and abating algae and the use of sterile grass carp to manage Eurasian milfoil. LLA requested an opportunity to discuss the 2014 debris management and additional concerns. S. Randall asked for an opportunity to discuss his opinions on vegetated buffers.

B. Wood opened the floor to these additional items and asked S. Randall to explain his concerns. S. Randall outlined his proposal for an accelerated vegetative buffer plan that he developed. S. Randall stated that he believed that Candlewood Lake needed faster progress on the re-establishment of vegetated buffers along the shoreline and outlined the statistics that he developed to support his argument. S. Randall provided written copies of his report to the members in attendance and argued for a reduction of the vegetative buffer requirement from 5 years to 1 year for compliance. He also proposed to add a requirement that any decision to grandfather a property having a structural encroachment include as a condition a requirement that an SMP compliant buffer be installed within one year. He stated that it is FLP's responsibility to maintain the water quality. He also suggest that actions taken today by FirstLight to help accelerate protective buffers and therefore help to mitigate future problems such as sustained, repetitive cyanobacteria blooms would be beneficial to FirstLight in as much as if these actions aren't taken, it is ultimately FirstLight who owns the lake bottom and would likely be the responsible party should mitigation efforts be required to prevent these excess nutrients from entering the water column, that in turn is owned by the State. B. Wood disagreed with his recommendations and the assumptions made as the foundation of the report. B. Wood also pointed out the potential economic impacts on the real estate market, house prices would be adversely impacted and the permitting and planning could take more than one year. B. Wood added that the SMP's plan and the schedule was carefully negotiated with many stakeholders input and the local municipal leaders eventual support. All of your current considerations were taken into account during the formation of the Shoreline Management Plan (SMP). S. Randall stated that the SMP was written in 2006 prior to the first algae bloom on Candlewood Lake. He stated that he was going to propose to the Connecticut Congressional Delegation to push for the change. S. Randall argued that FLP owns the Lake bottom and that the costs to mitigate phosphorus in the Lake should be borne by FLP. R. Laudenat stated that the 5 year plan was agreed upon by the towns during the SMP approval process. S. Randall stated that the local municipal leaders were not the only stakeholders on this issue. B. Wood agreed, there were many parties present during the drafting and negotiation of the SMP. B. Wood agreed to include a copy of S. Randall's written summary with the annual filing.

B. Wood asked that the meeting move forward and asked if P. Schaer would like to discuss her request to add the control and abatement of algae and weeds to the agenda.

S. Young stated that the LAC meeting time needs to be extended to ensure that all issues are addressed this meeting never has the sufficient time to cover all the issues. B. Wood apologized and explained that there is a second meeting booked in the afternoon. P. Schaer, K. Mendik, S. Randall, L. Marsicano, G. Petriccione all agreed that meeting needs to be longer. S. Young stated that FLP gives minimal effort possible to address LAC concerns and does not communicate with stakeholders at an acceptable level. B. Wood explained the history of these meetings, first the group met under the Recreation Management Plan "RMP" and FLP agreed to extend the required annual meetings past the three years required to allow for a forum to discuss the integration of the RMP with the SMP. At the request of stakeholders, FLP has changed the format, structure and timing of these meetings over the years. This year we added a conference line for folks who wanted to attend but their schedules did not allow time to drive. B. Wood committed to scheduling a meeting with the LLA to discuss their concerns at a future meeting because our time is running out at this meeting.

B. Wood then asked P. Schaer to discuss her concerns as added to the agenda. P. Schaer then discussed the CLA's Triploid Grass Carp project, which is being implemented to mitigate the infestation of Eurasian milfoil on Candlewood Lake. P. Schaer indicated a need for collaboration between FLP, CLA, and other stakeholders to ensure success. P. Schaer asked for feedback and written support for their project. B. Wood stated that FLP fully supports the initiative for the CLA to manage aquatic weeds consistent with their enabling legislation and issued a permit for the emigration of grass carp via the use of trucks or machinery as necessary once the CTDEEP has issued a permit to proceed with the project. M. Payton stated that Peter Aarrestad and Chuck Lee

at CT DEEP work on these types of projects and should be contacted. P. Schaer stated that she has been working closely with the CTDEEP as part of their proposal.

G. Fillion then asked about the Lake Zoar SMP implementation timeframe. B. Wood explained that this was forthcoming after Candlewood Lake was completed, then Shepaug, Falls Village and Bulls Bridge would occur in 2015 and Stevenson in 2016.

B. Hannon stated that Channel Catfish may be making algae blooms worse and asked if the introduction of the Grass Carp would have a similar effect. P. Schaer stated that CLA was looking at that problem, but that proper stocking numbers were critical to the project.

B. Wood then opened the discussion with the LLA to cover their concerns over debris management. He stated that an additional meeting could be scheduled to discuss in greater detail. B. Wood informed stakeholders that FLP had spent 38 days skimming with the large boat and an additional 27 days with the smaller pontoon boat collecting a total of 825 cubic yards of chipped woody natural debris and 1 dumpster of manmade debris. S. Young asked if the 825 cubic yardage was shredded. B. Wood responded affirmatively, as requested by stakeholders we no longer estimate the pile size, we provide chipped truck yards. S. Young stated that the number was inflated due to the addition of air through the chipping process. M. Payton disagreed with S. Young's assessment. S. Young disagreed with Payton. B. Wood discussed that the volume or estimate thereof has been resolved into the future by providing truck loads as removed from the site at the end of the season.

S. Young stated that FLP raised the reservoir during peak recreational days and created unsafe conditions for recreation. G. Petriccione stated his dissatisfaction with FLP's communications this year and we needed to work more to talk throughout the year. B. Wood stated that FLP attempts to communicate as quickly as is possible, but is constrained by real-time electric reliability requirements to provide updates on why ponds are moving during a weekend or emergency generation restriction. S. Young stated that real-time problems aren't addressed immediately, impeding recreation. G. Petriccione stated that this is a public safety issue. M. Payton suggested that efforts on the Farmington River to alert residents about debris had been successful and that FLP should consider similar efforts. R. Laudenat stated that FLP is obligated to skim 35 days per year and that FLP fulfills and exceeds its obligations every year. G. Petriccione disagreed with R. Laudenat, stating that the definition of recreation is too vague. R. Laudenat stated that FLP made a conscious decision not to skim on weekends due to the potential of creating safety issue for the skimmer crews due to wakes and a loaded vessel or the infringement on recreation within the navigable channel. There was general disagreement on the debris issue by each on this issue. B. Wood agreed to schedule a second meeting regarding this issue with the members of the LLA and Friends of the Lake "FOTL". Friends of the Lake was not in attendance at the meeting as a guest member of the LAC.

Meeting adjourned at 10:37 a.m.



Lake Advisory Committee 2014 Comments and Responses

Stakeholder	Comment	FirstLight Response
CTDEEP 1	The agency would support a shorter time frame in which new property owners would be required to install a vegetated buffer area along the shoreline.	FirstLight believes that the timeframes as proposed and recently approved by the FERC on November 17, 2014 are adequate and achievable. This new program will phase in the re-establishment of vegetated buffers within the project boundary overtime.
CTDEEP 2	Perhaps the time frame can be reduced to a period of 3 years for 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018. In 2019 reduce the time frame to 2 years as people should be aware of the new buffer requirements. Effective 2020 and beyond property owners would have 1 year to install the vegetated buffer after the date of closing on the property. Even reducing the time frame from 5 years to 3 years would give FirstLight ample time to work with local real estate agents and closing attorneys and advise them of the need to meet the vegetated buffered requirements.	FirstLight believes that the opportunity to review the effectiveness of the existing vegetated buffer requirements and implement potential changes is provided as part of the normal FERC process in the sixth year after the approval of the SMP. A review of the vegetated buffer annual reports at that time will provide valuable data to measure the implementation of the program.
CTDEEP 3	For purpose of clarification, must the property be "sold" in order for the vegetated buffer requirement to be triggered?	FirstLight program triggers when either a request for a new significant use and/or the transfer of the adjacent property outside the project boundary and the filing of a "deed" that changes the ownership will trigger a buffer requirement.
CTDEEP 4	As part of the process of requiring new property owners to install a vegetated buffer area, FirstLight should also consider promoting the use of an integrated pest management plan/organic lawn care plan on all lots surrounding the lake system. This is a voluntary activity property owners can undertake in an effort to reduce the number of nutrients and chemicals currently finding their way into the lake system.	FirstLight will reach out to the CTDEEP for specific recommendations on Integrated Pest management programs and organic lawn care planning. Perhaps this can be incorporated into our education programs to reduce nutrient loading to the reservoir by our neighbors.
CTDEEP 5	It is my understanding that a couple of towns in the area have already established lake overlay zones to better address the environmental concerns along the lakefront area. Perhaps FirstLight can help coordinate meetings with the other local municipalities to see if there is a more uniform interest in protecting the quality of the lake though the development of a regional lake overlay zone. Collectively there are small things property owners along the lake can do to help improve the quality of the lake and cumulatively these small improvements can amount to significant gains for the environmental quality of the lake. But to achieve such results, everyone must buy into the system.	FirstLight regularly meets with the Municipal leaders and Land Use Staff. We will add this initiative to our next meeting agenda with the Chief Elected Officials for discussion. FirstLight agrees with the CTDEEP, only through lake users and neighbors collectively buying into the goal, taking small actions to protect the reservoir, will we see any cumulative effects to improve water quality over the long run.
CTDEEP 6	For applications specifically related to the repair of existing structures that do not involve a property transfer, perhaps FirstLight can condition such repair work on the property owner adopting an integrated pest management plan/organic lawn care plan for their property. If FirstLight is not able to incorporate such a condition on an approval to repair lakefront structures, then perhaps FirstLight can provide outreach materials to the property owners, real estate agents and closing agents which can further enlighten them as to the benefits of implementing an integrated pest management plan/organic lawn care plan. FirstLight cannot improve or maintain the quality of the lake by itself. It requires some effort on the part of the surrounding municipalities and property owners.	FirstLight will discuss this initiative further with the CTDEEP, See response to CTDEEP 4 above. FirstLight agrees with the CTDEEP that "FirstLight cannot improve or maintain the quality of the lake by itself. It requires some effort on the part of the surrounding municipalities and property owners" FirstLight believes that the balanced approach of regulation and education as approved in the Shoreline Management Plan and its components will meet this goal overtime.
CTDEEP 7	Another issue apparently gathering support is the grandfathering of unpermitted structures along the lake that have been in existence for quite some time. Grandfathering these structures may be an acceptable practice, but perhaps it should be grandfathered subject to a more environmentally	FirstLight disagrees with the CTDEEP's and other stakeholders requests to make the future grandfathering conditional on any requirements or conditions. The format, process and implementation of the Non-Conforming Structure Inventory Report was filed with the

	friendly use of the property. As a condition of approving a "grandfathered" structure, the property owner might be willing to accept as a condition of such approval, the implementation of an integrated pest management plan/organic lawn care plan or even a no mow zone as a way to make their property more environmentally friendly to the lake. In this fashion people are able to maintain the existing structures while at the same time reducing the amount of nutrients and other chemicals moving across their property and into the lake.	FERC on October 27, 2014, letters to all Rocky River neighbors were sent out soon after that and are neighbors are working through the process now to come into compliance. FirstLight has no plans to alter the current process underway, implement additional requirements and/or conditions. This complex process is fragile, new and complicated enough for our neighbors, however the requirements to install vegetated buffers will stand alone under the recently FERC approved November 17, 2014 Vegetated Buffer Plan.
CTDEEP 8	One final question regarding the grandfathering issue is: If a structure is grandfathered and the property is subsequently sold, will the new property owner be required to install the vegetated buffer within a specific period of time? If a grandfathered structure is subject to the vegetated buffer requirement, FirstLight needs to make sure that all impacted property owners are fully aware of such a requirement. You do not want people thinking because they have a piece of paper saying their structure is now recognized by FirstLight that the property is exempt from the vegetated buffer area requirements should the property is transferred. This must be clearly spelled out to all applicable property owners.	FirstLight has developed a process for the issuing of permits for Non-project uses. These permits are non-transferable, therefore if an adjacent property changes ownership a new permit must be issued and that will end the stay of grandfathering of the existing structures, requiring the installation within 5 years of a compliant vegetated buffer and the upgrading of the dock floats to fully encapsulated floatation or foam.
NPS 1	Although the Candlewood Lake does not contain any NPS units, we have worked with the licensee and other stakeholders on developing the Shoreline Management Plan and its revisions over the last several years and have participated in the LAC and RAC meetings since relicensing.	FirstLight thanks the NPS for their continued input and participation on these complex issues over the years.
NPS 2	In reference to the comments filed with you on January 12, 2015 by Scott Randall, the NPS supports those comments insofar as they relate to impacts of development on recreational use of the lakes. Although the terms of the SMP require buffers to be installed within 5 years from the sale or transfer of a property, my recollections from during the development of the SMP was not to simply allow a five year grace period from sale to buffer installation, but to ensure that a functioning buffer be in place no longer than five years from the date of a sale or transfer. This would require planting and related activities to start as soon after a property transfer as weather and seasonal conditions permit. Given the extensive and widespread cyanobacteria bloom experienced in 2013, it is likely that similar occurrences will occur absent a significant initiative to improve vegetated buffers along Candlewood Lake at the soonest opportunity either through voluntary programs or directed actions relative to property transfers or sales.	FirstLight concurs with the NPS that once a property transfers a new permit may be issued by FirstLight and the process of discussing, designing, enhancing and installing a vegetated buffer begins. The compliant vegetated buffer as permitted must be completed within 5 years from the date of the issuance of the Permit setting forth the conditions and approval.
NPS 3	The continuing presence of 222 physical encroachments onto FERC project lands offers the licensee and the FERC substantial leverage to ensure timely and effective remediation. The NPS remains committed to ensuring appropriate and adequate recreational use at this FERC licensed project and appreciates the additional time offered by the licensee to address issues raised at the November 2014 LAC meeting.	FirstLight believes that these two compliance processes as approved by the FERC in the SMP for grandfathering and vegetated buffers are unrelated and should remain so. See CTDEEP 7 response above for more details.
S. Randal 1/09/14	<i>This Consultation record resolves the comments received and filled by Mr. Scott Randal on both January 9th with the FERC and the 12th with FirstLight.</i>	<i>FirstLight received copies of both comments and they are responded to herein below accordingly.</i>
S. Randal 1	The first proposal seeks to reduce the current time for implementing a vegetated buffer following a new permit or sale from five years to one year	See FirstLight response in CTDEEP 7 and NPS 3 above.

S. Randal 2	The second proposal seeks to add a requirement that any decision to grandfather a property having a structural encroachment include as a condition a requirement that an SMP compliant buffer be installed within one year.	See FirstLight response in CTDEEP 7 and NPS 3 above.
S. Randall 4	I request that FERC carefully consider the two proposals outlined above and delay any grandfathering of encroaching properties until full and careful consideration has been given to adding a requirement of an SMP compliant vegetated shoreline buffer as a condition of any grandfathering. Secondly, I request that FERC give full and proper consideration towards reducing the existing time requirement for a vegetated buffer following a new shoreline activity permit or property sale from five years to one year.	FirstLight disagrees with the request to alter the proposed grandfathering or separate vegetated buffer plan requirements as proposed by Mr. Randall and rather revisit the alteration of these plans in the sixth year after the implementation of the SMP and all of its programs including the educational component.
S Randall 1 01/12/14	It would be helpful if FirstLight would explain these (<i>Mr. Randall presented his numbers gathered from the Multiple Listing System employed by real-estate agents-they differed from FirstLight's Annual report statistics</i>) discrepancies and detail the steps and timeframe to have these reports fully reflect the reporting requirements of the SMP.	FirstLight bases its tracking on the Municipal Tax Assessors data, the transferring of permits and the information is dependent on the updating of the Municipal tax data annually and not the MLS.
S. Randall 2	Please note that the draft minutes circulated by FirstLight on December 17, 2014 include no mention of the second buffer acceleration proposal formally discussed at the November 25, 2014	FirstLight included this suggestion in the minutes.
S. Randal 3	The statement I made was to suggest that actions taken today by FirstLight to help accelerate protective buffers and therefore help to mitigate future problems such as sustained, repetitive cyanobacteria blooms would be beneficial to FirstLight in as much as if these actions aren't taken, it is ultimately FirstLight who owns the lake bottom and would likely be the responsible party should mitigation efforts be required to prevent these excess nutrients from entering the water column, that in turn is owned by the State.	FirstLight added this statement to the minutes and disagrees that it solely would be held responsible to mitigate phosphorus internal loading that is the cause of algal blooms.
S. Randal 4	It would be helpful if FirstLight would provide the scientific basis for the changes made to the no-pump protocol that now run counter to FirstLight's earlier recommendation.	FirstLight has voluntarily restricted the pumping of water from the Housatonic River to Candlewood Lake during the summer and determines the conditions under which and when it chooses to pump. These issues are covered under the Nuisance Species Monitoring Plan and associated annual reports.
S. Randall 5	It would be helpful if FirstLight would outline its position on Vaughn's neck and reflect on any timeline to pursue such protection or address why such protection is not warranted.	FirstLight has no jurisdiction over the lands outside the project boundary which contain deeded rights to use project lands. Further information is available in the "Easement and Conservation Restriction Plan" approved by the FERC on December 4, 2014.
S. Randall 6	I request that FirstLight replaces the signage that it had placed on a number of the Lakes Islands	FirstLight will inspect the signage placed on its lands in the summer of 2015 and replace as necessary.
S. Randall 7	In the future please consider allotting more than one and a half hours for the LAC meeting	FirstLight will provide the agenda in advance and may dedicate more time to the annual meeting based upon pending issues.
CLA 1	There was a comment not reflected in the minutes but quickly mentioned for which I am requesting clarification. That is the status of vessels moored and not moving in open waters. Will the maps show those vessels or just the vessels that are moving and will they be considered in-use?	FirstLight will indicate all vessels on project waters and indicate if they are underway or not underway. These maps will be filed in correspondence with the FERC form 80.
CLA 2	Didn't the transaction between CL&P and NGC in 2000, which has potential to exacerbate the overcrowding problem, require FERC approval?	FERC approved the Transfer of License on November 17, 1999.

CLA 3	Can you provide a list of properties like 32 Greenwood and/or other properties under enforcement their current status?	FirstLight responded to this request by the CLA last year. "FirstLight Response: FirstLight generated Attachment B Enhanced Vegetated Buffer Report to show its progress in re-establishing buffers in 2013. Site plan review is not a responsibility of the LAC. Many site plans are available at your Town Halls. The process for buffer approvals is clearly defined in the Shoreline Management Manual (AKA Vegetated Buffer Plan)"
CLA 4	Has your system in obtaining relevant records from the towns and the database you were developing been in use for all of 2014? If yes, can you help us in understanding these discrepancies?	FirstLight is operating a database to issue permits and updates ownership annually. With regards to discrepancies see S. Randall 1 above.
CLA 5	We request that the Attachment B – Table 1 – 2014 Vegetated Buffer Report table include the town where a property is located, perhaps to the right of ADJACENT ADDRESS. We also recommend adding the date in which the property was sold.	FirstLight does not track adjacent property sale dates rather we track permit transfer dates. FirstLight will consider including the Town in next year's report.
CLA 6	During Structure inventory was there any data collected as to the type of vegetated buffer currently existing on project land on an abutting property by abutting property basis?	FirstLight did not inventory vegetated cover during the structure inventory.
CLA 7	We believe more can be and should be done to expedite establishment of vegetated buffers on FLP project lands. For example, milestones could be created that ensure a buffer is completed in some reasonable timeframe. For example, within the first 18 months of a transfer a planting plan could be required, in year 2 or 3 initial steps could be required to establish the buffer, e.g. stop mowing those areas to be planted and plant parts of the buffer, etc. These sorts of milestones could prevent situations where after 5 years nothing has been done and FLP has to start taking actions to force compliance.	See FirstLight response in CTDEEP 7 and NPS 3 above.
CLA 8	The idea of attaching standards for vegetated buffers to the grandfathering of non-conforming encroachments, particularly when those non-conforming uses were never addressed with passed licensees, is at the very least deserving of discussion among stakeholders concerned with the future of the lake.	See FirstLight response in CTDEEP 7 and NPS 3 above.
CLA 9	Can you clarify what you mean in the Annual Seawall report by unpermitted seawalls? Were these seawalls constructed in the past by abutting property owners that did not have deeded rights for a seawall? Or was the completed project not in compliance with original permit?	FirstLight identified all seawalls it permitted in the report as required, "unpermitted seawalls" are walls that were identified as existing prior to the issuance of the permit.
CLA 10	We are aware of FirstLight's efforts to promote sloped riprap as opposed to vertical seawalls. Can you include some discussion in the report as to the progress being made there? We think this is an excellent approach and will also provide some a greater measure of protection against erosional forces such as wave action.	FirstLight continues to promote alternative shoreline designs such as those contained in our manual that dissipate wave action. Thus far none have been permitted.
CLA 11	Was there any seawall projects started or completed that did not have permits which required an action by FirstLight and or the local Land Use Enforcement Officer? Can you list those (or the total numbers...if legal issues prevent disclosure)and the corrective action taken?	FirstLight issued permits for all new seawalls in 2014.
CLA 12	There is still some uncertainty as to whether the CT DEEP intends to operate their pump-out vessels in the 2015 season. Can that be addressed in the report?	FirstLight understands from discussions with the CTDEEP that it intends to operate the Candlewood Pump out boat and transition its operation to a Municipal agency or entity in the future.
CLA 12	We would like to meet in the near future to discuss the sharing of data. Our immediate interests are in a GIS shape files on parcels abutting the project land on Candlewood Lake. Can you please provide that with appropriate accessory files and attribute tables.	FirstLight has collected its GIS parcel data from the Municipalities for which the CLA works so there is no need to provide any additional data.



2014 Annual River Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda
Recreation and Shoreline Management Plans

November 25, 2014 from 11:30am – 1:00pm

11:30am RAC Recreation Management Plan

1. Introduction of members present (Sign in)
2. Discuss status of recreational facility improvements
 - a. Falls Village Station Facilities
 - All Kiosks, Maps and Signage has been updated
 - b. Bulls Bridge Station Facilities
 - All Kiosks, Maps and Signage has been updated
3. FERC FORM 80 – Data gathering in 2014
 - Letters sent out to all agencies and entities
4. Discuss Bulls Bridge Cooperational Successes in 2014
 - a. New Guard Rail on NPS Lands
 - b. New Fencing and Vehicle Gates east of Covered Bridge

12:30am RAC Shoreline Management Plan

5. Annual Vegetated Buffer Report (See Draft for 30 day Comments)
 - Targeted Re-vegetation Sites – Selection FV & BB
 - See sites in Shoreline Management Manual Appendix D
6. Comments/questions from members and others in attendance
7. Adjourn 1:00pm

2014 Annual River Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting Minutes
Recreation and Shoreline Management Plans

November 25, 2014 from 11:30am – 1:00pm

Meeting convened at 11:42 a.m.

RAC Recreation Management Plan

B. Wood asked each member introduce themselves and in attendance were:

Kevin Mendik, U.S. National Park Service

Elaine LaBella, Housatonic Valley Association (HVA)

Richard Laudenat, FirstLight Power (FLP)

Susan Peterson, CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) (Phone)

Stuart Piermarini, FLP (Non-member)

Len Greene, FLP (Non-member)

Brian Wood, FLP

B. Wood discussed the status of all the recreational facility improvements at both Falls Village and Bulls Bridge Stations. All signage kiosks received updated new recreational facility maps, a letter was posted describing the facilities and location map was also included. A photo of a representative kiosk is attached below.

B. Wood discussed that the FERC FORM 80, recreational use data gathering began in the spring of 2014 and FLPR mailed out letters to all agencies and entities who may be able to supply recreational use statistics from their facilities and or knowledge.

B. Wood described the exceptional successes at the Bulls Bridge covered bridge sites in 2014 that has been made possible through the cooperation of all those parties involved. FLPR installed 300' of steel guardrail adjacent to the National Park Service lands within the right of way for the Town of Kent's Bulls Bridge Rd. FLPR has also installed 350' feet of new fencing between the parking lot and the covered bridge, along with two new vehicle control gates between the covered bridge and the canal bridge.

B. Wood explained that he hoped that all of these traffic and parking control structures would aid in the limitation of parking at the site and therefore reduce the potential for overcrowding of both FLPR's recreational and Nation Park Service recreational facilities.

K. Mendik and S. Peterson asked for photos of new fences and gates once they are installed.

B. Wood committed to sending over the photos via email to the group once the vehicle gates are installed, weather has limited the installation of the new vehicle gates and they will be in place by the spring.

S. Peterson asked if vegetated buffer manual and plan had been approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

B. Wood stated that the plan was recently approved by the FERC earlier in November and provided S. Peterson a copy. FirstLight staff delivered hard copies of the Shoreline Manual to the CTDEEP after the meeting.

RAC Shoreline Management Plan

B. Wood provided hard copies of the 2014 Vegetated Buffer Report to all members and asked for their comments on the draft within 30 days. (See Attachment A)

B. Wood asked the stakeholders to focus their efforts on the section that describes FLPR's proposed schedule and the selected locations of the proposed targeted re-vegetation sites selected for the Falls Village and Bulls Bridge sites.

B. Wood also let stakeholders know that no comments were received in 2013 on the proposed sites as included in the Shoreline Management Manual Appendix D. Therefore FLPR asks that if stakeholders support these selected locations please identify that in their written comments.

E. LaBella asked if there would be any local permitting requirements.

B. Wood replied that FLPR plans to install these plantings on our lands and will not be seeking permits.

E. LaBella recommended that FLP bring the re-vegetation proposals to the Housatonic River Commission as they would be very pleased.

B. Wood explained the proposed re-vegetation schedule proposal as shown in the buffer report and again asked for any comments or questions from members and others in attendance.

B. Wood stated that there were no unusual incidents at Falls Village or Bulls Bridge this year, praised the volunteers who work at the recreational sites.

E. LaBella stated that the AMC volunteers were great. She added that increased enforcement at the sites and restricting access to the parking lots were keys to success.

S. Peterson requested additional copies of the Shoreline Management Manual.

E. LaBella recommended posting on the website.

B. Wood informed the group that the Shoreline Manual is available on FLPR's Website.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.



No Stakeholder Comments were received with regards to any recreational, shoreline management issues and/or the provided annual seawall, pump-out or vegetated buffer reports during the 30 day consultation period.



CANDLEWOOD LAKE AUTHORITY

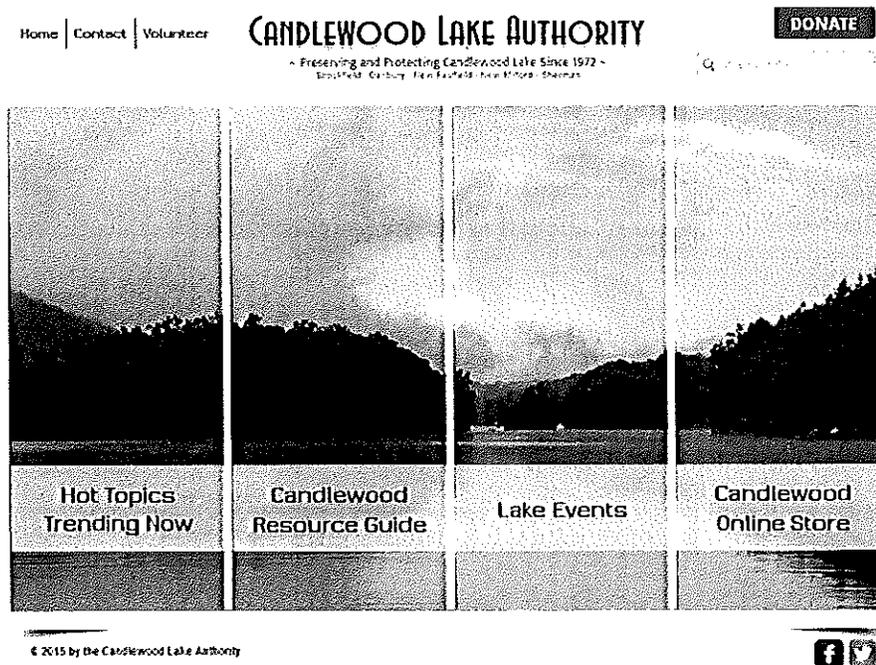
P.O. BOX 37 • SHERMAN, CONNECTICUT 06784-0037 • (860) 354-6928 • FAX (860) 350-5611

February 11, 2014
Public Education
Mark Howarth

HTML 5 Website:

With Howie's help, we've been modifying the layout and navigation of our new website. We've now settled on a system we like, one which works efficiently with the swipe and touch screen navigation styles of smartphones and tablets, while remaining user-friendly to PC users.

We have opted not to have a separate "mobile version" of our site, instead creating a site, layout and navigation system that when viewed on the smaller screens of smartphones and other mobile devices, keeps its layout while still allowing for easy navigation.



OUR SPONSORS

The above image is a screenshot of the home page, which will direct visitors into one of 4 categories. People wishing for current news about Candlewood Lake and regular updates will go to the Hot Topics / Trending Now section, where we will utilize a Pinterest-style push-feed of information with images and short descriptions that people

can tap/click on for more information. The Candlewood Resource guide will have information for the user who wants to get more in-depth information about the CLA, Candlewood, regulations for living on the lake etc. The Events page will highlight our events – from the State of the Lake, to the Clean Up, Project CLEAR, Dragon Boats etc. Lastly, people will have access directly to the online store from the home page.

State of the Lake:

We are in the early stages of planning the 2nd Annual 2015 State of the Lake, to be held near the end of March. We are planning to hold the event this year in Brookfield, keeping to our plan to move the event to different sides/parts of the Lake to offer easy access to the event to a variety of residents.

Jerry Murphy is assisting with the process of securing our location in Brookfield and we plan to announce the event details shortly to the public.

2015 Dragon Boat Race / Committee:

We are starting to gear up for the 2015 races. We've already rec'd inquiries from teams looking to join this year. We are putting a committee together to help improve the event this year and we have a preliminary poster and logo set for the 2015 races.



Article / Press Release:

We sent the below article out a press release, and also sent this directly to the regular Citizen News at their request for our regular column contribution, though as of this writing we haven't seen it appear yet in the CN.

This article describes the Town of Brookfield's upcoming boat wash station pilot program.



Candlewood Lake to Receive Pilot Program to Protect Against Invasive Species

Brookfield town leaders lead protection initiative with approval of area's first boat wash station.

Ever since the discovery of zebra mussels in the nearby waters of Lakes Zoar and Lillinonah, the Candlewood Lake Authority and others have been working on ways to prevent the introduction of zebra mussels and other invasive species, into Candlewood Lake.

Candlewood is susceptible to two primary methods of zebra mussel contamination. The first is the power generation penstock where water is pumped up into Candlewood Lake from the Housatonic River in New Milford. To address that issue, for several years now, FirstLight Power Resources has committed to not pumping water into Candlewood Lake once water temperatures in the Housatonic reach the mid 50's, the temperature at which zebra mussels begin to spawn and send millions of microscopic zebra mussel larvae into the water.

The second method of potential contamination, and the one the Lake is most susceptible to, comes from boats that have been in zebra mussel infested waters, then arrive at Candlewood and bring zebra mussels along with them. The CLA and their partners have been working to educate boaters on the zebra mussel threat and on proper self-decontamination methods for their boats through boat ramp signage, billboards, as well as numerous electronic and printed communications. Now the Town of Brookfield has taken the lead in implementing a pilot "inspection and decontamination program" for incoming boats on Candlewood Lake.

This September, members of the Candlewood Lake Authority, along with Brookfield First Selectman Bill Tinsley, CT DEEP Natural Resources Bureau Chief, Bill Hyatt, Jim McAlister of the Candlewood Watershed Initiative and others took a trip to Lake George, NY to visit with the Lake George Park Commission and learn about their inspection and boat wash program.

At the January Board of Finance meeting in Brookfield, First Selectman Tinsley said, "As we look to the future, and as we think about our economy in general and our tax base specifically,

we will as a community of Brookfield and surrounding communities, have to get more and more serious about our stewardship of our waterbodies.”

Using the knowledge gained from the trip to Lake George, First Selectman Tinsley and the Town of Brookfield, with help from the Candlewood Lake Authority and support from the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, will be launching a voluntary boat inspection decontamination program for Candlewood Lake in 2015 with locations at the Brookfield Town Boat Launch as well as the Lattin’s Cove State Launch. Knowingly transporting invasive species is a fineable offense in CT and this free service will offer boaters a way to easily get their boat hull cleaned prior to entering Candlewood Lake. Boaters will also get peace of mind knowing they’re doing their part to help keep Candlewood free of new invasive species.

“The Candlewood Lake Authority is excited that this program is being spearheaded by the Town of Brookfield,” said Larry Marsicano, Executive Director of the CLA. “It is our goal that invasive species decontamination for incoming boats can be adopted lake-wide in the near future.”



Photo: Zebra mussels cover the bottom of a row boat on Lake Zoar, fall 2014.

Image Courtesy: Candlewood Lake Authority



Photo: Boat wash station at Lake George, summer 2014.

Image Courtesy: Candlewood Lake Authority