

**MINUTES
MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS
THREE LAKES COUNCIL
DATE: February 18, 2009**

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Three Lakes Council was held on February 18, 2009, at 7:30 PM, at the home of Betsy and Jack Sinnott.

Present were:

- Jack Sinnott, President
- Jan Andersen, Vice president and Two Lake Club Representative
- Jean Lewis, Secretary
- John Lemke, Treasurer and Lake Waccabuc Assoc. Representative
- Lake Oscaleta Assoc.: Joe Tansey
- Waccabuc Country Club: John Hogan Representative
- Perch Bay Association: Bill Hines Representative

Jack Sinnott opened the meeting at 7:30 PM by thanking everyone for attending.

2009 Budget

John Lemke reviewed the proposed budget for 2009, and reviewed the 2008 budget and actual expenses.

FIRM OR CONTRACTED EXPENSES:

ITEMS	O8 BUDGET	O8 ACTUAL	2009 BUDGET
Insurance	\$3,600	\$2,657	\$ 2,800
Admin/Printing/Mailing	\$3,000	\$2,428	\$ 3,000
Taxes/Maint	\$ 400	\$ 345	\$ 400
Picnic	\$2,500	\$1,412	\$ 2,500
CSLAP	\$ 750	Co. paid	\$ 750
NYS FOLA dues	\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ 150
Lake/Steam Consultant	\$20,000	\$18,375	\$ 4,050
Goose Control	\$ 100	\$ 0	\$ 0
Water Quality Initiatives	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Water Testing	\$1,000	\$2,700	\$ 2,000
Misc. Expenses	\$ 600	\$ 702	\$ 600
Website	\$3,000	\$ 149	\$ 200
Brazilian Elodea Efforts	\$ 0	\$2,200	\$ 38,000
SUBTOTAL	\$35,100	\$31,118	\$54,450

SOFT ITEMS TO BE MANAGED DEPENDING ON INTEREST & VOLUNTEERS

Fish Stocking	\$2,500	\$ 810	\$2,000
Aerator Consult/Maint	\$2,000	\$ 0	\$1,000
Stream erosion west end of Wacc.	\$2,000	\$ 0	\$ 0
Educational Seminars	\$1,000		\$1,000
Equipment	<u>\$1,000</u>	<u>\$1,000*</u>	<u>\$1,000</u> *Grant covered equip. expense
SUBTOTAL	\$8,500	\$ 810	\$5,000

Firm or Contracted Expenses			\$54,450
Soft Items			<u>\$ 5,000</u>
		Est. Total =	\$59,450

John reported that the Bank Balance as of 02/18/09 is \$40,612.24. He also noted that in 2008 our spending generally matched our budgeted amounts.

Two items that came in under-budget were insurance and website. He praised Jan Andersen for building our new and improved website, and avoiding the expense we had budgeted to create a new site.

Budget Approval

Jack Sinnott moved that the Board approve the 2009 Budget, holding separate the \$38,000 for the Egeria Eradication Initiative which will be a separate fund. Bill Hines seconded the motion, and approved by unanimous vote.

There was also approved a transfer of funds from the General Operating Budget to the Egeria Initiative should the need arise, and contingent upon Board approval at that time in the future.

Income

The 2009 Budget that was presented did not address anticipated 2009 income. Responding to a question from John Hogan, John Lemke provided information on the prior year's income. He stated that approximately \$18,000 was received following the May request, and approximately \$12,000 was received following the December request. The Board discussed 2009 and generally agreed that income will likely be less this year.

Egeria Eradication Initiative - Options, Costs, Fundraising

Jan Andersen discussed the Egeria Eradication Initiative.

During an aquatic plant survey of the Three Lakes, Chris Doyle (our Lake Manager from Allied Biological) discovered the presence of Egeria densa (Brazilian Elodea). This identification was verified by Scott Kishbaugh of NYS DEC, who also surveyed the rest of Lake Waccabuc. This is the first known incidence of BE in Westchester County, and the third in NY State.

The plant appears to be confined to the north cove of Waccabuc, but since it spreads rapidly by fragmentation, we need to take immediate action to prevent it from spreading further.

The Executive Committee has reviewed the four methods of eradicating BE:

1. Hand harvesting by volunteers
2. Diver assisted suction harvesting (DASH)
3. Herbicide application
4. Grass carp

Note: It is felt that, there is too much vegetation for volunteers to hand harvest; therefore that option is not considered to be viable.

- Grass carp is considered inappropriate because neither their diet nor range can be controlled, and Egeria is not a food preference for them.
- All methods of BE control/eradication require DEC approval.
- Because of the drinking water issue, Herbicide application would meet with more resistance from homeowners, and the permitting process would be longer and more stringent.
- Therefore, for a variety of reasons, the Executive Committee chose Suction Harvesting as our first plan of action, and Herbicide Application as a back-up or follow-up option if necessary.

In September 2008, the Executive Committee met with residents of the Lake Waccabuc north cove to alert them to the dangers of Egeria, and to enlist their active participation in our eradication efforts. In January, John Lemke arranged for Jan Andersen to speak at the Lake Waccabuc Association Annual Meeting, and at that meeting four people volunteered to coordinate fundraising efforts: Regina Anderson, Christian Brutzer, Steve Ohnemus, and Re Hagele.

Estimated costs:

The estimated cost of herbicide treatment is a minimum of \$38,000.

The estimated cost of suction harvesting is a minimum of \$30,000, plus the cost of disposal and a containment curtain.

Most of the funding for the Elodea Eradication Initiative will need to come from donations. Additionally, Jack Sinnott and Jan Andersen have been pursuing possible grant opportunities and have made application to several possible sources, including the State and organizations that are large landowners on Lake Waccabuc (Westchester Land Trust, Nature Conservancy and the Waccabuc Country Club). Two members of the Fundraising Committee have also applied for Rotary grants.

John Hogan asked how much we receive annually in donations. Jack reported that in order to review our "gifting history", he met recently with John Lemke and Paul Lewis to review the database. This year we received about \$30,000 through donations and membership fees. That amount is needed to meet our on-going expenses, so we will need to raise more than that in 2009. The Board agreed that we should apply some, but not all, of our surplus to the Egeria Eradication Initiative. We want to ensure we maintain enough reserves for our essential expenses such as insurance, taxes, and communication.

Jack summarized by saying that our membership has responded very positively to the fund raising letters we have sent out. Therefore, the Board supported sending out a letter similar to what we usually send, explaining the seriousness of the threat presented by the presence of Egeria, and communicating the need to raise additional funds to pay for its eradication, and seeking donations this Spring.

How can Board members help?

1. It would be very helpful if Board members would arrange meetings with their associations to learn more about Egeria and the problem it presents. Jan Andersen offered to present an educational program on the Egeria Eradication Initiative, as she has done with the Lake Waccabuc Association.
2. Jan would also like to have a statement from each lake organization stating that they support the Three Lakes Council's Egeria Eradication Initiative. This will be helpful as we approach the Planning Board Hearing on March 10th.

Joe Tansey applauded Jan for all her dedication and hard work on this initiative. He offered to write an educational letter about Egeria to the Lake Oscaleta Association, and Bill Hines offered to do the same for the Perch Bay Association. Jan Andersen will provide them with a model letter for this purpose, which they agreed to send in advance of the fundraising campaign.

John Lemke is working with the bank to set up a program through which the Three Lakes Council can receive gifts of Corporate Stocks. This will be set up prior to fundraising efforts.

Egeria Eradication Budget Approval

After explaining all the Egeria treatment and funding options to the Board, Jan Andersen made a motion to proceed with the current Elodea Eradication efforts, and to approve the Budget contingent on the results of fund raising efforts. All voted in favor of this motion.

Lake Manager

Jack Sinnott reported that we entered into a contract with a new Lake Manager last year - Allied Biological of Hackettstown, NJ. He described them as very professional and knowledgeable, with a good background in aquatic plants. Last year we paid \$18,000 for their services - a worthwhile investment considering their early discovery of Egeria. The contract for 2009 will have to be for a much lower amount of money due to the cost of the Egeria Eradication Initiative.

The tasks in ABI's proposed contract for in 2009 include a Water Quality Data Review and Summary, another Educational Seminar, Macrophyte Mapping (to make sure Egeria hasn't spread out of the cove and to monitor trends), Phytoplankton Identification and Enumeration, and Zooplankton Quantification.

The Executive Committee will weigh the value/cost of each task before accepting and signing the contract.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Lewis, secretary