



# 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, May 13, 2026 - 7:00PM via ZOOM

### ATTENDING:

R. Paladino	Sherman
D. Cushnie	Sherman
M. O'Connor (7:04pm)	Sherman
B. Licht	New Fairfield
J. Archer	New Fairfield
J. Main (7:02pm)	New Fairfield
M. Gaffey	Brookfield
W. Meikle	Brookfield
B. Lohan	Brookfield
E. Siergiej	Danbury
S. McColgan (7:03pm)	Danbury
S. Kluge	New Milford
M. Toussaint	New Milford

### ABSENT:

J. Laughinghouse	Danbury
J. Wodarski	New Milford

M. Howarth, Executive Director  
N. Mellas, Chief  
D. Wright, Administrative Coordinator  
M. Gasperino, Operations Manager

Recorder: D. Wright

Guests: 2

*Vice Chairman, Marianne Gaffey, called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.*

### PUBLIC COMMENT

None

### CONSENT AGENDA

*Marianne Gaffey made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Steve Kluge, all voting in favor.*

Jeff Main joined 7:02pm

### **TREASURER (Will Meikle)**

Will stated our financial position is solid and we are still ahead of budget.

Shaun McColgan joined 7:03

Will discussed a capital request for ballistic vests for the patrol officers to improve their safety while on patrol. The vests are positively buoyant, thin and can be worn under uniforms and washed.

Martin joined 7:04pm

*Will Meikle made a motion to approve the purchase of 22 Hyperline ballistic vests for a not to exceed price of \$24,000, seconded by **Bill Licht**, all voting in favor.*

Will added it will come out of our capital fund.

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

Bill stated that DEEP should provide appointments this week. Bill noted we have 14 returning officers and 6 new recruits. Bill added that Shaun was instrumental with setting up the LiDAR training.

*Bill Licht made a motion board approve hiring fourteen returning officers and six new hires, effective May 1 pending formal appointment from DEEP, seconded by **Robert Paladino**, all voting in favor.*

Bill stated that the committee has been busy reviewing buoy applications for swim and hazard areas. Mark added DEEP is working on getting us the first batch of the appointments and he anticipates this will happen in time for the clean-up this weekend.

Nick added that training went well and mentioned helping with the training of twelve search and rescue dogs which was a great experience.

### **EQUIPMENT & FACILITIES (Ed Siergiej)**

Ed discussed that the buoy deployment is going well and the Science boat has arrived. Mike added it's been busy getting the boats serviced and into the water and all is on time.

### **PUBLIC AWARENESS (Joan Archer)**

Joan discussed the cleanup will happen on Saturday with a 9am start and most likely finish up around 12 followed by the lunch for volunteers. Joan added that business sponsorship letters went out and magnets are available. CLA will be attending the Sherman Memorial Day Parade, Sunday, May 24th. Joan noted the committee is working on an announcement regarding the science boat. Mark added that Martin attended the Sherman community expo on May 2nd and it went well.

### **WATERSHED MANAGEMENT (Steve Kluge)**

Steve stated that the Science boat is in. Neil added the Science boat will meet the organization's current and future needs. Lake Stewards training begins Memorial Day on Sunday. Neil added he is preparing for the transition to a new Director of Ecology, writing handbooks for all of the Watershed programs, working with GEI regarding the nutrient budget to ensure that hand off is seamless. All is going as planned.

Bill Licht left meeting at 7:28pm.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION: Director of Ecology Open Position Candidate Discussion**

*Will Meikle made a motion to go into executive session to discuss director of ecology open position, seconded by **Martin O'Connor**, all in favor.*

All attending delegates, Neil Stalter and Mark Howarth entered into an Executive Session at 7:30pm.

*Martin O'Connor made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 7:56pm, seconded by **Mark Toussaint**, all in favor.*  
All attending delegates, Neil Stalter and Mark Howarth returned from an Executive Session and the recording was turned back on. No motions or actions were taken in the Executive Session. Any guests in the waiting room were brought back.


*Marianne Gaffey made a motion to make an offer to candidate A at the salary discussed during Executive Session. If candidate A does not accept the offer, we will make an offer to candidate B at the salary discussed in Executive Session, seconded by **Will Meikle**, all in favor.*

### **ADJOURN**

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joan Archer" followed by a small "dw" monogram.

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**

**May 13, 2026**

## **Municipalities**

We have confirmed that Sherman and Danbury have approved their annual budgets. We are presently awaiting information from New Fairfield, Brookfield, and New Milford on the passing of their respective municipalities' budgets.

## **Committees**

Continue to check in with committees that meet regularly, with no significant concerns to report.

Collaborated with staff and delegates on recruiting efforts to replace the Director of Ecology.

## **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.

## **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.

Attended the Town of Sherman Expo event held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May. Our booth was busy throughout the day.



We are planning to participate in the annual Memorial Day Holiday parade in the Town of Sherman. We will 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**

**May 13, 2026**

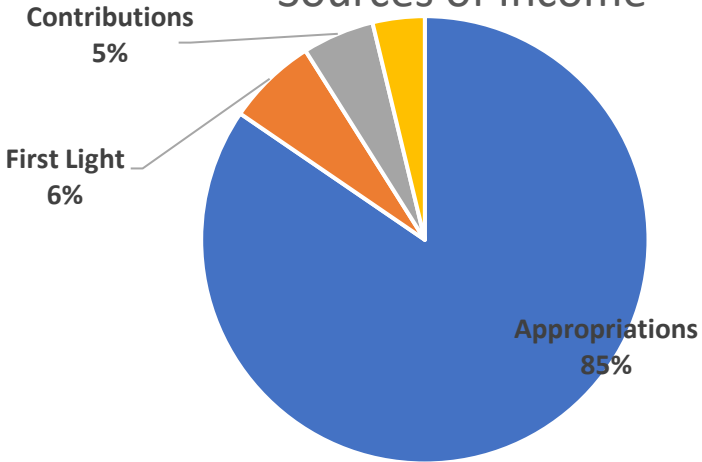
[WWW.CANDLEWOODLAKEAUTHORITY.ORG](http://WWW.CANDLEWOODLAKEAUTHORITY.ORG)

# Finance Committee Financial Results April 2026

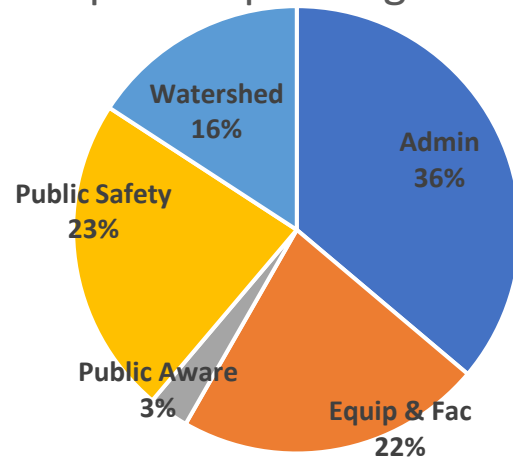


# Income & Expense Overview

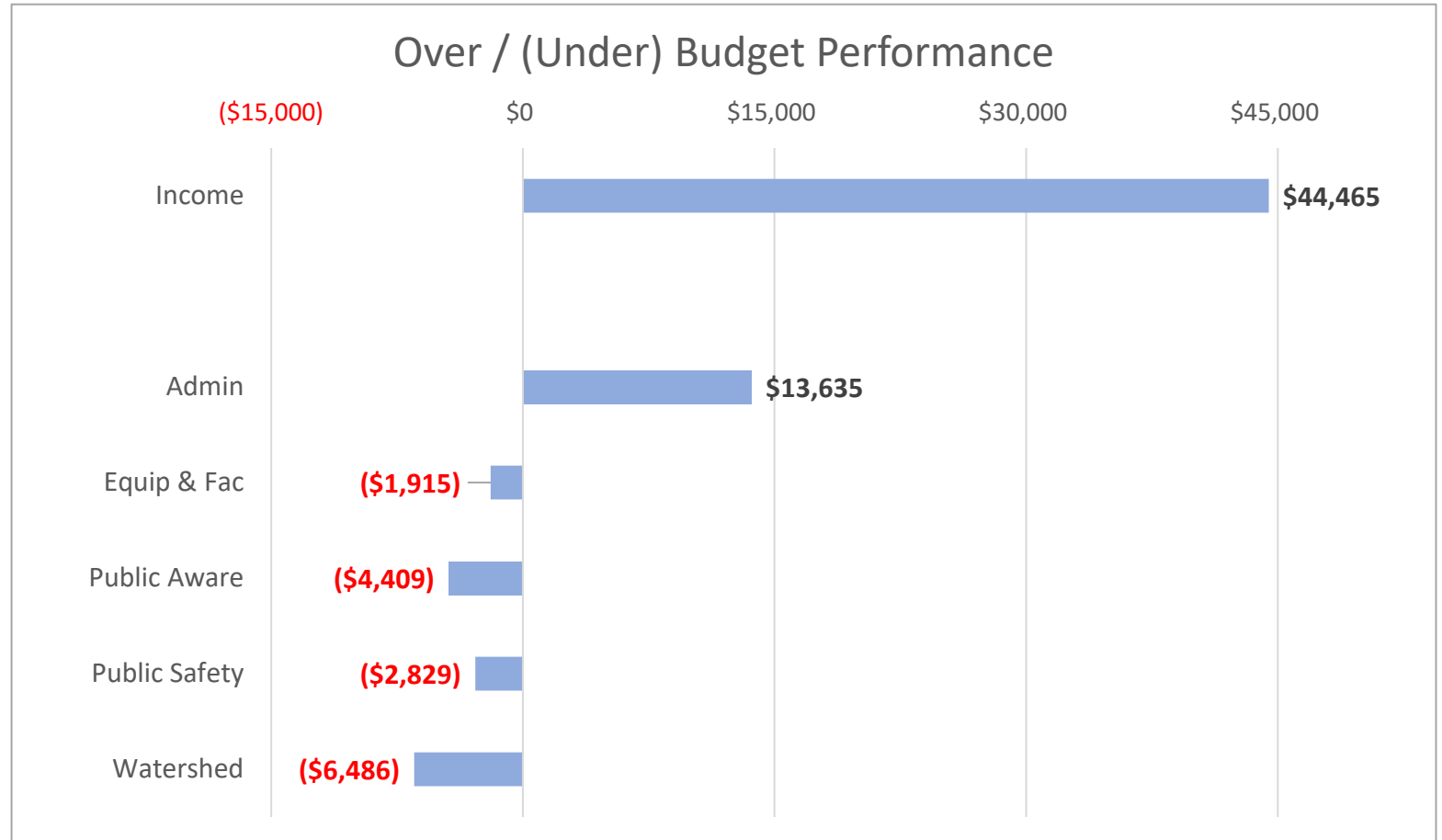
Sources of Income



Expense Spending Profile



Over / (Under) Budget Performance



# Operational Income & Expense Summary

April 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>	\$763,000	\$807,465	\$44,465	106%	\$757,500	\$801,965	\$44,465	106%
<b>Expenses</b>								
Administration	\$243,822	\$257,457	\$13,635	106%	\$273,855	\$287,490	\$13,635	105%
Equipment & Facilities	\$133,777	\$131,861	(\$1,915)	99%	\$167,590	\$165,675	(\$1,915)	99%
Public Awareness	\$13,000	\$8,591	(\$4,409)	66%	\$22,000	\$17,591	(\$4,409)	80%
Public Safety	\$148,609	\$145,780	(\$2,829)	98%	\$174,280	\$171,451	(\$2,829)	98%
Watershed Management	\$115,387	\$108,901	(\$6,486)	94%	\$119,775	\$113,289	(\$6,486)	95%
<b>Total Expense</b>	\$654,594	\$652,591	(\$2,004)	100%	\$757,500	\$755,496	(\$2,004)	100%
<b>Other Income/(Expense)</b>	\$0	\$4,754	\$4,754		\$0	\$4,754	\$4,754	
<b>Operating Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	\$108,406	\$159,629	\$51,223	147%	\$0	\$51,223	\$51,223	-
<i>* Accrual Basis Accounting</i>								

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

# Key Drivers of the deltas to Budget



**Income:** Well ahead of budget driven Donations, Interest Income, Vessel sales, and a CIRMA 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 and Base Repairs expenses offset by Wages.



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



**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>Apr 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	2,157.97	1,000.00	29,955.12	23,000.00	6,955.12	25,000.00
911 · Miscellaneous Income	5,500.00		11,969.68	0.00	11,969.68	0.00
912 · Contributions and Donations	3,934.90	1,000.00	50,140.40	33,000.00	17,140.40	35,000.00
915 · Sponsorship -programs/activitie	0.00	0.00	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>11,592.87</b>	<b>2,000.00</b>	<b>807,465.20</b>	<b>763,000.00</b>	<b>44,465.20</b>	<b>777,000.00</b>



# Administration Expense Details

	<u>Apr 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	82,750.00	82,750.00	0.00	99,300.00
101 · SS/Medi/CTUC	402.39	2,284.83	24,839.99	26,112.34	-1,272.35	31,500.00
101A · Workers Comp Insurance	0.00	0.00	4,844.00	4,835.00	9.00	4,835.00
102 · Exec Dir - Fringe Benefits	1,443.48	1,347.92	13,307.30	13,479.20	-171.90	16,175.00
110 · Admin. Coordinator - Wages	3,333.95	3,081.25	30,514.55	30,812.50	-297.95	36,975.00
112 · Admin Cor - Fringe Benefits	1,186.22	1,201.67	10,807.88	12,016.70	-1,208.82	14,420.00
113 · Insurance	3,092.66	0.00	12,371.64	12,000.00	371.64	12,000.00
114 · Telephone	275.00	300.00	2,700.00	3,000.00	-300.00	3,600.00
115 · Office Supplies	208.98	491.67	4,008.86	4,916.70	-907.84	5,900.00
116 · Postage	0.00	62.50	99.17	625.00	-525.83	750.00
117 · Audit	0.00		8,000.00	8,000.00	0.00	8,000.00
118 · Professional Services	4,555.13	1,545.83	33,014.92	15,458.30	17,556.62	18,550.00
119 · Bank and Service Fees	0.00	210.00	1,863.20	2,100.00	-236.80	2,500.00
121 · Expenses	-80.02	83.33	4,795.26	833.30	3,961.96	1,000.00
122 · Internet Access	0.00	100.00	1,311.59	1,000.00	311.59	1,200.00
124 · Technology Hardware & Services	934.95	833.33	11,063.98	8,333.30	2,730.68	10,000.00
161 · Office Rent	1,133.00	1,755.00	11,165.00	17,550.00	-6,385.00	21,060.00
<b>Total Administration</b>	<b>24,760.74</b>	<b>21,572.33</b>	<b>257,457.34</b>	<b>243,822.34</b>	<b>13,635.00</b>	<b>287,765.00</b>



# Equipment & Facilities Expense Details

	<u>Apr 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	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00	-1,000.00	2,000.00
210 · Operations Manager - Wages	5,146.00	3,810.00	40,641.00	38,110.00	2,531.00	45,730.00
212 · Ops Mgr - Fringe Benefits	150.00	100.00	1,050.00	1,000.00	50.00	1,200.00
221 · Sherman Base - Repairs/Maint	0.00	250.00	1,204.80	2,500.00	-1,295.20	3,000.00
222 · Utilities - electric	215.09	520.00	1,820.65	5,200.00	-3,379.35	6,240.00
223 · Internet and Security Systems	0.00	20.83	1,107.56	208.30	899.26	250.00
226 · Work Boats	2,887.72	500.00	5,312.68	5,000.00	312.68	6,000.00
227 · Vehicle	0.00	166.67	2,384.42	1,666.70	717.72	2,000.00
228 · Dock and Trash Pick Up	0.00	41.67	20.74	416.70	-395.96	500.00
231 · Buoy Maintenance	0.00	1,300.00	2,319.52	2,675.00	-355.48	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>8,398.81</b>	<b>7,709.17</b>	<b>131,861.37</b>	<b>133,776.70</b>	<b>-1,915.33</b>	<b>144,595.00</b>



# Public Awareness Expense Details

	<u>Apr 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	1,411.17	4,166.70	-2,755.53	5,000.00
415 · Events and Displays	0.00	583.33	1,522.65	5,833.30	-4,310.65	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>8,591.40</b>	<b>13,000.00</b>	<b>-4,408.60</b>	<b>22,000.00</b>



# Public Safety Expense Details

	<u>Apr 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	2,041.13	598.00	48,451.20	51,704.78	-3,253.58	64,540.00
301 · CLAMP Chief Salary	3,537.50	3,537.50	35,375.00	35,375.00	0.00	42,450.00
311 · Boat Maintenance and Reimburse	268.95	0.00	19,796.37	18,380.00	1,416.37	21,500.00
312 · Gas and Oil	792.01	0.00	18,897.24	19,504.01	-606.77	25,900.00
313 · Insurance	2,635.34	0.00	10,541.36	10,925.00	-383.64	10,925.00
314 · Training	0.00	3,025.00	186.89	4,570.00	-4,383.11	5,610.00
318 · Miscellaneous	207.23	100.00	737.92	800.00	-62.08	1,000.00
320 · Technology HW & Services	1,800.00	362.00	8,517.42	3,620.00	4,897.42	4,345.00
321 · Radio & Equipment	100.00	710.00	2,605.49	810.00	1,795.49	1,810.00
322 · Uniforms	0.00	1,160.00	671.00	2,920.00	-2,249.00	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>11,382.16</b>	<b>9,492.50</b>	<b>145,779.89</b>	<b>148,608.79</b>	<b>-2,828.90</b>	<b>183,000.00</b>



# Watershed Management Expense Details

	<u>Apr 26</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Delta</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
<b>Watershed Management</b>						
500A · Director of Ecology Wage	6,112.50	6,112.50	61,125.00	61,125.00	0.00	73,350.00
502 · Dlr. Ecology - Fringe	1,386.39	1,280.00	12,684.86	12,800.00	-115.14	15,360.00
511 · Lake and Stream Monitoring	0.00	2,533.33	10,733.16	10,133.32	599.84	15,200.00
512 · E-Coli Bacteria Testing	0.00	500.00	2,980.25	2,000.00	980.25	3,000.00
513 · Cynobacteria testing (BG Algae)	0.00	333.33	168.12	1,333.32	-1,165.20	2,000.00
514 · Travel	0.00	250.00	1,142.40	2,500.00	-1,357.60	3,000.00
515 · Equipment and Supplies	0.00	300.00	160.31	2,100.00	-1,939.69	2,500.00
517 · Science Boat	0.00	800.00	0.00	800.00	-800.00	2,530.00
518 · Insurance	0.00	0.00	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	45.00	500.00	395.00	105.00	500.00
<b>Total Watershed Management</b>	<b>7,498.89</b>	<b>12,154.16</b>	<b>108,900.81</b>	<b>115,386.64</b>	<b>-6,485.83</b>	<b>139,640.00</b>

## Other (Restricted Grants) Income/Expense Details

	<u>Apr 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
<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>						
<b>Expense Restricted/Grants</b>					0.00	
800-21B · DEEP AIS (Lake Steward)	0.00	0.00	19,381.80	15,000.00	4,381.80	20,000.00
<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	Unencumbered
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)	(\$185,257)	(\$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 April 30, 2026	\$327,790	\$189,046

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

Reconciliation	
<b>Capital Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$327,790</b>
Science Vessel	(\$99,743)
PWC's	(\$39,000)
<b>Unencumbered Balance</b>	<b>\$189,046</b>

# Balance Sheet Summary & Details

	Apr 30
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
1120 · USB Checking -0212	775,459.39
11000 · Accounts Receivable	0.00
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>775,459.39</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>775,459.39</b>

	Apr 30
<b>Liabilities</b>	
2000 · Accounts Payable	18,130.78
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	327,789.66
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>353,221.44</b>

	Apr 30
<b>Equity</b>	
3200B · Restricted	
3200B 1 · Education Programs	10,353.69
3200D · Assigned	
3200D 1 · HMS Initiatives	8,443.71
3200D 2 · Lake Incentives	32,586.21
3200D 3 · Buffer Garden	0.00
<b>Total 3200D · Assigned</b>	<b>41,029.92</b>
3200E · Unassigned	211,225.55
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>159,628.79</b>
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>422,237.95</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>775,459.39</b>

<b>Accounts Receivable</b>	
<b>Total Accounts Receivable</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

<b>Accounts Payable</b>	
AccuCom Consulting, Inc.	\$1,800.00
BBI Technologies	\$73.57
Blue Water Marine Service, Inc.	\$268.95
CIRMA	\$5,728.00
Echo Bay Marina (service)	\$2,887.72
Eversource 3075 SH	\$215.09
New England Radar Lab, LLC	\$100.00
Rose Kallor LLP	\$6,122.50
Southridge Technology	\$934.95
<b>Total Accounts Payable</b>	<b>\$18,130.78</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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**May 13, 2026**  
**Executive Director**  
**Mark Howarth**

## **Monthly Report**

- We are in the process of hiring for the Director of Ecology position and look forward to welcoming a new staff member to the CLA in the coming weeks. Our hope is that the new Director of Ecology can overlap with Neil for a period in the first two weeks of June to provide for a smooth transition.
- We are also in the final stages of hiring for the patrol for the coming season, welcoming both returning and new officers to the Patrol.

We look forward to another successful season on the water.

- We are very excited to have our long-awaited research vessel on Candlewood Lake. What started two and half years ago, with us getting in the production queue, has produced a vessel that is going to allow us to more effectively understand and respond to changes in the lake's ecology and water quality today, and allow us to continue to grow and expand our capabilities in the future.

Steve and I went out to Munson Boats at the end of April for the sea trials and to train on the new vessel. We were extremely impressed with the entire operation at Munson Boats, including the production facility we toured, the personnel and quality of their vessels.



We took delivery of the boat on Saturday and have done some additional training on the boat and it's systems and expect to devote significant time to that following the conclusion of the clean up on Saturday.

- The Marine Patrol PWCs are in stock at the dealer and the trailer is due in any day now. We will take delivery of the PWCs as soon as the trailer is in, after which we will take the patrol lights, sirens etc that we removed from the 18 year old PWCs we used to have and transfer to the new ones. We look forward to the benefits these PWCs will bring to the Patrol and boating community, allowing us to easily interact with others in areas and ways that our patrol boats don't.
- We will be participating in the Sherman Memorial Day parade again this year, the Sunday before Memorial Day.
- I will join Neil in the hands-on training of our new Lake Stewards on Memorial Day weekend.
- We sent out our business partner letters and have started to get returns on those. We appreciate all of the support our business partners give us.
- We are in Clean Up preparedness mode, with the Clean Up happening this Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. We are looking forward to good weather and good participation this year – to make for a successful day – after forecasted thunderstorms forced us to cancel last year's Clean Up.
- I presented before the City of Danbury at their Budget Ad Hoc meeting on April 14th and appreciated the interesting questions that were asked of me that evening.
- It is an extremely busy time of year for us here, with many changes happening and the start of the boating season upon us, but we are also very excited for the season and look forward to a successful summer here on Candlewood Lake.



# 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: May Monthly Report**

**Date: 5/13/2026**

- We have concluded interviews with the candidates for the Director of Ecology job and I look forward to recommending a candidate with the hiring committee at the board meeting.
  - Following the board meeting, we will plan to notify the candidate with the hope that I will be able to work with them and train them for 1-2 weeks at the beginning of June before my last day (Fri. June 12<sup>th</sup>).
- The new research boat has arrived and it is absolutely amazing. I couldn't picture a better vessel for the needs of the CLA's research moving forward, and I know that it will serve the organization, and the lake, very well.
  - We have already begun to use it a little, and I look forward to using it for the water quality monitoring program next week!



- We have been making arrangements for the 2026 lake steward program, and have recruited another solid group of 10-12 stewards.
  - Training will begin on Memorial Day weekend.
- We have been making arrangements for the annual clean up, which is scheduled for this Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. The weather looks great! We currently have 13 captains signed up, and Wednesday May 13<sup>th</sup> is the final day for sign ups.
- I am working on organizing all projects so that the transition to the new employee in June is as seamless as possible. This includes the Water Quality, the Lake Stewards, The Nutrient Budget, and all sorts of smaller things.
  - I am working on official methodologies for each project for reference for the next director of ecology.
- I've had the pleasure of presenting to a few groups the last few months, including at Danbury High School and the Danbury Lions Club. We're also planning a few visits in the coming month.

