



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
May 16, 2024

This meeting was conducted via a hybrid model of in-person and Google Meet.

Present: Karl Koenigsbauer, Nick Dibble, Ann Hunsicker, Lori Kempton, Elaine Carpenter.
Present via Google Meet: Holly Bull, Susan McKenna, Mark Bechtold (Mark joined at 6:55pm).

Welcome: President Karl Koenigsbauer called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

Secretary Report: Lori Kempton

Motion was made and seconded to accept the ELPA board meeting minutes of January 25, 2024. All in favor. Approved. Please see the report on the ELPA website:
www.echolakeassociation.net

Treasurer's Report: Ann Hunsicker

Ann went over her proposed budget for 2024. She has used conservative estimates on income with regard to dues, donations and fund raising. We received an increased amount on our Aquatic Nuisance grant, up to \$21,930. This allows us to increase the hours covered by our paid greeters and decrease the hours covered by volunteers. All other income and expenses are virtually unchanged from last year.

Our contingency fund is now in two CD's, one at Edward Jones which matures in July and the other at Community National Bank which matures in May 2025. With the amount Ann expects to be able to add to the fund this fall, we should be at or near our initial goal of \$100,000. She would like the board to think about setting a new goal once that is reached.

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

GRANTS: Ann Hunsicker

Aquatic Nuisance Grant much larger this year than in previous years as the state is now funding the grant. Using this grant money we have been able to increase paid greeter coverage this summer with 4 paid greeters. Still need volunteer time to be reported for the grants. Much appreciation to Laurie Gee for all of her time and effort on the grant work!

COLOR CHALLENGE: Karl Koenigsbauer

To be held Sunday July 7, 2024. Lisa Martin has resigned as coordinator of the event, however, she is still willing to assist with registrations, posters, PR. Her son, Budd, is willing to emcee the event again. Ann will work with sponsors and prizes. Karl and Elaine will also assist with prizes. Bill Mann has offered to distribute the color tables again. Patti and MaryAnne will be around for the weekend.

Volunteers are still needed for the stations, t-shirts, registration tables, set-up, organization. Karl will coordinate volunteers.

Karl has spoken with Wilsons, and parking will be available in similar areas as during previous years' events.

GREETER REPORT: Karl Koenigsbauer

Four paid greeters to cover the access 12 hours 7 days per week this summer: Cheryl, Dean, Ryan, and Josh. Karl and Peter B to volunteer to cover the access on Mondays and Tuesdays from 6-9 am. Raises for the greeters previously approved by board.

Greeters to start May 24 and work through September 9.

MEMBERSHIP: Elaine Carpenter

44 families and 5 individuals have paid their dues for 2024.

27 of those paid have made additional donations, which is greatly appreciated.

WATER QUALITY REPORT: Holly Bull

Buoy Project: Buoys are ready. A notice for the kiosk has been printed and will be put up soon. Discussion: To start at the east side and to be moved to the west side 200 feet from shoreline.

The NEW Wake Boat Regulations: A notice of these new regulations will be posted on kiosk.

Wake Boat Petition – Our petition has been sent into DEC and is posted on their website. So far, six lakes have submitted a petition to prohibit wake boats (Echo, Caspian, Great Averill, Little Averill, Shadow, and Fairlee).

Discussion: Petition to keep wake boats off Echo Lake has been sent to DEC. To have public hearing by DEC.

Zoom meeting session Monday May 20 at noon to the 30 NEK lakes who are eligible to have wake boats on the lakes. Karl to email the link to the board members.

State does not yet have stickers available to enforce via the sticker program.

Cannot refuse the wake-boats access to the lake.

LWAP: The top 5 properties have been selected and those property owners have agreed to a LWAP Lake Wise assessment. This is significant because LWAP does require 5 properties to

be assessed, so that objective will be met. Other properties that have been identified as needing an assessment can be done through LWAP or the State's Lake Wise Program. The top properties will have the best chance of getting funding for the improvements. Patrick Hurley and Bevin Barber-Campbell (our LWAP facilitators) have been invited to our annual meeting. They will be available to answer members' questions about our LWAP.

Discussion: Discussion of possible roadwork on W. Echo Lake Rd., as Patrick is concerned about run-off. Patrick thinks less crowning of the road and sloping away from the lake may be beneficial.

Permission obtained from Fish & Wildlife to have the access assessed by State Lake Wise coordinator. Alison Marchione to determine what improvements would be needed for the access to become Lake Wise. If Fish & Wildlife approves, ELPA will need volunteers to help with the improvements.

LaRosa: Our LaRosa testing has been taken over by Mark Mitchell from the Lay Monitoring Program. I have been assured we will have another year of testing. It will be interesting to see Dickie Brook's phosphorus levels this summer after the improvements that were made on East Echo Lake Road last summer.

Discussion: Lay Monitor Procedures are different, which may explain the decreased phosphorus levels reported.

AIS RRP: Rapid Response Plan is finished. If approved, it will be posted on the ELPA website.

Reclassification: S.146, which would have lifted the 1,000 gal/day discharge restriction, did not make it through the House Committee on Environment and Energy this session. The ball is in ANR's court to decide what to do with the 4 Lake Reclassification petitions. Legislatively, we will have to wait for the next session.

Discussion: Many, many thanks to Holly for all of her hard work on these issues! Mark has agreed to write something to review the Shoreland Protection Act to be shared with the membership via the website, Facebook, and the next newsletter.

RAPID RESPONSE PLAN: Holly Bull

Echo Lake Protective Association's AIS (Plant) Rapid Response Plan:

One of the principal missions of the Echo Lake Protective Association (ELPA) is to preserve and protect the healthy ecology of the lake by preventing the introduction of non-native aquatic invasive species (AIS). If introduced, it seeks their eradication. To achieve these objectives, the ELPA has established a Rapid Response Plan for AIS (plants).

This Rapid Response Plan is in place to protect the health of Echo Lake. It seeks to contain and control the spread of AIS by implementing best management practices with the intent of achieving complete control and eradication. In full compliance with Vermont state regulatory requirements, the Plan will employ an objective management approach in evaluating how best to control each AIS site discovered, with the least interference with lake activities.

Once the plant has been sent to the State for identification and confirmation that it is an Aquatic Invasive Species the following actions will be taken by ELPA:

If the location of the plant is unknown, ELPA Vermont Invasive Patrollers will immediately conduct lakebed surveys to determine the area of infestation.

If the plant's location can be determined or has been determined, then:

Additional information will be gathered and shared with the State which will include (if possible and applicable):

- The exact location and size of the infested area.
- A measurement of the lake depth, water current, and sunlight penetration level.
- An estimate of the chances of dispersal (heavy traffic area, vulnerable to wind currents).
- Assess the possible impediment to recreation accessibility.

The next actions to be taken:

- Collaborate with the Echo Lake Protective Association's Board of Directors and the Department of Environmental Conservation to initiate and maintain an effective lake management plan.
- Mobilize a rapid response team of volunteer ELPA's Vermont Invasive Patrollers (VIPs) to contain the invasive species infestation, marking the site by placing orange buoys at the lake surface for lake users to avoid recreation near that site to minimize water disturbance and prevent further plant spread.
- VIPs will monitor the area and report any changes or concerns to the Lakebed Survey Coordinator.
- Encourage shoreline property owners to regularly monitor their waterfronts for the identified AIS plant or any unusual underwater plant growth and immediately report it to the Lakebed Survey Coordinator.
- Provide educational outreach to Association members and lake users on the non-native AIS infestation and the dangers it poses to Echo Lake through email blasts, ELPA's Facebook page, and on the ELPA website.
- Containment and eradication methods to be deployed by the Echo Lake Protective Association (in order of prescription):
 - If any method other than hand pulling is used, then a permit must be obtained from the Department of Environmental Conservation.

Further information can be found at:

<https://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/wsm/lakes/ans/docs/Managing%20Aquatic%20Invasive%20Species%202018.pdf>

Hand Pulling: Best for widely scattered plants (less than 500 stems per acre). It is a highly selective plant removal method. Effective control for small areas and prevents reinfestation.

Labor intensive but can be done by trained volunteers.

Benthic Barriers: Non-selective, impacts all plants, and may impact macroinvertebrates and other nontarget organisms. Barriers require routine, annual maintenance, installation & removal, but can be reused. Labor intensive during installation and removal. The approximate cost is \$400.00 for each 8 ft. x 100 ft. Mat.

Diver-Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH): Best for small to moderate infestations (less than 1 acre in size). Skilled staff and technical equipment are required for this method. More efficient than hand pulling for higher plant densities. Cost is \$25,000 - \$50,000 per acre.

Mechanical Harvesting (“mowing the weeds”): These are large barges that cut the AIS at or below the water surface. This is good for larger, dense areas. This method risks fragments to be released where they can be transplanted. Cost is \$500-2,500 per acre.

ELPA’s Additional Preventive Work:

- Purchase and maintain all equipment necessary to operate the control program.
- Procure or design educational materials and distribute, as necessary.
- Provide the most updated information to the Echo Lake Protective Association’s Facebook page and website. Apply for grants for State and Town funding, and for any necessary State environmental permits to strengthen our control program.
- Network with knowledgeable experts for technical advice to help ELPA prevent and defend against additional infestations of aquatic invasive species or other emerging environmental issues.
- Attend relevant seminars and workshops.

The Echo Lake Protective Association would like to thank the Shadow Lake Association for sharing their procedures, information, and experience. Their help developing this plan has been invaluable.

Discussion: WQ Committee to determine the AIS Rapid Response plan.

Ann asked to amend to keep the board informed along the entire process. Holly agreed to add this. Board agreed to the amendment.

Motion was made to accept the Rapid Response Plan with amendment as discussed to keep the board informed along the entire process. Seconded. All in favor. Approved.

NEW TREASURER: Karl Koenigsbauer and Ann Hunsicker

Need to find a new treasurer as Ann’s term will end July 2024. Ann mentioned that she knows of someone who may be interested in serving as treasurer after she retires in a few years.

NEW BOARD MEMBER: Ann Hunsicker

A member has expressed interest in possibly serving on the board. Ann to contact him.

ELPA WEBSITE: Holly Bull

Holly has been working on website maintenance with Kristen Wilson.

Merchandise information has been added to the ELPA website.

Plans to get history added to the website.

Thank you to Kristen Wilson for her expertise in keeping the website up-to-date!

SCHOOL PROGRAM: Karl Koenigsbauer

The kids enjoyed participating in Green Up Day activities again this year.

NORTHWOODS TRAIL: Karl Koenigsbauer

Carol Martin has asked for someone else to take over the tasks involved with maintaining the Echo Lake Shore trail.

Lori volunteered herself and Matt Breton for maintenance clean-up work as needed on the trail. Karl expressed appreciation to Matt Breton for his assisting George Thompson with setting out the loon nesting raft and signs.

ELPA MERCHANDISE: Ann Hunsicker

Some new options for 2024: Adding options for long-sleeved T-shirts (kids and adults), as well as screen-printed sweatshirts. Echo Lake magnets for sale \$15.

Dawn Bechtold has put a ton of time and effort into this project – thank you, Dawn!

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE: Ann Hunsicker

Discussion: Approaching the initial goal for the contingency fund to reach \$100,000 that was set by the board a few years ago. Discussion of possible campaign to “help us reach our goal”.

Interest rates improved recently.

Ann suggested possibly amending guidelines for the contingency fund to keep the interest earned from the contingency fund with the contingency fund. Karl brought up the issue unless the funds are needed for other uses.

Nick made a motion to amend section 6.5 of the By-Laws to add "Interest earned from contingency fund accounts should remain in the fund absent a board vote." Seconded. All in favor. Approved.

ANNUAL MEETING: Karl Koenigsbauer

Will plan for annual meeting to be held July 20 at 9:00 am at Karl’s property. If raining, it would be great if the meeting could be held at NorthWoods again.

Discussion of membership table to be set up to collect dues.

Discussion of possible speakers for the meeting: Patrick Hurley and Bevin Barber-Campbell (the LWAP coordinators for our area).

2024 DATES FOR LAKE ACTIVITIES:

*Color Challenge – Sunday July 7, 2024

*Water Quality Event at Seymour Lake – July 8 or 11, 2024.

*Annual Meeting – Saturday July 20, 2024 at 9am. Location TBD.

*Garden Tour – July 25, 2024. (Rain date July 26.) 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 Meeting – Thursday September 12, 2024 at Karl’s at 6pm (hybrid option)

Meeting Adjourned: At 8:00 pm

Submitted by Lori Kempton, ELPA Secretary, on June 18, 2024.

BALANCE SHEET 5/16/2024

ASSETS

Cash and Bank Accounts

Savings Account \$27,349.94

Checking Account \$21,868.15

Payroll Account \$354.81

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

Contingency Fund Edward Jones mutual fund \$268.81

Contingency Fund CD - CNB matures May 8, 2025 4.75% \$26,124.17

Total Cash and Bank Accounts \$132,965.88

TOTAL ASSETS \$132,965.88

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

LIABILITIES

Payroll / Taxes

TOTAL LIABILITIES \$0.00

EQUITY \$132,965.88

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY \$132,965.88

	Actual 1/1/21- 12/31/21	Actual 1/1/22- 12/31/22	Actual 1/1/23- 12/31/23	2024 Budget	Actual 1/1/24- 5/16/24				
CASH CARRIED FORWARD FROM PRIOR YEAR	73,958.66	82,336.14	94,829.70		125,274.45				
INCOME									
Dues	4,475.00	4,625.00	4,525.00	4,200.00	2,325.00				
Donations	10,000.00	6,425.00	6,150.00	4,500.00	3,000.00				
Color Challenge (net)		7,249.00	11,515.27	4,000.00	2,730.00				
Charleston Appropriation	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00					
Watershed Grant - 1st payment	3,200.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00					
Watershed Grant - 2nd payment	800.00	1,000.00		1,000.00	1,000.00				
Aquatic Nuisance Grant - 2nd pymt prior yr		6,680.40	11,308.00						
Aquatic Nuisance Grant - 1st payment	4,453.60			21,930.00					
Aquatic Nuisance Grant - 2nd payment			10,479.00						
VCF Grant	2,400.00								
Map Sales	120.00	26.00							
Amazon Smile	54.70	251.59	88.41						
ELPA merchandise (net)			1,219.10	750.00	-187.88				
Interest from Savings	348.24	212.49	2,512.01	3,600.00	615.55				
TOTAL INCOME	26,851.54	31,469.48	52,796.79	44,980.00	9,482.67				
EXPENSES									
Payroll Costs	13,138.54	12,376.79	16,853.67	24,670.00					
Access Monitor Expenses		347.07	85.50						
Liability Insurance	550.00	550.00	575.00	575.00					
Workers Comp. Insurance	1,296.00	1,296.00	1,297.00	1,282.00	1,282.00				
Printing	58.50	381.65	75.96						
Postage									
Color Challenge Expenses	-22.00	75.00							

P.O. Box Rental - 1yr.	56.00	62.00	68.00	72.00	72.00				
Web Site Costs		616.68	112.01		21.85				
Picnic	380.00	125.00	125.00	125.00					
Paypal Expense	47.02	65.57	87.93	100.00	15.39				
Misc.	20.00		371.97						
Charleston School Program	2,700.00	2,780.16	2,400.00	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	50.00					
VCE donation	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00					
TOTAL EXPENSES	18,474.06	18,975.92	22,352.04	29,524.00	1,791.24				
GAIN/(LOSS)	8,377.48	12,493.56	30,444.75	15,456.00	7,691.43				
TOTAL CASH ON HAND	\$ 82,336.14	\$ 94,829.70	\$ 125,274.45		\$ 132,965.88				