

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

ECHO LAKE PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION
Board of Directors Meeting
January 25, 2024

This meeting was conducted virtually via Google Meet.

Present: Karl Koenigsbauer, Nick Dibble, Ann Hunsicker, Lori Kempton, Elaine Carpenter, Holly Bull, Carol Martin, Susan McKenna. **Absent:** Mark Bechtold

Welcome: Karl Koenigsbauer called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Secretary Report: Lori Kempton

Motion was made and seconded to accept the ELPA board meeting minutes of September 21, 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 appended below. All in favor. Approved.

Treasurer's report Board meeting Jan 25, 2024:

Let's start with the very good news that we had about \$30,000 more in the bank at the end of 2023 than we had at the end of 2022.

Looking at the balance sheet you can see that our checking and savings accounts have healthy balances. Our contingency fund is currently made up of three CD's and a mutual fund. The CD we had at Edward Jones matured in October, earning \$2,255 in interest. The original investment was \$55,000. Since a new CD had to be in an even \$1,000 increment, resulting in a small amount which could not go into the new CD, the remaining money was put into their mutual fund in order to preserve it in a separate account as part of the contingency fund. I purchased a new CD with them at a rate of 5.45% which will mature in July, 2024. I chose that timing so as to keep our funds available closer to the fall when we might need it, rather than going farther towards winter. We also had decided to add \$15,000 to the contingency fund and that new money went to Passumpsic at 4.74%, maturing in March. At that time those monies will be held in a savings

account until the original Passumpsic CD matures in May, at which time I will combine the amounts into one CD.

The primary driver behind the increase in our funds this year is due to the timing of payments on our Aquatic Nuisance grant from the State. In January of 2023 we received the entire grant payment for 2022 and in December 2023 we received the entire grant payment for 2023, resulting in two payments coming to us in one year. We also did very well with our fund raising this year from both the Color Challenge as well as the sales of logowear. Our income from interest has also increased.

Our expenses were in line with what we had budgeted, with our greeter expense coming in a bit lower than expected. This is primarily due to most of the greeters not working beyond Labor Day, and slightly lower wages paid to two of the three greeters.

LAKE WISE REPORT: Tom Wagner (Dec 2023)

Lake Wise is an education and outreach program funded by Vermont's Agency of Natural Resources that rewards lakefront homeowners who manage their land to protect water quality and habitat and assists those who are working towards that goal. The program is free, non-regulatory, and voluntary. Homeowners receive individualized suggestions for adopting Lake Wise practices to prevent the threat to Echo's water quality caused by heavy rains or snow melt thereby keeping runoff and pollutants from stormwater out of lake waters. Properties that protect the lake and meet Lake Wise standards earn the coveted Lake Wise Award, consisting of a distinctive sign that can be posted on their property. The sign identifies the homes of good stewards and demonstrates what lake-friendly living looks like. Property owners not yet meeting the Lake Wise standards receive recommendations for what they can do to reduce erosion and protect their lake. Whether it's installing a dripline trench around a structure, reducing lawn size and maintenance, adding more plants to a shoreline buffer, using infiltration steps, or meandering pathways, and other best management practices to slow the flow, there is always something landowners can do to reduce their impact on Echo.

Here is a link to Best Management Practices:

<https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/lakes-ponds/lakeshores-lake-wise/bmp>

Echo Lake is proud to be the first recipient of the Gold Lake Wise Award, presented to lakes that have a minimum of 15% of shoreland owners receiving the Lake Wise Award. Only 3 lakes have obtained this recognition. Echo Lake's shoreland owners have continued to manage their properties to meet the Lake Wise standard with more than 60% of its frontage classified as Lake Wise, the most of any lake in Vermont.

For more information on Lake Wise visit:

<https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/lakes-ponds/lakeshores-lake-wise/what>

Why is it important to have a lake friendly property?

Recent Vermont lake science from the National Lake Assessment conducted by the EPA shows that Vermont ranked lowest in the northeast ecoregion and in the nation for degraded shoreland disturbance. Shoreland disturbance can be directly related to

degraded water quality and aquatic habitat.

Most importantly, Echo Lake's phosphorus levels are rising at an alarming rate.

Phosphorus is a naturally occurring element that feeds lake algae, a healthy part of any lake ecosystem. But too much phosphorus can put a lake out of balance, feeding massive algae blooms that smell terrible, turn water green, degrade wildlife habitat, and potentially harm human and pet health.

You can find phosphorus in lots of places – pet waste, fertilizers, household cleaners, motor oil – none of which should ever find their way into a lake. But the biggest source of phosphorus is sand and soil that is washed into a lake after a rain event. Thus, we need everyone to pitch in and help protect the beauty of our lake by maintaining a shoreline that helps prevent pollutants from entering our beautiful lake.

If you would like information about how to make your property lake friendly, email: echolakewise@gmail.com

Echo Lake's first recipients, John and Carolyn Simsarian, received the Lake Wise Award from Amy Picotte VT Department of Environmental Conservation.

LAY MONITOR REPORT – Tom Wagner (Dec 2023)

Since 1979 the Vermont Lay Monitoring Program has trained and equipped dedicated volunteers to conduct periodic lake water quality sampling from their boats using quality-assured methods through strict protocol. Monitoring is carried out to better understand and assess the risks to ecological and human health. Vermont is required by the U.S. Clean Water Act to track long term nutrient enrichment and assess monitoring data. Lay Monitors, sample the water in Echo Lake for water clarity, and concentration levels of Phosphorus (a nutrient), Chlorophyll-a (algae and cyanobacteria), and Caffeine (wastewater indicator).

Samples are taken every two weeks in June, July, and August at a predesignated GPS site, Echo #1, located near the deepest part of Echo. Additionally, the State of Vermont also conducts a sampling in the Spring. The State's spring sample data dates from the inception in 1979, and Echo Lay Monitors began sampling in 1980. In addition to the water samples, we measure water quality by lowering a Secchi Disk recording the depths at which it disappears when viewed with the naked eye and when additionally viewed through a view tube. Next, we travel to Echo #2 located in the southeast corner near the Moulton farm and observe the Secchi Disk readings only.

Samples are then analyzed by the State to determine our level of Phosphorus, Chlorophyll, and Caffeine, and are generally available on their website by early winter. Phosphorous, a chemical compound, is a fertilizer that supports plant growth. The level of Chlorophyll indicates the concentration level of Algae, and plant growth in the lake. Caffeine has a strong correlation to levels of wastewater in the lake and can be an indicator of failed septic systems.

The three water samples and the Secchi Disk reading are a measurement of the health of Echo Lake. Echo Lake is designated an Oligotrophic lake. Oligotrophic lakes have

very low nutrient concentrations, are deep, and support a cold-water fishery. Also, they are characterized by a small algae population and very clear water all summer and have a mostly rocky or sandy bottom and little plant growth. Oligotrophic lakes are our healthiest lakes.

The Vermont Lakes and Ponds Management and Protection Program (VLPP) devised a Score Card to share available data on overall lake health with lake users focusing on key aspects of lake health: nutrients, aquatic invasive species, shoreland and lake habitat, and mercury pollution. On the water quality tab of the Score Card you will notice that Echo's Summer Phosphorus is categorized as HIGHLY SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASING. While we do not know why this trend is occurring, we do know that one way to help reverse this trend is to utilize best management practices on the shoreline to prevent erosion and runoff. The biggest source of phosphorus is sand and soil that is washed into a lake after a rain event. Therefore, property owners could help Echo's water quality by adopting lake friendly practices and create a Lake Wise property. For more information about Echo Lake's Vermont Inland Lake Scorecard go to:

<https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/lakes-ponds/data-maps/scorecard>

You can find more information about the Lay Monitoring Program:

<https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/lakes-ponds/monitor/lay-monitoring#What%20We%20Monitor%20and%20Why>

You can find Echo Lake's sampling data here:

https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/_DEC/LayMonitoring.aspx

Discussion: Two events to occur this summer:

Water Quality Event to occur at Seymour on July 8 or 11, 2024.

Garden Tour on July 25, 2024. Tour of 2 properties on Seymour and 2 properties on Echo Lake.

Tom and Amy Wagner will host cocktails and hors d'oeuvres afterward.

The board wishes to thank Tom Wagner for all of his work and communications regarding the lake projects!!

WATER QUALITY REPORT – Holly Bull

Water Quality Report – January 25, 2024 – ELPA Board Meeting

We're encouraging board members to sign up for FOVLAP's newsletters (vermontlakes.org – scroll down to sign up for their mailing list). It's a great way to stay on top of issues that could/do affect Echo Lake.

Request to the Board: Allow the WQ Committee to develop an AIS Rapid Response Plan.

Discussion: Motion was made and seconded to ask the WQ Committee to develop a Rapid Response Plan in the event that AIS is detected. All in favor. Approved.
The plan will be presented at the next board meeting.

“Buoy Educational Project”: We are looking to deploy 2 buoys that will be labeled with “200 ft.” and be marked with reflective tape. They will be placed in areas that are most vulnerable (Moulton Bay, for example) and be moved throughout the summer to other locations. An article about the program will go out in the spring newsletter and in an email blast when the first buoys are deployed. We can also put it on the ELPA website and Facebook page. This is an educational project, and we hope that after one summer boaters will be sufficiently reminded about the 200' buffer, but it could be done again as needed.

The WQ Committee will provide the Board with the complete and detailed plan (including exactly what the buoys will look like and their first placement location) at the May/June Board meeting. NO permit is needed, and the cost will be \$150 or less.

Discussion: Everyone on the board in favor of the buoy project. Possibility of starting using two buoys: one in Moulton Bay, as shallow enough that boating there stirs up legacy phosphorus. Then move the buoys during the summer to other shallow areas like in front of Beams/Koenigsbauer/Wilson properties.

Reclassification Update: In December, there was a meeting with the Director of the Watershed Management Division, Pete Laflamme, who informed us that our pathway to reclassification would be through the adoption of the proposed Anti-degradation Rule along with the passing of Senate bill 146 (indirect septic discharge).

The Anti-degradation Rule passed through ICAR and will be attached to S.146. The WQ Committee will follow this bill and submit letters of support for it to both the House Committee on the Environment and Energy and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

Update on Wake Boats rules and ELPA's Wake Boat petition: The Agency of Natural Resources formalized their rule for wake boats on January 3rd and it seems the public comments made no impact on them. The rule requires wake boats to operate 500' from shore, in 20' or deeper waters, and includes the “home lake rule”. The home lake rule requires boats to remain on one water body for the summer unless they are decontaminated at a state approved decontamination site. This rule will go before LCAR (Legislative Committee on Administrative

Rules) on February 1, 2024. If it makes it through LCAR, then it goes to the Governor to be signed into law. ELPA's petition to prohibit wake boats is complete and will be submitted when the rule is final.

Status of our LWAP: Nothing new from Patrick or Bevin since the last board meeting. A meeting with Mark Mitchell, Lay Monitoring Program Manager, and Ben Copans, our Watershed Manager, along with other LWAP partners will take place on February 8th at 11 am. Any board member that would like to attend, let me know and I will send you an invite.

LaRosa Testing: We will have another year of tributary testing. This is good since we are in the middle of our LWAP.

Phragmites Information from Sam Perron: NorthWoods plans on continuing the herbicide treatment of the phragmites on the Moulton property (in the cove). Per Sam, they have had success over the last two years. The treatment is contained to the infested area that is 15' back from the shore. Sam Perron will keep ELPA in the loop as they work to eradicate this invasive plant.

Discussion: Thank you to Holly Bull for all of her work!! Thank you to Susan McKenna for agreeing to join the WQ Committee!

COLOR CHALLENGE: Karl Koenigsbauer

Lisa Martin informed Karl that she is willing to help coordinate the Color Challenge for 2024. Need to change the start location of the race due to Wilson family wedding July 5 weekend.

GREETER REPORT – Karl Koenigsbauer

Information from Olin Reed, who heads up the State Greeter Program:

Greeters representing 34 locally run programs provided coverage at 38 launches on lakes and ponds across Vermont.

Greeters greeted and educated 27,141 visitors about AIS.

Greeters inspected 21,628 watercraft of various types.

Greeters recorded and removed 1,184 organisms from watercraft

Of the 580 instances of an AIS encountered, approximately 96% were identified as Eurasian watermilfoil.

The above data clearly points out just how important the State and Local Greeter Programs are to maintaining and protecting our lakes and waterways in the state. The commitment and dedicated approach that our greeters take on a daily basis in the summer at the Echo Lake access is invaluable in safeguarding the lake from the introduction of AIS in what we currently believe is void of AIS. While we recognize that AIS could find its way in the lake, we are confident that our efforts will continue to meet the goal of enjoying a lake free of AIS. KJK

Greeters: Cheryl is planning to return. Steve has not given a definite answer yet about returning. Paul has not yet committed to return. Ryan is enthusiastic and would like to return full-time. Dean White is another possibility. Karl to stay in contact with them.

Discussion: Karl raised the possibility of using more paid greeters to cover volunteer times on Mondays and Tuesdays. The 4pm to 6pm slot is a tough slot to get coverage, especially volunteer coverage. Ann H offered to communicate with the volunteer greeters to determine volunteer coverage for the upcoming summer.

Report from state: During 2023 at 38 boat launches there were 27000 visitors educated about AIS, inspected 21000 various watercraft, removed 1000 organisms from watercraft, 500 interceptions of AIS.

Discussion of possible pay increase: Carol recommended a 4% increase to keep up with inflation.

NEW TREASURER: Karl Koenigsbauer and Ann Hunsicker

Need to find a new treasurer as Ann's term will be ending in July 2024. Ann plans to speak to a few people about joining the board as a treasurer.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT – Elaine Carpenter

2023: 100 paid memberships (the same number as 2022)

83 families - \$4,150

15 individuals - \$375

2 friends - \$100

46 members made an additional donation over and above their membership.

TOTAL: \$4,625

2022: This total was more than this past year at \$5,700. The difference is that three "friends" gave a total of \$1,075.

Total number of paid members was the same at 100 for both 2022 and 2023.

Membership Dues Form was reviewed. Only recommended change is the date at the top.

ELPA WEBSITE

Holly agreed to coordinate website maintenance with Kristen Wilson, starting in July when her term serving on the board is done.

ELPA MERCHANDISE: Holly Bull (from Mark and Dawn Bechtold)

New for 2024: Adding options for long-sleeved T-shirts (kids and adults), as well as screen-printed sweatshirts.

Discussion of updating the Echo Lake maps: Last maps were designed in 2018. Still some left over. Cost would be \$570 for 200 maps. Board decided to wait a few more years before updating the maps.

PLANT SALE: Ann Hunsicker

Plant sale coming up through the Orleans County Natural Resources Conservation District Website. Orders due April 5. Pick-up May 4.

REVIEWED 2024 DATES FOR LAKE ACTIVITIES:

- *Green Up Day – May 4, 2024
- *Color Challenge – Sunday July 7, 2024
- *Water Quality Event – July 8 or 11, 2024
- *Annual Meeting – Saturday July 20, 2024 at 9am. Location TBD.
- *Garden Tour – July 25, 2024. Tour of 2 properties at Seymour Lake and 2 properties at Echo Lake. Wagners to host cocktails and hors d'oeuvres afterward.
- *Annual Picnic – Saturday August 10, 2024 at Engels property (pending the hay mowing schedule).

Board Meetings –

- *Thursday May 16, 2024 at Karl's at 6pm (hybrid option)
- *Thursday September 12, 2024 at Karl's at 6pm (hybrid option)

SPRING NEWSLETTER

To come out last week of April. Please get items to Lori by March 31, if possible, to go into the newsletter at EchoLakepa@gmail.com

Meeting Adjourned: At 8:00 pm

Submitted by Lori Kempton, ELPA Secretary, on February 9, 2024.

BALANCE SHEET 12/31/2023

ASSETS

Cash and Bank Accounts

Savings Account \$27,320.42

Checking Account \$14,817.27

Payroll Account \$354.81

Contingency Fund CD - Edward Jones matures July 31, 2024 5.45% \$57,000.00

Contingency Fund Edward Jones mutual fund \$264.26

Contingency Fund CD - Passumpsic matures May 2, 2024 4.02% \$10,257.79

Contingency Fund CD - Passumpsic matures March 28, 2024 4.74% \$15,259.90

Total Cash and Bank Accounts \$125,274.45

TOTAL ASSETS \$125,274.45

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

LIABILITIES

Payroll / Taxes

TOTAL LIABILITIES \$0.00

EQUITY \$125,274.45

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY \$125,274.45

	Actual 1/1/20- 12/31/20	Actual 1/1/21- 12/31/21	Actual 1/1/22- 12/31/22	2023 Budget	Actual 1/1/23- 12/31/23	Notes
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	4,525.00	83 Family, 15 Individual
Donations	5,175.00	10,000.00	6,425.00	4,500.00	6,150.00	45 members have made donations
Charleston School Program Donation	750.00					
Color Challenge (net)	600.00		7,249.00	3,000.00	11,515.27	
Color Challenge - held for 2021	1,650.00					
Charleston Appropriation	1,000.00	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	pymt of 2022 AQ grant was not sent until Jan of 2023
Aquatic Nuisance Grant - 1st payment	3,844.00	4,453.60				
Aquatic Nuisance Grant - 2nd payment	5,765.00			10,479.00	10,479.00	2023 AQ grant
VCF Grant		2,400.00				
Map Sales	120.00	120.00	26.00			
Amazon Smile		54.70	251.59	32.37	88.41	
ELPA merchandise					1,219.10	
Interest from Savings	835.74	348.24	212.49	2,200.00	2,512.01	
TOTAL INCOME	29,094.74	26,851.54	31,469.48	30,411.37	52,796.79	
EXPENSES						
Payroll Costs	14,608.03	13,138.54	12,376.79	18,101.16	16,853.67	

Access Monitor Expenses	60.29		347.07		85.50	
Liability Insurance	550.00	550.00	550.00	575.00	575.00	
Workers Comp. Insurance	1,296.00	1,296.00	1,296.00	1,297.00	1,297.00	
Printing		58.50	381.65	100.00	75.96	
Postage	30.40					
Color Challenge Expenses	21.00	-22.00	75.00			
P.O. Box Rental - 1yr.	56.00	56.00	62.00	68.00	68.00	
Web Site Costs	107.98		616.68	22.13	112.01	
Picnic		380.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	
Gift Bags/Membership Expenses						
Paypal Expense	56.61	47.02	65.57	65.00	87.93	
Misc.		20.00		20.00	371.97	water testing kit
Charleston School Program	1,742.95	2,700.00	2,780.16	2,400.00	2,400.00	
NorthWoods donation	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	
FOVLAP membership	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	
MWA membership			50.00	50.00	50.00	
VCE donation	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 18,779.26	18,474.06	18,975.92	23,073.29	22,352.04	
GAIN/(LOSS)	10,315.48	8,377.48	12,493.56	7,338.08	30,444.75	
TOTAL CASH ON HAND		\$ 82,336.14	\$ 94,829.70		\$ 125,274.45	