

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
May 18, 2023

This meeting was conducted as a hybrid meeting with 6 members meeting in person and 3 members attending the meeting via Google Meet.

Present:

Steve Gratton, Karl Koenigsbauer, Ann Hunsicker, Lori Kempton, Nick Dibble, Elaine Carpenter present in person. Holly Bull, Carol Martin, Mark Bechtold joined virtually via Google Meet.

Welcome: Steve Gratton

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

Secretary Report: Lori Kempton

January 10, 2023 Board Meeting minutes: Motion was made and seconded to accept the meeting minutes of January 10, 2023. All in favor. Approved. Please see the report on the ELPA website: www.echolakeassociation.net

Treasurer's Report – Ann Hunsicker

Motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report as below. All in favor. Approved.

Motion was made and seconded to accept the Proposed Budget as stated in the Treasurer's Report, see below. All in favor. Approved.

I hope everyone has had a chance to look over the financial reports dated May 18, 2023. As part of those reports I have proposed a budget for this year which needs your approval.

As you can see, we have received some income already this year, but very few expenses have been paid. There are a few items relating to income which I would like to point out. Our generous anonymous donor who helped us begin the science programs in the Charleston Elementary School has expressed a willingness to make another donation towards these programs. Laurie Gee and Peter Bestenbostel are working to find a grant source with which to leverage this donation, hopefully over the course of the next few years.

The Color Challenge preparation is under way by Larry and Lisa Martin. Some income has already come in and there will be more to come. This year for the first time we must anticipate some expenses, as supplies had always been donated in the past.

The timing of our Aquatic Nuisance grant payment seems to now be after the first of the year.

This means our 2023 grant money will most likely not arrive until January 2024.

With regard to interest earnings, I want to remind the board that interest earned by our CD's stays in those accounts so it is not used for expenses but accumulates in our contingency fund. In addition, Edward Jones, where we have one CD, does not post interest earned until the time of maturity.

Pay roll amounts for the greeters increased from previously: \$19/hr, \$17/hr, \$15/hr.

4 Memberships: North Woods, FOVLAP, VCE, Memphremagog Watershed Association.

Discussion was held regarding determining a process for approval of expenditures. Motion was made and seconded that any expenditures need prior approval from the executive board. All in favor. Approved.

Color Challenge

ELPA is once again hosting the Color Challenge Run on Sunday July 2, 2023.

People are volunteering and registrations are coming in via [active.com](https://www.active.com)

Our family fun run is open to people of all ages and all abilities. People can walk, skip, or run the gentle, rolling 5K loop on West Echo Lake Road while being showered with colored powder at five color stations throughout the course. After the race enjoy post-race snacks and a chance to win amazing raffle prizes.

Lisa and Larry Martin have taken over the organization of the event, which is scheduled for July 2, 2023. We will be counting on the many volunteers to help us pull off another successful year!

Membership-Tom Wagner

Membership dues payments through April 30 are trending like last year. We have 40 paid Family memberships this year, the same as 2022. This year we have 6 Individual memberships compared with 4 in 2022 and there are 2 Friends vs 0 last year. So, the total paid is 48 this year vs 44 last year.

I segregate Membership into:

On the Lake (owning lakefront property or with a right of way to the lake) count 102

Off the Lake (No access to the lake) count 22

Winape (Residents of Winape Hills Association) count 8

Friends (Friends)

In 2022 we had 84 memberships out of the 102 from On The Lake, for an 82% participation rate. There were 18 nonpayers.

4 out of 22 Off the Lake paid

7 out of 8 at Winape paid

Lay Monitor Report – Tom Wagner

DEC and Lakes and Ponds will be instituting a new sampling protocol and introducing a new water quality test this year. For most lakes the use of collecting the water sample with a hose will be discontinued and will be replaced with a Lamotte Horizontal Water Sampler. DEC has decided that lakes that have petitioned for A(1) status will have to continue use of the hose, as well as the Lamotte Sampler. The new sampler is significantly easier to use than the hose. When Mark Mitchell, Lay Monitor Coordinator, visits May 23 to conduct samples with Mike Vinton and me, I'll try to get some clarity as to why, because they both collect through a range of water depths. Initially he told us to do what we wished with the hose as it was not needed, but someone reversed course with the explanation that we needed to continue with the hose for continuity.

Also, this year, we will no longer be testing every week from the first of June to the end of August, rather it will be every 2 weeks. Additionally, there will be a new water quality test that will measure the level of caffeine in our water. There is a very high correlation between finding caffeine in the water and failing septic systems. This should be very important and useful information. We also test for Chlorophyll and Phosphorous. These results are all posted on the lake Score Card

[https://anrweb.vt.gov/PubDocs/DEC/WSMD/Lakes/Lake_Score_Cards/ECHO%20\(CHARTN\).HTML](https://anrweb.vt.gov/PubDocs/DEC/WSMD/Lakes/Lake_Score_Cards/ECHO%20(CHARTN).HTML)

Notice that our summer Phosphorous trend is considered Highly Significantly Increasing. Our Secchi Disk and Chlorophyll readings are stable.

Unfortunately, our 2022 Phosphorus level increased by 21%.

To be classified A(1) our Phosphorous levels must average 12 or under over a 5 year period during the last 10 years.

Echo's levels:

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Average
11.1ug/L	7.2	12.7	11.4	13.8	11.2

(ug/L is micrograms per liter, which is a millionth of a gram per liter, or number of parts per billion.)

To be classified A(1) Chlorophyll-a levels must average 2.6 or below.

Echo's levels:

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Average
1.4	1.9	2.7	1.9	2.0	1.98

To be classified A(1) a Secchi Disk must be visible at 5 meters.

Echo's levels:

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Average
6.3	7.2	7.5	7.0	7.6	7.12

Grants

Thank you to Laurie Gee for continuing her important work of writing grants on behalf of ELPA.
Grant was approved.

AIS funding was approved, although the Governor may be threatening to veto.

Greeter Program - Karl

Out of approximately 130 lakes in Vermont, 34 of those lakes have a greeter program similar to Echo Lake.

Support for the ELPA access greeter program is needed for the summer of 2023. Since 2002, the Vermont Public Access Greeter Program has expanded operation to access points at 32 lakes and ponds statewide and those numbers are increasing annually. The goal of the greeter program is to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species and help educate lake visitors about invasive species. Inspecting watercraft for invasive species is key in preventing the introduction of a variety of aquatic species. Maintaining a robust greeter program is far more effective and economically sensible than eradicating invasive species once they are established. The ELPA greeter program has been extremely effective over the years by having three paid greeters that cover the access five days a week. Volunteers cover two days a week. Two of our paid greeters, Cheryl Hryckiewicz and Steve Sheltry, will return this summer. Both Cheryl and Steve are extremely dedicated and committed to the greeter program. Their experience and genuine care for the lake is appreciated twofold. We have found someone to cover the access Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 2pm to 6pm. We are still recruiting to fill another open paid greeter position and welcome anyone interested in the position to email Karl Koenigsbauer at karljk1950@gmail.com. The paid greeter position we are currently recruiting will cover the access Saturdays and Sundays from 2:00pm to 6:00pm. The greeter program runs from the Memorial Day weekend into September. We rely on volunteers to inspect watercraft at the access on Monday and Tuesday. Volunteer support along with the paid greeters is incredibly important as it allows our lake access to be covered 12 hours, 7 days a week. An impressive commitment to maintaining the water quality that we are all seeking for our pristine lake. So, if you enjoy reading a good book, sitting by a picturesque lake and meeting people, consider volunteering some time this summer. Your time and effort will be appreciated.

Cheryl has agreed to return at \$19/hour, Steve has agreed to return at \$17/hour, and Paul L has agreed to cover the 2-6pm shift on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at \$15/hour.

There are 13 Saturdays and 13 Sundays still to cover. Karl is advertising for this. Laurie Gee ran another ad in The Chronicle to advertise.

Mondays and Tuesdays are covered by volunteers.

There are upcoming trainings. Lori to post that Saturday and Sunday shifts still need to be covered, as well as the schedule of upcoming trainings, on ELPA FaceBook page.

Lake Wise Report -- Steve Gratton Spring 2023

As of this writing the State of VT has not formally approved its Budget but we are cautiously optimistic that the Statewide Lake Wise Program will be funded for 2023.

The goal of Lake Wise is to establish a new normal, a new culture of lakeshore landscaping that is proven to help our lake. The quality of our lake depends on how we care for each of our properties. To earn the Lake Wise Award a property is evaluated in four categories: Shoreline, Recreation area, Driveway, and Septic/Structure. Many shoreline owners work toward improving their property each year until all criteria are met.

Echo Lake presently has nearly 50% of its shoreline designated Lake Wise. Our goal, of course, is to be 100%. If you wish to have your property evaluated to be considered Lake Wise, please contact me at sgratton911@gmail.com or call 603-848-2131.

-Steve Gratton, Lake Wise Coordinator

Discussion: Steve informed the board that 3 properties were deemed LakeWise last year. He is awaiting the signs to distribute to those property owners.

Northwoods Trail

The NorthWoods trails closest to Echo Lake are the Echo Lake Shore Trail (maintained by ELPA volunteers) and the Wolcott Trail; both trailheads start at the kiosk on the East Echo Lake Road. Nick reported that the trail was in decent shape, with one blown down tree when he walked the trail in March.

LogoWear - Mark Bechtold

Mark and his wife, Dawn, have worked hard to put together a line of clothing, hats, and totes that will be available for ordering with the ELPA logo.

Kristen Wilson has been instrumental in helping to build the ordering form and process for online ordering. Final bugs are being worked out of the system with a team comprised of Kristen, Dawn, Ann H, Holly, Tom W, and Lori.

When ready, Lori will send an email to the membership that the LogoWear is available for purchase!

Water Quality - Holly

Echo/Seymour Lake Watershed Action Plan
AIS Funding
Reclassification update
Wake Boat update
Water Testing changes
NEK Pristine Lake Group
FOVLAP - influence and programs

Updated Water Quality report from Holly:

LaRosa Tributary Testing: ELPA will be participating in the LaRosa grant program again this year. The same six streams that were tested last year will be tested again this summer. This testing will be beneficial as projects around the lake, Dickie Brook roadwork and the LWAP, commence.

Wake Boat Petition: ELPA will pursue opting out of allowing wake boats to operate on Echo Lake. This will be a summer long project and will include similar procedures as the Reclassification Petition – asking our Town to join as a co-petitioner, signature petitions circulated, and requesting letters of support. We would like to introduce our decision to pursue this petition to our members at the annual meeting.

Trout Sign: We are honored to have a new sign on ELPA's kiosk at the public access. Vermont Fish & Wildlife in a joint project with the Vermont chapter of the Native Fish Coalition designed and distributed the signs to eligible lakes. The signs denote deep, cold-water, oligotrophic lakes that support lake trout populations. Only 8 lakes qualified to receive these signs. We'll write up an article (including a picture) about the sign for the fall newsletter. Thank you to Mark Bechtold for meeting with Jed Feffer of NFC to accept the sign on behalf of ELPA and set it up at the kiosk.

Fish Stocking and Ice Out: Fish & Wildlife reported to us that they stocked Echo Lake with 500 rainbow trout this spring. We reported to DEC that Echo Lake's ice out was April 16, 2023.

ELPA Water Quality Committee

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

Water Quality News (Information from Spring 2023 Newsletter):

Lake Watershed Action Plan - In December, ELPA was given the welcomed news that the Echo Lake Watershed (which includes Seymour Lake) will have a Lake Watershed Action Plan funded. A Lake Watershed Action Plan is an assessment and planning tool that is used to identify the greatest threats to a lake's ecosystem and gives recommendations for restoration and protection. The focus will be the lakes' shorelands, tributaries, and roads. It will help determine sources of nutrient and sediment runoff and any threats to fish and wildlife habitats.

The Department of Environmental Conservation has awarded the Echo Lake Watershed Action Plan to the Orleans County Natural Resources Conservation District who plan to work with the Memphremagog Watershed Association on this needed work. We are thrilled this opportunity has been given to two local agencies.

Once the Lake Watershed Action Plan has been completed, which must be done no later than December of 2025, ELPA will provide a link to the full report on our website.

Updates On Other Water Quality Topics:

Wake Boats – The Department of Environmental Conservation is proposing wake boat regulations that will keep wake boats 500 feet from shore and in waters deeper than 20 feet. Wake boats are specialized watercrafts that create artificial waves as high as 4 feet. The new regulations will also include a “home lake rule” that dictates wake boat owners must choose one lake to operate their boats on for an entire summer, unless they have their boats decontaminated at a State approved site. (A decontamination station will be located at The Gateway in Newport on Lake Memphremagog.) The ballast tanks of wake boats cannot be fully drained and therefore could transport aquatic invasive plant and animal species from lake to lake. There is public pressure for stricter rules due to possible shoreline erosion, bottom scouring, and safety concerns for people and aquatic animals. Preliminary work is being done by your Water Quality Committee on the petitioning process to ban wake boats on Echo Lake.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Funding:

State Fiscal Year 2024's budget includes a decrease in AIS funding. Through strong advocacy efforts and public pressure the Vermont House Committee on Environment and Energy has requested that funds be appropriated directly to AIS prevention. Without the appropriate funds to support our Access Greeter program Echo Lake would be vulnerable to AIS threats. ELPA is so thankful to our members who stepped up and wrote letters that stressed the importance of funding AIS prevention. This is an issue ELPA is keeping a close eye on and will keep our members updated.

Reclassification: Last summer the public hearing on the reclassification of Echo Lake's watershed to an A(1) status was delayed until a legislative fix could be found that would change the arbitrary rule of no new septic systems that discharge more than 1,000 gallons a day be allowed in an A(1) watershed. House Bill 84 addresses this issue, has been introduced, and is currently awaiting a hearing. Regardless of this bill's outcome, the Agency of Natural Resources Commissioner has assured us that there will be a public hearing on Echo Lake's reclassification petition this summer. ELPA will post the date of the public hearing and we encourage our members to attend and support this initiative.

FOVLAP: ELPA is a member of the Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds (FOVLAP) which is an advocacy group that works to protect all of Vermont's waterbodies. FOVLAP has recently updated their website <https://vermontlakes.org/> and it's a great resource for water quality topics.

Discussion:

Steve to send a thank you note to FOVLAP President Pat Suozzi for all of her hard work.

NEK Pristine Lakes Group: consisted of representation from Echo, Seymour, Caspian, Averills, Maidstone, Willoughby. The group has disbanded, but could get back together if a future project requires it.

New Business:

New water testing equipment and approval for reimbursement of expenditure: Request to reimburse Tom Wagner \$327 for water sampling kit.

Discussion: Executive board voted to reimburse Tom Wagner \$327 for the Lamotte Horizontal Water Sampler.

The Water Quality Committee thanks the ELPA board for the purchase of the water testing equipment.

Discussion: Executive board voted to reimburse Tom Wagner \$36.66 for printing of newsletter for distribution to ELPA members without email.

ELPA car decals at \$1.75 each or \$500 for 500 decals. Motion was made and seconded to table this issue/expenditure and return to it in January. All in favor. Approved.

Proposed Membership By-Laws changes (proposal submitted by Tom Wagner):

Discussion took place amongst the board. Motion was made to keep membership by-laws as they currently exist with no need to change at this time. Seconded. Approved by all members still present at the meeting (7 members still present at the meeting for this vote).

Loon Raft update: The nesting raft is out and the signs were put out 2 days ago by George Thompson and Matt Breton.

Phragmites/Herbicide update: Sam Perron has said that no herbicide is needed at this time, as phragmites are dying off from last year's intervention.

Annual Meeting Planning: Annual meeting to take place at Karl's property at 10:00 am on Saturday July 22. Steve to develop agenda.

Nomination Committee: Steve's second term to end.

Lori's first term to end; she is willing to stay on the board for second term as secretary.

Discussion of a few names to ask if willing to serve on the ELPA board.

Newsletter: Discussion was held regarding thanking dues-paying members by listing names in the newsletters.

Workers' Compensation Paperwork: Ann H informed board that this needs to be on the agenda for the Annual Meeting and reflected in the minutes of the Annual Meeting.

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

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

Fall Newsletter – Lori Kempton

Fall Newsletter to come out in November.

Send items for the fall newsletter to Lori by October 15 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 at 10:00 am
- Annual Picnic – Saturday August 12, 2023
- Board Meetings –
 - Thursday September 21, 2023 at 6pm.

Adjourned: At 8:25 pm

Submitted by Lori Kempton: May 31, 2023

BALANCE SHEET	5/18/2023	
ASSETS		
Cash and Bank Accounts		
Savings Account	\$42,308.96	
Checking Account	\$10,425.05	
Payroll Account	\$208.48	
Contingency Fund CD - Edward Jones matures October 2023 4.1%	\$55,000.00	
Contingency Fund CD - CNB matured April 2023		
Contingency Fund CD - Passumpsic matures May 2024 4.01%	\$10,087.50	
Total Cash and Bank Accounts	\$118,029.99	
TOTAL ASSETS	\$118,029.99	
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
LIABILITIES		
Payroll / Taxes		
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$0.00	
EQUITY	\$118,029.99	
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$118,029.99	

Income Statement and Proposed Budget 5/18/2023

	Actual 1/1/20- 12/31/20	Actual 1/1/21- 12/31/21	Actual 1/1/22- 12/31/22	2023 Proposed Budget	Actual 1/1/23- 5/18/23
CASH CARRIED FORWARD FROM PRIOR YEAR		73,958.66	82,336.14		94,829.70
INCOME					
Dues	4,355.00	4,475.00	4,625.00	4,200.00	2,400.00
Donations	5,175.00	10,000.00	6,425.00	4,500.00	3,225.00
Charleston School Program Donation	750.00				
Color Challenge	600.00		7,249.00	4,500.00	2,550.00
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	4,000.00
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		11,308.00
Aquatic Nuisance Grant - 1st payment	3,844.00	4,453.60			
Aquatic Nuisance Grant - 2nd payment	5,765.00			10,479.00	
VCF Grant		2,400.00			
Map Sales	120.00	120.00	26.00		
Amazon Smile		54.70	251.59	32.37	32.37
ELPA merchandise					240.00
Interest from Savings	835.74	348.24	212.49	2,200.00	56.10
TOTAL INCOME	29,094.74	26,851.54	31,469.48	31,911.37	23,811.47
EXPENSES					
Payroll Costs	14,608.03	13,138.54	12,376.79	18,101.16	
Access Monitor Expenses	60.29		347.07		
Liability Insurance	550.00	550.00	550.00	575.00	
Workers Comp. Insurance	1,296.00	1,296.00	1,296.00	1,297.00	
Printing		58.50	381.65	100.00	39.30

Postage	30.40				
Color Challenge Expenses	21.00	-22.00	75.00	1,500.00	
P.O. Box Rental - 1yr.	56.00	56.00	62.00	68.00	68.00
Web Site Costs	107.98		616.68	22.13	22.13
Picnic		380.00	125.00	125.00	
Gift Bags/Membership Expenses					
Paypal Expense	56.61	47.02	65.57	65.00	36.75
Misc.		20.00		20.00	45.00
Charleston School Program	1,742.95	2,700.00	2,780.16	2,400.00	400.00
NorthWoods donation	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	
FOVLAP membership	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	
MWA membership			50.00	50.00	
VCE donation	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 18,779.26	18,474.06	18,975.92	24,573.29	611.18
GAIN/(LOSS)	10,315.48	8,377.48	12,493.56	7,338.08	23,200.29
TOTAL CASH ON HAND		\$ 82,336.14	\$ 94,829.70		\$ 118,029.99