



# 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, April 8, 2026 - 7:00PM via ZOOM

### ATTENDING:

R. Paladino (7:19pm)	Sherman
D. Cushnie	Sherman
M. O'Connor	Sherman
B. Licht	New Fairfield
M. Gaffey	Brookfield
W. Meikle	Brookfield
B. Lohan	Brookfield
E. Siergiej	Danbury
S. McColgan	Danbury
J. Laughinghouse	Danbury

### ABSENT:

J. Archer	New Fairfield
J. Main	New Fairfield

M. Toussaint                      New Milford

S. Kluge	New Milford
J. Wodarski	New Milford

M. Howarth, Executive Director  
N. Stalter, Director of Ecology (joined at 7:10pm)  
D. Wright, Administrative Coordinator  
M. Gasperino, Operations Manager

Recorder:                      D. Wright

Guests:                              2

*Chairman, **Martin O'Connor**, called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.*

### PUBLIC COMMENT

None

### CONSENT AGENDA

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

### TREASURER (Will Meikle)

Will stated we are in solid financial shape. Regarding next year's budget, we have met with four out of the five towns and Danbury is scheduled for next week. Will discussed selling our decommissioned fiberglass vessels as well as our decommissioned PWCs and then evaluate where to use those funds. Will noted we began to review our restricted funds in

2023 and we'd like approval to move at this time the unused buffer garden funds to the Lake Management fund of under \$2,000.

*Will Meikle made a motion for the board to approve the reclassification of the Buffer Garden fund of \$1,984 to the Lake Management Plan Initiative for the use in finalizing the nutrient budget project, seconded by Mark Toussait, all voting in favor.*

Will noted that per CLA bylaws any reimbursements to a delegate needs Board approval. Shaun McColgan provided refreshments at the mock drill planning event in Danbury at the Emergency Operations Center.

*Will Meikle made a motion for the board to approve the reimbursement of \$207.23 to Shaun McColgan for providing refreshments to the participants of the CLA drill planning event held on April 6<sup>th</sup>, seconded by Bill Licht, all voting in favor.*

Neil S. joined 7:10pm

#### **PUBLIC SAFETY (Bill Licht)**

Bill discussed a meeting that he, Mark H. and Shaun M. attended with DEEP on March 31st in Hartford, which was very well received. The limitations in the MOA and the limitations of the LPOs in enforcing certain types of laws were discussed. Public awareness and communication were discussed regarding BUI which is now linked to DUI. The current LPO candidates have one class remaining and will need to be appointed along with current LPOs being reappointed. Shaun M. led planning a tabletop exercise for a fire and a mass casualty drill. There were 17 attendees including area municipal fire departments, emergency services, the CLA and DEEP. Everyone worked very well together, and the tabletop exercise will be planned for later this spring with the live drill anticipated to happen in September.

R. Paladino joined 7:19pm

#### **EQUIPMENT & FACILITIES (John Laughinghouse)**

John noted boats are getting ready to be launched. John discussed selling our fiberglass boats and existing jetskis and the possibility of putting the proceeds together to purchase something to help with maintenance on the lake. Mike added we are in great shape and on schedule, he has removed the sirens and lights from the existing jetskis and ready to transfer them to the new jetskis.

#### **PUBLIC AWARENESS (Mark Howarth)**

Mark noted the annual clean up date will be May 16<sup>th</sup>. Work on the business partnership letter has been completed and will be sent soon. Mark noted several upcoming events including the Sherman Community Expo and the Sherman Memorial parade. Mark added work is being done on crafting a vision statement for the CLA.

#### **WATERSHED MANAGEMENT (Neil Stalter)**

Neil noted his upcoming departure from the CLA thanking all for their support during his time at the CLA and that the job opening will be posted by end of the week. Neil noted that the Science boat is moving along and Mark will be going out for sea trials with a delivery planned for early May.

#### **ADJOURN**

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Handwritten signature of Joan Archer in cursive script.

Joan Archer, Secretary  
Dee Wright, Administrative Coordinator



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**Martin W. O'Connor, Chair**  
**Candlewood Lake Authority**  
**April 8, 2026**

## **Municipalities**

We have now completed four [New Fairfield, Brookfield, Sherman, New Milford] of the five municipalities annual budget-meetings. Danbury budget meeting is scheduled for the 14<sup>th</sup> of April at city hall. We are presently awaiting the respective municipalities budget approvals allowing us to move forward as proposed.

We are currently reaching out to the respective municipalities' leaders for support of an on-the-lake emergency response event. The PS team is requesting the FD Chiefs attend a table-top meeting in April for a proposed live event to be held in late September or early October.

## **Committees**

Continue to check in with committees that meet regularly, with no significant concerns to report. Attended the PS meeting who announced they will move to a co-chair model allowing the team to capitalize on the respective chairs' skill sets.

## **Financials**

Financial position remains positive as we enter our last fiscal quarter of the year. Our Treasurer notes no concerns regarding our current financial position and will attend our last budget meeting with Danbury on the 14<sup>th</sup> of April.

## **Other:**

We continue to meet with our attorney, as we look at possible legislative changes affecting both the public safety and environmental protection on the lake.

The Town of Sherman has invited us again this year to participate in the annual Memorial Day Holiday parade. We continue to look for other such events to attend.

The annual lake clean-up day is scheduled for May 16<sup>th</sup> this year and we look forward to all our Delegates supporting this event again this year.

**Martin W. O'Connor**

**April 8, 2026**

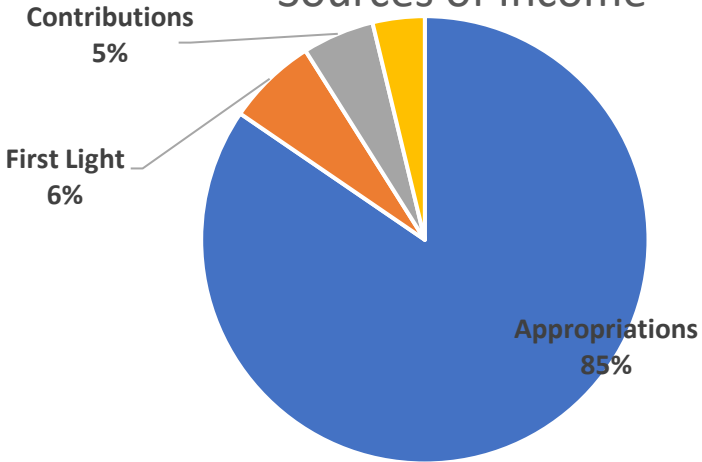
# Finance Committee Financial Results March 2026



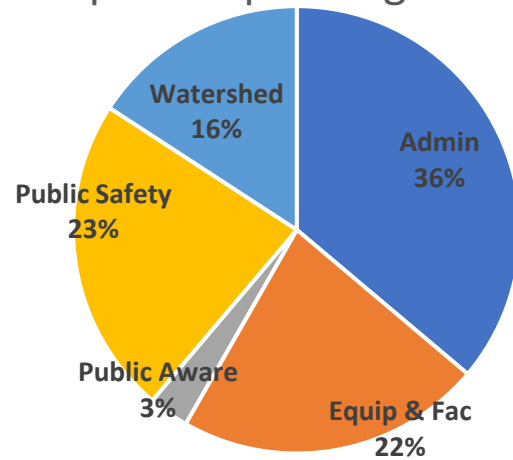
# Income & Expense Overview

Financial Results thru March 2026

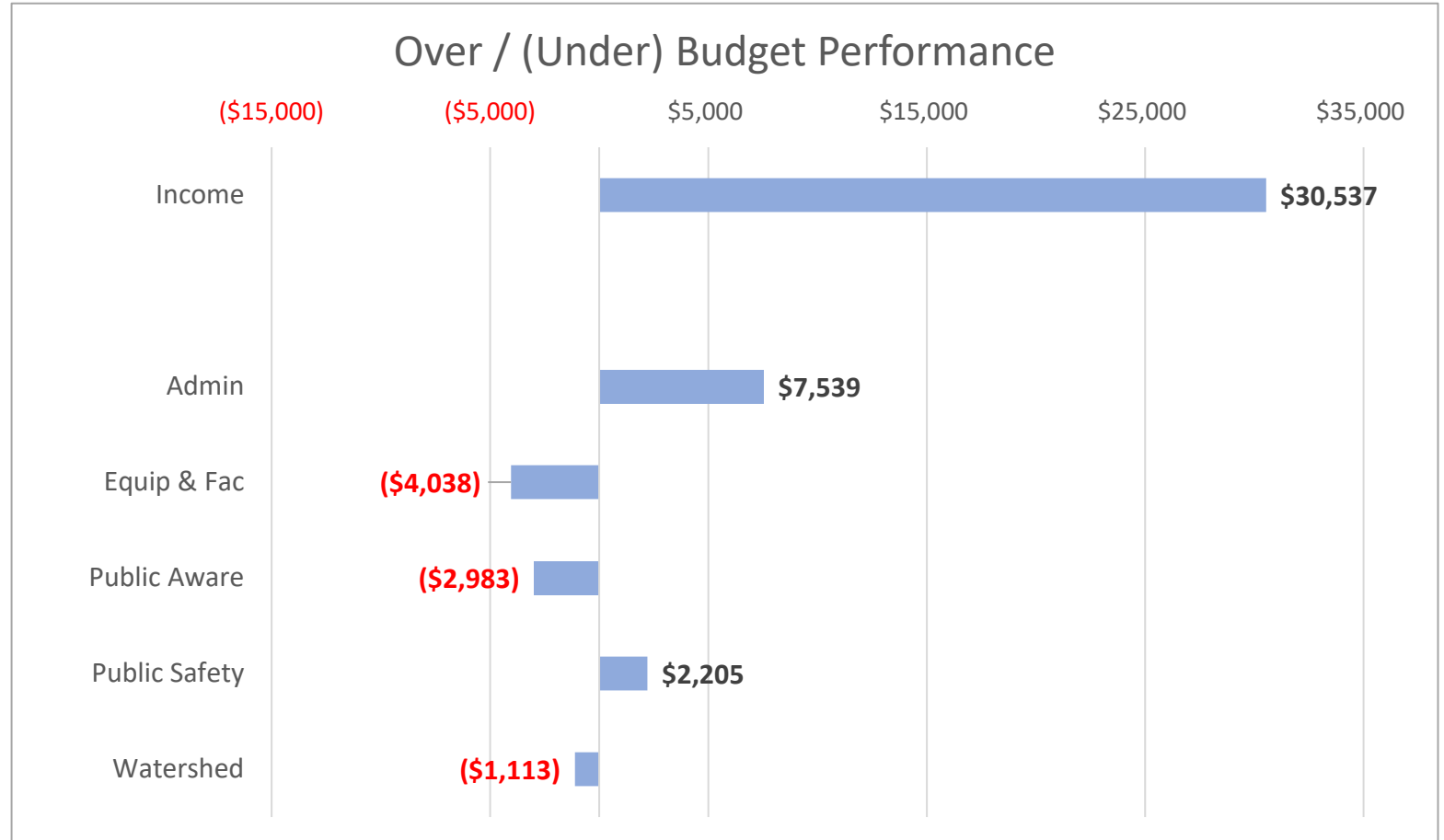
Sources of Income



Expense Spending Profile



Over / (Under) Budget Performance



# Operational Income & Expense Summary

Financial Results thru March 2026

March 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
<b>Income</b>	\$761,000	\$795,872	\$34,872	105%	\$757,500	\$792,372	\$34,872	105%
<b>Expenses</b>								
Administration	\$222,250	\$227,320	\$5,070	102%	\$273,855	\$278,925	\$5,070	102%
Equipment & Facilities	\$126,068	\$122,738	(\$3,329)	97%	\$167,590	\$164,261	(\$3,329)	98%
Public Awareness	\$12,000	\$8,484	(\$3,516)	71%	\$22,000	\$18,484	(\$3,516)	84%
Public Safety	\$139,116	\$134,368	(\$4,749)	97%	\$174,280	\$169,531	(\$4,749)	97%
Watershed Management	\$103,232	\$101,402	(\$1,831)	98%	\$119,775	\$117,944	(\$1,831)	98%
<b>Total Expense</b>	\$602,666	\$594,313	(\$8,353)	99%	\$757,500	\$749,147	(\$8,353)	99%
<b>Other Income/(Expense)</b>	\$0	\$4,754	\$4,754		\$0	\$4,754	\$4,754	
<b>Operating Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	\$158,334	\$206,314	\$47,980	130%	\$0	\$47,980	\$47,980	-
* Accrual Basis Accounting								

Forecast = YTD actuals + (FY Budget - YTD Budget)

# Key Drivers of the deltas to Budget



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



**Administration:** Over budget driven by Professional Services (Legal & HR Services), CLA event and offset by rent, workers comp and benefits.



**Equipment & Facilities:** Under budget driven by Utilities, Base Repairs and Work Boat 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 Professional Services and Equipment costs offset by Water Testing costs.

# Committee Details



# Income Details

	<u>Mar 26</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Delta</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
<b>Income</b>						
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	2,669.41	2,000.00	27,797.15	22,000.00	5,797.15	25,000.00
911 · Miscellaneous Income	0.00		6,469.68	0.00	6,469.68	0.00
912 · Contributions and Donations	1,666.05	1,000.00	46,205.50	32,000.00	14,205.50	35,000.00
915 · Sponsorship -programs/activitie	5,000.00	2,000.00	13,400.00	5,000.00	8,400.00	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
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>9,335.46</b>	<b>5,000.00</b>	<b>795,872.33</b>	<b>761,000.00</b>	<b>34,872.33</b>	<b>777,000.00</b>



# Administration Expense Details

	<u>Mar 26</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Delta</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
<b>Administration</b>						
100 · Executive Director - Wages	8,275.00	8,275.00	74,475.00	74,475.00	0.00	99,300.00
101 · SS/Medi/CTUC	2,108.20	2,198.33	24,437.60	23,827.51	610.09	31,500.00
101A · Workers Comp Insurance	704.00	0.00	4,844.00	4,835.00	9.00	4,835.00
102 · Exec Dir - Fringe Benefits	1,309.02	1,347.92	11,863.82	12,131.28	-267.46	16,175.00
110 · Admin. Coordinator - Wages	2,875.85	3,081.25	27,180.60	27,731.25	-550.65	36,975.00
112 · Admin Cor - Fringe Benefits	1,051.76	1,201.67	9,621.66	10,815.03	-1,193.37	14,420.00
113 · Insurance	0.00	3,000.00	9,278.98	12,000.00	-2,721.02	12,000.00
114 · Telephone	250.00	300.00	2,425.00	2,700.00	-275.00	3,600.00
115 · Office Supplies	222.86	491.67	3,512.09	4,425.03	-912.94	5,900.00
116 · Postage	0.00	62.50	87.57	562.50	-474.93	750.00
117 · Audit	0.00		8,000.00	8,000.00	0.00	8,000.00
118 · Professional Services	1,456.82	1,545.83	24,644.79	13,912.47	10,732.32	18,550.00
119 · Bank and Service Fees	190.97	210.00	1,863.20	1,890.00	-26.80	2,500.00
121 · Expenses	0.00	83.33	4,875.28	749.97	4,125.31	1,000.00
122 · Internet Access	0.00	100.00	1,149.86	900.00	249.86	1,200.00
124 · Technology Hardware & Services	934.95	833.33	10,129.03	7,499.97	2,629.06	10,000.00
161 · Office Rent	1,133.00	1,755.00	8,932.00	15,795.00	-6,863.00	21,060.00
<b>Total Administration</b>	<b>20,512.43</b>	<b>24,485.83</b>	<b>227,320.48</b>	<b>222,250.01</b>	<b>5,070.47</b>	<b>287,765.00</b>



# Equipment & Facilities Expense Details

	<u>Mar 26</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Delta</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
<b>Equipment and Facilities</b>						
200 · Personnel - Wages	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	2,000.00
210 · Operations Manager - Wages	2,976.00	3,810.00	35,495.00	34,300.00	1,195.00	45,730.00
212 · Ops Mgr - Fringe Benefits	100.00	100.00	900.00	900.00	0.00	1,200.00
221 · Sherman Base - Repairs/Maint	0.00	250.00	1,153.84	2,250.00	-1,096.16	3,000.00
222 · Utilities - electric	265.95	520.00	1,605.56	4,680.00	-3,074.44	6,240.00
223 · Internet and Security Systems	0.00	20.83	813.14	187.47	625.67	250.00
226 · Work Boats	0.00	0.00	2,424.96	4,500.00	-2,075.04	6,000.00
227 · Vehicle	0.00	166.67	2,173.29	1,500.03	673.26	2,000.00
228 · Dock and Trash Pick Up	0.00	41.67	20.74	375.03	-354.29	500.00
231 · Buoy Maintenance	2,025.00	0.00	2,151.85	1,375.00	776.85	2,675.00
261 · Capital Replacement Fund	0.00		75,000.00	75,000.00	0.00	75,000.00
<b>Total Equipment and Facilities</b>	<b>5,366.95</b>	<b>4,909.17</b>	<b>122,738.38</b>	<b>126,067.53</b>	<b>-3,329.15</b>	<b>144,595.00</b>



# Public Awareness Expense Details

	<u>Mar 26</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Delta</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
<b>Public Awareness</b>						
414 · Subscription services	0.00	416.67	1,304.24	3,750.03	-2,445.79	5,000.00
415 · Events and Displays	0.00	583.33	1,522.65	5,249.97	-3,727.32	7,000.00
417 · Fundraising	0.00	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
<b>Total Public Awareness</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>	<b>8,484.47</b>	<b>12,000.00</b>	<b>-3,515.53</b>	<b>22,000.00</b>



# Public Safety Expense Details

	<u>Mar 26</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Delta</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
<b>Public Safety</b>						
300 · Lake Patrol Wages	95.91	598.00	46,410.07	51,106.78	-4,696.71	64,540.00
301 · CLAMP Chief Salary	3,537.50	3,537.50	31,837.50	31,837.50	0.00	42,450.00
311 · Boat Maintenance and Reimburse	15.00	200.00	19,527.42	18,380.00	1,147.42	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	2,731.25	7,906.02	10,925.00	-3,018.98	10,925.00
314 · Training	0.00	1,545.00	186.89	1,545.00	-1,358.11	5,610.00
318 · Miscellaneous	0.00	100.00	530.69	700.00	-169.31	1,000.00
320 · Technology HW & Services	0.00	362.00	6,687.42	3,258.00	3,429.42	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	1,760.00	671.00	1,760.00	-1,089.00	2,920.00
324 · CLAMP Services - Fireworks	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
<b>Total Public Safety</b>	<b>3,648.41</b>	<b>10,833.75</b>	<b>134,367.73</b>	<b>139,116.29</b>	<b>-4,748.56</b>	<b>183,000.00</b>



# Watershed Management Expense Details

	<u>Mar 26</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Delta</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
<b>Watershed Managment</b>						
500A · Director of Ecology Wage	6,112.50	6,112.50	55,012.50	55,012.50	0.00	73,350.00
502 · Dir. Ecology - Fringe	1,251.94	1,280.00	11,298.47	11,520.00	-221.53	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	168.12	999.99	-831.87	2,000.00
514 · Travel	0.00	250.00	1,142.40	2,250.00	-1,107.60	3,000.00
515 · Equipment and Supplies	0.00	200.00	160.31	1,800.00	-1,639.69	2,500.00
517 · Science Boat	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,530.00
518 · Insurance	0.00	200.00	0.00	200.00	-200.00	200.00
531 · Professional Development	0.00	0.00	4,406.71	7,000.00	-2,593.29	7,000.00
532 · Engineering and Consulting	0.00		15,000.00	15,000.00	0.00	15,000.00
599 · Miscellaneous	0.00	40.00	500.00	350.00	150.00	500.00
<b>Total Watershed Management</b>	<b>7,364.44</b>	<b>8,082.50</b>	<b>101,401.92</b>	<b>103,232.48</b>	<b>-1,830.56</b>	<b>139,640.00</b>

## Other (Restricted Grants) Income/Expense Details

	<u>Mar 26</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Delta</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>						
<b>Other Income</b>						
900-21B · DEEP AIS (Lake Steward)	0.00	0.00	24,136.20	15,000.00	9,136.20	20,000.00
900-20A · HMS Foundation Trust	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Other Income</b>	0.00	0.00	24,136.20	15,000.00	9,136.20	20,000.00
<b>Other Expense</b>						
800-21B · DEEP AIS (Lake Steward)	0.00	0.00	19,381.80	15,000.00	4,381.80	20,000.00
800-20A · HMS Foundation Trust	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Other Expense</b>	0.00	0.00	19,381.80	15,000.00	4,381.80	20,000.00
<b>Net Other Income / (Other Expense)</b>	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
First Light Donation (Feb 2026)	\$60,000	\$60,000
Capital Planned Expenditures		
Silver Ships 3 (\$250,000 - Sep 2023)	(\$182,888)	
Science Vessel (\$285,000 - Oct 2025)	(\$65,110)	(\$285,000)
Truck (\$48,000 - Apr 2025)	(\$45,655)	
Sherman Base Roof (\$10,000 - Aug 2025)	(\$5,300)	(\$5,300)
Hoist (\$2,000 - Apr 2025)	(\$1,221)	
Antennaes (\$6,000 - Dec 2024)	(\$1,125)	
PWCs (\$40,000 - Feb 2026)	(\$1,000)	(\$40,000)
Closing Balance as of March 31, 2026	\$447,936	\$189,046

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

Reconciliation	
<b>Capital Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$447,936</b>
Science Vessel	(\$219,890)
PWC's	(\$39,000)
<b>Unencumbered Balance</b>	<b>\$189,046</b>

# Balance Sheet Summary & Details

	<b>Mar 31</b>
<b>SSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
1120 · USB Checking -0212	867,931.64
11000 · Accounts Receivable	56,686.20
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	924,617.84
<b>OTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>924,617.84</b>

	<b>Mar 31</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	
2000 · Accounts Payable	-1,211.43
2500 · Accrued Expenses	2,320.00
2700 · Deferred Grant Income	
2700B · Grass Carp	4,981.00
2700 · Deferred Grant Income	0.00
<b>Total 2700 · Deferred Grant Income</b>	<b>4,981.00</b>
700 · CapitalProject Fund	447,936.46
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>455,694.93</b>

	<b>Mar 31</b>
<b>Equity</b>	
3200B · Restricted	
3200B 1 · Education Programs	10,353.69
<b>Total 3200B · Restricted</b>	<b>10,353.69</b>
3200D · Assigned	
3200D 1 · HMS Initiatives	8,443.71
3200D 2 · Lake Incentives	30,602.44
3200D 3 · Buffer Garden	1,983.77
<b>Total 3200D · Assigned</b>	<b>41,029.92</b>
3200E · Unassigned	211,225.55
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>206,313.75</b>
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>468,922.91</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>924,617.84</b>

<b>Accounts Receivable</b>			
Danbury	July	\$32,550.00	
DEEP (Lake Stewards)	Nov	\$24,136.20	
<b>Total Accounts Receivable</b>		<b>\$56,686.20</b>	

<b>Accounts Payable</b>	
LEAF	-\$111.43
6 CIC, LLC	-\$1,100.00
<b>Total Accounts Payable</b>	<b>-\$1,211.43</b>

<b>Accrued Expenses</b>			
Website Refresh	July 2024	\$2,320.00	
<b>Total Accrued Expenses</b>		<b>\$2,320.00</b>	



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

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**April 8, 2026**  
**Executive Director**  
**Mark Howarth**

## Monthly Report

- On the evening of April 14<sup>th</sup>, we will attend a committee meeting in Danbury for the review of our proposed FY 26/27 budget. This is the final anticipated meeting regarding our budget as we have completed the process in the other 4 municipalities.
- We are eagerly anticipating the delivery of the upcoming research boat next month. Currently we continue to work with Munson Boats on the graphics for the boat and some other finishing details. We anticipate traveling to participate in the sea trials and training on the new vessel towards the end of this month in preparation to take ownership of it in May.
- On March 31<sup>st</sup>, Bill Licht, Shaun McColgan and I traveled to the CT DEEP headquarters to meet with the Bureau Chief of Outdoor Recreation, interim Colonel, our supervising Sergeant and a DEEP attorney in preparation for the start of the boating season.
- We have completed the writing of our Business Partnership appeal letter and will be sending that out shortly. Our business partnerships are another key component of our fundraising efforts for the year and typically the final large effort before our fiscal year ends on June 30<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to the continued support of our business partners again this year.
- We continue to go through the onboarding and training process with Paychex HR, learning the new systems. Currently we are in the process of developing a new employee handbook, which we look forward to distributing upon its completion. Paychex HR has been a valued partner, helping to guide us and answer our questions.
- I attended two meetings at FirstLight offices: the Nuisance Plant Monitoring Meeting and the Technical Committee Meeting. With the plant population in Candlewood still recovering it was noted that DEEP intends to do another limited removal of grass carp

this year to help encourage its recovery. With Lakes Lillinonah and Zoar seeing significant plant growth and Lake Lillinonah also dealing with invasive plants, including hydrilla, as in recent summers, the bulk of the in-season plant monitoring FirstLight's contractor will do will be focused on those lakes, with resources to be made available if there are changes in the plant community seen in Candlewood.

It was also noted that a deep drawdown is planned for Candlewood this upcoming winter, barring any unforeseen developments.

- We have been preparing for the start of the recreation season, notably with the Marine Patrol, to ensure that they are properly equipped, trained and staffed. Michael has updated the first Silver Ships dashboard to be consistent with our other two vessels, and we are awaiting some final components from Silver Ships to complete this process.
- We have been an active participant in the planning and initial meetings for a tabletop and anticipated live training exercise for an on-water emergency. This effort is being organized by our Danbury Delegate Shaun McColgan, and will involve all of our municipalities and their emergency services and the CT DEEP. This valuable training exercise will help all of the emergency services on Candlewood train for potential on-water emergencies.



# 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:** April Monthly Report

**Date:** 4/8/2026

- I notified the CLA employees and board of my intention to leave my position at the CLA with a final day of Friday June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026.
  - I thank the CLA for nearly 8 wonderful years where I have been honored to be a steward of the lake. I am only leaving due to a necessary personal life change but will remain a friend to everyone at the CLA, and a continued advisor in whatever way I can be helpful.
  - I have begun working with Mark regarding transition planning. We plan to have the job posting up soon with the hope of interviewing and hiring someone before I leave, as well as hopefully including a week or two of training.
  
- I have begun work on all of our ongoing projects to ensure the transition is as smooth as possible. This includes the Lake Steward Program, the Nutrient Budget, and the normal Water Quality Monitoring – among others.
  
- I presented the highlights from the final water quality report at last month's watershed meeting but forwarded the report to the board and posted it on the website!
  - In general, last year's water quality was generally slightly above average, with the only point of significance being large and persistent blue-green algae blooms late into the season. These were due to environmental factors like the timing of the "turnover" as well as a mild fall.
  
- Mark and I have been working on the design and planning for the new Science Boat!

- While I will be only able to use it for a short time, I know that the capabilities of the new boat will be a huge benefit to the new director of Ecology's work for the lake.
- The technical committee meeting recently occurred at FirstLight. The significant developments include continued hydrilla monitoring and treatment in Lake Lillinonah, as well as milfoil treatment in Lake Zoar.
  - There is a plan for another deep drawdown in the winter of 2026-27 to allow for construction to occur at the Squantz Cove boat ramp by DEEP Boating.
- We received word that the CLA was not awarded the AIS grant for the Lake Steward program for the 2027 season (the 2026 season was awarded already and will move forward with no problems).
  - This was for a few different reasons but will allow us to apply for two years simultaneously (27 & 28) at the next application cycle – and would mean we would not be applying every year which might be an advantage in both work hours as well as increasing the likelihood of future awards.
- We received the 2025 Tournament Fishing report from DEEP Fisheries – which has been posted on our website. This is a newer report from DEEP and presents a lot of interesting information about the volume and potential impacts of tournament fishing throughout the state, as well as on Candlewood.
- I had a very successful medical procedure in early March and want to thank the CLA for allowing me to have the necessary time to get through that and recover nicely.