

**MINUTES  
MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
THREE LAKES COUNCIL  
DATE: February 23, 2012**

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Three Lakes Council was held on February 23, 2011 at the home of Jack and Betsy Sinnott.

Present were: Jack Sinnott, President; Jan Andersen, Vice president; John Lemke, Treasurer; Jean Lewis, Secretary; Joe Tansey, Lake Oscaleta Association; Beth Llanos, Lakeside Association; David Eggers, Perch Bay Association; Alayne Vlachos, South Shore Association; Tizzie Mantione, Waccabuc Country Club; Peter Gross, Two Lake Club.

President Jack Sinnott called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM. He welcomed two new Board members, Peter Gross, who will represent the Two Lake Club; and Doug Housman, who will represent the Lake Waccabuc Association.

*(Due to an unfortunate oversight, Doug Housman was not informed of the meeting, so we hope to welcome him to the next meeting).*

**Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer John Lemke explained that the Council keeps two separate bank accounts: a General Fund, and a BEEP (Brazilian Elodea) Fund.

As of 1/31/11 the balances in those accounts were:

General Fund	\$84,150
BEEP Fund	<u>29,709</u>
TOTAL	\$113,859

John presented the proposed 2012 Budget:

<b>FIRM OR CONTRACTED EXPENSES:</b>	<b>11 BUDGET</b>	<b>11 ACTUAL</b>	<b>12 BUDGET</b>
ITEM			
Insurance	4500	4122	4500
Admin/Printing/Mailing	4500	2461	4000
Taxes/Maint	400	382	400
Picnic	2,000	1662	2000
CSLAP	1350	0	3850
NYS FOLA dues	150	150	150
Lake/Stream Consultant	5000	5880	2500
Goose Control	0	0	0
Security Guards	0		4000
Water Testing	2000	620	0
Misc. Expenses	600	220	600
Website	200	15	200
Brazilian Elodea Efforts	<u>7500</u>	<u>7747</u>	<u>7500</u>
<b>SUBTOTAL FIRM EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$28,200</b>	<b>\$23,259</b>	<b>\$29,700</b>

**SOFT ITEMS TO BE MANAGED DEPENDING ON INTEREST & VOLUNTEERS**

<b>BEEP</b>	30000	0	23000
ZOOP Testing			2200
Fish Stocking	2000	0	3000
Aerator Consult/Maint	1000	0	1000
Professional Conf/Meetings	1500	610	1500
Educational seminars	1500	0	1000
Equipment	<u>1500</u>	<u>381</u>	<u>500</u>
<b>SUBTOTAL SOFT ITEMS</b>	<b>\$37,500</b>	<b>\$991</b>	<b>\$32,200</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$65,700</b>	<b>\$24,250</b>	<b>\$61,900</b>

Upon a motion proposed by Joe Tansey and seconded by David Eggers, the budget was unanimously approved.

**BEEP PRESENTATION**

Jack Sinnott informed the Board that the Three Lakes Council is well represented in the wider circle of lake management organizations by Jan Andersen. He asked Jan to share a presentation she made before the North East Aquatic Plant Management Society titled:

***BEEP, Brazilian Elodea Eradication Project on Lake Waccabuc: A Case Study of Early Detection and Rapid Response.***

The slides she created for this Powerpoint presentation will be posted on the Three Lakes Council Website: [www.threelakescouncil.org](http://www.threelakescouncil.org)

Though many at the NAPMS conference were either academics or management firms oriented toward chemical treatment of invasive aquatic vegetation, Jan received positive feedback about our experience with a non-chemical approach.

Jan stressed the importance of early detection and rapid response.

**BEEP Monitoring**

Following the 2009 suction harvesting operation, Jan and her partner, Lou Feeney, spent approximately 800 volunteer hours scuba diving and snorkeling to monitor for any further evidence of Brazilian Elodea.

The Board discussed options we could explore regarding future monitoring, including hired scuba divers trained in recognizing invasive aquatic plants and possibly offering a financial incentive for finding BE.

A consideration: Jan and Lou knew what they were looking for and marked the GPS locations where BE was found. In order to provide useful data, a hired diver would have to possess both plant identification and GPS skills.

Since Brazilian Elodea likely entered Lake Waccabuc from an aquarium, Joe Tansey stressed the importance of educating residents to not dump aquariums into the lakes.

## **Nature Conservancy Property**

Recently, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) informed 3LC that it was interested in transferring its ownership of land at the west end of Lake Waccabuc to another entity, and asked if the Three Lakes Council would be interested. Since it is not in our mission to hold land, the Executive Committee suggested that ownership be discussed with the Westchester Land Trust (WLT). The Land Trust is seriously considering this offer.

Hiking trails on the property are open to the public, but following our recent experience removing Brazilian Elodea from Lake Waccabuc, we have a strong interest in ensuring that that lake access from this property is prohibited. A Document of Understanding is being developed regarding joint WLT-3LC stewardship on the property. This work will be decided upon by the WLT Board in the near future.

The Three Lakes Council offered to cover the cost of hiring a security guard during times of peak usage during the summer months. We have included \$4,000 in the 2012 budget for this. Contracted security could be augmented by local volunteers. John Lemke volunteered to oversee security activities, and David Eggers offered to assist.

## **Lewisboro Lakes Committee**

Several years ago the Town formed the Lewisboro Lakes Committee consisting of representatives of all lakes in town. One of the Three Lakes representatives, Ron Tetelman, recently resigned from the Committee following his appointment to the Planning Board. Jack Sinnott announced that Ed Delaney has agreed to be his replacement with John Lemke as an alternate on the Committee.

Jack thanked Ed and John for assuming this task, and also thanked Paul Lewis and Jan Andersen who continue to serve, and Jack Cedarholm who represented Lake Rippowam when the Committee was originally formed.

## **Impressive Website Usage**

Jan Andersen reported that the website ([www.threelakescouncil.org](http://www.threelakescouncil.org)) has been receiving an impressive 500-600 hits per month.

## **2012 Activities**

### **Newcomers Gathering – May 18<sup>th</sup>**

Jack announced that this year we will hold a Newcomers Gathering to welcome new residents to the lakes and inform them of our role in protecting the lakes. Tizzie Mantione reserved the Waccabuc Country Club Carriage House on Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup> for the gathering.

A suggestion was made that we have sign up sheets describing committee tasks and recruit new residents to serve.

### **May Membership Drive**

Jack Sinnott will assume responsibility for the kickoff of the 2012 membership drive if another volunteer cannot be identified.

### **May – June Newsletter**

The publishing date for the Newsletter is June 30<sup>th</sup>. Jack asked Board members to be thinking about topics and writers for articles.

For the past several years Judy Hausman has served as Newsletter editor, assisted by Stephanie Harding who has done layout. Last year Judy said she did not want to continue as editor, so a replacement will need to be found.

### **Picnic date TBD**

Tizzie Mantione reported that the Waccabuc Country Club Carriage House and Beach have already been booked for other events and are therefore not available for our picnic date at the end of July. She will check to see if there is a free date in early August.

Jack thanked Tizzie for making arrangements with the Country Club for both the Newcomers Event and the picnic.

He noted that we will need to find someone to replace Barbara Posner as picnic organizer.

**Beavers** - Peter Gross asked about the Three Lakes Council's position regarding the beaver dam by the Oscaleta-Waccabuc culvert.

Jack stated that, to date, the Council has not been formally involved. Residents have voluntarily removed debris, and the Town is responsible for maintaining its culvert. However, since the beaver dam is limiting recreational use of the lakes by making the culvert impassable at times for canoes and kayaks, and lake water levels are being affected, maybe 3LC should play a more active role.

Jack asked for a committee to investigate the issues, do some fact finding, and determine the role of the Town, the DEC and the Three Lakes Council and volunteers. He requested that the committee come back to the Board with recommendations at our next Board meeting planned for the last week in March.

Peter Gross will lead this committee, and Joe Tansey and David Eggers will serve on the committee.

**Goose Oiling** – Jack and Betsy Sinnott and Peter and Lynn Beardsley will share responsibility for this effort on Lake Waccabuc. Joe Tansey volunteered to monitor Lake Oscaleta.

### **Open Positions – Unassigned Tasks**

**Communications Coordinator** – A volunteer is needed for developing a coordinated annual communications plan. At present, we communicate through the Website, the Google-group, the Annual Newsletter, and topical postcards.

**Picnic Coordinator** – A volunteer is needed to assemble a team for picnic set-up and cleanup, purchasing wine and other beverages, etc. (Joe Tansey assembles the "grilling team" and meat purchases.) Records from previous years were kept by the previous coordinator, Barbara Posner, and are available for the new coordinator.

**Membership/Newcomers Chair** - A volunteer is needed to kickoff the May membership drive and assume responsibility for assembling and distributing Newcomers Packets.

**Trees for Tribs Coordinator** – A volunteer is needed to monitor the trees planted at the west end of Lake Waccabuc and see that they are maintained.

**Next Board Meeting:** The next Board meeting is scheduled for the last week in March.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jean Lewis, Secretary