

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
Annual Meeting
July 22, 2023



This meeting was conducted in-person at NorthWoods Stewardship Center. (Unable to hold the meeting at the lake due to recent flooding issues and road conditions).

Board Members Present:

Steve Gratton, Karl Koenigsbauer, Ann Hunsicker, Lori Kempton, Elaine Carpenter, Holly Bull, Carol Martin.

Welcome – Meeting was called to order at 9:00am by Steve Gratton, President. In addition to the 7 board members present, there were approximately 30 additional members present at the meeting.

Secretary's Report - Lori Kempton

2022 Annual Meeting minutes: Motion was made and seconded to accept the Annual meeting minutes of July 16, 2022 as posted on the ELPA website. All in favor. Approved. Please see the report on the ELPA website: www.echolakeassociation.net

Board Terms and Officers - Steve Gratton and Ann Hunsicker

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

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Term</u>
President	Steve Gratton	2 nd term ends 2023
Vice President	Karl Koenigsbauer	1 st term ends 2023
Treasurer	Ann Hunsicker	2 nd term ends 2024
Secretary	Lori Kempton	1 st terms ends 2023
Director	Carol Martin	2 nd term ends 2025
Director	Mark Bechtold	1 st term ends 2024
Director	Elaine Carpenter	1 st term ends 2025
Director	Nick Dibble	1 st term ends 2025
Director	Holly Bull	2 nd term ends 2024

Discussion:

Steve Gratton's 2nd term is ending this year, which vacates the President's spot.

Karl Koenigsbauer's first term is ending, and he has agreed to stay on for a second term and fill the vacated role of President.

Nick Dibble has offered to fill the vacated role of Vice President.

Lori Kempton's 1st term is ending, and she has agreed to stay on for her second term in the role of secretary.

Sue McKenna has offered to fill the vacated position on the board.

Ann Hunsicker, Carol Martin, Mark Bechtold, Elaine Carpenter, and Holly Bull will continue in their positions, but are not up for election this year.

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

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Term</u>
President	Karl Koenigsbauer	2 nd term will end 2026
Vice President	Nick Dibble	1 st term will end 2025
Treasurer	Ann Hunsicker	2 nd term will end 2024
Secretary	Lori Kempton	2 nd term will end 2026
Director	Carol Martin	2 nd term will end 2025
Director	Mark Bechtold	1 st term will end 2024
Director	Elaine Carpenter	1 st term will end 2025
Director	Holly Bull	2 nd term will end 2024
Director	Sue McKenna	1 st term will end 2026

VOTING:

Does the membership approve Sue McKenna to fill the open board position?

Motion was made and seconded to approve Sue McKenna to fill the vacated board position. All in favor. Approved.

Does the membership approve the following slate of officers for the upcoming year to be elected at today's meeting?

Karl Koenigsbauer —President
Nick Dibble – Vice President
Ann Hunsicker – Treasurer
Lori Kempton – Secretary

Motion was made and seconded to approve the above slate of officers for the upcoming year. All in favor. Approved.

Exclusion of Board Officers from Workers' Compensation Policy - Ann Hunsicker

Report: The state requires an annual membership vote to exclude the officers from coverage by our workers' compensation policy. Because ELPA hires and pays four access greeters, we are required to carry this policy. Our officers are not paid, therefore, it is logical that they would not be covered by this policy.

Motion: Motion was made and seconded to exclude the four officers (Karl Koenigsbauer, Nick Dibble, Ann Hunsicker, and Lori Kempton) from the Workers' Compensation Policy. All in favor. Approved.

Membership Committee Report and Logo Wear- Tom Wagner

Report: The Membership Committee consists of Mark Bechtold and Tom Wagner. Membership in 2022 reached an all-time high with 100 members. There are 102 properties on the lake. Historically there has been a group of 18 or so non-payers, making our membership rate 82%.

In addition to the on-lake residents there are 13 residents who are members and have no access to the lake, like Winape Hills, for example.

We have 64 paid year-to-date.

The Membership Committee introduced the Echo Lake Logo Wear late this Spring. There was a lot of hard work behind the scenes to make it happen.

Dawn and Mark Bechtold were the creative minds and organizers, sourcing the product and finding the embroiderer, and coordinating the launch of our beautiful new logo wear. All the various options are available on the website with an easy-to-use order tab.

We especially want to thank Kristen Wilson who set up the logo wear section on the website, as she put in a significant number of hours to make it happen.

There is not much time left to order this year as orders must be in by July 25.

Tom Wagner will step off the committee at the end of the year.

Discussion: Hopefully, one more Logo Wear order can occur after the July 25 deadline and before the end of the summer. Turn-around time of approximately 2 weeks.

Water Monitoring Report and Water Quality Report - Holly Bull

Reclassification Update: There will be no public hearing on our Reclassification Petition this summer as explained by DEC Commissioner Beling, which is posted on our website.

Discussion: We hope that DEC and the Legislators can resolve the Indirect Discharge Rule (S.146) and our petition will move forward in 2024.

Topic: The Echo Lake Watershed Action Plan (which includes Seymour Lake). We've had several introductory meetings with the Memphremagog Watershed Association (Patrick Hurley) and the Orleans County Natural Resources Conservation District (Bevin Barber-Campbell) on our LWAP. These two agencies are heading up this project. An LWAP is a two-year assessment tool focused on our roads, tributaries, and shoreline. Information will be gathered and presented in a report that we can use to get State grants to fix problems around our watershed.

Discussion: Two meetings have been held, most recently July 17. Bevin and Patrick want to hear from us about our concerns for the health of the watershed. More phosphorus entering the lake with all of the recent flooding and run-off into the lake.

Thank you to our Water Quality Committee members who work hard monitoring, testing, and collecting data. They stay on top of all the legislative topics and issues concerning water quality and any and all threats to our lakes.

Water Quality Testing: water samples taken from 6 brooks/tributaries entering Echo Lake. Holly has one more LaRosa testing to perform next week and hopes to continue LaRosa testing next summer.

WATER LAY MONITORING- Tom Wagner

Report: Tom Wagner and Mike Vinton Committee members

A big thank you to Mike Vinton who has provided the transportation and assisted in the collection process for many years.

Changes to the program this year:

Beginning this year, the protocol has changed. Instead of collecting samples each week June through August we now collect 2 times each month. Also new is the requirement to view the Secchi Disk with a view tube plus the naked eye. We have been introduced to a new sample tube, the Lamotte Horizontal Sampler, which we lower to 20 meters to collect our water. We also now also collect water at 0.5 meters with a sample bottle. Because we are petitioning to be reclassified as an A1 lake, we are required to also continue to collect water via a hose, a practice followed for 50 years whereby we lower a hose to a depth of 2x the Secchi Disk to collect our water sample. Once we are A1 we will no longer use the hose.

Also new this year is the test for caffeine, in addition to Chlorophyll and Phosphorus. Caffeine is a predictor of failing septic tanks.

In previous years we collected 2 samples, but going forward given we collect samples from the hose, at 0.5 meters and 20 meters we collect 9 samples. Total time including boat and back on shore runs 1 hour 45 minutes to 2 hours.

DATA

Our Phosphorus (P) level has been rapidly and alarmingly escalating.

The last 5 years increased 38%.

From 2021 to 2022 the increase was 21.4%

State data measure 18 years with an average of 9.8%

HOWEVER

We average 10 years 10.65

5 years 11.3 percent (parts per billion).

A1 status needs to be less than 12

WHAT CAN WE DO?

Dishwasher: use dishwasher tablets with no phosphate.

Seventh Generation has phosphate-free detergent.

Washing machine: use detergent with no phosphate.

Seventh Generation has phosphate-free detergent.

Lawn: no fertilizer, but if you must: do not use phosphorus on your lawn.

Septic tanks: pump every 3 years. \$360 that's \$120 / year, \$10 /mo, \$2.50/wk.

LakeWise: Make lake-friendly changes to your property to qualify. Do not mow within 10 feet of the lake. Add gardens and native species along the shoreline.

Discussion: Lay Monitoring has been happening for 50+ years. Started as part of the Clean Water Act. Over 800 lakes and ponds in Vermont participate in Lay Monitoring. The State does the water testing at a laboratory.

Thank you to Peter Engels for his almost 20 years as our lay monitor and an introduction of our new lay monitor, Tom Wagner. Peter Engels has been instrumental in the lake being eligible for possible reclassification status.

Mike Vinton has also been very helpful for the lay monitoring.

Peggy Stevens reported that the highest levels of phosphorus were recently found in Anderson Brook and Bennett Brook.

The Membership wishes to thank and recognize Peter Engels, Mike Vinton, and Eric Stevens for all of their work with collecting data over the years to make Echo Lake eligible for A1 status.

Motion made to thank and recognize these people. Seconded. All in favor. Approved.

Lakebed Survey Report - Peggy Stevens

I have not heard back from every surveyor yet. Seems the consensus is that with the exception of the inlet vegetative growth is more sparse than usual, perhaps due to so much rain and gray weather.

Finding a good day to survey has been challenging for that reason, too.

Not sure how to explain the action at the inlet, which is more dense and expanded beyond previous bounds.

Peggy stated that due to rising phosphorus levels and unusually heavy rains, it may be a good idea to do an additional survey between June and the end of September.

Great thanks and appreciation to our lakebed surveyors: Holly Bull, Mary Kennison, Peter Bestenbostel and Ann Hunsicker, Amy and Tom Wagner, Larry Martin, Susan Czerepak, Ann and Steve Gratton, Lori Kempton, Hugh Hawkins, Jesse Coe and Carol Martin, and Peggy Stevens. Holly has taken over the section previously surveyed by Patti and MaryAnne. Thank you, Holly!

Greeter Report - Karl Koenigsbauer

Report: With a good deal of rain this summer, there is no doubt that the weather has impacted the number of boats that are being inspected this summer. We are simply not seeing the number of boats, and kayaks that we have seen in past summers. We are fortunate to have four dedicated and committed "paid" greeters that cover the access for twelve hours, five days a week, Wednesday through Sunday. An impressive commitment that helps curb aquatic invasive species that could be introduced into Echo Lake. A similar dedicated group of "volunteers" provide coverage every Monday and Tuesday. Those boaters who have been able to take advantage of the lake this summer have been cooperative with us inspecting their boats and trailers. They are impressed with the quality of water and the hours that ELPA devotes to covering the access. Fingers crossed, the weather will improve, allowing more to enjoy the lake, a lake that I see as a "national treasure". The 2023 Greeter season will come to a close after Labor Day. In the meantime, we will continue to be diligent with our efforts to avoid aquatic invasive species finding their way into the lake.

Respectively submitted, Karl Koenigsbauer

Discussion:

34 lakes in Vermont have an active greeter program.

We also have a back-up greeter, who is very helpful.

We have a very dedicated staff to cover at the access.

Thank you to Karl for his coordination of the access greeters and volunteers!

Lake Wise Report - Steve Gratton

Report: In my last report, Spring 2023, we were in the middle of fighting for State Budget money to fund our Statewide Greeter Program and keep the Statewide Lake Wise Program staffed and going. I'm pleased to say that through a significant amount of hard work by many of our partners we were able to get and pass a budget that supports both programs.

On Echo Lake we have added two new Lake Wise properties and a third that is expected to be approved soon. These three properties will add an additional 1100 feet of shoreline to the existing Lake Wise Awarded properties. This puts us in excess of 50% of Echo Lake shoreline deemed Lake Wise.

Congratulations to Marge and Mike Vinton and to Carol Martin / Jesse Coe.

I will be stepping down as the Lake Wise Coordinator and we will be seeking a replacement that can expand this program to even greater heights. There are many existing properties so close to achieving Lake Wise status. The goal, of course, is to have 100% of our shoreline owners thinking about Lake Wise and implementing at least parts of the required aspects until eventually we all become conscientious stewards of the exceptional Echo Lake.

Thank you, Steve Gratton

Community Outreach and School Program Report - Peter Bestenbostel

Discussion: ELPA funds an education program at Charleston Elementary School: One track is funded through Siskin, which correlates with the third grade STEM curriculum.

Program with NorthWoods for older kids: concentrate on field experience and natural resources around the lake.

ELPA also buys water bottles for the students.

Cost of \$2400 annually.

Peter and Holly attended the Open House this past year.

NorthWoods Trails Report - Carol Martin

Northwoods Trail update – the Echo Lake Shore Trail, along with the kiosk parking areas are in great shape. Kiosk parking areas were recently mowed. Bridge repairs, clean-up of blown down trees from the trail and trash removal have helped to improve the hiking experience down to the lake shore.

Discussion: Wednesday August 9, 2023 – NorthWoods will be hosting a long-distance swim on Echo Lake (all swimmers will have kayakers with them). Coordinated by NorthWoods and Phil White. Peter Bestenbostel helps with the inspection process.

2023 Color Challenge Report - Larry Martin and Ann Hunsicker

Discussion: Our primary fund raiser. 218 people registered. \$11,500 raised. Thank you to Larry and Lisa Martin for taking over from Patti Lennon and MaryAnne O'Brien, who had done a phenomenal job with coordination of this event in the past. Thank you to Ann Hunsicker, Bill Mann, and a lot of other volunteers. Thank you to the property owners: Koenigsbauers, Wilsons, and Beams. A list of all the sponsors will be included in the newsletter to encourage support of the sponsors.

Investment Committee Report - Peter Bestenbostel

Report: The Echo Lake Protective Association contingency fund is currently invested with two institutions. A one year CD with Edward Jones at an interest rate of 4.1%. The CD comes due in October 2023 and was established with a value of \$55,000. In an effort to ladder our investment in the contingency fund the board also established a one year CD with Passumpsic Savings at an interest rate of 4.02%. This CD comes due in May 2024 and is valued at \$10,154.

These investments bring the approximate value of the fund to \$65,154.

The board agreed upon an initial target for the contingency fund of \$100,000. The fund's stated purpose is to provide funding to assist in remediation of any invasive species contamination in Echo Lake when it occurs.

Looking ahead in time, 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 in the future. Those strategic choices will define the growth of the fund. The investment committee will review options for reinvestment of the fund as the two CDs mature.

Grants/ Town Appropriation - Laurie Gee

Report: We are grateful to the taxpayers of Charleston for once again voting to appropriate \$1,000 to ELPA to help defray the administrative costs of our greeter program.

We received a Watershed grant of \$5,000, which is the maximum possible. This grant helps to fund both our ecosystem education programs for children in the Charleston School and our access greeter program.

This year's Aquatic Nuisance Control grant is for a maximum of \$10,479. As long as our actual expenses are higher than that, and as long as we have enough volunteer hours in related efforts, we should receive the full amount.

Last month, according to FOVLAP, the Vermont legislature overrode Governor Scott's budget veto. This means that the \$500,000 budget appropriation for the Aquatic Nuisance Control Grant in Aid Program, and the restoration of the ANC and Lake Wise positions in the Lakes and Ponds program, are confirmed for fiscal year 2024. This is the first time that the Grant in Aid program will receive funding from the *state* budget--a major step forward in stopping the spread of AIS and controlling existing infestations.

Discussion: Please report all volunteer hours to Laurie Gee.

Treasurer's Report - Ann Hunsicker

Paper copies of the Treasurer's Report were distributed to Board members and membership present.

Discussion: Total of \$117,000 in our accounts for contingency funding.

Aquatic Nuisance Grants arrive in January.

The wages for the boat greeters were raised this summer.

Thank you to Carol Martin for doing the payroll and tax reports.

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

Wake Boats – Holly Bull

Education on wake boats was provided.

Detriments to our lake: Degrades water quality, transports Aquatic Invasive Species, not a "normal" use, safety and enforcement, and the destruction of our fish, fish habitat, and our nesting loons.

Dept of Environmental Conservation's proposed regulations: 500' from shore, in waters deeper than 20' and on lakes with 60 contiguous acres, along with a "home rule". The "home rule" will keep wake boats on a lake unless they have been decontaminated at a State-approved site. There will be a public hearing on these rules at the Richmond Free Library in Richmond on August 1st at 5:00 because many don't feel these proposed rules go far enough and would like to see it be 1,000' from shore. You can sign up to give a 2-minute comment or you can sign up for a virtual comment period on August 3rd at 5:00. Written comments will be accepted until August 10th. Go to our website or Responsiblewakes.org for more information. Whether the rule is 500' or 1,000', Echo Lake will be eligible to have wake boats on it.

ELPA Board stance: Since ELPA feels these proposed rules are inadequate and ineffective, we would like to petition to ban the operation of wake boats and wake boat sport activities on our lake.

Discussion: Can also affect property values if AIS introduced, etc.

No one on Echo Lake currently has a wake boat.

No observations of wake boats on this lake have been noted to this date.

We are working with other lakes on this issue: the Averills, Caspian, Willoughby, etc.

The "Home rule" is not enforceable.

AIS includes cyanobacteria, which is easily transportable due to the ballast tanks, which cannot be fully drained.

Safety concerns were discussed.

People can speak out about wake boat regulations. Please go to our website for more information www.echolakeassociation.net

Vote on Wake Boat petition:

Does the ELPA membership feel that ELPA should petition the state to prohibit wake boats and wake boat activities from operating on Echo Lake?

Motion was made to support ELPA board to petition to ban wake boats on Echo Lake: Petition will include arguments that are specific to Echo Lake.

Motion was made to amend (introduced by Emily Borden): Should ELPA petition the State to prohibit wake boats and wake boat activities from operating on Echo Lake, in addition with the petition as written through solicited comments as approved by the ELPA board?

Seconded.

Discussion: Nancy Engels: "We support the DEC rules, but want it to be 1000 feet."
Raised question of adding a money amount.

Emily Borden: As soliciting comments, need to coordinate comments from members.

Ann Gratton: what will be the impact for lakes? If the 1000 foot rule passes, there will be fewer lakes that qualify, including Echo.

500 feet : 31 inland lakes qualify, 18 in the NEK.

1000 feet: 16 inland lakes qualify, 9 in the NEK.

ELPA is a 501c3 organization, so not allowed to lobby. If someone writes in, please specify that you are representing yourself.

Vote on the amended motion:

Should ELPA petition the State to prohibit wake boats and wake boat activities from operating on Echo Lake, in addition with the petition as written through solicited comments as approved by the ELPA board?

Yes: All in favor.

No: There were no dissenting votes.

Motion passed.

Further discussion:

S.100 discussion by Greg Carpenter. Certification of decontamination necessary.

Lake Memphremagog will be getting a decontamination station.

AIS transmission by ballast tanks is well-documented.

Peggy Stevens: Lake Dunmore recently did a presentation: a regular motorboat can cause similar issues (stirring up legacy phosphorus, etc). Buoys at 200 feet to signify the "no wake zone" to educate. 20 feet is the safe depth to operate a wake boat, as reported. Need a permit to put up a buoy. Buoys could create boater awareness.

Vermont Fish and Wildlife Rainbow Trout Strain Evaluation—Steve Gratton

Vermont Fish and Wildlife is stocking 2 strains of Rainbow trout in several Vermont lakes, including Echo Lake.

To determine which strain of trout has been caught: Check for a clipped ventral fin. Either right or left fin will be clipped, which determines the strain of the fish.

The state would like feedback about which strains are caught. Please report your information to them.

Please visit the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Website for more information.

Other Business – Questions and Discussion

Comment from the membership to thank the Board for their work this year.

Annual ELPA Picnic – Saturday August 12, 2023 at 4:00pm at the Engels' property.

Adjournment: Steve made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:48am. Seconded. All in favor. Approved. Meeting was adjourned at 10:48am.

Submitted by Lori Kempton, ELPA Secretary, on July 28, 2023

TREASURER'S FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

BALANCE SHEET 7/21/2023

ASSETS

Cash and Bank Accounts

Savings Account \$37,312.43

Checking Account \$7,621.93

Payroll Account \$7,540.91

Contingency Fund CD - Edward Jones matures October 2023 4.1% \$55,000.00

Contingency Fund CD - Passumpsic matures May 2024 4.02% \$10,154.37

Total Cash and Bank Accounts \$117,629.64

TOTAL ASSETS \$117,629.64

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

LIABILITIES

Payroll / Taxes

TOTAL LIABILITIES \$0.00

EQUITY \$117,629.64

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY \$117,629.64

INCOME STATEMENT AND APPROVED BUDGET:

	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- 7/21/23	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	3,025.00	56 Family, 9 Individual
Donations	5,175.00	10,000.00	6,425.00	4,500.00	3,825.00	33 members have made donations
Charleston School Program Donation	750.00					
Color Challenge (net)	600.00		7,249.00	3,000.00	11,485.27	
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	pymts of AQ grants were not sent until Jan of 2023
Aquatic Nuisance Grant - 1st payment	3,844.00	4,453.60				2023 grant is up to \$10,479, \$829 less than 2022
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	88.41	
ELPA merchandise					843.00	
Interest from Savings	835.74	348.24	212.49	2,200.00	126.44	
TOTAL INCOME	29,094.74	26,851.54	31,469.48	30,411.37	34,701.12	

EXPENSES						
Payroll Costs	14,608.03	13,138.54	12,376.79	18,101.16	7,667.57	
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		
Gift Bags/Membership Expenses						
Paypal Expense	56.61	47.02	65.57	65.00	48.17	
Misc.		20.00		20.00	371.97	
Charleston School Program	1,742.95	2,700.00	2,780.16	2,400.00	1,400.00	
NorthWoods donation	100.00	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	100.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 18,779.26	18,474.06	18,975.92	23,073.29	11,901.18	
GAIN/(LOSS)	10,315.48	8,377.48	12,493.56	7,338.08	22,799.94	
TOTAL CASH ON HAND		\$ 82,336.14	\$ 94,829.70		\$ 117,629.64	