



President: Steve Gratton
Vice President: Karl Koenigsbauer
Treasurer: Ann Hunsicker
Secretary: Lori Kempton
Board Members:
Holly Bull
Carol Martin
Nick Dibble
Elaine Carpenter
Mark Bechtold

ECHO LAKE PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION
Board of Directors Meeting
January 10, 2023

This meeting was conducted online via Google Meet.

Present:

Steve Gratton, Karl Koenigsbauer, Ann Hunsicker, Lori Kempton, Holly Bull, Carol Martin, Nick Dibble, Mark Bechtold

Welcome: Steve Gratton

Steve called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Secretary Report: Lori Kempton

September 20, 2022 Board Meeting minutes: Motion was made and seconded to accept the meeting minutes of September 20, 2022. All in favor. Approved. Please see the report on the website: echolakeassociation.net

Treasurer Report – Ann Hunsicker

2022 was another banner year financially for ELPA. We ended the year with \$12,495 more in the bank than we started with. This was largely due to a very successful Color Challenge, which returned after an absence of 2 years because of COVID. We have just received, in January, our AQ grant from the state, in the amount of \$11,308 so that amount is in addition to the above-mentioned end of year total. We transferred \$10,000 into our contingency fund at season's end, bringing the balance in that fund up to \$65,000. We now have two CD's, one maturing in April 2023 and the other in October. This is a big step forward as it gives us money available at different times of the year should the need arise.

On the expense side the cost for our three paid greeters was lower than we budgeted due to the loss of one greeter midway through the year. The remaining greeters were given a higher than usual bonus at season's end. We purchased our own iPad for use in entering data from boat logs, greatly simplifying the process.

We chose to become members of the Memphremagog Watershed Association, with annual dues of \$50.

I will again present you with a proposed budget at our May meeting.

Motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer reports of January 10, 2023. All in favor. Approved.

Treasurer reports are appended below.

Discussion – Herbicide testing was not performed (due to a successful cut), which had been previously budgeted for. To follow-up with Sam Perron this spring as appropriate.

Investment Report: Peter Bestenbostel

See above in the treasurer report.

Color Challenge: Steve Gratton

Date for the 2023 Color Challenge: Sunday July 2, 2023.

Lisa and Larry Martin to take over as coordinators of the Color Challenge.

Membership – Steve Gratton, on behalf of Tom Wagner

88 families and 9 individuals paid 2022 dues.

Consideration of stickers of the ELPA logo for paid members.

Discussion of keeping dues at the same amount.

Request was presented to consider a review of the bylaws regarding member voting rights.

Membership form change requested: Motion was made and seconded to change the dues form to add the year 2023. All in favor. Approved.

Grants: Ann Hunsicker, on behalf of Laurie Gee

Watershed grant application upcoming.

Aquatic Nuisance Grant request has not yet come out.

Charleston School Program: Peter Bestenbostel

Discussion: A motion was made and seconded for seeking out additional funds and funding sources to continue the school programming. All in favor. Approved.

Water Quality: Holly Bull

Water Quality Report – Board Meeting, January 10, 2023

Reclassification: This is an update we received from Rep. Katherine Sims (Orleans-Caledonia District). She has been helping us push forward our Reclassification Petition.

I wanted to send a quick update around the A1 Lake reclassification. I met with ANR recently to talk through the proposed legislative fix to the septic tank issue and things are moving forward nicely. We expect to have a bill to introduce early in the session in January. We are working to build support for the issue with committee leadership and advocates so that we can move on the bill once it is introduced. We will keep you posted about the progress and let you know if and when it would be helpful to have you all provide testimony on the matter. Once we have the fix in place, we can move forward with the lake reclassification.

Thanks for all your work and patience as we move forward on this issue.

Reminder - We were promised by DEC Commissioner Belling that a public hearing on our reclassification petition would take place this summer (2023).

Lake Watershed Action Plan (LWAP): An LWAP for the Echo Lake Watershed (which includes Seymour Lake) will be funded. Information on the bidding requirements has been posted. (<http://www.vermontbusinessregistry.com/BidPreview.aspx?BidID=57269>).

Update on Wake Boat Legislation: DEC has made their final proposal of the draft of wake boat regulation and will hold a public meeting in the NEK in late January. A draft of the proposed rules was sent out to all ELPA board members. Any updates will be shared at the January 10 board meeting.

AIS Funding: Rep. Kari Dolan (Washington County) is working with ANR to increase AIS Funding. Funding was cut in the 2023 budget, so this legislation is vital to our Access Greeter

Program. Any updates will be given at the January 10 board meeting.

Lay Monitoring Data: The Lay Monitoring Data for the summer of 2022 has not yet been posted.

Memphremagog Watershed Association: In November, the Memphremagog Watershed Association (MWA) invited all NEK lake associations to a meeting to discuss the top two concerns for their respective lakes. Steve Gratton, Holly Bull, and Laurie Gee all attended and shared Echo Lake's concerns: AIS Funding and Wake Boats. The meeting was so successful in sharing information and concerns that MWA would like to hold these meetings twice a year.

Echo Lake Protective Association Water Quality Committee

Holly Bull, Peter Engels, Peggy Stevens, and Tom Wagner

Discussion:

Reclassification project had been put on hold due to septic system issues (1000 gallon per day limit). A motion to change this rule is moving through Legislation right now. Also, an amended Antidegradation Rule will also play a part in moving our reclassification petition forward. The board will receive the information about the new Antidegradation Implementation Rule and then vote whether or not to support it.

RFP: Funding of \$50,000 has been designated for the Lake Watershed Action Plan projects. Amount of money designated due to what has happened at other lakes. LWAP needs to be completed by December 2024. Memphremagog Watershed Association working to complete Lake Willoughby's LWAP now. All roads, bridges and all tributaries will be studied.

Phosphorus level at Echo Lake has increased by 20%. As shown by data from our Lay Monitor Peter Engels. Our LWAP will be helpful in assessing the problem areas in and around our lake.

Wake Boats: DEC proposal to be presented at an upcoming public hearing to be held in the NEK. Current restrictions being presented are 500 ft from shore, 20 feet deep or more, 50 continuous acres, along with the "home lake rule", which has increased the number of lakes to 18 in the NEK that will be eligible for wake boats. Rep. Katherine Sims is working on some legislation to specify that oligotrophic lakes

can opt out of being eligible for wake boats. She has been supportive of our reclassification.

Need to wait for legislation to come out before petitions for specific limitations.

An NEK Lakes group including Maidstone, Caspian, the Averills, Seymour, Echo, and Willoughby have been meeting to work on the "home lake rule" along with the new work of trying to increase AIS prevention funding.

[Access Greeter Report: Karl Koenigsbauer](#)

Discussion: Cheryl and Steve to return again summer 2023.

Will need to find a paid greeter for the third shift. Also need to find more volunteer greeters.

Can take the course online to become a greeter.

Karl would like to start advertising in April and May. Would like to advertise on website, Facebook, possibly The Chronicle.

Discussion of pay rates and possible bonuses.

Discussion of AIS funding cuts.

Possible looking into advertising for staffing at other sources: NorthWoods, Northern Vermont University or other college students looking for summer jobs.

[Lake Wise-- Steve Gratton](#)

No specific updates.

Gold Lake Wise Awards have been awarded to Echo Lake, Seymour Lake, and now Lake Iroquois.

Anyone who would like to know more about the Lake Wise Program and shoreline improvements, please contact Steve Gratton at sgratton911@gmail.com or call 603-848-2131.

[NorthWoods Trails – Carol Martin](#)

No specific updates.

[Green Up Day Committee: Ann Hunsickee](#)

Green Up Day to clean up the roadsides: May 6, 2023.

ELPA Website:

Lori to continue to send items to Kristen Wilson for posting on the ELPA website.

ELPA Facebook Page – Lori Kempton

Send items to Lori for posting on the ELPA Facebook page.

Spring Newsletter – Lori Kempton

Spring Newsletter to come out in April/May.

Karl volunteered to write up a piece about being a greeter and how to become a greeter.

Holly volunteered to write about the Dickey Brook project.

Send items for the spring newsletter to Lori by April 1 at EchoLakepa@gmail.com

Important 2023 Dates

The following 2023 dates were previously agreed upon by the Board:

- Color Challenge – Sunday July 2, 2023
- Annual Meeting – Saturday July 22, 2023
- Annual Picnic – Saturday August 12, 2023
- Board Meetings –
 - Thursday May 18, 2023 at 6pm
 - Thursday September 21, 2023 at 6pm.

Adjourned: At 7:45 pm

Submitted by Lori Kempton: January 20, 2023

BALANCE SHEET 12/31/2022

ASSETS

Cash and Bank Accounts

Savings Account \$27,302.89

Checking Account \$2,280.86

Payroll Account \$208.48

Contingency Fund CD - Edward Jones matures October 2023 \$55,000.00

Contingency Fund CD - CNB matures April 2023 \$10,037.47

Total Cash and Bank Accounts \$94,829.70

TOTAL ASSETS \$94,829.70

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

LIABILITIES

Payroll / Taxes

TOTAL LIABILITIES \$0.00

EQUITY \$94,829.70

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY \$94,829.70

	Actual 1/1/20- 12/31/20	Actual 1/1/21- 12/31/21	2022 Approved Budget	Actual 1/1/22- 12/31/22	Notes
CASH CARRIED FORWARD FROM PRIOR YEAR		73,958.66		82,336.14	
INCOME					
Dues	4,355.00	4,475.00	4,200.00	4,625.00	88 Family, 9 Individual (1 family pd in 2021 for 2022)
Donations	5,175.00	10,000.00	4,500.00	6,425.00	47 members have made donations
Charleston School Program Donation	750.00				
Color Challenge	600.00		4,500.00	7,249.00	
Color Challenge - held for 2021	1,650.00				
Charleston Appropriation	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Watershed Grant - 1st payment	4,000.00	3,200.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	2022 grant is \$5000, \$1000 more than 2021
Watershed Grant - 2nd payment	1,000.00	800.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Aquatic Nuisance Grant - 2nd pymt prior yr				6,680.40	2nd pymts of AQ grants were not sent until Feb of 2022
Aquatic Nuisance Grant - 1st payment	3,844.00	4,453.60			2022 grant is up to \$11,308, \$174 more than 2021
Aquatic Nuisance Grant - 2nd payment	5,765.00		11,308.00		Payment in full rec'd in Jan 2023
VCF Grant		2,400.00			
Map Sales	120.00	120.00		26.00	
Amazon Smile		54.70	200.00	251.59	
Interest from Savings	835.74	348.24	200.00	212.49	
TOTAL INCOME	29,094.74	26,851.54	30,908.00	31,469.48	
EXPENSES					
Payroll Costs	14,608.03	13,138.54	14,423.68	12,376.79	

Access Monitor Expenses	60.29			347.07	iPad		
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		58.50	255.00	381.65	includes access brochure		
Postage	30.40						
Color Challenge Expenses	21.00	-22.00		75.00			
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	125.00			
Gift Bags/Membership Expenses							
Maps							
Paypal Expense	56.61	47.02	50.00	65.57			
Misc.		20.00	20.00				
Charleston School Program	1,742.95	2,700.00	2,400.00	2,780.16	Two years worth of water bottles purchased		
NorthWoods donation	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00			
FOVLAP membership	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00			
MWA membership				50.00	New membership		
VCE donation	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00			
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 18,779.26	18,474.06	20,003.36	18,975.92			
GAIN/(LOSS)	10,315.48	8,377.48	10,904.64	12,493.56			
TOTAL CASH ON HAND		\$ 82,336.14		\$ 94,829.70			