

**Lake Colby Association
Annual Meeting August 19, 2022 at 4pm
Held at the Keet Shorehouse
Meeting Minutes**

(Meeting starts at 2:30 mark on Zoom)

Attendance in person:

- Dan Kelting (Exec Director of PSC Adirondack Watershed Institute)
- Debbie Neill – Treasurer; taking over for Lee Keet
- Tracey Schrader – member of Harrietstown Town Council & Deputy Supervisor of the Town
- Mark Epstein and Lauren Epstein - Residents, Little Colby Pond
- Mike Setteducati & Laura Sigman – 36 Moir
- Lee Keet
- Nancy Keet, President of the Association
- Matt Scollin, Village of SL Board member

Attendance via Zoom:

- Ann Greene
- Huda Scheidelman

Nancy Keet thanked us all for attending the meeting which is our 25th Anniversary of the LCA. This is the 25th Anniversary of the Lake Colby Association (N. Keet)

Nancy called the meeting to order (N. Keet)

Motion to approve the 2021 minutes.

Motions made. All approved. (Noted at 4:25 mark of recording.)

Agenda

Nancy handed out those who needed an agenda; please contact

N. Keet thanks Debbie for doing the water sampling this year. Once a month for June, July, August.

Financials

Deb report on financial status:

- Checking account: \$14,194.26
- Savings account: \$8,840.72
- Foundation: \$19,194.88

Every five or six years the road needs to be graded. It has nothing to do with Little Colby but everybody contributes to a fund depending on how far away you are from the main street. This money is placed in our savings account and is ear marked "Road Escrow" which is used to help

Election of Officers

Lake Colby Association Board:

- Ann Greene, Jim Moore, Debbie Neill, Aaron Kramer
- Would Ann and Debbie like to continue? Yes.
- Nancy to call Jim and Aaron to confirm.
- All approved by show of hands.

Officers:

Nancy Keet as President willing to run again.

Debbie did a great job as treasurer.

Huda unfortunately does not want to be secretary because she feels she is unable to make meeting. Laura Sigman agrees to do.

Question on what is being constructed behind auto dealership: Self-storage facility.

Meeting adjourned at 5:25pm.

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Water Levels

The water levels have been extremely high. Has it been bothering anyone's docks?

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Lee, caretaker, others clear the debris on the outlet (to help regulate the water levels) – plan is to try and take it down another six inches; volunteers from this group always needed/welcome.

Other lake levels in the ADK are being reported as low.

Loon Count

There was a loon count this year; usually held either the second or third week of July.

Debbie counted Little Colby; Lee counted Lake Colby.

- Lee: Two adult loons on the lake here, and one very large male loon over in North Bay. We did not see any chicks.
- Debbie: No loons counted on Little Colby Pond. Mother and chick were spotted in the Colby brook swamp area on Colby. There were actually two chicks born this year but likely one taken by eagles. Debbie watched two weeks later, as the two eagles were trying to catch the remaining chick; luckily it had matured enough to submerge itself long enough to stay safe while the two parents on top of the water were very angry.

Water Quality Report

Delivered by Dan Kelting.

Background: Lake Colby has been participating in the Adk Lakes Assessment program for 19 years. Science-based water quality control program run jointly by the Protect the Adirondacks (PROTECT) and Paul Smith's College Adirondack Watershed Institute (AWI)

Debbie is our volunteer to measure water sample 3x year:

- Middle of June
- Middle of July
- Middle of August

You can go up to 5x year; the more you measure, the more accurate the results and the more it costs.

- Question from attendee: You mentioned it's expensive? Response: \$250 for three samples. Yes, \$500 for May-September, 5 months.
- Benefits to 5x?

Albany has described reservoir as being 'choked out' (by milfoil); you may need to just use more product.

Any follow-up treatment would be hand harvest.

Lee: We could prepare another survey – not this year; too late to do, and too late to apply for another permit.

Ann: Completely opposed to the use of ProcellaCOR. This product is way to new to assume it doesn't have effects on other wildlife/Lake Colby. I'd like to see quite a few more years go by to understand this product more thoroughly. Would not support using it. Feels that definition of 'widely used' is up for further discussion; feels it's too soon.

Mark felt it was too soon also and stressed doing another survey to compare the growth of EM.

Lee proposed that we do a survey; hire Solitude to do again – comparative analysis. We would have results of the survey in time for further discussion in 2023. If discussion leads towards the Possibility of all agreeing to the use of ProcellaCOR, then possibly a permit could be applied for use in 2024.

EPA is pretty conservative (about what goes into waterways, etc.).

Ann asked, does the Village support given public beach? Matt Scollin of the Village board responded that it has not been presented for discussion and certainly would want as much data as possible.

Minerva has had no problem per Dan; Tracey to take back to Town/Board and would want more info/data as well.

To sum up: Consensus; fine more info, do a survey (need to vote on spending the money and assess our members). Survey cost most recently was \$7,000.

Last year we just did Lake Colby; Little Colby Pond members, voted themselves out.

Nancy was calling for a motion: Solitude Mgmt or similar to survey the lake again next year if it means we might need to assess ourselves? Members seemed to be okay with that.

Huda asks: Will this show against last survey – rate of growth? Yes. Huda felt we should try to take action as soon as possible once we have the results, so we wouldn't have to spend more money for another survey.

Ann disagreed and thought we should not take quick action, we need to continually have more data on the safety and need to move forward with everyone properly informed.

Nancy: Take a vote on taking the survey; meeting in July 2023 and making a decision then. (Last survey was the beginning of July; need to attempt to do survey at the same time as last one.)

Treasurer will need a mechanism to assess us all.

All in favor: Motion passed.

Per Dan, better for transparency, phosphorus, & chlorophyll-a monitoring, metals and chloride usually remain pretty much the same.

We can afford it if anyone thinks it's needed.

Please refer to attachment (note: attachment available from Board president or Dan Kelting) for additional information regarding points discussed in this section.

We're tracking over 10 water qualities; Dan refers to table on the handout for raw data and averages.

We measured these indicators to understand the three main stressors for Lake Colby:

1. Eutrophication – associated with increase of excess nutrient loading into the watershed and lake; faulty septic systems, fertilizer, erosion
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3. Salinization

Details are all throughout the table that will be referenced as we go along.

All 10 indicators not showing any trends; lake is relatively stable.

Out of the 64 lakes that participated, Lake Colby is one of the most transparent (can see an average of 15 feet).

By comparison, one third of the lakes that participated in the program are experiencing declining transparency. Two explanations: Lakes that were acidified lost their color. Since reduction of emissions, we're actually seeing a greater release of organic material that imparts color; 'browning' could be an indicator of color re-entering the lakes. The other is we're seeing warmer weather, so greater decomposition in the watershed/more release into the water. (Climate change.) So, one negative one positive.

Lake Colby is in the N.E. Adirondacks, making the location much less sensitive to the effects of acidification.

The big concern for Lake Colby continues to be salinization.

We haven't seen any changes in the data that suggests any reduction in salt application on the roadways so Lake Colby continues to have to have the highest road salt/sodium concentration of all of the lakes that we sampled.

Referring to the table for chloride Concentration is around 62 MG per liter. As a point of reference, if remote a lake would have .2 MG per liter.

Question from Tracey: Spoke to someone on the Salt Reduction Taskforce, and brought up Lake Colby. He asked where the runoff from the hospital parking lots go – she was told it comes into Lake Colby.

Per Lee, ultimately gets to Lake Colby but not directly. (Filtration basins at foot of hospital.)

2021 – had a consultant, Leigh Walrath, and also Solitude Lake Management that recommended the herbicide ProcellaCOR and DASH: Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting.

Decision was to wait a year; anecdotally didn't see much of an increase. This year, anecdotally what are people seeing?

(Noting at :52 mark audio interference from Zoom)

Per Lee, regrowing – at some point they are also spreading from dropping seeds. Slower than expected, but present.

Per Nancy, the question is: We have some money in our savings but not enough to do the diving. Per Lee, we were spending \$25 – 30k a year on the dive team. Per Dan, there is a team that goes around – currently working in Lake Placid that is available/doing. We have spent over \$400,000 over the past years in eurasian milfoil control.

We raised money through grants and through the town (in the past); I don't think we can continue to do it unless we have someone who is willing to take over aggressive grant writing. And, we need to do more than just hold back the growth – need to do something to obtain grants.

ProcellaCOR:

Mark would like to see a formal survey done to compare the growth before considering a herbicide. Last survey done in 2021 at cost of c. \$7k, per Lee. We can do it again.

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Tracey asks: What's the data from Newcomb Lake?

Minerva Lake was surveyed; most of it occupied by milfoil and used ProcellaCOR; obtained complete control, per Dan.

Very selective against the target species of milfoil.

Last summer after treatment no regrowth observed.

Cost was a magnitude cheaper than hand harvesting; Dan did not have figures with him.

What makes it selective? The formulation is designed to work on that particular plant.

ProcellaCOR cheaper and more selective; NYC watershed uses.

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Being routinely used in Vermont lakes; Lake George has a permit that's in litigation.

Nancy: If we waited another year and took this over next year (additional data, expansion of milfoil in Lake Colby, etc.) after seeing more data, would the milfoil have gotten too big to be able to use it?

The gentleman on the Taskforce brought up the valid concern. Per Lee, larger contributor is state trucks. Constant attempts to address with the DOT.

Per Lee, plenty of room to take a piece of the Lake Colby public parking lot – north end of beach parking lot – to route the filtration. Discussed c. 10 years ago but nothing done. That could be made into an ecologically sound barrier.

Per Tracey, they are going to start to track/measure what goes in to each truck.

Dan leads a salt impacts working group on a taskforce set-up by Gov. Hochul. One of the tasks of their group was to come up with recommended limits to chloride to manage to – under 62 MG per liter. Report in final draft right now – stating no lake will have a greater concentration than 40 MG per liter.

Remedy for Lake Colby (at 62): Road alt applications have to be brought down.

Per study/ies, at 40 MG you start to see marked improvement/impacts to ecosystems.

Also recommending to get most below 10 MG.

Challenge: No one including the State of NY has no idea how much salt they are using. Rate and total amount put down every year needed.

Guesstimate to how long it will take to get to that number: Report due end of Aug; polished report to Governor is due in October.

(Noting from 30:55 – c. 32 mark interference to audio due to attendees on Zoom)

How quickly will (Lake Colby) respond? Relatively quickly; in most lakes and big rivers sampled in data, no longer seeing trends in sodium chloride suggesting that watersheds are saturated – what's coming in is going out.

If we reduce/stop we should see a change immediately but it will take a long time for it to move out. Chloride and sodium especially bind to soil.

Question from Lee: Our sodium levels are on average at 30 – doesn't the Federal government have a standard of 20? For publicly regulated drinking supplies, it is 20 MG per liter. For people on sodium restricted diets, the regulation that comes from the Dept of Health is 270 MG per liter.

The Village water is above that 20; Village has to address.

Noted that if we're driving down the chloride we're driving down the sodium. Both are measured; managing for the chloride.

Something new: Came up with an index to measure how corrosive the water is. Chloride is very corrosive. In Flint, MI, chloride was the source of that crisis when they switched to the Flint river vs. paying more for Detroit.

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Lake Colby is highly corrosive (based in indices created) – hot water heaters, etc., drawing from lake could experience signs of corrosion. Any advanced signs of corrosion for residents drawing from lake?

Per Mike S and Laura S: Drink bottled water; use lake water for everything else.

Ann Green: Drink bottled water; use lake water for everything else. Having trouble drawing from the lake currently but thinks it's due to age of pipes.

Lastly, sodium is kicking out the calcium so the lake has higher calcium levels. As a result, mussels (invasive species) generate/populate.

Dan also manages an invasive species program – is at the end of a five year program so should have a bid process coming in.

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Not on agenda: Nancy asks is anyone wants to volunteer for the loon census?

Debbie will continue to do Little Colby Pond

Water sampling:

Debbie will continue to do Lake Colby.

Per Lee, we could add Little Colby Pond as a data set; it would just be another couple of hundred dollars. Mark and Lauren Epstein volunteer to do the sampling. LCA will cover the sampling cost. Debbie will help with acquiring equipment and sampling procedures.

Dan notes recent additions have been made to the water sample study, including Lake Flower which has never been on before. Will add Little Colby Pond for 2023. It will be interesting to see what the salt/chloride concentration is in LCPond.

Lake level: Should we be monitoring the level of the lake?

Lee Volunteered to be our lake level monitor.

Boat launch signage: We used to check but hasn't been done in 2022. Debbie has been continually filling the dispensary with our information pamphlet. The dispensary was broken, so Roger Neill kindly made a new one out of metal so it should hold up well. Need a volunteer to keep the cleaning the fishing line collection tube. Debbie stated that the fishing line tube is no longer there. Lee volunteered to check with Nina Schoch to see if another one might be advised.

Tracey passes regularly and will check.

Other business:

Eurasian watermilfoil. Since Covid, no diving and bagging for milfoil.

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