



**THREE LAKES COUNCIL  
WACCABUC–OSCALETA–RIPPOWAM  
P.O. BOX 241, SOUTH SALEM, NY 10590  
[www.threelakescouncil.org](http://www.threelakescouncil.org)**

March 26, 2014

Town of Lewisboro Planning Board  
P. O. Box 725  
Cross River, NY 10518  
Via email to [planning@lewisborogov.com](mailto:planning@lewisborogov.com)

Re: Petruccelli Application on Oscaleta Road, South Salem, NY. Sheet 33B, Block 11157, Lot 46.

Responses to topics at February 25, 2014 Public Hearing

Dear Chair Kerner and Members of the Planning Board:

As you are aware, the Three Lakes Council (3LC) owns a parcel of property located immediately adjacent to the subject property, and we have a stewardship role for the three lakes watershed, which includes Lake Waccabuc and its surroundings.

We would like to amplify our answers to some questions asked by the board at the February meeting. First, a small update to the houses that obtain household water from the lake. One home on South Shore was confirmed to use lake water, and so I've attached an updated map.

You asked about phosphorus targets in Lewisboro. Two different levels of targets exist. The Town of Lewisboro originally received a target to reduce the phosphorus that flows across our town boundaries towards the DEP reservoirs by 35.5 kg per year within five years. This is because the NYC reservoirs in this area are considered impaired by phosphorus pollution. Lewisboro joined with other towns in Westchester and Putnam and our target was subsumed in the combined "bubble" target of 460 kg. If the consortium of towns makes that total 460 kg target, Lewisboro will be considered to have made its target. We are in year 4 of the 5 year target, and projects have been identified, although not yet built, for all but a small amount of this target. However, the group expects another 460 kg target to be issued for the next five year period. The point is that the reservoirs have too much phosphorus and all the towns in the DEP watershed are obliged to continue to reduce phosphorus pollution.

A second target is phosphorus in individual lakes. The level of phosphorus undergoes natural and seasonal variability. Mr. Meyerson supports a target of 15 ppb, which would require very significant changes. Our Town-wide Lake Management Plan has a more modest target of 20 ppb, and even at that level, significant reductions are required on Lake Waccabuc and other lakes in town. According to that

document, Lake Waccabuc requires a phosphorus reduction of 28% to meet that concentration. On March 20, 2014, we received our 2013 report from the NYSDEC Citizen's Statewide Lake Assessment Program. The section called Evaluation of Eutrophication Indicators states:

Phosphorus levels were higher than normal in each of the last three years, contributing to lower than normal water clarity readings in 2011 (and perhaps 2013) and higher than normal chlorophyll a readings in 2012 and 2013. The higher than normal nutrient and algae levels in 2012 and 2013 were particularly apparent early in the summer, likely contributing to shoreline algae blooms. The recent increase in phosphorus readings has been part of a long-term trend, with higher TP [total phosphorus] readings apparent since CSLAP sampling resumed in the lake in 2005..... The lake continues to be characterized as *mesoeutrophic*, based on water clarity (typical of *mesotrophic* lakes), phosphorus and chlorophyll a (both typical of *eutrophic* lakes).... The trophic state index (TSI) evaluation in 2012 indicated that water clarity readings were higher than expected and algae (chlorophyll a) levels were also higher than expected given the total phosphorus readings. **This suggests that the lake may be susceptible to small changes in phosphorus.** (emphasis added.)

Recognizing this trend, the Three Lakes Council has been vigilant against new sources of phosphorus. In addition to ongoing research, the Council has made continuous outreach efforts to educate watershed residents, has undertaken geese management actions, has encouraged lakeside buffer plantings, and has strongly supported septic pumping regulations and recent laws to reduce phosphorus contents in fertilizer and dishwasher detergents. Planning Board approval of a residence on the wetlands adjacent to Lake Waccabuc would be a setback to our ongoing phosphorus reduction efforts.

You requested our knowledge of other denied permits subsequent to the two Eastbrook denials. Since the Eastbrook denials are directly relevant and on point, additional denials are not required. We also believe that additional denials may be hard to find because the Planning Board has been clear with applicants when a site is problematic or the plans are overly ambitious, as you were in the case with this applicant. As a result, applicant plans are likely to have been dropped, or modified to fit outside the wetland and buffer area, or the numbers of lots in proposed subdivisions have been reduced, rather than receive a denial. It is more meaningful that we cannot find any approvals of a new residence on a lot which is this challenged.

Once again, the Three Lakes Council strongly urges you to deny Mr. Petruccelli's wetland permit application and subdivision application. Thank you for hearing our concerns.

Sincerely,



Janet Andersen  
President, Three Lakes Council

Attachment

## Lake Waccabuc is used for Household Water



1:5,000

0.05 0.025 0 0.05 Miles

Janet Andersen  
Water Drinking Sources from  
personal communications  
Parcels and wetlands from Westchester County  
NAD 1983 StatePlane NY East FIPS 3101 Feet  
DrinkLake.mxd  
February 24, 2014

### Household water supply sources

Lake - sourced from lake, treatment unknown, apt to vary.  
Well - sourced from a well. Lake may be a backup source.  
TLWW - sourced from Twin Lakes Water Works, a public supply.

### Source

- Lake
- Unknown
- TLWW
- Well
- Petruccelli
- Wetland