

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

ECHO LAKE PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION  
Board of Directors Meeting  
January 16, 2025

This meeting was conducted online via Google Meet.

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

Tom Wagner attended the first part of the meeting to report to the board about LWAP.

**Welcome:** President Karl Koenigsbauer called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

**Secretary Report: Lori Kempton**

Motion was made and seconded to accept the ELPA board meeting minutes September 19, 2024.

All in favor. Approved. Please see report on ELPA website: [www.echolakeassociation.net](http://www.echolakeassociation.net)

**LAKE WATERSHED ACTION PLAN (LWAP):**

**Report and update provided by Tom Wagner**

(Excerpt of the report is provided below):

The Echo-Seymour Lake Watershed Action Plan was completed at the end of 2024, after a comprehensive analysis of the issues affecting our two lakes' water quality. The Department of Lakes and Ponds identified the Echo-Seymour Watershed as a high priority project as we are in the Memphremagog Watershed, and Lake Memphremagog is impaired. The Department of Environmental Conservation issued a grant of \$49,878 to the Orleans County Natural Resource Conservation District with the Memphremagog Watershed Association involved as environmental consultant and sub-contractor.

Over two years the LWAP evaluated the streams feeding our watershed, public roads, private driveways, and the shoreline to identify negative influences on our water quality. 94 prioritized projects were identified with Echo having 24 identified prioritized projects. 4 of these prioritized projects within our watershed were selected to be provided with a design detailing the work required to remediate the issue, with each lake receiving 2

designs. Echo's 2 designed projects are the West Echo Lake Road and the Fish & Wildlife Access area. These designs can be found below.

This chart details the core completed assessments areas, the amount of the assessment area that was completed vs the initial proposal, and what the potential outcomes of the assessments will be if all projects are completed. Notice that included in the assessments were Lake Wise evaluations, with 4 properties on Echo Lake obtaining the Lake Wise Award and one the Certificate.

Echo Lake's 24 projects will be the responsibility of The Echo Lake Protective Association and the Lake Watershed Action Plan committee to complete in cooperation with our landowners, the Town of Charleston, and the Fish & Wildlife Department. Completion of each of our 24 projects will help improve our roads, driveways, shoreline, wetlands, and tributaries, and will eliminate or mitigate the negative influences on our lake caused mostly by erosion. Our projects will improve Echo Lake's water quality by reducing our phosphorous levels. When complete we expect more vegetation buffers around the shoreline and our streams, resulting in a healthier Echo, which will continue to support and enable our diverse aquatic and shoreline habitat to thrive.

Some projects are small, some grand. We expect to be able to access grant funding for many projects. In addition, OCNRCD is in the process of hiring a Lake Watershed Program Specialist whose role is to support lake associations and property owners with project implementation.

Property owners who have a project listed will be contacted by a member of the Lake Watershed Committee (LWAP) to discuss possible solutions. If you have a project and would like to address it, please email the committee at [echolwap@gmail.com](mailto:echolwap@gmail.com)

Direct questions or comments to the Lake Watershed Action Plan Committee via email to [echolwap@gmail.com](mailto:echolwap@gmail.com)

Committee Members:

Susan Czerepak, Steve Gratton, Peggy Stevens, Deborah Zuaro, Tom Wagner

Find the full report with links to further information on the Echo Lake website.

Discussion:

Tom stated that the BMP design recommended for the Fishing Access area requires at least two rain gardens, and commitment needed to support the maintenance of the rain gardens. This maintenance may include weeding, clearing out silt, etc.

Tom suggested that maybe an "Echo Lake Garden Club" could be started.

Karl raised the issue that ELPA cannot be responsible for the funding of BMP projects.

People are responsible for funding projects on their own property. These projects are only recommendations. ELPA cannot force people to make any changes.

**Treasurer's Report: Ann Hunsicker**

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

**Discussion:**

Earned \$250 in interest since opening the new CD that had been recommended by Peter Bestenbostel of the Investment Committee.

Ann said that for the first time in her memory ELPA operated at a loss for the year. This is because we still have not received anything from our AQ grant. We also had the four paid greeters and fewer volunteer hours at the access (this had been determined based on the amount anticipated from the Aquatic Nuisance Grant).

Ann said that Laurie Gee has found out that we are expected to receive the full \$21,930 Aquatic Nuisance Grant amount sometime in February.

Carol stated that when the Aquatic Nuisance Grant is added in as income, it will show a gain of approx. \$19,000.

**Grants: Ann Hunsicker**

Since we now receive the Aquatic Nuisance Grant through the Town of Charleston, we now receive 100% of the grant after the season is over. (We used to receive the grant in two installments, with 40% coming to us during the summer.)

Memphremagog Watershed Association is another option to pursue for the grant monies. Laurie Gee and Ann recommended to keep our application process the same. Board discussed and decided to keep it the way it is, as was recommended by Laurie Gee and Ann.

Motion was made by Carol to continue to apply for grants in the way it has been done. Seconded. All in favor. Approved.

**Contingency Fund Amount: Ann Hunsicker**

\$86,509 is the total currently in the contingency fund.

Recommendation from Ann to take \$15,000 from the money that we should receive next month and put into the contingency fund at CNB.

Motion was made to transfer the \$15,000 to contingency fund. Seconded. All in favor. Approved.

With the above action, we will have met our initial goal of \$100,000 in the contingency fund. Will need to set a new goal.

**Vote regarding Fishing Access BMP Project: Karl Koenigsbauer and Ann Hunsicker**

Board discussed and agreed that ELPA cannot be responsible for funding the BMP practices on individual properties, as that is the financial responsibility of the property owner.

Motion made by Ann to support the LWAP project at the access, however, not financially. Seconded. All in favor. Approved.

**Membership: Elaine Carpenter**

A total of 89 memberships were received in 2024: 77 family memberships, 12 individual.  
\$4,150 received from memberships.

\$6,728 received in donations - 42 members made donations.

New membership letter will go out. Membership form will be updated to reflect 2025 date.

Lori to update the date on the membership form and send to Elaine, Holly, and Kristen Wilson to put on the website.

Discussion:

The board discussed dues. The board agreed to keep the dues the same.

**Greeter Program 2025: Karl Koenigsbauer**

Karl is in favor of continuing with the four paid greeters. Echo has one of the most covered accesses for vigilance in watching out for aquatic invasive species. Karl thinks that all four greeters would like to return for 2025 season. They were all dedicated and reliable.

Discussed start and end dates:

When should the access greeter coverage start?

Concerns raised about bass fishing and a lot of people from southern states coming to Echo for the bass fishing. Nick proposed to start greeter coverage at the access during the May 16-18 weekend due to the bass fishing and the concerns regarding the out-of-state boats arriving from the south with possible plant material on their boats and equipment, needing inspection before launching. (Nick counted 14 out-of-state boats in the fishing access parking area in 2024 on the Saturday of the weekend prior to Memorial Day).

The board discussed and agreed to have greeter coverage during the May 16-18 weekend.

The board discussed and agreed to have 2 greeters cover the access during the Memorial Day holiday weekend and the Fourth of July holiday weekend. (Labor Day weekend coverage, whether one or two greeters, TBD.)

Discussed extending the coverage later in the summer past Labor Day weekend. Ann recommended waiting until we find out what we will receive for a grant (should find out in February) before making a decision.

The board discussed and agreed upon this above plan for 2025 greeter coverage.

Discussion about ongoing issue with swimming at the access reported by greeters. It was discussed that Vermont Fish & Wildlife needs to be made aware and they would need to address the issue, as swimming is not allowed at fishing access sites. Discussed need for possible increased reporting of the swimming activities to Vermont Fish & Wildlife.

**Color Challenge: Ann Hunsicker**

Date set for July 6, 2025. Price to remain the same.

Committee will meet to discuss planning. No one has offered to volunteer to chair the event.

Beams/Koenigsbauers/Wilsons are agreeable to host the event again at their properties.

Karl will talk to Tom about the Active.com registration process.

Letter needs to be sent to the selectboard. Ann will talk to Holly about the letter.

**Buoy Program: Karl Koenigsbauer**

Buoy program was well received as education for boaters regarding distance from shoreline. Will deploy the buoys again this summer. Increasing from 2 to 4 buoys.

**Water Quality Report: Report provided by Holly Bull**

The public hearing on our Wake Boat petition was held on December 10th. Our association members made a strong showing. The time they took to participate by either speaking or writing letters of support is extremely appreciated. DEC staff hopes to finish reviewing comments and make a recommendation to the DEC Commissioner sometime in February. Hopefully, this will allow time to conclude rulemaking prior to the 2025 boating season (see Petition Timeline).

The LaRosa Tributary Testing will take place again this summer. The LaRosa budget has been reduced causing the Nitrogen testing to be discontinued. We tested two streams for nitrogen and the levels were quite low, so this isn't too concerning. Phosphorus testing will continue. I requested two additional streams along East Echo Lake Road near the NorthWoods property for testing. No official word yet on the request.

Our colony of Gloeotrichia (blue-green algae) was not observed last summer. This could have been because of the turbidity in the water from the heavy rains and/or the cooler water temperatures during the late summer/early fall.

The Water Quality team has two new members – John Wall and Mark Bechtold.

Potential new projects to tackle may include:

- Planting cattails, sedges, or bulrush at mouth of streams like Dickie Brook and the area by the NorthWoods property. These plants' roots will help with erosion and work as a natural filtration system.
- Possibly revitalizing the smelt program for Echo Lake.
- Working on a strategy to eradicate the terrestrial invasives (Phragmites) that are growing along and near Echo Lake's shoreline.

Lastly, I completed DEC's Natural Soil Erosion Control Certification Course on January 10th.

Submitted by: Holly Bull, Water Quality Committee, Chair

**Discussion:**

The board discussed ELPA's position with regards to the FOVLAP 30 Lakes Group. While all thirty associations comprehend and seek to avoid the potential dangers wake boats pose to their individual lakes, every lake, including Echo and Seymour, has its own criteria and strategies for opposition.

Karl recently attended the selectboard meeting to garner support. The selectboard is in favor of ELPA's petition to ban wake boats at Echo Lake and also supports the work being done by LWAP.

**New Business: Karl Koenigsbauer**

Someone brought up a suggestion about an Echo Lake sign, so Karl brought this to the board for discussion. Question raised about where to place it and property ownership/permission to place the sign, as well as funding.

**2025 DATES FOR ECHO LAKE ACTIVITIES:**

\*Color Challenge – Sunday July 6, 2025. 10:00am race start, 9:00am start for volunteers.

\*Annual Meeting – Saturday July 19, 2025 at 9:00am at NorthWoods.

\*Annual Picnic – Saturday August 9, 2025 at Engels' property at 4:30pm.

\*2025 Board Meetings – May 15, 2025 at 6:00pm at Karl's and online  
Sept 18, 2025 at 6:00pm at Karl's and online

**Meeting Adjourned:** At 7:45pm

Submitted by Lori Kempton, ELPA Secretary, on January 27, 2025.

<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>	<b>12/31/2024</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Cash and Bank Accounts	
Savings Account	\$7,331.27
Savings Account CD - CNB matures March 20, 2025 4.95%	\$20,248.33
Checking Account	\$7,812.51
Payroll Account	\$281.53
Contingency Fund CD - Edward Jones matures August 8, 2025 4.7%	\$59,000.00
Contingency Fund Edward Jones mutual fund	\$646.78
Contingency Fund CD - CNB matures May 8, 2025 4.75%	\$26,861.89
Total Cash and Bank Accounts	\$122,182.31
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$122,182.31</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
Payroll / Taxes	
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>	<b>\$122,182.31</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>\$122,182.31</b>

Total in Contingency Fund: \$86,508.67

	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- 12/31/24
<b>CASH CARRIED FORWARD FROM PRIOR YEAR</b>	<b>73,958.66</b>	<b>82,336.14</b>	<b>94,829.70</b>		<b>125,274.45</b>
<b>INCOME</b>					
Dues	4,475.00	4,625.00	4,525.00	4,200.00	4,150.00
Donations	10,000.00	6,425.00	6,150.00	4,500.00	6,728.00
Color Challenge (net)		7,249.00	11,515.27	4,000.00	6,538.06
Charleston Appropriation	1,000.00	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	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	4,453.60		10,479.00	21,930.00	
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	361.12
Interest from Savings	348.24	212.49	2,512.01	3,600.00	3,985.90
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>26,851.54</b>	<b>31,469.48</b>	<b>52,796.79</b>	<b>44,980.00</b>	<b>27,763.08</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
Payroll Costs	13,138.54	12,376.79	16,853.67	24,670.00	26,056.70
Access Monitor Expenses		347.07	85.50		
Liability Insurance	550.00	550.00	575.00	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	21.85
Picnic	380.00	125.00	125.00	125.00	125.00
Paypal Expense	47.02	65.57	87.93	100.00	81.34



Misc.	20.00		371.97		101.00
Charleston School Program	2,700.00	2,780.16	2,400.00	2,400.00	2,140.33
NorthWoods donation	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	200.00
FOVLAP membership	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00
MWA membership		50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00
VCE donation	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	18,474.06	18,975.92	22,352.04	29,545.85	30,855.22
<b>GAIN/(LOSS)</b>	8,377.48	12,493.56	30,444.75	15,434.15	-3,092.14
<b>TOTAL CASH ON HAND</b>	<b>\$ 82,336.14</b>	<b>\$ 94,829.70</b>	<b>\$ 125,274.45</b>		<b>\$ 122,182.31</b>