

# ECHO LAKE PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION ONLINE ANNUAL MEETING JULY 16, 2022

DUE TO COVID-19, this year’s annual meeting was held online through Google Meet, hosted by Lori Kempton. Voting was made available through Google Form. Prior to the meeting the Agenda and Committee Reports were emailed to the membership for review. The content of the submitted reports is included in these minutes, each followed by any additional comments and discussion that occurred during the meeting.

**WELCOME:** Called to order by Laurie Gee, President, at 9 AM, with about 30 people attending.

**Secretary’s Report:** Susan Czerepak

**Motion** – Motion was made and seconded to accept the 2021 Minutes as posted on the ELPA website. <https://www.echolakeassociation.net/elpa-online-annual-meeting-minutes-july-17-2021/>

Voting was recorded on Google Form. All in favor. Approved.

## **Board Terms and Officers – Laurie Gee**

**Report** – Board members serve three-year terms and may serve two consecutive three-year terms. Following are the current officers and their respective terms.

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Term</b>
President	Laurie Gee	2 <sup>nd</sup> Term – ends 2022
Vice President	Currently not filled	
Treasurer	Ann Hunsicker	2 <sup>nd</sup> Term – ends 2024
Secretary	Susan Czerepak	2 <sup>nd</sup> Term – ends 2022
Director	Holly Bull	2 <sup>nd</sup> Term – ends 2024
Director	Steve Gratton	2 <sup>nd</sup> Term – ends 2023
Director	Lori Kempton	1 <sup>st</sup> Term – ends 2023
Director	Karl Koenigsbauer	1 <sup>st</sup> Term – ends 2023
Director	Carol Martin	1 <sup>st</sup> Term – ends 2022

Laurie Gee and Susan Czerepak have both completed their second terms and are no longer eligible to serve on the Board. Ann and Holly are continuing in their positions but are not up for election. Carol Martin has kindly agreed to serve a second term as Director. Two new directors will serve 3-year first terms. One, decided at random, will serve a 2-year first term because it's the remainder of a term vacated early through a resignation.

Following is this year's slate of officers for election, the positions for which they are running, and when their terms will end:

Position	Name	Term
<b>President</b>	<b>Steve Gratton</b> (currently Director)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Term – ends 2023
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Karl Koenigsbauer</b> (currently Director)	1st Term -- ends 2023
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Ann Hunsicker</b> (currently Director)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Term – ends 2024
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Lori Kempton</b> (currently Director)	1st Term – ends 2023
<b>Director</b>	<b>Carol Martin</b> (currently Director)	2nd Term – ends 2025
<b>Director</b>	<b>Mark Bechtold</b> (currently member)	1stTerm – ends 2024
<b>Director</b>	<b>Elaine Carpenter</b> (currently member)	1 <sup>st</sup> Term – ends 2025
<b>Director</b>	<b>Nicholas Dibble</b> (currently member)	1 <sup>st</sup> Term – ends 2025

**Motion** – Motion was made and seconded to accept the slate of Board members and officers. Voting was recorded on Google Form. All in favor. Approved.

**Exclusion of Officers from our Workers’ Compensation Policy - Laurie Gee**

**Report** – Our insurance company now requires an annual membership vote to exclude the officers from coverage by our workers’ compensation policy. Because ELPA hires and pays three access greeters, we are required to carry this policy. Our officers are not paid, so it is logical that they would not be covered by this policy.

**Motion** – Motion was made and seconded to exclude officers from the Workers’ Compensation Policy. Voting was recorded on Google Form. All in favor. Approved.

**Water Monitoring Report – Pete Engels**

**Report** - Water testing has resumed, and we expect it to continue for the rest of the summer. I, Peter Engels, should mention that it looks that this will be the last year that I can participate in collecting and sending in water samples to the State. Mike Vinton wants to continue doing this, but we need another volunteer. I should be available to help whoever wants to do this, to show

them what we do. It takes about two hours or so, one day a week. The time required is from about June 1 to about September 1.

**Discussion** – Tom Wagner is going to take on Peter’s role and work with Mike Vinton. The data from last summer showed an improvement of phosphorous content. However, Holly’s data is showing a lot of phosphorous running into the lake. While 99% of water coming into Echo is coming from Seymour, which has lower phosphorous levels, there are very high phosphorous levels in the brook running between the Anderson and Bernstein properties.

Elaine Carpenter noted that West Echo Lake Road has gotten much wider over the years, and has photos documenting the change. Susan Czerepak noted that the dirt on East Echo Lake Road is mounded up on the bridge that crosses the Outlet Brook from Lake Seymour and is continually washing into the lake. She will send photos taken from the brook which can be shown to Bernie Pepin, the Charleston Road Foreman, and to the Charleston Select Board. We need to develop an action plan to remedy the run-off problem. When we are ready, the Reclassification Committee will bring the action plan to the Town and ask how they can assist in making sure the road runoff is not or does not continue to contribute to phosphorous level rise. It was also suggested that we have a civil engineer look at the roads around the lake.

## **Water Quality Report – Holly Bull**

**Reclassification Petition Report:** The Echo Lake Reclassification Committee is awaiting word from the Secretary of the Agency of Natural Resources for permission to hold a public hearing on our petition. Once we get the approval to schedule a public hearing, we will send out an email to all our members with the date and details.

**Discussion:** Holly received a letter ([appended below](#)) from the DEC informing us that they are holding off in the public participation part of the reclassification process and there will not be a hearing this summer. The sticking point is section 10 VSA 1259(d) of the Vermont Water Control Statute which limits to 1,000 gallons per day of sewerage disposal, which applies to all 14,575 acres of the Echo Lake watershed. The hope is that the legislature during the upcoming 2023 session will amend 10 VSA 1259(d). The Seymour Lake Association may reconsider their desire to reclassify once the bill is amended.

Peggy Stevens observed that while this is a delay, we can still pursue other avenues to attempt to reduce the phosphorous levels in the lake. Peggy reminded us of what a rare resource Echo Lake is – it is one of only 8 lakes in Vermont that qualify for A1 classification. Not only are these 8 lakes the cleanest in the state, they are the cleanest in the nation. And while that is so, the water quality of these 8 lakes has measurably decreased over the past 30 years. Even though there is a delay in the A1 reclassification, we need to do all we can to continue to improve the water quality. Representative Katherine Sims of the Orleans-Caledonia District and Oliver Pierson Program Manager of the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation are two good resources we can work with. Everything ELPA does to protect the lake, lakebed surveys, greeter program, water testing, is all of one piece – to preserve and protect the purity of Echo Lake.

**LaRosa Tributary Testing Report:** The LaRosa tributary testing is in full swing and going very well. Just as last year, all streams are being tested for Phosphorus levels. We have two new

streams this year that are being tested for Nitrogen (Nitrogen is a chemical found in fertilizer). Last year, we tested all streams for Chloride, but our levels were so insignificant that the need to test for Chloride this year is unnecessary.

**Discussion** – Before we really know the impact of the streams entering Echo Lake, the state wants data for 2 or 3 years. This year Holly convinced the state to add the stream running between the Anderson and Bernstein properties. That has shown high phosphorous levels. A discussion ensued as to possible causes. Testing also shows that there is no problem with nitrogen levels indicating that the water quality issues are caused not by manure, but by the roads. The Reclassification Committee will work on this.

**Cyanobacteria Testing Report:** This is the first year that ELPA is conducting cyanobacteria testing. Cyanobacteria are a natural and important part of most ecosystems, however the “blooms” can, although not often, be toxic. While “blooms” have not been detected in our lake, this testing is being done to establish a baseline. ELPA will collect water samples at the public boat access weekly for 8 weeks each summer. Results will be recorded with the VT Agency of Natural Resources and the Lake Champlain Committee.

### **Lakebed Surveying:** Peggy Stevens

**Report** - Lakebed surveying is underway. No reports of anything untoward. Holly Bull has a GoPro camera which takes amazing underwater pictures and is an effective survey tool. We plan to go out together on Larry Martin's pontoon boat for an overview of the lakebed. There is much less boat traffic at the access so far as compared to previous years. Will follow up with Greeters on that.

**Discussion** – Peggy observed that the section she surveyed has less vegetation than normal. Nancy Bernstein observed that she too is seeing less vegetation in front of her property and wondered if there is anything she can do to improve the water quality.

### **Septic Pumping:** Tom Wagner

**Report** - ELPA negotiated a very generously reduced septic tank pumping rate with Taplin's Septic and published this in the Spring Newsletter. We needed 5 or multiples of 5 to get the rate. Not one household took advantage of this offer.

As a reminder, the recommendation for best practices on lakes is to pump every 3-5 years. If there is interest let me know, and I'll see if we can still get a reduction. My email is [wagsvt@gmail.com](mailto:wagsvt@gmail.com) .

**Discussion** – No one has inquired yet.

### **Membership Committee:** Tom Wagner

**Report** - Through the end of June our paid membership is 66 (60 Family and 6 Individuals.) This compares favorably to our final membership at the end of 2021 which was 98 (82 Family, 13

Individuals, 3 Friends.) Thus 80% of our Family members have paid and 46% of Individuals have paid. We have yet to receive contributions from Friends.

Over the last two years the committee has actively encouraged membership to pay dues before our Access Greeter Program begins on Memorial Day weekend, to accelerate our cash flow. It may be working, as we had 53 paid last year at this time.

The committee (Holly Bull, Steve Gratton, Lori Kempton, Tracey Shadday and I) created a tri-fold brochure "Welcome to Echo Lake" designed to be handed out when the greeters inspect boats. It has several useful tips for boaters to help us maintain our pristine lake. We also included a request to help ELPA financially by becoming a Friend of Echo Lake with a \$25 contribution. Kudos to Holly Bull, who took the bull by the horns and created this nicely done piece.

**Discussion** – The Membership Committee has been encouraging members to pay dues and are already ahead of schedule.

## **Greeter Reports – Maryanne O'Brien and Karl Koenigsbauer**

### **Report –**

#### **Volunteer Access Greeters -- Maryanne O'Brien**

Volunteer greeters began covering the access Tuesday, May 31. A total of 68 volunteer hours were accrued during the month of June, with very few watercraft actually inspected. There has been a noticeable lack of boaters on Mondays and Tuesdays. There will be significantly fewer volunteer hours in the upcoming month of July, as a number of the volunteers have previous commitments. As always, should anyone express an interest in working at the access on Mondays or Tuesdays, please contact Maryanne O'Brien at (802)723-5905.

#### **Paid Access Greeters – Karl Koenigsbauer**

**Report** - Cheryl Hryckiewicz and Steve Sheltry continue to prove to be invaluable with our Access Greeter program. We welcomed Panda LaCroix, who replaced Dean White, to the team on Friday, May 27. Panda is an excellent addition. Since the start (Friday May 27) of the Greeter Program it appears to this point in the season (Tuesday July 5) that there have been fewer boater visits to the lake when compared to last season. The majority of boats that we see are fishing boats. Kayaks continue to find their way to the lake, which is nice as kayaks pose little to no risk of introducing invasive plants or animals to the lake. Guests have been cooperative with inspections and are extremely impressed with how pristine the lake is, as well as the commitment of our Greeter program.

We are indeed lucky to have the support of our paid greeters who cover the access Wednesday through Sunday and the volunteers that cover the site on Monday and Tuesday. With Memorial Day and the Fourth of July behind us we will hopefully have a quiet end to the summer season. A special thanks goes to Cheryl, Steve, and Panda for their commitment in helping to keep Echo Lake the national treasure that it is!

**Discussion** – There has been very little boat traffic this summer. Karl noted the impressive commitment that we make staffing the boat access and thanked all the greeters. Visitors appreciate what we do and remark on how clear the lake is. The 2:00 to 6:00 shift is the most challenging.

## **Lake Wise Report: Steve Gratton**

**Report** – I am pleased to announce that Vermont has a new Lake Wise Program Director, Alison Marchione. Alison will be visiting Echo Lake later this summer and she is well aware of our active Lake Wise involvement. Nearly 50% of our shoreline is presently certified Lake Wise and we hope to expand that even further.

I encourage all lakeshore owners to look for simple ways to improve your property and help reduce harmful run-off from reaching this pristine lake you live on. You can start small by inspecting your septic system, planting a buffer zone near the shore, or adding a strategic water bar. The goal should be for each of us to do all we can to keep Echo Lake in the wonderful condition it is for generations to come.

If you have any questions regarding starting a Lake Wise project, please contact me at 603-848-2131 or at [sgratton911@gmail.com](mailto:sgratton911@gmail.com).

**Discussion** – Steve mentioned possible funding available through our larger Memphremagog Watershed Association but details have not been released yet. It was noted that a number of people have qualified for Lake Wise Certificates, but have not yet received them.

## **Community Outreach- School Program Report – Peter Bestenbostel**

**Report** - I hope you all have enjoyed the photos and updates from the school program ELPA sponsors at Charleston Elementary School. ELPA provides for two education tracks at the school. We/You are reaching kids at an age when the lessons will stick.

ELPA has been able to fund the Siskin program for third-grade students. This integrates with their STEM work by providing a real-time environmental component based in the students' back yard, Echo Lake! In addition, we fund the NorthWoods program, which provides an after-school experience for older students within the Echo Lake watershed. I am not sure how one puts a value on this kind of real-life exposure, to this kind of science, at this age. If you can, please tell me. I see it as invaluable.

In anticipation of the coming school year, ELPA has purchased water bottles for the incoming third-grade class. We look forward to ongoing program updates and photos from the two programs in the coming year.

**Discussion** – The season has gone well. The next Board meeting will consider funding school programs. It is invaluable to grasp how important it is getting these kids exposed to the value of the lake and habitat.

## **NorthWoods Trails Report – Carol Martin**

**Report** - Jesse Coe hiked the Shore trail and the Wolcott trail a few weeks ago with some NorthWoods board members and reported both trails look great. The hike to the Wolcott Homestead foundation is fun to check out. The Shore Trail and parking lots have been recently mowed and trimmed.

## **Invasive Species Control – Meg Carter**

**Report** - NorthWoods has received match funding from the Habitat Stamp Project from VT Fish and Wildlife for invasive species control work in the Echo Lake watershed and the Clyde River corridor. They have just confirmed the date for an informational meeting on this project to be held virtually via zoom on Wednesday, July 20 from 6:30-7:30. The info session is being offered with ELPA folks particularly in mind. NorthWoods will also invite some of the other landowners / stakeholders that could be involved in this work. We know folks will have questions about what invasive species we'll focus on, why, treatment types, strategies, long term goals, etc. Volunteer work dates for Echo Lake phragmites and perhaps other opportunities as well will be set for August.

### **Discussion –**

- The Managing Invasive Plants in the Clyde River Watershed: Informational Webinar will be held on Zoom on Wednesday, July 20 from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of the Northeast Kingdom Trail Guide is now available from NorthWoods website.
- The Kingdom Swim will be held on Wednesday August 10<sup>th</sup>. ELPA volunteers are needed to check boats and buoys for invasive species.
- NorthWoods has received a \$1,000 grant to apply toward removing phragmites from the NorthWoods Echo Lake shoreline and adjacent property. The dates for the Phragmites project have not yet been decided. Meg will let us know. She expects that they will be devoting more time to this this year compared to last.

## **2022 Color Challenge Report – Patti Lennon**

**Report** - It was wonderful to have our Color Challenge fundraiser back after a two-year COVID hiatus. We had 210 runners/walkers celebrate the return of the Color Challenge with us. Our volunteers and participants kept the energy high and the vibe upbeat and happy. The weather conditions couldn't have been better.

As in the past, we had really strong support from our local business community. 22 businesses sent in donations to sponsor our event, and 32 businesses contributed raffle prizes. ELPA netted about \$7,000 from the Color Challenge. \$4,225 came from sponsor donations and approximately \$3,000 came from our participants' registration fees. We gave away \$1,450 in raffle prizes.

Thank you to Ann and Mark Beams, Pam and Karl Koenigsbauer, and Jean and Bob Wilson for allowing us the use of their beautiful properties to host our event. Maryanne and I give a heartfelt

thanks to our Color Challenge Committee and 30+ volunteers. It takes a lot of work to pull off an event as special as the Color Challenge. And, we did it!

**Discussion** – Just incredible. Biggest one ever. Raised over \$7,000.

## **Investment Committee Report – Peter Bestenbostel**

**Report** - ELPA's contingency fund is currently invested in a one-year CD with Community National Bank at an interest rate of 0.39%. The CD comes due in September 2022 and is currently valued at \$54,940.89. Interest rates have begun to rise slightly. We hope to add to the fund again this year as we move slowly toward the goal established by the Board. The Board agreed upon an initial target for the fund of \$100,000. The investment fund's stated purpose is to provide funding to assist in remediation of any invasive species contamination in Echo Lake when it occurs.

Given the current economic climate, I believe that ELPA will see persistently low interest rates for the next few years. Therefore, the growth of the fund will not be substantially increased based upon interest earnings. The Board will be making decisions about additions to the fund this year and those strategic choices will define the growth of the fund in the near future. The investment committee will review options for reinvestment of the fund later this summer.

**Discussion** – There is hope that some of the \$7,000 raised by the Color Challenge can go into the Contingency Fund.

## **Grants and Town Appropriation – Laurie Gee**

**Report:** Our Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation 2022 Aquatic Nuisance Control Grant-In-Aid Environmental Stewardship Program funding is up ~\$200 from last year: \$11,308. All grant recipients have been notified that available funding will be reduced by ~25 percent next year, making our fund-raising, dues and donations more critical than ever.

This year's Watershed Grant from Vermont Fish & Wildlife is back at the full funding level: \$5,000. This grant helps to fund our milfoil prevention program as well as our popular educational partnerships and outreach with Charleston School.

We received an additional \$2,400 grant last year, from the Vermont Community Foundation's NEK Fund, to support our Charleston School ecosystem education programs for the school year just ended. We would love to know of other sources for future funding.

We are grateful, once again, to Charleston voters for approving a \$1,000 appropriation to support ELPA's mission.

**Discussion** – The expectation is that next year DEC Access Greeter funding will be down by 25% across the board.



## **Treasurer's Report:** Ann Hunsicker

**Report** - Thank you to all of our members for your tremendous support of ELPA. You have all ensured we remain able to do the important work of keeping our beautiful lake there for all of us to enjoy. Once again, we are paying our greeters for 5 days a week of keeping invasives out of Echo Lake, and will be doing this until at least September 11. Our grant funding went up a bit from last year, thanks to the State of VT and the Town of Charleston. Our Color Challenge was a huge success, bringing in more money than ever before. A big thank you to all of you who have already paid your dues and made donations, and to those of you we know will soon. Because of your support we will also be continuing the education programs at the Charleston Elementary School again this coming school year, while we search for other grants to sustain this enrichment for our local children. At the end of the summer season, the board will make a decision as to how much to add to our contingency fund, working towards our initial goal of \$100,000.

As of 7/3/22 we have received dues from 61 family members and 6 individual members.

Our total assets, including savings, checking, and payroll checking account as well as the Contingency Fund CD total \$99,254.20. This is an increase of \$19,895.36 from this time last year.

**Discussion** – We are in good shape. We are ahead of last year. To date, 70 families and 6 individuals have signed. We expect to be spending all that was budgeted. The Aquatic Grant is now distributed in lump sum in the Fall rather than as two separate payments. The \$7,000 that we received from this year's Color Challenge can be put to good use. We expect that we will be in a position to put more into the Contingency Fund this year.

**Motion** – Motion was made and seconded to accept the July 2022 Treasury Report.

Voting was recorded on Google Form. All in favor. Approved.

(The [Income Statement](#) and [Balance Statement and Budget](#) are included below.)

## **Volunteers Needed**– Laurie Gee

**Report** - We invite any willing and interested members and friends to indicate interest in volunteering to help with ELPA's many activities. There is a place on the Google Form to let us know what area(s) interest you. You may also call Laurie Gee (717-887-3163) to learn more about volunteer opportunities.

- Lakebed Surveying
- Access Greeter
- Color Challenge Fundraiser
- Membership Committee
- Help pull invasive weed, phragmites, from shoreline
- Northwoods Trail Maintenance--Echo Lake Shoreline Trail
- Green Up Day (first Saturday in May)

## Special Thanks – Laurie Gee

Over many months, I'd been adding to a list of the many ELPA members who go out of their way to make this lake and community healthy and strong and exceptional. But I decided against publishing such a list—it changes constantly, and I'd be so concerned that I might have missed someone. I know I share heartfelt gratitude for all of your contributions large and small, whether you're a board member, a committee chair or member, an event volunteer, a greeter, patroller, water-quality monitor, weed puller, website coordinator or contributor, dues payer, donor, loaner of property, storer of ELPA supplies—it all matters! Thank you!

I'd like to focus on a few exceptional long-time residents who've made amazing contributions to our lake community:

**Peter Engels**, we thank you for your decades of service in monitoring and reporting on the quality of Echo Lake's water, all of the sage advice you've shared, and for all the many, many years you and Nancy welcomed ELPA to your beautiful property for picnics and annual meetings. Your retirement from water monitoring is well deserved, and we very much appreciate your willingness to train your heir to this worthy role!

**Mike and Margie Vinton**, you retired this year from serving as access greeters, and we are grateful for all you've done. Mike, you had probably been a volunteer greeter since the program began! Peter says you'd like to continue in piloting your pontoon boat around the lake in service to the water-quality monitoring program; we welcome that, will find you a good monitoring partner to accompany you, and thank you for contributing your boat and gas to that effort all these many years!

**Susan Czerepak**, your board term is up, your term as fearless Secretary is up (finally!), and we so very much appreciate all the work you've put into taking and publishing meeting minutes, creating a newsletter that is envied by other lake associations, and, up until last year, blazing a trail as you figured out how to make our website shine. You worked doggedly as Lake Wise Liaison for more than 4 years, carrying ELPA to the first Gold Lake Wise Award ever earned in the State of Vermont! You've also helped the association by arranging for workshops and blueberry plantings. I imagine we will continue to see you helping on the trails and weed-pulling fronts, but enjoy your board retirement, with many thanks for all your efforts!

**Patti Lennon and Maryanne O'Brien**, oh my. Was this year's Color Challenge just above and beyond in every possible way?! No one has a clue just how much time, over how many, many months, goes into making that event happen—poof, over and done in 3 or 4 hours! And then the days of clean-up and re-inventorying in your garage, basement, various friends' barns or basements--it ain't over when it's over. The details you manage, the love and joy you spread, the funds you raise, the connections you make, the legions of loyal volunteers you recruit, we all thank you from the bottoms of our full hearts. But the Color Challenge is a mere few years old! For much longer, 20 something years?!, you've served this community and worked your magic—long and notable service on our board and as officers, getting Echo's access greeter program up and running...still volunteering your time at the access and/or entering boat data. You are both peerless in your ability to make folks feel welcome and excited about helping out, it's as if you invented FOMO (for those of us who only recently figured out what that even is—a

social media acronym—we’ll share that it stands for “Fear of Missing Out”)! Legends, and we love you. Thank you.

### A Gift of Thanks to Laurie Gee

The Board extended its thanks and presented a gift of maple syrup to Laurie Gee for her stellar work as President. She, with untiring effort, has been a stalwart advocate for ELPA and has maintained a steady helm over these past several years. To say nothing of the grant applications that she so masterfully crafts!

Submitted by: Susan Czerepak, Secretary, on July 25, 2022.

*Balance Sheet 7/03/2022*

<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>		<b>7/3/22</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and Bank Accounts		
Savings Account		\$31,295.56
Checking Account		\$9,985.88
Payroll Account		\$3,031.87
Contingency Fund CD		\$54,940.89
Total Cash and Bank Accounts		\$99,254.20
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		
		<b>\$99,254.20</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>		
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Payroll / Taxes		
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		\$0.00
<b>EQUITY</b>		\$99,254.20
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>		
		<b>\$99,254.20</b>

*Income Statement and Budget 7/03/2022*

	Actual 1/1/20- 12/31/20	Actual 1/1/21- 12/31/21	2022 Approved Budget	Actual 1/1/22- 7/03/22
<b>CASH CARRIED FORWARD FROM 2020</b>		<b>73,958.66</b>		82,336.14
<b>INCOME</b>				
Dues <sup>1</sup>	4,355.00	4,475.00	4,200.00	3,150.00
Donations <sup>2</sup>	5,175.00	10,000.00	4,500.00	4,500.00
Charleston School Program Donation	750.00			
Color Challenge <sup>3</sup>	600.00		4,500.00	6,130.00
Color Challenge - held for 2021	1,650.00			
Charleston Appropriation	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Watershed Grant - 1st payment <sup>4</sup>	4,000.00	3,200.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
Watershed Grant - 2nd payment	1,000.00	800.00	1,000.00	
Aquatic Nuisance Grant - 2nd pymt prior yr <sup>5</sup>				6,680.40
Aquatic Nuisance Grant - 1st payment <sup>6</sup>	3,844.00	4,453.60		
Aquatic Nuisance Grant - 2nd payment	5,765.00		11,308.00	
VCF Grant		2,400.00		
Map Sales	120.00	120.00		
Amazon Smile		54.70	200.00	148.19
Interest from Savings	835.74	348.24	200.00	113.65
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>29,094.74</b>	<b>26,851.54</b>	<b>30,908.00</b>	<b>24,722.24</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Payroll Costs	14,608.03	13,138.54	14,423.68	3,154.40
Access Monitor Expenses <sup>7</sup>	60.29			346.07
Liability Insurance	550.00	550.00	550.00	550.00
Workers Comp. Insurance	1,296.00	1,296.00	1,296.00	1,296.00
Printing <sup>8</sup>		58.50	255.00	311.16
Postage	30.40			
Color Challenge Expenses	21.00	-22.00		

<sup>1</sup> 61 Family, 6 Individual (1 family pd in 2021 for 2022)

<sup>2</sup> 35 members have made donations

<sup>3</sup> \$1119 income still expected

<sup>4</sup> 2022 grant is \$5000, \$1000 more than 2021

<sup>5</sup> 2nd pymts of AQ grants were not sent until Feb of 2022

<sup>6</sup> 2022 grant is \$11,308, \$174 more than 2021; full pymt expected in the fall

<sup>7</sup> iPad

<sup>8</sup> includes access brochure

P.O. Box Rental - 1yr.	56.00	56.00	62.00	62.00
Web Site Costs	107.98		616.68	616.68
Picnic		380.00	80.00	
Gift Bags/Membership Expenses				
Maps				
Paypal Expense	56.61	47.02	50.00	17.87
Misc.		20.00	20.00	
Charleston School Program	1,742.95	2,700.00	2,400.00	1,400.00
NorthWoods donation	100.00	100.00	100.00	
FOVLAP membership	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00
VCE donation	100.00	100.00	100.00	
	\$			
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	18,779.26	18,474.06	20,003.36	7,804.18
<b>GAIN/(LOSS)</b>	10,315.48	8,377.48	10,904.64	16,918.06
<b>TOTAL CASH ON HAND</b>		<b>\$ 82,336.14</b>		<b>\$ 99,254.20</b>

## **Reclassification- July 12 letter received from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation**

Dear Holly,

Thanks very much for your message of June 22 requesting that DEC move forward with scheduling the public meetings associated with reviewing the Echo Lake Reclassification Petition that your lake association submitted in September of last year. Let me also acknowledge all the hard work that went into developing this petition and recognize the strong commitment of your group to maintaining or improving Echo Lake's excellent water quality, a goal that DEC shares with you.

I appreciate the interest that the Echo Lake Protective Association has in moving forward with obtaining public comment on your lake reclassification petition. I also recognize that Echo Lake has a significantly increasing phosphorus concentration, and we share your goal of maintaining Echo Lake's current excellent water quality and slowing or reversing this trend before the lake's trophic status changes for the worse.

Reclassification of Vermont's surface waters based on petitions submitted by the public is a relatively new approach for DEC, and it has taken us some time to develop our procedures and metrics for reviewing the content of these petitions. Our recent decision to enter into formal rulemaking in response to three stream reclassification petitions submitted by the Ripton Conservation Committee demonstrates that DEC is supportive of surface water reclassification actions under the right circumstances.

However, lake reclassification presents a unique challenge because any waters reclassified to Class A(1) for any use "shall include all waters within the entire watershed of the reclassified waters" as per the Vermont Water Quality Standards, meaning that the additional protections conferred from reclassification apply to all 14,575 acres of the Echo Lake watershed. One such additional protection that may be problematic is derived from Vermont's statute on Water Pollution Control, where section 10 VSA 1259(d) states that:

*(d) No person shall cause a discharge of wastes into Class A waters, except for on-site disposal of sewage from systems with a capacity of 1,000 gallons per day (gpd), or less, that are either exempt from or comply with the environmental protection rules, or existing systems, which shall require a permit according to the provisions of subsection 1263(f) of this title.*

This so-called "1,000 gallon per day" rule is potentially problematic, as it will require residents and users of the watershed to make a potentially difficult decision between compliance with the statute and development of new properties and businesses that require new indirect discharge or septic systems with a design flow of greater than 1,000 gallons per day. If reclassification of Echo Lake were to be enacted under the current legislative framework, construction of new schools, restaurants, or large residential properties would be prohibited indefinitely in the lake's entire watershed.

We therefore believe it is in the best interest of all Vermonters to avoid forcing communities to choose between these two goals, and rather to pursue a solution that allows us to protect high-quality surface waters while not overly restricting economic development and infrastructure improvement efforts. Indeed, it is our understanding that members of the Morgan Select Board and the Seymour Lake Association, both which are geographically within the Echo Lake Watershed, have expressed opposition to lake reclassification specifically due to the requirements of 10 VSA 1259(d), and this is the type of disagreement we do not want associated with an effort to increase protections for surface water.

The text in 10 VSA 1259(d) dates to the 1980s, and indirect discharge systems have advanced since then to the point where they can be designed and sited in a manner that does not necessarily lead to "discharge of wastes into waters." Furthermore, we believe that the 1,000 gallon per day threshold is

somewhat arbitrary, and this text could perhaps be replaced with an approach that requires new systems in Class A Watershed to be built in compliance with the Vermont Wastewater System and Potable Water Supply Rule for smaller systems and/or 10 VSA 1263(f) for larger systems, which will lead to similar outcomes to the current “1,000 gallon / day” text without overly restricting new construction.

To that end, DEC and the Agency of Natural Resources have begun to work with members of the Vermont Legislature to amend 10 VSA 1259(d) to use an approach more in line with the technology and realities of 2022, as well as one that isn't a barrier to increasing lake protections via reclassification. We began this process to late in the 2022 legislative session to adequately brief concerned stakeholders and build the necessary support to see it through, but we will make more concerted effort prior to and during the 2023 legislative session so that this issue hopefully receives the attention it deserves and a “win-win” solution, that protects high-quality waters without severely restricting new development, is obtained.

Therefore, and considering this situation, DEC would like to ask for your patience as we will hold off on starting the “public participation” phase of our review of your lake reclassification petition for Echo Lake until we have worked with the legislature during the upcoming 2023 session to amend 10 VSA 1259(d). We will hopefully then be able to pursue lake reclassification without the barriers and local opposition created by this requirement. If the legislature decides to maintain the text of 10 VSA 1259(d) as currently written, I can commit that we will move forward with public meetings on these petitions during the summer of 2023 under the existing statute, and we will do our best to manage any disagreements around reclassification that arise at that time.

I recognize that my response may not be what you were hoping to receive from DEC, but we strongly believe that it is important to attempt to resolve the current situation surrounding the “1,000 gallon per day” rule before proceeding further with lake reclassification for the reasons described above. It is my sincere hope that other ongoing and nascent efforts to reduce phosphorus loading to Echo Lake taking place in your watershed will help address the increasing phosphorus trend in the lake, and I strongly encourage you to work with Oliver Pierson, the Manager of the Lakes and Ponds Program, to explore developing a Lake Watershed Action Plan for Echo and Seymour Lakes in the near future.

Thanks again for reaching out to ANR Secretary Julie Moore and myself about this issue, and we will keep you abreast of our efforts to amend 10 VSA 1259(d). It might also be useful if members of the Echo Lake Protective Association encourage your legislators to support this legislative amendment goal, so that we can proceed with lake reclassification under an improved framework as soon as possible. Thanks again for all you do to protect Echo Lake

Sincerely,

John Beling  
DEC Interim Commissioner