



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, February 11, 2026 - 7:00PM via ZOOM

ATTENDING:

R. Paladino	Sherman
D. Cushnie	Sherman
M. O'Connor	Sherman
J. Archer (7:04pm)	New Fairfield
J. Main	New Fairfield
W. Meikle	Brookfield
B. Lohan (7:06pm)	Brookfield
E. Siergiej	Danbury
J. Laughinghouse	Danbury
S. Kluge	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: 1

ABSENT:

B. Licht	New Fairfield
M. Gaffey	Brookfield
S. McColgan	Danbury
M. Toussaint	New Milford

Chairman, **Martin O'Connor**, called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

Martin O'Connor made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by **Steve Kluge**, all voting in favor.

Joan joined 7:04pm

TREASURER (Will Meikle)

Will discussed that we are ahead of budget. Will added that all five committees are running under budget and donations have been going well from the annual appeal. Will noted that CLA has had two Marine Patrol PWC's since 2008, they are both into their 19th season and have reached end of life with many repairs needed last year and more needed for this year. It's in capital plan to purchase new PWCs and a detailed review has been completed on what best fits our needs. Will showed a slide with the information and the five competitive bids that have been received. A thorough review has been done with other police departments. The law enforcement recommended model is the Sea-Doo GTS-230.

Bill Lohan joined 7:06pm

*Will Miekle made a motion to approve the purchase of two new PWCs, new trailer and accessories for a not to exceed price of \$40,000, seconded by **Bob Paladino**, all voting in favor.*

Will added that the lights, sirens, and markings will be transferred from the existing PWCs to the new ones.

PUBLIC SAFETY (Mark Howarth)

Mark provided an update that the potential new officers started the training process with a swim test, four have completed the test and three more will be taking the test. We received training dates from DEEP which we will be coordinating with the potential new officers. Nick added background checks and training will be handled by DEEP.

EQUIPMENT & FACILITIES (Ed Siergiej)

Ed discussed Mike's work upgrading SS1 to match the layout of SS3. Progress is going well and it will be ready for spring. Mike noted that he and Will have been putting together inventory of the CLA assets.

PUBLIC AWARENESS (Mark Howarth)

Mark discussed the appeal and the donations we've received; Mark thanked the public. Mark noted that the committee is working on topics and details for the video series so we will be ready for filming this season, most likely starting in April/May. Content for the new homepage is being developed and should be ready to launch in spring. Mark added that the annual Clean Up planning has begun with a potential date of May 16. Mark and Cathy D. are working on a vision statement for the CLA which they hope to share with the Board next month.

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT (Steve Kluge, Neil Statler)

Neil discussed that FirstLight switched to a deep drawdown due to a federal order which was posted. We hoped a shallow drawdown would help with the plant population recovery; however, the deep drawdown could potentially be helpful for managing the zebra mussels. Neil noted his preliminary final water quality report will be presented at Watershed next week then the report will be sent out to everyone. Neil added that the new science boat is officially under construction, and we are expecting an April delivery.

NEW BUSINESS

There is no new business.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Discuss legal claim
- Discuss written attorney/client communication

All attending Delegates and Mark Howarth entered into an Executive Session at 7:24pm to discuss a legal claim and written attorney/client communication.

All Delegates and Mark Howarth returned from an Executive Session at 7:51pm. No motions or actions were taken during the session.

***Martin O'Connor** made a motion to send the written attorney-client communication as discussed, seconded by **Will Meikle**, 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 7:52 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**

February 11, 2026

Municipalities

We have completed two [New Fairfield & Brookfield] of the five municipalities annual budget-meetings. The meetings went well as both towns had several questions with regards to our fleet, capital expenditure, and operating expenses. We are well prepared for the remaining meetings which are set for the following dates: New Milford 2/19/26, Sherman 2/21/26, and Danbury TBD. The intent remains to ensure that, in addition to the Treasurer, Executive Director, and myself, the appropriate aligned Delegates also attend these meetings.

Committees

Continue to check in with committees that meet regularly, with no significant concerns to report. The new Sherman Delegate Robert [Bob] Paladino has been assigned to the Public Safety with the Chair of the committee Bill Litch welcoming Bob to that team.

Financials

Our Treasurer continues to do an outstanding job noting no concerns regarding our current financial position. We have released in accordance with our contract with the manufacturer a 30% payment for our new Science Boat. The boat is on track for delivery in the spring of this year.

Other:

Annual performance reviews have been delayed as we are now targeting them to be completed prior to the end of February.

We have met several times with our attorney, as we look at possible needs for legislative changes for both the public safety and environmental protection on the lake.

Martin W. O'Connor

February 11, 2026

WWW.CANDLEWOODLAKEAUTHORITY.ORG

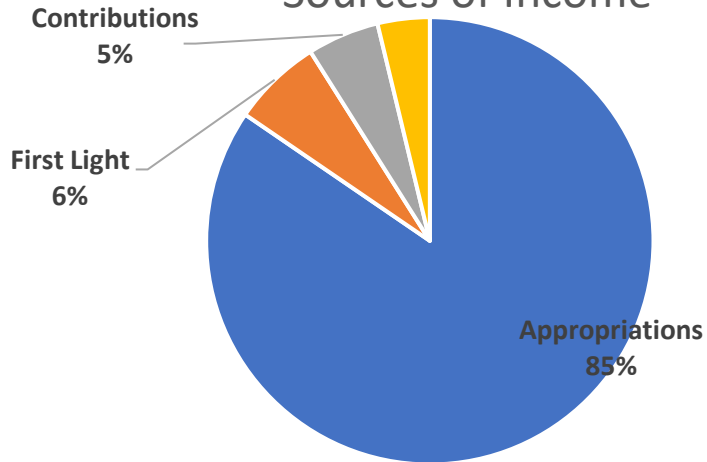
Finance Committee Financial Results January 2026



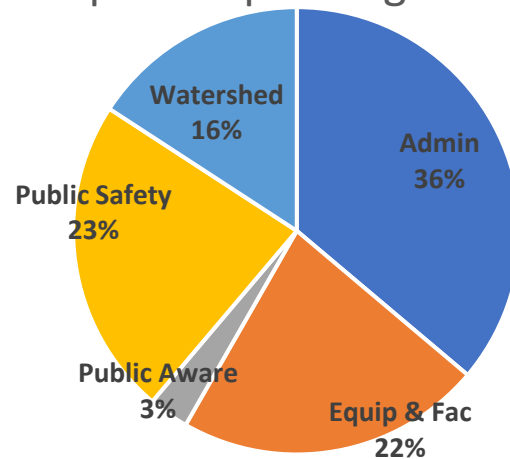
Income & Expense Overview

Financial Results thru January 2026

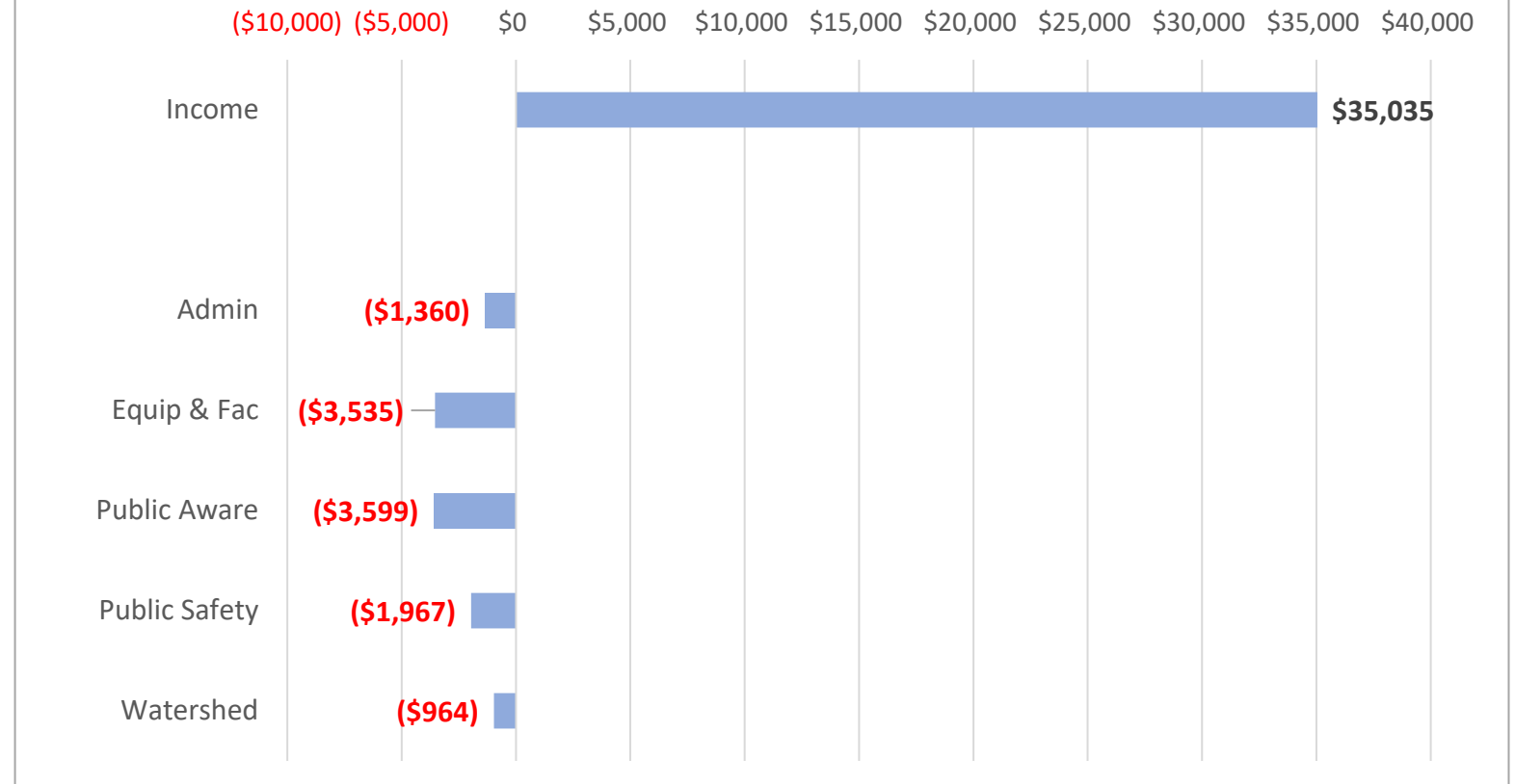
Sources of Income



Expense Spending Profile



Over / (Under) Budget Performance



Operational Income & Expense Summary

Financial Results thru January 2026

January 2026 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	\$745,500	\$780,535	\$35,035	105%		\$757,500	\$792,535	\$35,035	105%
<u>Expenses</u>									
Administration	\$176,278	\$174,918	(\$1,360)	99%		\$273,855	\$272,495	(\$1,360)	100%
Equipment & Facilities	\$116,249	\$112,714	(\$3,535)	97%		\$167,590	\$164,055	(\$3,535)	98%
Public Awareness	\$10,000	\$6,401	(\$3,599)	64%		\$22,000	\$18,401	(\$3,599)	84%
Public Safety	\$123,685	\$121,718	(\$1,967)	98%		\$174,280	\$172,313	(\$1,967)	99%
Watershed Management	\$87,267	\$86,303	(\$964)	99%		\$119,775	\$118,811	(\$964)	99%
Total Expense	\$513,480	\$502,055	(\$11,425)	98%		\$757,500	\$746,075	(\$11,425)	98%
Other Income/(Expense)	\$0	\$4,754	\$4,754			\$0	\$4,754	\$4,754	
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	\$232,020	\$283,234	\$51,214	122%		\$0	\$51,214	\$51,214	-
* Accrual Basis Accounting									

Key Drivers of the deltas to Budget



Income: Well ahead of budget driven Donations, Interest Income and a CIRMA unplanned rebate



Administration: Under budget driven by rent, workers comp and insurance costs, offset by Professional Services and Other Expense (CLA event).



Equipment & Facilities: Under budget driven by Utilities, Work Boat and Buoy expenses offset by Wages.



Public Awareness: Under budget on Subscription Services, Events and offset by Fundraising Expenses (timing).



Public Safety: Under budget driven by Wages, Maintenance and Fuel costs, offset by Technology, and Equipment expenses.



Watershed: Under budget driven by Employee Benefits and Equipment costs offset by Water Testing costs.

Committee Details



Income Details

	<u>Jan 26</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Delta</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
Income						
901 · Appropriations	0.00		651,000.00	651,000.00	0.00	651,000.00
902 · Contribution from FirstLight	0.00		50,000.00	50,000.00	0.00	50,000.00
903 · Interest	2,826.35	2,000.00	22,614.35	18,000.00	4,614.35	25,000.00
911 · Miscellaneous Income	0.00		1,426.00	0.00	1,426.00	0.00
912 · Contributions and Donations	33,187.65	9,000.00	41,094.45	22,500.00	18,594.45	35,000.00
915 · Sponsorship -programs/activitie	11,150.00	0.00	13,400.00	3,000.00	10,400.00	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	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	2,000.00
Total Income	47,164.00	11,000.00	780,534.80	745,500.00	35,034.80	777,000.00



Administration Expense Details

	<u>Jan 26</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Delta</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
Administration						
100 · Executive Director - Wages	8,275.00	8,275.00	57,925.00	57,925.00	0.00	99,300.00
101 · SS/Medi/CTUC	2,258.48	2,172.46	19,712.70	19,430.85	281.85	31,500.00
101A · Workers Comp Insurance	0.00	2,417.50	2,070.00	4,835.00	-2,765.00	4,835.00
102 · Exec Dir - Fringe Benefits	1,403.90	1,347.92	8,975.90	9,435.44	-459.54	16,175.00
110 · Admin. Coordinator - Wages	3,054.00	3,081.25	21,428.90	21,568.75	-139.85	36,975.00
112 · Admin Cor - Fringe Benefits	1,394.90	1,201.67	7,944.78	8,411.69	-466.91	14,420.00
113 · Insurance	0.00	0.00	6,186.32	9,000.00	-2,813.68	12,000.00
114 · Telephone	250.00	300.00	1,925.00	2,100.00	-175.00	3,600.00
115 · Office Supplies	111.43	491.67	2,898.56	3,441.69	-543.13	5,900.00
116 · Postage	0.00	62.50	44.28	437.50	-393.22	750.00
117 · Audit	0.00		8,000.00	8,000.00	0.00	8,000.00
118 · Professional Services	4,176.77	1,545.83	15,475.36	10,820.81	4,654.55	18,550.00
119 · Bank and Service Fees	187.97	210.00	1,464.22	1,470.00	-5.78	2,500.00
121 · Expenses	0.00	83.33	4,937.01	583.31	4,353.70	1,000.00
122 · Internet Access	0.00	100.00	839.88	700.00	139.88	1,200.00
124 · Technology Hardware & Services	0.00	833.33	7,324.18	5,833.31	1,490.87	10,000.00
161 · Office Rent	1,166.00	1,755.00	7,766.00	12,285.00	-4,519.00	21,060.00
Total Administration	22,278.45	23,877.46	174,918.09	176,278.35	-1,360.26	287,765.00



Equipment & Facilities Expense Details

	<u>Jan 26</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Delta</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
Equipment and Facilities						
200 · Personnel - Wages	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	2,000.00
210 · Operations Manager - Wages	3,100.00	3,810.00	29,853.00	26,680.00	3,173.00	45,730.00
212 · Ops Mgr - Fringe Benefits	0.00	100.00	300.00	700.00	-400.00	1,200.00
221 · Sherman Base - Repairs/Maint	0.00	250.00	1,061.42	1,750.00	-688.58	3,000.00
222 · Utilities - electric	286.79	520.00	981.24	3,640.00	-2,658.76	6,240.00
223 · Internet and Security Systems	0.00	20.83	567.56	145.81	421.75	250.00
226 · Work Boats	0.00	0.00	2,424.96	4,500.00	-2,075.04	6,000.00
227 · Vehicle	106.80	166.67	1,378.59	1,166.69	211.90	2,000.00
228 · Dock and Trash Pick Up	0.00	41.67	20.74	291.69	-270.95	500.00
231 · Buoy Maintenance	0.00	0.00	126.85	1,375.00	-1,248.15	2,675.00
261 · Capital Replacement Fund	0.00		75,000.00	75,000.00	0.00	75,000.00
Total Equipment and Facilities	4,493.59	4,909.17	112,714.36	116,249.19	-3,534.83	144,595.00



Public Awareness Expense Details

	<u>Jan 26</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Delta</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
Public Awareness						
414 · Subscription services	0.00	416.67	743.29	2,916.69	-2,173.40	5,000.00
415 · Events and Displays	0.00	583.33	0.00	4,083.31	-4,083.31	7,000.00
417 · Fundraising	5,657.58	0.00	5,657.58	3,000.00	2,657.58	6,000.00
421 · Shoreline Cleanup	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,000.00
Total Public Awareness	5,657.58	1,000.00	6,400.87	10,000.00	-3,599.13	22,000.00



Public Safety Expense Details

	<u>Jan 26</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Delta</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
Public Safety						
300 · Lake Patrol Wages	142.75	299.00	46,122.34	49,910.78	-3,788.44	64,540.00
301 · CLAMP Chief Salary	3,537.50	3,537.50	24,762.50	24,762.50	0.00	42,450.00
311 · Boat Maintenance and Reimburse	0.00	0.00	16,936.07	18,180.00	-1,243.93	21,500.00
312 · Gas and Oil	0.00	0.00	18,105.23	19,504.01	-1,398.78	25,900.00
313 · Insurance	0.00	0.00	5,270.68	8,193.75	-2,923.07	10,925.00
314 · Training	0.00	0.00	186.89	0.00	186.89	5,610.00
318 · Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	530.69	500.00	30.69	1,000.00
320 · Technology HW & Services	1,800.00	362.00	6,627.42	2,534.00	4,093.42	4,345.00
321 · Radio & Equipment	0.00	0.00	2,505.49	100.00	2,405.49	1,810.00
322 · Uniforms	0.00	0.00	671.00	0.00	671.00	2,920.00
324 · CLAMP Services - Fireworks	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
Total Public Safety	5,480.25	4,198.50	121,718.31	123,685.04	-1,966.73	183,000.00



Watershed Management Expense Details

	<u>Jan 26</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Delta</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
Watershed Managment						
500A · Director of Ecology Wage	6,112.50	6,112.50	42,787.50	42,787.50	0.00	73,350.00
502 · Dir. Ecology - Fringe	1,420.96	1,280.00	8,672.96	8,960.00	-287.04	15,360.00
511 · Lake and Stream Monitoring	0.00	0.00	10,733.16	7,599.99	3,133.17	15,200.00
512 · E-Coli Bacteria Testing	0.00	0.00	2,980.25	1,500.00	1,480.25	3,000.00
513 · Cynobacteria testing (BG Algae)	0.00	0.00	0.00	999.99	-999.99	2,000.00
514 · Travel	0.00	250.00	1,142.40	1,750.00	-607.60	3,000.00
515 · Equipment and Supplies	0.00	200.00	160.31	1,400.00	-1,239.69	2,500.00
517 · Science Boat	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,530.00
518 · Insurance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	200.00
531 · Professional Development	0.00	3,500.00	4,326.71	7,000.00	-2,673.29	7,000.00
532 · Engineering and Consulting	0.00		15,000.00	15,000.00	0.00	15,000.00
599 · Miscellaneous	0.00	30.00	500.00	270.00	230.00	500.00
Total Watershed Managment	7,533.46	11,372.50	86,303.29	87,267.48	-964.19	139,640.00

Other (Restricted Grants) Income/Expense Details

	<u>Jan 26</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Delta</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
Other Income/Expense						
Other Income						
900-21B · DEEP AIS (Lake Steward)	0.00	0.00	24,136.20	15,000.00	9,136.20	20,000.00
Total Other Income	0.00	0.00	24,136.20	15,000.00	9,136.20	20,000.00
Other Expense						
800-21B · DEEP AIS (Lake Steward)	0.00	0.00	19,381.80	15,000.00	4,381.80	20,000.00
Total Other Expense	0.00	0.00	19,381.80	15,000.00	4,381.80	20,000.00
Net Other Income / (Other Expense)	0.00	0.00	4,754.40	0.00	4,754.40	0.00

Capital Summary Status

Capital Summary for Fiscal Year 2025/2026		
	Fund Balance	Encumbered
Opening Balance as of July 1, 2025	\$575,236	\$344,346
Appropriations		
Annual Capital Appropriation (July 2025)	\$75,000	\$75,000
First Light Donation (Oct 2025)	\$40,000	\$40,000
Capital Planned Expenditures		
Truck (\$48,000 - Apr 2025)	(\$45,655)	
Sherman Base Roof (\$10,000 - Aug 2025)	(\$5,300)	(\$5,300)
Silver Ships 3 (\$250,000 - Sep 2023)	(\$182,888)	
Science Vessel (\$285,000 - Oct 2025)		(\$285,000)
Hoist (\$2,000 - Apr 2025)	(\$1,221)	
Antennas (\$6,000 - Dec 2024)	(\$1,125)	
Closing Balance as of January 31, 2026	\$454,047	\$169,046
Items in () show amount & when CLA Board approved the expenditure		

Balance Sheet Summary & Details

	Jan 31
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
1120 · USB Checking -0212	964,516.19
11000 · Accounts Receivable	56,686.20
Total Current Assets	1,021,202.39
TOTAL ASSETS	1,021,202.39

	Jan 31
Liabilities	
2000 · Accounts Payable	6,354.24
2500 · Accrued Expenses	10,320.00
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	454,046.56
Total Liabilities	475,359.00

	Jan 31
Equity	
3200B · Restricted	
3200B 1 · Education Programs	10,353.69
3200B 2 · Zebra Mussels	5,450.08
Total 3200B · Restricted	15,803.77
3200D · Assigned	
3200D 1 · HMS Initiatives	2,993.63
3200D 2 · Lake Incentives	30,602.44
3200D 3 · Buffer Garden	1,983.77
Total 3200D · Assigned	35,579.84
3200E · Unassigned	211,225.55
Net Income	283,234.23
Total Equity	545,843.39
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	1,021,202.39

Accounts Receiveable			
Danbury	July	\$32,550.00	
DEEP (Lake Stewards)	Nov	\$24,136.20	
Total Accounts Receiveable		\$56,686.20	

Accounts Payable	
AccuCom Consulting, Inc.	\$1,800.00
Eversource 3075 SH	\$286.79
Organizationink, Inc.	\$2,175.00
Rose Kallor LLP	\$1,157.50
Southridge Technology	\$934.95
Total Accounts Payable	\$6,354.24

Accrued Expenses			
Sinnamon & Associates	Dec	\$8,000.00	
Website Refresh	July 2024	\$2,320.00	
Total Accrued Expenses		\$10,320.00	



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February 11, 2026
Executive Director
Mark Howarth

Monthly Report

- Munson began construction of our science boat last month and it is taking shape with the hull and wheelhouse now welded. We have been in communication with them through the design and build process and everything is going to schedule so far, with delivery expected in the next two to three months.
- Neil and I have been working on content for the website home page redesign, now that the final edits to the layout are completed. The new site will feature the projects and initiatives that the CLA is currently undertaking, both on the environment and public safety side. It will also highlight the educational video series we have been creating the past two seasons while relocating less-important home-page items on the current home page.
- We will be finishing up our budget presentations for our proposed 26/27 budget in the coming weeks. The last three municipalities we will present to will be New Milford, Sherman and Danbury.
- We have continued to see a positive response to our end-of year appeal that went out in December and we really appreciate all of the support that the residents have shown for our work.
- I am working with our Paychex rep to implement all of the new HR services and capabilities we are now receiving from them. I anticipate this will be a great benefit to the CLA and the staff.
- Our work to look at possible updates or changes to legislation that can benefit the lake continues, and we look forward to possibly engaging in the legislative process as appropriate.

- FirstLight announced that due to the extreme cold weather we had, the Department of Energy was calling for additional power for the grid and they were going to go below the planned shallow drawdown depth, increasing it to a deep drawdown. They noted that they would return the water levels to summer levels in time for the recreational season, as usual.



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J. Neil Stalter

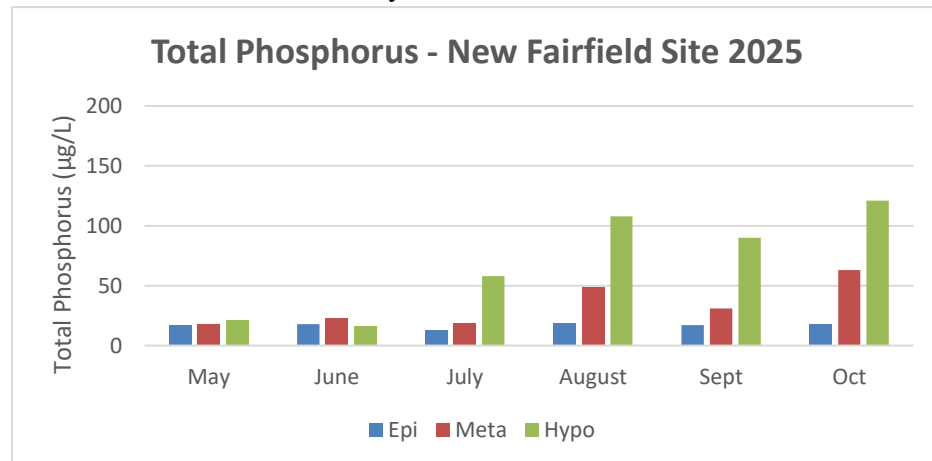
Director of Ecology and Environmental Education

Candlewood Lake Authority

Re: February Monthly Report

Date: 2/11/2026

- FirstLight let us know that they received an order from the Department of Energy to maximize power generation due to the extended cold. For that reason, they have switched to a deep drawdown.
 - We posted on Facebook to notify folks of the change, including a message to be very careful on the ice since the water level has decreased underneath significantly.
 - While we were hoping to have a shallow drawdown to help the plant community recover, deep drawdowns are helpful for managing zebra mussel levels.
- I have been working on the final water quality report over the past month. I'll be presenting some of the highlights at next week's watershed meeting – so if you'd like to know some of the key findings, join us next week!
 - Otherwise, it was a relatively normal year, with late blooms fueled by the turning over of the lake and mild early winter conditions.



- We unfortunately weren't able to get all the requirements taken care of with the towns before the winter to drill the groundwater wells, but we will be ready to go right when spring starts this year to get us set up for sampling this year!
 - Stream sampling has continued through the winter!
- I submitted the final application to fund the Lake Stewards in 2027 through the DEEP AIS grant.
 - We have also heard from DEEP that they are actively working on the process of reimbursing the CLA for the 2025 year.
- I received the good news that my Certified Lake Manager certification was renewed by NALMS for another 3 years!
- The science boat has started construction, and we are very excited to have it for this year! We expect delivery sometime in April or May. We will be working with FirstLight to put out some press releases soon to get folks excited.
 - We are working on some exciting ideas to incorporate the boat into the video series as well.
- Mark and I have been working on the new website homepage, and we have a really nice working draft! We should be able to make it live this spring as a way to bring in the new season.