CANDLEWOOD LAKE AUTHORITY
Member Municipalities: Brookfield • Danbury • New Fairfield • New Milford • Sherman

PO BOX 37 • SHERMAN, CT 06784 • P (860) 354-6928 • F (860) 350-5611

Minutes of CLA Regular Meeting
Wednesday, October 15, 2025 - 7:00PM via ZOOM

ATTENDING:		**ABSENT:**	
P. Schaer	Sherman	D. Cushnie	Sherman
M. O'Connor	Sherman	B. Licht	New Fairfield
		J. Archer	New Fairfield
J. Main	New Fairfield		
		M. Gaffey	Brookfield
W. Meikle	Brookfield		
B. Lohan	Brookfield		
		E. Siergiej	Danbury
		S. McColgan	Danbury
		J. Laughinghouse	Danbury
S. Kluge	New Milford		
M. Toussaint	New Milford		
J. Wodarski	New Milford		

M. Howarth, Executive Director
N. Mellas, Chief
N. Stalter, Director of Ecology
Dee Wright, Administrative Coordinator
M. Gasperino, Operations Manager

Recorder: D.Wright

Guests: 3

*Chairman, **Martin O'Connor**, called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.*

PUBLIC COMMENT
None

CONSENT AGENDA
***Martin O'Connor** made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by **Will Meikle**, all voting in favor.*

TREASURER (Will Meikle)
Will noted that the audit for the fiscal year ending in June has been completed, and no issues were identified by the auditor. The auditor will be sending his draft audit and will attend the board meeting in November. Will discussed the current fiscal year and that we are slightly behind but that is because we have not invoiced DEEP yet for the Lake

Stewards. Will mentioned that we are in the middle of the budget cycle and has met with most committees. Budget reviews will happen on the 30th of October.

PUBLIC SAFETY (Mark Howarth)
Mark noted that the season is wrapping up for the patrol, and we are now entering our hiring season, and we are getting ready for the interview process. Nick added the lake has been quiet with lower volume as the season ends.

EQUIPMENT & FACILITIES (Mark Howarth)
Mark discussed that buoys will begin to be removed next week. Mark added that we are expecting the work to replace the roof on the Sherman base should begin any day now, and vessels will be getting winterized. Mike mentioned that the jet skis have been winterized already and put away.

PUBLIC AWARENESS (Mark Howarth)
Mark discussed that all the CLA educational videos are complete for the year and several are ready for next year to post. We are hoping to have one more video complete to post this year regarding raking leaves into the lake. Mark discussed that he and Neil have continued to work on redesigning the home page with the vendor. Mark noted that a few more tweaks need to happen before the content is added. Work will begin on the appeal, and Mark will be meeting with Joan, Marianne, and Cathy and the appeal letter which should be sent out in November.

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT (Steve Kluge, Neil Stalter)
Steve mentioned that they finished up water sampling for the season. Neil added that he has begun working on the lake steward report and the water quality report will begin soon. DEEP conducted another fish removal and removed 20 carp. NALMS conference is in early November, and Neil is looking forward to presenting, and Steve is also creating two posters for the conference. Neil noted that he worked with Will on the 26/27 budget, and it will be discussed next week in the Watershed meeting for approval.

Will discussed the science vessel.

Will Meikle *made a motion to approve a not to exceed price of $310,000 (inclusive of $25,000 deposit) for the CLA to purchase a new science vessel from Munson Boats, seconded by* ***Mark Toussaint****, all voting in favor.*

ADJOURN
Martin O'Connor *made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by* ***Steve Kluge,*** *all voting in favor.*

The meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Archer dw

Joan Archer, Secretary
Dee Wright, Administrative Coordinator

These minutes are not considered official until they have been approved at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Candlewood Lake Authority

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Martin W. O'Connor, Chair
Candlewood Lake Authority

October 15, 2025

Municipalities
Attended a follow-up meeting in New Milford on Oct 9th, requested by New Milford Mayor Bass, which included leadership from Brookfield, Danbury, New Fairfield, DEEP, and Encon. The focus of the meeting was a debrief of the Islands closure and appropriate next steps for Islands and Ramps for the 2026 season. Considering the continued Health and Safety concerns, an agreement was reached to keep the Islands closed for the 2026 season. In addition, all agreed to improve the monitoring of the ramps with further operating details to be developed over the winter months with all parties.

Overall, it's exciting to see all parties working collaboratively with one aligned voice.

Committees:
All committees continue to meet regularly with no major concerns noted. The committees are also focused this month on the development of their respective 2026 budgets due the end of October to finance. I joined the HR committee as we look to elevate the services and information available to our staff while ensuring compliance to all regulatory requirements.

Financials:
We [Chair, Treasurer, Executive Director] have scheduled 30-minute budget review meetings on the 30th of October. Each Committee Chair will present their strategic goals, budget, and capex requirements.

Other: Continue to review existing legislation under which the CLA was formed and operate.

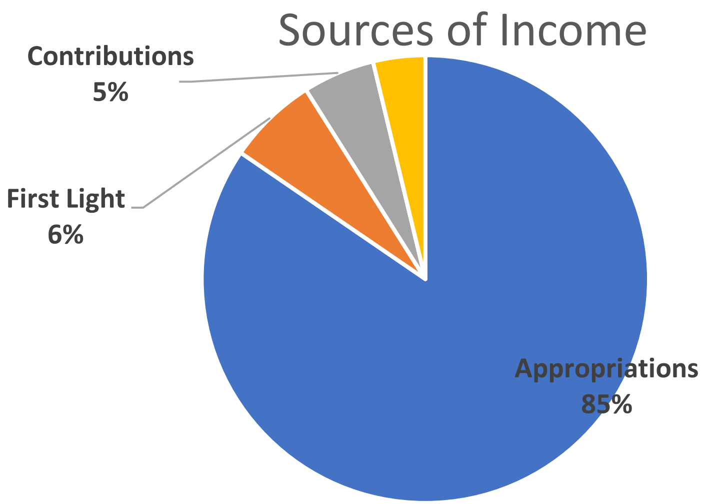
Martin W. O'Connor

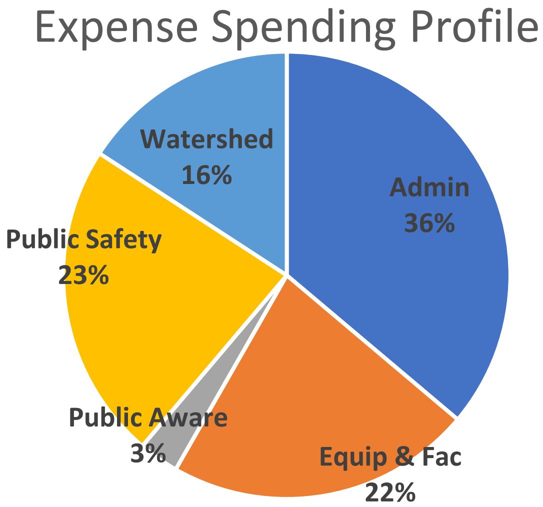
October 15, 2025

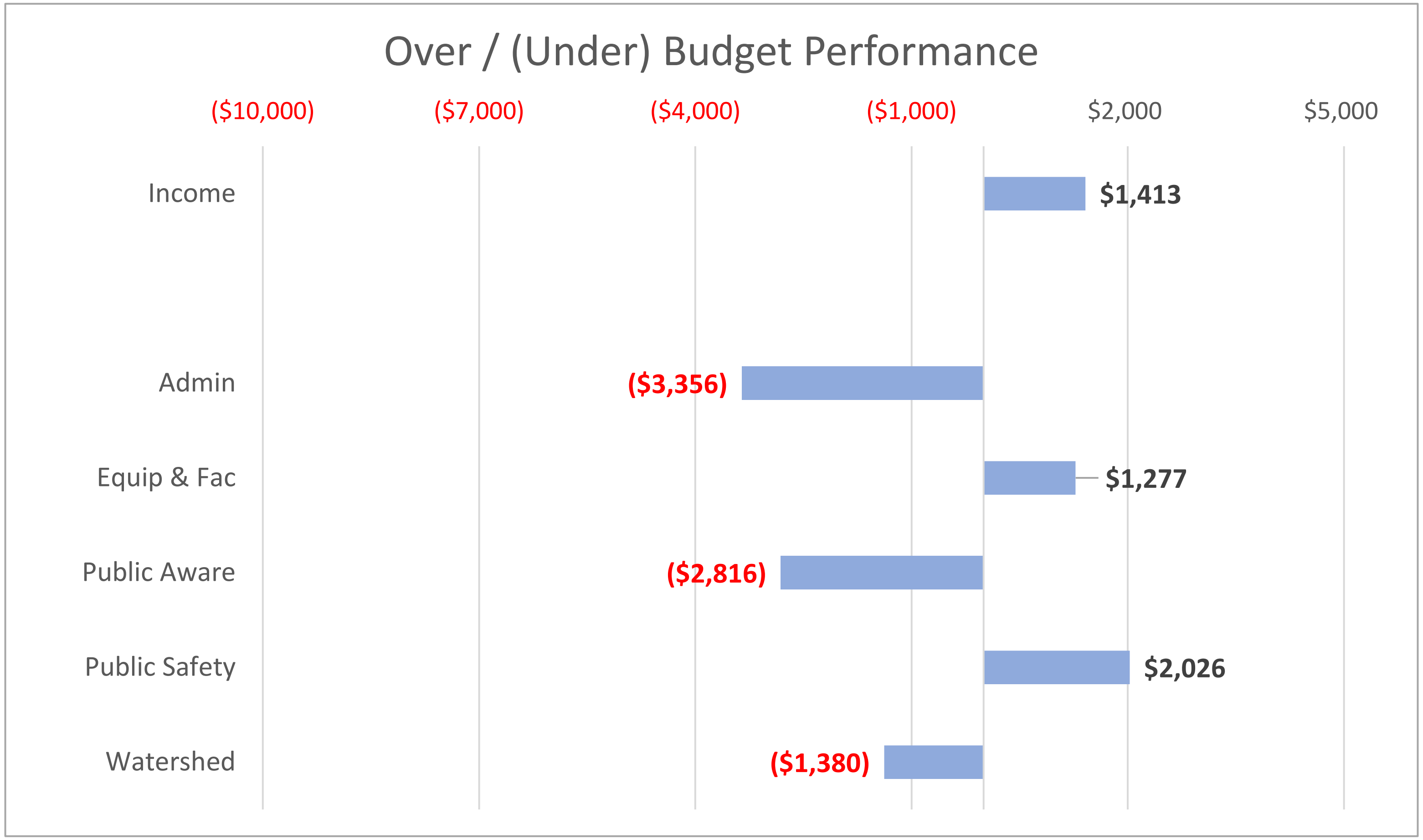
Finance Committee
Financial Results
September 2025

Income & Expense Overview

Financial Results thru September 2025







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Operational Income & Expense Summary

Financial Results thru September 2025

September 2025 Results	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	O / (U) YTD Budget	% of YTD Budget	FY Budget	FY Forecast	O / (U) FY F'cst	% of FY Budget
Income	$714,000	$715,413	$1,413	100%	$757,500	$758,913	$1,413	100%
Expenses								
Administration	$76,721	$73,365	($3,356)	96%	$273,855	$270,499	($3,356)	99%
Equipment & Facilities	$91,238	$92,515	$1,277	101%	$167,590	$168,867	$1,277	101%
Public Awareness	$3,000	$184	($2,816)	6%	$22,000	$19,184	($2,816)	87%
Public Safety	$86,648	$88,674	$2,026	102%	$174,280	$176,306	$2,026	101%
Watershed Management	$48,762	$47,382	($1,380)	97%	$119,775	$118,395	($1,380)	99%
Total Expense	$306,369	$302,120	($4,249)	99%	$757,500	$753,251	($4,249)	99%
Other Income/(Expense)	$0	($20,179)	($20,179)		$0	($20,179)	($20,179)	
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	$407,631	$393,114	($14,518)	96%	$0	($14,518)	($14,518)	-

** Accrual Basis Accounting*

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Key Drivers of the deltas to Budget

Income: Right on budget

Administration: Under budget driven by employee benefits and rent.

Equipment & Facilities: Slightly over budget driven by employee wages.

Public Awareness: Under budget on all line items.

Public Safety: Over budget driven by Maintenance (lower unit repair) but insurance reimbursement pending.

Watershed: Slightly under budget driven by employee benefits.

Committee Details

CANDLEWOOD LAKE AUTHORITY
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Income Details

	Sep 25	Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Delta	Annual Budget
Income						
901 · Appropriations	0.00	0.00	651,000.00	651,000.00	0.00	651,000.00
902 · Contribution from FirstLight	0.00	0.00	50,000.00	50,000.00	0.00	50,000.00
903 · Interest	3,689.84	3,000.00	9,852.92	9,000.00	852.92	25,000.00
911 · Miscelleanous Income	0.00	0.00	1,426.00	0.00	1,426.00	0.00
912 · Contributions and Donations	459.65	1,000.00	883.95	3,000.00	-2,116.05	35,000.00
915 · Sponsorship -programs/activitie	0.00	1,000.00	2,250.00	1,000.00	1,250.00	12,000.00
916 · Lake Patrol Services	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
917 · Buoy Contract	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
Total Income	4,149.49	5,000.00	715,412.87	714,000.00	1,412.87	777,000.00

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Administration Expense Details

	Sep 25	Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Delta	Annual Budget
Administration						
100 · Executive Director - Wages	8,275.00	8,275.00	24,825.00	24,825.00	0.00	99,300.00
101 · SS/Medi/CTUC	3,069.35	2,917.26	11,002.74	10,440.56	562.18	31,500.00
101A · Workers Comp Insurance	0.00	0.00	2,070.00	2,417.50	-347.50	4,835.00
102 · Exec Dir - Fringe Benefits	1,232.18	1,347.92	2,883.53	4,043.76	-1,160.23	16,175.00
110 · Admin. Coordinator - Wages	3,283.05	3,081.25	8,983.85	9,243.75	-259.90	36,975.00
112 · Admin Cor - Fringe Benefits	1,223.18	1,201.67	2,484.54	3,605.01	-1,120.47	14,420.00
113 · Insurance	3,092.66	3,000.00	6,186.32	6,000.00	186.32	12,000.00
114 · Telephone	250.00	300.00	800.00	900.00	-100.00	3,600.00
115 · Office Supplies	201.87	491.67	837.18	1,475.01	-637.83	5,900.00
116 · Postage	0.00	62.50	15.86	187.50	-171.64	750.00
117 · Audit	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,000.00
118 · Professional Services	598.62	1,545.83	4,870.20	4,637.49	232.71	18,550.00
119 · Bank and Service Fees	189.32	210.00	567.14	630.00	-62.86	2,500.00
121 · Expenses	82.92	83.33	914.70	249.99	664.71	1,000.00
122 · Internet Access	0.00	100.00	279.96	300.00	-20.04	1,200.00
124 · Technology Hardware & Services	984.45	833.33	3,343.50	2,499.99	843.51	10,000.00
161 · Office Rent	1,100.00	1,755.00	3,300.00	5,265.00	-1,965.00	21,060.00
Total Administration	**23,582.60**	**25,204.76**	**73,364.52**	**76,720.56**	**-3,356.04**	**287,765.00**

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Equipment & Facilities Expense Details

	Sep 25	Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Delta	Annual Budget
Equipment and Facilities						
200 · Personnel - Wages	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
210 · Operations Manager - Wages	4,588.00	3,810.00	14,539.00	11,440.00	3,099.00	45,730.00
212 · Ops Mgr - Fringe Benefits	0.00	100.00	150.00	300.00	-150.00	1,200.00
221 · Sherman Base - Repairs/Maint	0.00	250.00	514.05	750.00	-235.95	3,000.00
222 · Utilities - eletric	68.85	520.00	299.73	1,560.00	-1,260.27	6,240.00
223 · Internet and Security Systems	0.00	20.83	262.52	62.49	200.03	250.00
226 · Work Boats	0.00	500.00	1,127.17	1,500.00	-372.83	6,000.00
227 · Vehicle	0.00	166.67	612.10	500.01	112.09	2,000.00
228 · Dock and Trash Pick Up	0.00	41.67	0.00	125.01	-125.01	500.00
231 · Buoy Maintenance	0.00	0.00	10.43	0.00	10.43	2,675.00
261 · Capital Replacement Fund	0.00	0.00	75,000.00	75,000.00	0.00	75,000.00
Total Equipment and Facilities	**4,656.85**	**5,409.17**	**92,515.00**	**91,237.51**	**1,277.49**	**144,595.00**

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Public Awareness Expense Details

	Sep 25	Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Delta	Annual Budget
Public Awareness						
414 · Subscription services	0.00	416.67	183.94	1,250.01	-1,066.07	5,000.00
415 · Events and Displays	0.00	583.33	0.00	1,749.99	-1,749.99	7,000.00
417 · Fundraising	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,000.00
421 · Shoreline Cleanup	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,000.00
Total Public Awareness	0.00	1,000.00	183.94	3,000.00	-2,816.06	22,000.00

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Public Safety Expense Details

	Sep 25	Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Delta	Annual Budget
Public Safety						
300 · Lake Patrol Wages	11,711.04	8,909.34	41,532.12	46,241.42	-4,709.30	64,540.00
301 · CLAMP Chief Salary	3,537.50	3,537.50	10,612.50	10,612.50	0.00	42,450.00
311 · Boat Maintenance	1,913.88	1,560.00	13,906.59	4,680.00	9,226.59	21,500.00
312 · Gas and Oil	201.77	4,335.54	11,921.37	18,165.83	-6,244.46	25,900.00
313 · Insurance	2,635.34	2,731.25	5,270.68	5,462.50	-191.82	10,925.00
314 · Training	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,610.00
318 · Miscelleanous	0.00	100.00	0.00	300.00	-300.00	1,000.00
320 · Technology HW & Services	0.00	362.00	2,629.38	1,086.00	1,543.38	4,345.00
321 · Radio & Equipment	0.00	100.00	2,322.67	100.00	2,222.67	1,810.00
322 · Uniforms	0.00	0.00	479.00	0.00	479.00	2,920.00
324 · CLAMP Services - Fireworks	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
Total Public Safety	**19,999.53**	**21,635.63**	**88,674.31**	**86,648.25**	**2,026.06**	**183,000.00**

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Watershed Management Expense Details

	Sep 25	Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Delta	Annual Budget
Watershed Managment						
500A · Director of Ecology Wage	6,112.50	6,112.50	18,337.50	18,337.50	0.00	73,350.00
502 · Dlr. Ecology - Fringe	1,232.19	1,280.00	2,772.03	3,840.00	-1,067.97	15,360.00
511 · Lake and Stream Monitoring	0.00	2,533.33	7,221.82	7,599.99	-378.17	15,200.00
512 · E-Coli Bacteria Testing	655.00	500.00	2,980.25	1,500.00	1,480.25	3,000.00
513 · Cynobacteria testing (BG Algae)	0.00	333.33	0.00	999.99	-999.99	2,000.00
514 · Travel	0.00	250.00	365.40	750.00	-384.60	3,000.00
515 · Equipment and Supplies	0.00	200.00	160.31	600.00	-439.69	2,500.00
517 · Science Boat	0.00		0.00		0.00	2,530.00
518 · Insurance	0.00		0.00		0.00	200.00
531 · Professional Development	0.00	0.00	45.00	0.00	45.00	7,000.00
532 · Engineering and Consulting	0.00	0.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	0.00	15,000.00
599 · Miscellaneous	0.00	45.00	500.00	135.00	365.00	500.00
Total Watershed Managment	**7,999.69**	**11,254.16**	**47,382.31**	**48,762.48**	**-1,380.17**	**139,640.00**

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Other (Restricted Grants) Income/Expense Details

	Sep 25	Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Delta	Annual Budget
Other Income						
900-21B · DEEP AIS (Lake Steward)	0.00	5,000.00	0.00	15,000.00	-15,000.00	20,000.00
900-20A · HMS Foundation Trust	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Other Income	0.00	5,000.00	0.00	15,000.00	-15,000.00	20,000.00
Other Expense						
800-21B · DEEP AIS (Lake Steward)	4,136.40	5,000.00	19,381.80	15,000.00	4,381.80	20,000.00
8000 - Ask My Accountant	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Other Expense	4,136.40	5,000.00	19,381.80	15,000.00	4,381.80	20,000.00
Net Other Income / (Other Expense)	-4,136.40	0.00	-19,381.80	0.00	-19,381.80	0.00

Invoice to DEEP for 2025 Lake Steward Grant in process of being prepared

Capital Summary Status

Capital Summary for Fiscal Year 2025/2026		Available
Opening Balance as of July 1, 2025	$575,236	$344,692
Appropriations		
Annual Capital Appropriation	$75,000	$75,000
Capital Planned Expenditures		
Truck ($48,000 - Apr 2025)	($45,655)	
Sherman Base Roof ($10,000 - Aug 2025)		($10,000)
Silver Ships 3 ($250,000 - Sep 2023)	($182,888)	
Closing Balance as of August 30, 2025	$421,693	$409,692

Items is ( ) show amount & when CLA Board approved the expenditure

Balance Sheet Summary & Details

	Sept 30
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
1120 · USB Checking -0212	995,547.27
11000 · Accounts Receivable	97,650.00
Total Current Assets	1,093,197.27
TOTAL ASSETS	1,093,197.27

	Sept 30
Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
2000 · Accounts Payable	3,618.29
2500 · Accrued Expenses	3,520.00
2700 · Deferred Grant Income	
2700B · Grass Carp	4,981.00
2700 · Deferred Grant Income	0.00
Total 2700 · Deferred Grant Income	4,981.00
700 · CapitalProject Fund	421,692.58
Total Liabilities	433,811.87

	Sept 30
Equity	
3200B · Restricted	
3200B 1 · Education Programs	13,011.19
3200B 2 · Zebra Mussels	5,450.08
Total 3200B · Restricted	18,461.27
3200D · Assigned	
3200D 1 · HMS Initiatives	2,993.63
3200D 2 · Lake Incentives	31,538.44
3200D 3 · Buffer Garden	1,983.77
Total 3200D · Assigned	36,515.84
3200E · Unassigned	196,831.58
Net Income	393,113.53
Total Equity	659,385.40
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	1,093,197.27

Accounts Receiveable		
Danbury	July	$97,650.00
Total Accounts Receivable		$97,650.00

Accounts Payable		
Chatterton Marina	Sep	$201.77
Echo Bay Marina (service)	Sep	$174.26
ELAN FINANCIAL SERVICES	Sep	$0.00
Eversource 3075 SH	Sep	$68.85
Irene Chen	July	$500.00
Organizationink, Inc.	Sep	$650.00
Silver Ships	July	$56.51
Southridge Technology	Sep	$984.45
Union Savings Bank	July	-$0.05
York Analytical Laboratories, Inc.	Sep	$982.50
Total Accounts Payable		$3,618.29

Accrued Expenses		
Website Refresh	July 2024	$2,320.00
Accucom SW Upgrades	Jun	$1,200.00
Total Accrued Expenses		$3,520.00

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October 15, 2025
Executive Director
Mark Howarth

Monthly Report

- We met with our municipal leaders, the CT DEEP Boating and EnCon Police, and FirstLight to discuss the effectiveness of the island closures, which started prior to Labor Day weekend, and look at plans to improve the recreational environment on the lake in 2026 and beyond. The future of the islands was a focus, as was management of access points to the lake, primarily the boat launches, and we touched on needs for possible legislative changes. We expect to have additional meetings this offseason.

- We have now had Silver Ships III for about two months and have had a chance to use it and experience the boat and the modifications that were made to it. All reports are that the changes, such as the backlit switches for night visibility, metal doors for durability, and a new dashboard layout, are working out very well. We are looking into possibly incorporating some of those changes into our first two vessels for improved functionality.

- We are beginning the process of looking at legislative and regulatory changes that may help provide a safer boating environment on the lake, or help the ecology of the lake, and will provide updates as they become available.

- I completed the Sherman Annual Report for FY24/25, and it is attached at the end of my report. This is a report that the Town of Sherman requests from their departments to share the highlights of their work over the past year.

- We are continuing to modernize our HR policies and are looking into additional outside resources to enhance our HR capabilities.

- Many thanks to Will for all his budget prep work and his work with our committee chairs in preparing preliminary budgets for the committees for the FY26/27 budget. I have joined Will and the committee chairs in their meetings and look forward to the completion of the budget prep process in the coming weeks.

- Neil, Steve and I will be attending the North American Lakes Management Symposium (NALMS Conference) in three weeks. Neil will be presenting again this year, and Steve is creating two posters for the poster session. It will be nice to see the CLA's work on display at the conference in South Carolina this year.

- There have been a few obstacles with our website company as we have worked with them to redesign our homepage and some other pages. We believe we have nearly worked out the issues and will be able to put content in there shortly to go live with it.

- We have completed filming for the educational video series for the year, and we have a number of completed boating safety and ecology videos ready to release for the upcoming season. Thank you to Neil, Nick, our officers, and volunteers who have been involved in the video process.

CANDLEWOOD LAKE AUTHORITY

Preserving and Protecting Candlewood Lake Since 1972

Annual Report

Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025

During the 2024/2025 fiscal year the CLA continued to dedicate its time and resources to protecting the environmental values of Candlewood Lake while providing a safe recreational environment for all users through the Marine Patrol. The lake is in constant change, both environmentally and recreationally and the CLA is the only agency dedicated to understanding and addressing those changes so that this invaluable natural resource will remain so to the lake municipalities and region, for generations to come.

The CLA has a 15 member board of delegates, an office staff and a Marine Patrol of seasonal officers. The below report contains some highlights from the 2024/2025 fiscal year of the CLA.

Public Safety and Marine Patrol

The Candlewood Lake Authority patrols the waters of the lake throughout the week and on weekends from May to October. Candlewood Lake continues to receive heavy boating pressure and changing recreational use by those on the lake, requiring constant education, enforcement and changing strategies to provide the most effective public safety presence possible for the lake.

Lake Activity: During the 24/25 fiscal year, the heavy boating traffic on the lake during peak weekends and the overcrowding on some of the smaller islands of the lake presented public health and safety concerns. The changing recreational environment on the lake required a heightened Marine Patrol presence to address these concerns and help ensure the safety of the boating public. We continue to work with our municipalities, the CT DEEP and FirstLight to address these challenges.

On-board Software: To start the 2025 boating season, the CLA Marine Patrol implemented a new on-board software system that has proven to be extremely effective at improving efficiency, data collection, reporting and analysis - as well as on-water enforcement capabilities.

Jet Ski Task Force: The CLA Marine Patrol has increased the usage of their Jet Ski Task Force; officers patrolling the waters of Candlewood Lake on CLA Marine Patrol jet skis. Patrols on jet skis allow the CLA officers increased near-shore and close proximity access over a traditional patrol boat.

Vessels: The CLA awaited the delivery of their final purpose built patrol vessel during the summer of 2025. Due to unavoidable production delays it did not arrive prior to the end of the 24/25 fiscal year.

Event Safety: The CLA continues as the lead organization for on-water events held on the lake, reviewing Marine Event Permit Applications submitted to the CT DEEP. For the annual fireworks display the CLA coordinated public safety efforts with Danbury PD, the CT DEEP EnCon Police and multiple municipal fire department boats. A few weeks later in July, for the New Fairfield Lighted Boat Parade, the CLA provided a public safety presence on the water, which was coordinated with other fire department vessels on the lake.

Water Quality and Ecology

The Candlewood Lake Authority works to understand what is happening with the lake's ecosystem and understand how it is changing over the years and decades to be able to make better management recommendations for the long-term health of the lake.

Nutrient Budget: After a successful implementation of the first phase of the first-ever nutrient budget for Candlewood Lake during the summer of 2024, the summer of 2025 kicked off the second phase of the nutrient budget. A nutrient budget is a complete analysis of all sources of nutrient pollution entering the lake, which can contribute to algae blooms and water quality issues. Phase one studied the nutrients entering from the lake bed, called internal loading. Phase two is studying the nutrients coming in through the stream inputs to the lake as well as ground water.

Water Quality: Water quality continues to remain good in the lake, as our monthly monitoring program enters its 5th decade. This long data set helps the CLA to understand long term trends of the lake's water. In 2025 the CLA returned to once-monthly water quality monitoring, which had been the organization's practice until a recent change to twice-monthly. The second sampling of the water was not providing information deemed valuable enough to continue that practice, and those funds were redirected towards other needs.

Plant Life: Plant life in the lake remains minimal, but we continue to monitor the plant community for changes. New for the summer of 2025, the CLA added targeted in-season invasive plant monitoring at key locations, in the hopes that if any invasive plants were found that they would be identified early enough so that they could be contained and possibly eliminated.

Intern: For the summer of 2025, the CLA offered an environmental internship to an area college student. We will look to continue this valuable opportunity again next year.

Lake Stewards: The CLA Lake Stewards, our CT DEEP grant-funded invasive species boat launch monitoring program, kicked off it's 5th season in 2025. Lake stewards offer voluntary inspections for invasive species to boaters launching in Candlewood Lake and it has become a valuable education and prevention program for all who recreate here.

Zebra Mussels: Following the summer of 2024, many residents reported finding an increase of zebra mussels along their shoreline and on their boats and docks when they were removed for the winter, however the mussels saw a significant decline following the wintertime deep drawdown from 2024 through 2025. We continue to monitor the situation and are working to continue to educate the public on how to best coexist with the zebra mussels in the lake.

Beach Testing Partnerships: This fiscal year saw the continuation of our summer testing program for E. coli with the help of the New Fairfield Senior Center who gathers the samples from around the lake. WestConn continues the blue-green algae testing at the municipal beaches and we disseminate those results to the public.

Public Awareness and Equipment & Facilities

Public Engagement and Education: Our new educational video series went into full swing with filming, production and the release of videos during the 24/25 fiscal year. They have been very well received by the public and have served to educate thousands of lake users about boating safety and environmental awareness for the lake. These videos are produced in English and are made available with Spanish and Portuguese subtitles.

We spoke at various gatherings and schools and attended events, including the Sherman Community Expo in the spring of 2025. We communicate with the public through social media posts, maintain an informative website and send out electronic newsletters. The 2025 Annual Lake Clean Up had to be canceled due to weather.

Buoys and Boats: The CLA operations department deploys and maintains over 80 hazard, speed and navigation buoys for the safety of the boating public as well as our Sherman and New Fairfield office locations. We ensure that our patrol, science and work vessels are properly maintained and ready for service and we conducted the annual boat count of all of the resident boats on the lake, which totals over 6,000 vessels.

Candlewood Lake Authority Staff

Mark Howarth - Executive Director
Nick Mellas - Marine Patrol Chief
Neil Stalter - Director of Ecology
Dee Wright - Administrative Coordinator
Michael Gasperino - Operations Manager

Candlewood Lake Authority Board of Delegates

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CANDLEWOOD LAKE AUTHORITY

Member Municipalities: Brookfield • Danbury • New Fairfield • New Milford • Sherman

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J. Neil Stalter

Director of Ecology and Environmental Education

Candlewood Lake Authority

Re: October Monthly Report

Date: 10/15/2025

- Water quality monitoring has been completed for the year! We have the final batch of samples to bring to UConn. Once we receive those results, work can begin on the annual report!
    - We have two planned additional sampling activities left for the year, one plant scouting trip, and one sampling to establish a PFAS baseline in the lake.

- We haven't found much plant material in the lake over the course of the year, but are beginning to see some plant growth in the month of September including mostly eelgrass, as well as some isolated milfoil strands.
    - DEEP conducted another carp removal in the fall, but was generally less successful, removing only 20 carp. Removals in the fall tend to be less successful than those in the spring, and they also had some equipment issues. They might try a winter time removal, weather permitting.

- We have been planning in earnest for the science boat, and the beginning of the design and engineering phase is coming soon! We're very excited for the boat to start becoming a reality.
    - We had a meeting with FirstLight to discuss rolling out the news of the boat, as well as their partnership in making it a possibility. That will likely start once the design phase starts.

- We recorded more educational videos for the video series during our last recording day of the year! The science video was a reminder not to rake leaves into the lake. That video should be ready to go next week for posting.

- Mark and I have been working with MorWeb on a homepage refresh and are nearly complete. After some hiccups, we should have a complete and editable version soon.
    - We will add content for a planned winter soft launch, and spring/summer hard launch.

- We're getting ready for NALMS in early November! I will be presenting on the Lake Steward program's first 5 years, and Steve has 2 posters he will be presenting. The CLA will be well represented!

- I have begun work on the lake steward final report for 2025, as well as the reimbursement request for all the expenditures. Both will be submitted to DEEP next week.

- Special thanks to everyone who came to Irene's presentation at watershed last month. She did a great job, and I will be publishing her final report on our website.

- I am working with the various town zoning/public works/health departments on permitting for the test wells around the lake. We want to drill them all on the same day, so I need to get them all squared away before we can set up a drill date, but expect that to come this year.

- Our stream gauges are still in and will be checked intermittently through December. We haven't checked in a little while due to the drought conditions, but hopefully coming rain will begin to recharge the inputs.

- I will be renewing my CLM certification this year with NALMS, so I have been preparing that recertification request.

- We had a very successful meeting on Oct. 9 regarding the continued conversation around the islands and public safety on the lake. I look forward to continuing those conversations with that committee.