



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 15, 2023 - 7:00PM via ZOOM

ATTENDING:

D. Cushnie
M. O'Connor

Sherman
Sherman

B. Licht
J. Archer
J. Main

New Fairfield
New Fairfield
New Fairfield (joined 7:07)

M. Gaffey
W. Meikle
B. Lohan

Brookfield
Brookfield
Brookfield

C. Robinson
D. Rosemark

Danbury
Danbury

M. Toussaint
J. Wodarski

New Milford
New Milford

M. Howarth, Executive Director
N. Stalter, Director of Ecology and Environmental Science
D. Wright, Administrative Coordinator
M. Gasperino, Operations Manager
N. Mellas, Chief

Recorder: D. Wright

Guests: 2

Chairman, Marianne Gaffey, called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

none

CONSENT AGENDA

Marianne Gaffey made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Bill Lohan, all voting in favor.

TREASURER's REPORT (Bill Lohan)

Bill mentioned we received the \$25,000 donation for the new science boat.

Bill stated our income is ahead of projections and our expenses are slightly below budget.

Will M. provided a recap on the budget. Will expressed thanks to the committee members for getting their budgets compiled. He noted that we are in a position where what we ask for from the municipalities is down 2%.

Will M. mentioned the 10-year capital plan was revisited, and a number of items were reconfirmed. As many know, since we did the budget a year ago, the costs have increased with inflation with a number of assets in our operating plan, but we could contain the capital plan without putting any incremental requirements on any municipalities.

Will Meikle made a motion for the Board to approve the 2024/2025 fiscal year budget of \$775,500 for approval, seconded by Bill Lohan.

Marianne added a note on the ten-year plan, 24/25 we have a 50K donation item that we need to obtain for the proposed Science boat.

With no other questions, Will Meikle called for a vote, all voting in favor.

PUBLIC SAFETY (Bill Licht)

Bill L. discussed the MOA is expiring on 12/31/23 and we've solicited DEEP for information regarding any changes but there is not much to share at this point. We are also waiting for information on training requirements for potential hires and returning LPO's. An Ad has been placed for potential candidates for LPOs.

(Jeff Main joined 7:11pm)

Nick expressed thanks to everyone who attended the appreciation dinner. We have approximately ten resumes of interest submitted for LPO for next season which we will continue to review. We are in the process of conducting reviews for current officers. Nick worked with Public Awareness on ways to educate the public next season. We have been communicating with DEEP to figure out how to provide training efficiently for new trainees and returning officers. It seems we are in good shape with returning officer interest.

EQUIPMENT & FACILITIES (Doug Cushnie)

Doug reported that the docks have been taken in and the Ark is secure for the winter. Jet skis are in for end-of-season service and the only item left is the New Fairfield boat.

PUBLIC AWARENESS (Joan Archer)

Joan stated they are working on the annual appeal and the target is to post a version online around Thanksgiving and to send to residents end of November, early December. Joan mentioned she and Jeff attended a planning commission meeting in New Fairfield which was a very good use of time. Joan added that a draft of the annual appeal will be brought to the Board before publishing.

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT (Neil Stalter)

Neil mentioned the water quality monitoring is done for the season, and we are awaiting the final batch of results but the report will be done by January along with a presentation with highlights. Neil is creating a report with the Lake Steward data from the past three years, including where boaters are coming from, why they are on the lake and other great recreational data. We have been receiving reports of folks finding Zebra mussels on their docks and boats. We published a warning on social media and updated the website to reflect the new status. We will provide more communication on zebra mussels during the off-season, including a "Living with your New Neighbors" Webinar. Neil made a point that this is a

significant change to the lake but it's the same great lake that we love just a different ecosystem. Exclosures are out, we saw growth in 4 of the 5, and hopefully, continue next year but that program may look different next year.

There was a discovery of Hydrilla in Lake Lillinonah which is an invasive plant of concern. Neil attended a meeting of the technical committee, which is First Light and all of the Lake Associations and DEEP, to find out what their plan is of management and elimination of the hydrilla. They plan on doing some management in the spring.

Mark provided an update on the Science, Research, Operations boat. Currently, the science and operations boats are both around 20 years old. The Science boat, the Aquasport, was previously used as a Marine Patrol vessel.

Mark discussed the advantages of having a multipurpose boat, including opportunities to do more environmental research, the ability to do analysis on the water and more efficient use of time on the water. It will also allow us to perform better in-season operations. The boat will also be used as an additional patrol boat when needed.

After researching different manufacturers, we received quotes from three manufacturers.

After research, quotes, and visiting the boats his recommendation is the Munson 24' PackMan.

Tonight, the board will vote on putting down a \$25,000 refundable deposit to reserve our place in the production line and hold the price for a 2026 delivery, which we have received as a donation for this purpose, as mentioned by Bill Lohan.

Marianne added that this purchase has been in the Long-term capital plan for 25/26, but it was realized this will be a 2-year build-out, and if we wait to order in 25/26 the boat would not be delivered for another few years.

Will Meikle made a motion for the Board to approve a \$25,000 fully refundable deposit with Munson to hold our place in line and start the process of acquiring a research, education and operations vessel, seconded by Mark Toussaint, all in favor.

Marianne Gaffey made a motion to move the Board of Directors and staff into Executive Session to discuss the office lease, seconded by Will Meikle, all voting in favor.

At 7:44pm the recording was stopped and the Board of Directors and staff (Mark H, Neil S, Dee W, Nick M, Mike G) entered Executive Session.

At 7:59pm the Board of Directors and staff exited the Executive Session, no motions were made in the Executive Session.

Marriane Gaffey made a motion to authorize Mark to sign the lease as negotiated by Martin for the two-year lease at the new space, Jeff Main seconded, all voting in favor.

ADJOURN

Will Meikle made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jeff Main, with all voting in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 8:02pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Martin O'Connor^{DW}

Martin O'Connor, 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.