



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, November 13, 2024 - 7:00PM via ZOOM

ATTENDING:

D. Cushnie
M. O'Connor

Sherman
Sherman

B. Licht
J. Archer

New Fairfield
New Fairfield

M. Gaffey
W. Meikle
B. Lohan

Brookfield
Brookfield
Brookfield

E. Siergiej

Danbury

ABSENT:

P. Schaer

Sherman

J. Main

New Fairfield

S. Kluge
M. Toussaint
J. Wodarski

New Milford
New Milford
New Milford

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

Recorder: D. Wright

Guests: 2

*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 stated that we are doing slightly better than budget on income, mainly due to interest and business partnerships. Will noted that we are running ahead of budget on professional services, driven by legal and IT services. Public Safety is running ahead of budget due to major repairs and maintenance on vessels.

Will walked through the proposed 25/26 budget and he noted that the budget is nearly finalized. The final proposed budget should not deviate much from tonight's draft, and it will be presented to the Board to vote/ approve in December.

Will updated the Board that the draft audit report for fiscal year 2024 is complete reflecting a clean audit. Will and Mark will be meeting with the auditor tomorrow and he will join our December board meeting to provide an overview of the audit findings and opinion.

PUBLIC SAFETY (Bill Licht)

Mark, the Public Safety Committee, and the Marine Patrol leadership will begin working on updating the Policy & Procedures manual. We have a number of good candidates that we plan to interview for LPO positions. Interview dates are being worked on. Bill mentioned that they are working with DEEP for training class dates. The idea of body cameras continues to be explored for LPOs, and Nick is working on the final report for the season. Mark H. added that the Patrol is out of the water and it was a successful season. Marianne G. mentioned that Lake Lillinonah Authority had body cameras in their budget and Bill will discuss with Nick and follow up.

EQUIPMENT & FACILITIES (Mark Howarth, Michael Gasperino)

Michael G. provided an update on the vessels and that all have been winterized except for the Aquasport, which will be taken out in about two weeks, and the Ark is still in the water, which will be needed to remove the final two exclosures. He discussed that he is working on repairing some rotting wood on the shed. Michael is continuing maintenance & repair on the buildings. The base is ready for winter. Michael thanked everyone who helped with removing the buoys this fall.

PUBLIC AWARENESS (Mark Howarth)

Mark H. will be meeting with Joan and Marianne to work on the annual appeal letter, which will hopefully be distributed around Thanksgiving. The first public safety video regarding cold water paddling was posted on social media in October. There are three more videos ready for spring. We started to film the educational video on the CLA and the Patrol.

Martin thanked Ed Siergeij who will be stepping in as the interim committee chair for Equipment and Facilities.

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT (Neil Stalter)

Neil discussed that he, Mark and Steve just returned from NALMS. It was successful and they had many productive conversations about the nutrient budget project, learned a lot from other scientists and researchers and made a lot of good contacts. Neil presented at the NALMS conference about the patterns we saw after stocking the grass carp in the lake, the loss of the plants, and evidence of the plants coming back. Neil will go through more details in Watershed Management meeting next week. The final water quality sampling will be completed next week. Sampling has never been done in November. The final report will be ready after the results return from the lab. Three of the five exclosures were removed. Two exclosures showed no plant growth, the third had productive growth. The AIS grant application round is currently open, due December 6, we will apply to fund stewards for 2026 summer. Neil stated the shoreline management plan is coming up on its sixth review cycle and we heard from First Light that they plan on making modest changes. Proposed changes will be sent along to the board.

Mark H. commented on the NALMS conference's success and complimented Neil on a great presentation.

Michael G. mentioned there has been confusion about whether a shallow or deep drawdown is planned. Neil will confirm with First Light.

Marianne G. questioned if there had been any follow-up with the municipalities after last week's meeting. Mark H. mentioned that we will be following up with them in the next few days, and Mark has a call into Eversource.

Martin O. stated that Ed Siergeij will join the Executive Committee to represent Danbury for the time being until new Danbury delegates are appointed to the board and they decide on a permanent representative for the Executive Committee.

ADJOURN

*Will Meikle made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by **Marianne Gaffey**, all voting in favor.*

The meeting adjourned at 7:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joan Archer". To the right of the signature, there is a small, handwritten "DW" in superscript.

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 O'Connor, Chair
Candlewood Lake Authority**

November 13, 2024

Municipalities

Provided support at the meeting held on October 16th in Danbury Town Hall. The meeting included representation from four of the five municipalities, DEEP, and First Light. Mayor Bass from New Milford was unable to attend due to unforeseen circumstances.

The meeting produced open and candid feedback from all regarding the immediate concerns of overcrowding and sanitation concerns on the Islands, ferrying to the Islands, and noise. In summary, there is still much work to be done with action items noted and the CLA on track to follow up with all by November 18th.

We will continue to drive this important discussion before the pending holidays.

Committees and Delegates:

We had two Danbury Delegates resign from the CLA due to time constraints. We thank both Dan Rosemark and Chris Robinson for their years of service and dedication to the CLA's mission. We will miss them both.

The Danbury Mayor's office has advised us they are presently interviewing potential replacements. They expect to fill these open Delegate positions at the December 3rd City Council meeting.

Financials

I was able to attend our Treasurer's Committee budget reviews. I want to thank all the Committee Chairs for their support with the respective budget developments. The initial draft looks great, and I expect we will remain on track for our pending meetings with the towns.

Martin O'Connor

November 13, 2024

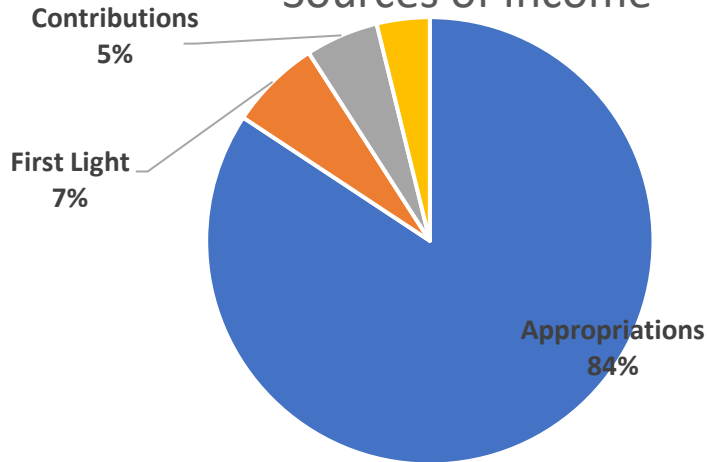
Finance Committee Financial Results October 2024



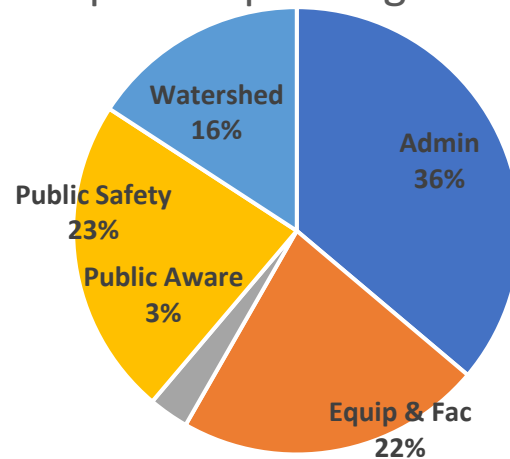
Income & Expense Overview

Financial Results thru October 2024

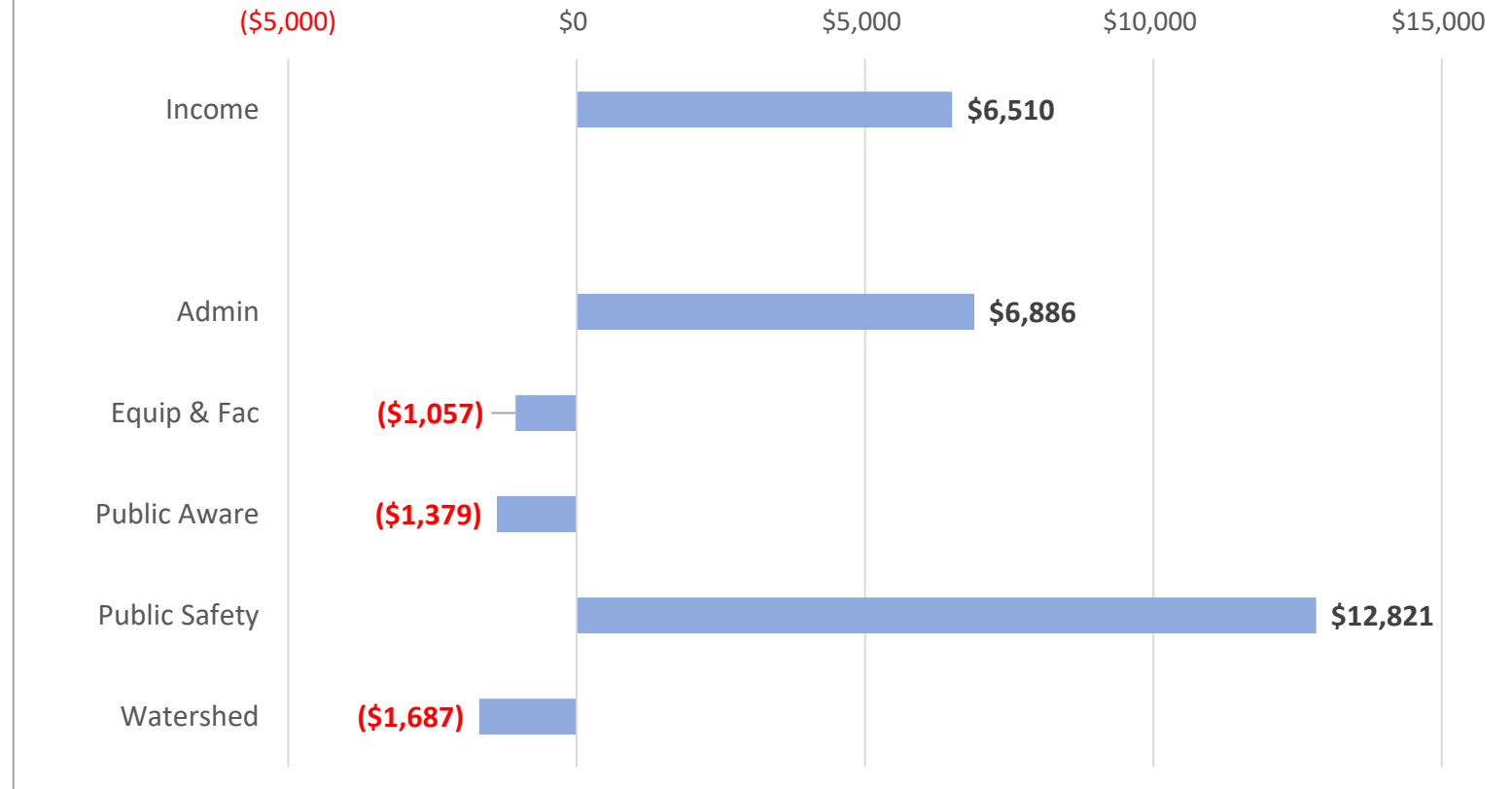
Sources of Income



Expense Spending Profile



Over / (Under) Budget Performance



Operational Income & Expense Summary

Financial Results thru October 2024

October 2024 Results	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	O / (U) YTD Budget	% of YTD Budget		FY Budget	FY Forecast	O / (U) FY Budget	% of FY Budget
Income	\$705,000	\$711,510	\$6,510	101%		\$757,500	\$764,010	\$6,510	101%
<u>Expenses</u>									
Administration	\$91,509	\$98,395	\$6,886	108%		\$273,855	\$280,741	\$6,886	103%
Equipment & Facilities	\$121,197	\$120,140	(\$1,057)	99%		\$167,590	\$166,533	(\$1,057)	99%
Public Awareness	\$4,000	\$2,621	(\$1,379)	66%		\$22,000	\$20,621	(\$1,379)	94%
Public Safety	\$92,821	\$105,642	\$12,821	114%		\$174,280	\$187,101	\$12,821	107%
Watershed Management	\$44,438	\$42,752	(\$1,687)	96%		\$119,775	\$118,088	(\$1,687)	99%
Total Expense	\$353,965	\$369,549	\$15,584	104%		\$757,500	\$773,084	\$15,584	102%
Other Income/(Expense)	(\$13,500)	(\$15,535)	(\$2,035)			\$0	(\$2,035)	(\$2,035)	
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	\$337,535	\$326,426	(\$11,109)	97%		\$0	(\$11,109)	(\$11,109)	-
* Accrual Basis Accounting									

Key Drivers of the deltas to Budget



Income: Exceeded budget driven by Interest Income



Administration: Over budget driven by higher Professional Services and payroll taxes, offset by rent cost.



Equipment & Facilities: Under Budget driven by overruns in Buoy expenses (timing issues only) offset by Utilities and Workboat costs .



Public Awareness: Under budget driven by Website expenses offset by CLA 2024 Cleanup expenses.



Public Safety: Over budget due to Boat Maintenance and Fuel costs offset by Lake Patrol Wages.



Watershed: Under budget driven by Professional Development.

Committee Details



Income Details

	<u>Oct 24</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Jul - Oct 24</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>YTD Delta</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
Income						
901 • Appropriations	0.00	0.00	638,500.00	638,500.00	0.00	638,500.00
902 • Contribution from FirstLight	0.00	0.00	50,000.00	50,000.00	0.00	50,000.00
903 • Interest	4,770.95	2,500.00	16,676.00	11,500.00	5,176.00	25,000.00
911 • Miscellaneous Income	0.00	0.00	568.63	0.00	568.63	0.00
912 • Contributions and Donations	24.12	1,000.00	3,265.67	4,000.00	-734.33	30,000.00
915 • Sponsorship -programs/activitie	0.00	0.00	2,500.00	1,000.00	1,500.00	10,000.00
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	<u>4,795.07</u>	<u>3,500.00</u>	<u>711,510.30</u>	<u>705,000.00</u>	<u>6,510.30</u>	<u>757,500.00</u>



Administration Expense Details

	<u>Oct 24</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Jul - Oct 24</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>YTD Delta</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
Administration						
100 • Executive Director - Wages	8,033.34	8,033.33	32,133.36	32,133.33	0.03	96,400.00
101 • SS/Medi/CTUC	2,387.88	2,566.25	12,567.19	10,265.00	2,302.19	30,795.00
101A • Workers Comp Insurance	0.00	0.00	2,109.00	2,317.50	-208.50	4,635.00
102 • Exec Dir - Fringe Benefits	1,300.66	1,258.33	5,179.75	5,033.33	146.42	15,100.00
110 • Admin. Coordinator - Wages	3,065.28	2,987.08	12,298.20	11,948.33	349.87	35,845.00
112 • Admin Cor - Fringe Benefits	1,051.11	1,109.17	4,451.99	4,436.67	15.32	13,310.00
113 • Insurance	0.00	0.00	6,172.74	5,855.00	317.74	11,710.00
114 • Telephone	250.00	300.00	1,075.00	1,200.00	-125.00	3,600.00
115 • Office Supplies	703.03	491.67	2,630.40	1,966.67	663.73	5,900.00
116 • Postage	0.00	62.50	375.40	250.00	125.40	750.00
117 • Audit	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,500.00
118 • Professional Services	891.13	1,320.83	11,032.83	5,283.33	5,749.50	15,850.00
119 • Bank and Service Fees	190.72	100.00	1,367.47	400.00	967.47	1,200.00
121 • Expenses	0.00	83.33	90.62	333.33	-242.71	1,000.00
122 • Internet Access	0.00	100.00	199.94	400.00	-200.06	1,200.00
124 • Technology Hardware & Services	560.00	666.67	2,311.53	2,666.67	-355.14	8,000.00
161 • Office Rent	1,100.00	1,755.00	4,400.00	7,020.00	-2,620.00	21,060.00
Total Administration	19,533.15	20,834.16	98,395.42	91,509.16	6,886.26	273,855.00



Equipment & Facilities Expense Details

	<u>Oct 24</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Jul - Oct 24</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>YTD Delta</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
Equipment and Facilities						
200 • Personnel - Wages	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
210 • Operations Manager - Wages	3,660.36	3,700.00	15,001.93	14,800.00	201.93	44,400.00
212 • Ops Mgr - Fringe Benefits	100.00	100.00	470.50	400.00	70.50	1,200.00
221 • Sherman Base - Repairs/Maint	0.00	250.00	400.11	1,000.00	-599.89	3,000.00
222 • Utilities - eletric	66.38	520.00	302.08	2,080.00	-1,777.92	6,240.00
223 • Internet and Security Systems	0.00	20.83	534.55	83.33	451.22	250.00
226 • Work Boats	0.00	500.00	1,042.57	2,000.00	-957.43	6,000.00
227 • Vehicle	283.07	166.67	1,043.32	666.67	376.65	2,000.00
228 • Dock and Trash Pick Up	0.00	41.67	0.00	166.67	-166.67	500.00
231 • Buoy Maintenance	0.00	0.00	1,345.00	0.00	1,345.00	2,000.00
261 • Capital Replacement Fund	0.00	0.00	100,000.00	100,000.00	0.00	100,000.00
Total Equipment and Facilities	<u>4,109.81</u>	<u>5,299.17</u>	<u>120,140.06</u>	<u>121,196.67</u>	<u>-1,056.61</u>	<u>167,590.00</u>



Public Awareness Expense Details

	<u>Oct 24</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Jul - Oct 24</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>YTD Delta</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
Public Awareness						
413 • School Programs	0.00	250.00	527.24	1,000.00	-472.76	3,000.00
414 • Subscription services	0.00	416.67	330.34	1,666.67	-1,336.33	5,000.00
415 • Events and Displays	0.00	333.33	667.18	1,333.33	-666.15	4,000.00
417 • Fundraising	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,000.00
421 • Shoreline Cleanup	0.00	0.00	1,095.93	0.00	1,095.93	4,000.00
Total Public Awareness	0.00	1,000.00	2,620.69	4,000.00	-1,379.31	22,000.00



Public Safety Expense Details

	<u>Oct 24</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Jul - Oct 24</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>YTD Delta</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
Public Safety						
300 • Lake Patrol Wages	6,131.54	3,751.20	45,960.72	50,894.30	-4,933.58	66,803.00
301 • CLAMP Chief Salary	3,433.34	3,433.33	13,733.36	13,733.33	0.03	41,200.00
311 • Boat Maintenance and Reimburse	1,693.00	0.00	16,479.80	1,950.00	14,529.80	13,250.00
312 • Gas and Oil	423.77	1,703.40	24,331.78	19,790.70	4,541.08	26,117.00
313 • Insurance	0.00	0.00	5,258.26	5,312.50	-54.24	10,625.00
314 • Training	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,475.00
318 • Miscellaneous	0.00	100.00	0.00	400.00	-400.00	1,000.00
321 • Radio & Equipment	0.00	0.00	-1,712.28	100.00	-1,812.28	1,810.00
322 • Uniforms	0.00	100.00	1,590.00	640.00	950.00	5,000.00
324 • CLAMP Services - Fireworks	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
Total Public Safety	11,681.65	9,087.93	105,641.64	92,820.83	12,820.81	174,280.00



Watershed Management Expense Details

	<u>Oct 24</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Jul - Oct 24</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>YTD Delta</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
Watershed Managment						
500A • Director of Ecology Wage	6,082.90	5,934.58	23,886.64	23,738.33	148.31	71,215.00
502 • Dlr. Ecology - Fringe	1,237.70	1,196.67	4,990.61	4,786.67	203.94	14,360.00
511 • Lake and Stream Monitoring	0.00	0.00	9,639.51	7,600.00	2,039.51	15,200.00
512 • E-Coli Bacteria Testing	0.00	0.00	918.00	1,500.00	-582.00	3,000.00
513 • Cynobacteria testing (BG Algae)	0.00	0.00	153.23	1,000.00	-846.77	2,000.00
514 • Travel	0.00	250.00	26.13	1,000.00	-973.87	3,000.00
515 • Equipment and Supplies	0.00	200.00	1,037.24	800.00	237.24	2,500.00
531 • Professional Development	0.00	3,500.00	2,100.18	3,500.00	-1,399.82	7,000.00
532 • Engineering and Consulting	0.00	83.33	0.00	333.33	-333.33	1,000.00
599 • Miscellaneous	0.00	45.00	0.00	180.00	-180.00	500.00
Total Watershed Managment	7,320.60	11,209.58	42,751.54	44,438.33	-1,686.79	119,775.00

Other (Restricted Grants) Income/Expense Details

	<u>Oct 24</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Jul - Oct 24</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>YTD Delta</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
Other Income/Expense						
Other Income						
Income Restricted/Grants						
900-21B • DEEP AIS (Lake Steward)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	18,000.00
Total Other Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	18,000.00
Other Expense						
800-21B • DEEP AIS (Lake Steward)	0.00	0.00	14,776.60	13,500.00	1,276.60	18,000.00
Total Expense Restricted/Grants	0.00	0.00	14,776.60	13,500.00	1,276.60	18,000.00
80000 • Ask My Accountant	0.00		759.12		759.12	
Total Other Expense	0.00	0.00	15,535.72	13,500.00	2,035.72	18,000.00
Net Other Income / Other Expense	0.00	0.00	-15,535.72	-13,500.00	-2,035.72	0.00

Capital Summary Status

Capital Summary for Fiscal Year 2024/2025		Available
Opening Balance as of July 1, 2024	\$491,824	\$263,730
Appropriations		
Annual Capital Appropriation	\$100,000	\$100,000
Capital Planned Expenditures		
Ark Engine (\$15,600 - Jun 2024)	(\$15,600)	
Silver Ship Propeller (\$1,750 - Aug 2024)	(\$1,762)	(\$1,762)
Total Expenditures		
Closing Balance as of September 30, 2024	\$574,462	\$361,968
Items is () show amount & when CLA Board approved the expenditure		

Balance Sheet Summary & Details

	Oct 31, 23
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
1120 - USB Checking -0212	1,130,120.78
Total Checking/Savings	1,130,120.78
Accounts Receivable	
11000 - Accounts Receivable	64,850.00
Total Accounts Receivable	64,850.00
Total Current Assets	1,194,970.78
TOTAL ASSETS	1,194,970.78

	Oct 31, 23
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
2000 - Accounts Payable	7,709.99
Other Current Liabilities	
Elan Financial Services	
24000 - Payroll Liabilities	8,515.89
2500 - Accrued Expenses	3,705.08
2700 - Deferred Grant Income	
2700A - DEEP CO2 Grant	13,418.06
2700B - Grass Carp	4,981.00
2700 - Deferred Grant Income	1,000.00
Total 2700 - Deferred Grant Income	19,399.06
700 - Due to/from CapitalProject Fund	574,461.83
Total Other Current Liabilities	606,081.86
Total Current Liabilities	613,791.85
Total Liabilities	613,791.85

	Oct 31, 23
Equity	
3200 - Retained Earnings	6,310.68
3200B - Restricted	
3200B 1 - Education Programs	21,099.07
3200B 2 - Zebra Mussels	6,276.00
Total 3200B - Restricted	27,375.07
3200D - Assigned	
3200D 1 - HMS Initiatives	5,245.06
3200D 2 - Lake Incentives	23,317.23
3200D 3 - Buffer Garden	1,983.77
Total 3200D - Assigned	30,546.06
3200E - Unassigned	190,520.90
Net Income	326,426.22
Total Equity	581,178.93
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	1,194,970.78

Accounts Receivable			
Danbury Appropriation	Inv# 2223	July	\$63,850.00
DEEP Buoy - 2024 Fall Retrieval	Inv# 2221	Feb	\$1,000.00
Total Accounts Receivable			\$64,850.00

Accounts Payable			
AccuCom Consulting - Tablet SW	J/E 24-17BC	June	\$6,000.00
Southridge Technology		Multi	\$1,120.00
Organizationink		Oct	\$525.00
Eversource		Oct	\$66.38
Elan Financial		Aug	-\$0.99
Marie Nugent		Aug	-\$0.40
Total Accounts Payable			\$7,709.99

Payroll Liabilities	
Simple IRA - 7/15/24	\$1,418.09
Simple IRA - 7/31/24	\$1,425.44
Simple IRA - 9/13/24	\$1,418.09
Simple IRA - 9/30/24	\$1,418.09
Simple IRA - 10/15/24	\$1,418.09
Simple IRA - 10/31/24	\$1,418.09
Total Payroll Liabilities	\$8,515.89

Accrued Expenses		
Patrol Lockers	Correction needed	-\$1,615.82
Website Refresh		\$2,320.00
Gilman Buoy Accrual		\$2,025.00
IT Security Audit		\$975.90
Total Accrued Expenses		\$3,705.08



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November 13, 2024
Executive Director
Mark Howarth

Monthly Report

- On Oct 16th we had a meeting with our municipal leaders, the CT DEEP EnCon Police and FirstLight to address growing concerns about the conditions of our islands, including sanitation issues and the pressures the islands are facing from high numbers of visitors coming to the small islands either via their own boats as well as via reported “ferrying” of passengers from public launches, who are then dropped at the islands.

We appreciated the collaborative spirit of the meeting and look forward to following up with everyone in the coming days to proceed toward a resolution so that our lake and islands can be properly protected and preserved.

- Neil, Steve and I attended the annual North American Lake Management Society’s Annual Symposium, which was held in South Lake Tahoe this year.
 - First of all, congratulations to Neil, who was one of the presenters this year at the symposium! Neil’s presentation on the disappearance of vegetation in Candlewood and the efforts to restore some of that lost vegetation drew a lot of interest and was well attended. Neil was an outstanding speaker and I am proud of the professionalism, depth of knowledge and enthusiasm he displayed while presenting that day. Neil represented the CLA very well that day!
 - We attended many other presentations over the 3-day conference, covering topics such as invasive species, water quality concerns and even environmental impacts from recreation.
 - Additionally, we accomplished our objective of networking with numerous lake professionals at the event and have returned with a number of contacts, with whom we plan to follow up with more in depth this off season.
- Yoland Cooley from the CT DEEP boating division visited us and she went out with me to assess the buoys on the lake. She looked at permitted, proposed and unpermitted

buoys and other markers that fall under the purview of the CT DEEP to ensure that the buoys (such as slow-no-wake and swim areas) that are on the lake are permitted and properly marked and located.

- Bias Training
- I spent a day with Mike removing the hazard, speed and navigation buoys from the lake for the winter. It was a nice warm day, as many of our days this fall have been, and we removed and cleaned
- We released our first public safety video in our video series. The video was about cold water paddling and the State of CT law requirement for all paddlers (kayaks, stand up paddleboards etc.) in manually propelled vessels, to be wearing their life vests from October 1st through May 31st, when the air and water are coldest and can more easily cause hypothermia.
 - The video was posted on our social media and lives on our website in the video library and has gotten a lot of views.
 - The other three public safety videos that are complete will be released in the spring.
 - We are also partway through filming an educational video about the CLA and have done filming for a video about the Marine Patrol as well. We hope to have those completed in the coming weeks, following some additional filming and editing.
- The boating season has come to an unofficial close and with that brings about changes to our focus here.
 - Thank you to Chief Mellas, the entire CLA Marine Patrol and the Public Safety Committee for another very successful season, working to keep everyone on the water safe. We look forward to next season with some additional improvements to our processes and capabilities, including the final Silver Ships CLA Marine Patrol vessel, due to be delivered in the spring.
 - Thank you as well to Neil and the Watershed Committee for keeping up with and addressing the ever-changing environment here on Candlewood. The lack of vegetation coupled with the growth of the zebra mussel population, in addition to regular water quality monitoring and testing and running the Lake Steward boat inspection program has meant a very busy summer. We are already planning for next summer and the work that needs to be done to speed the restoration of balance to the lake's vegetation and better understand the primary sources of nutrient pollution in the lake while working to prevent exposure of the lake to other invasive species.
 - One of the primary tasks of the fall season is preparing the budget for the coming fiscal year. Thank you so much to Will for his hard work on the preliminary FY 25/26 budget. He and I spent some time together reviewing the numbers he put together and he also worked with all the committee chairs to come to an agreement on those committee budgets. We are waiting on some information to come in to finalize a few numbers prior to the December board meeting, where we anticipate voting on the proposed budget.



CANDLEWOOD LAKE AUTHORITY

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

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J. Neil Stalter

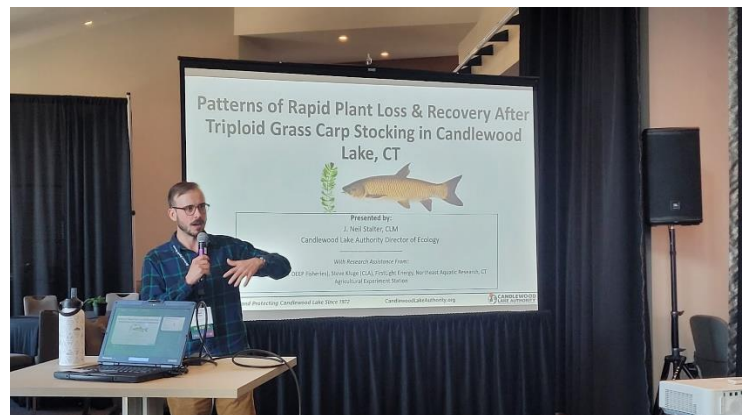
Director of Ecology and Environmental Education

Candlewood Lake Authority

Re: November Monthly Report

Date: 11/13/2024

- We have one final sampling event for the lake management plan in early November. Afterwards, we will be officially finished with water quality monitoring for the year and I can begin work on the final report, as well as organizing the data to prepare for the LMP!
- I am continuing work on the final lake steward report, which will be included with our reimbursement request to DEEP for this year's program.
 - The RFP for this round of grant funding is due on Dec. 6th. We will be submitting a grant request to fund the Lake Stewards for the 2026 season during this application round – as they are already funded through 2025.
- We are continuing to grow our video library and have posted the first of the CLA Patrol educational videos. We have a number of videos that are practically finished and are waiting to be posted when they are more relevant. We have also begun filming for a general “who is the CLA” video.
- Mark, Steve, and I had a great time at NALMS in Lake Tahoe this year. I had the pleasure of presenting some of our experiences and findings with the sterile grass carp stocking and plant loss in the lake.
 - We also learned a lot from the other presenters, and made some great connections that will help us make



informed decisions on the future of the Nutrient Budget and Lake Management plan.

- We are noticing a significant increase in the growth of Zebra Mussels in the lake late in the season. This is likely due to the mussels getting time to reproduce, settle, and grow in one season at depths affected by the drawdown.
 - I suspect we can expect similar patterns every year as the clock is effectively “reset” at the shallow depths annually thanks to the drawdown.
- We are seeing some modest regrowth of plants, including milfoil, in various areas around the lake including near our exclosures. There is a consistent annual trend of regrowth around this time as the fish slow their diets for the season. We will keep the boat in the water as long as we can to hopefully capture as much of this period as possible.
- We are planning to have a meeting with FirstLight soon to discuss the upcoming SMP changes, and some suggestions we have for that as well as for their permitting process. I will notify the board when we get information on any proposed changes to the SMP.
- We have had many nearby lake groups reach out to ask about details of our lake steward program following our presentation at WestConn. It’s been great to share some of the successes and lessons learned with other lake groups – and hopefully some of them are able to start watercraft inspection programs of their own!

