



# 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, July 9, 2025 - 7:00PM via ZOOM

### ATTENDING:

D. Cushnie	Sherman
M. O'Connor	Sherman
B. Licht	New Fairfield
J. Main (7:06pm)	New Fairfield
M. Gaffey	Brookfield
W. Meikle	Brookfield
B. Lohan	Brookfield
E. Siergiej	Danbury
J. Laughinghouse	Danbury
S. Kluge	New Milford
M. Toussaint	New Milford
J. Wodarski	New Milford

M. Howarth, Executive Director  
N. Mellas, Chief  
N. Stalter, Director of Ecology  
M. Gasperino, Operations Manager

Recorder: N. Slalter

Guests: 2

### ABSENT:

P. Schaer	Sherman
J. Archer	New Fairfield
S. McColgan	Danbury

*Chairman, **Martin O'Connor**, called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.*

### PUBLIC COMMENT

None

### CONSENT AGENDA

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

***Will Meikle** made a motion to add a personnel item to the end of the meeting, seconded by **Ed Siergiej**, all voting favor.*

### TREASURER (Will Meikle)

Will provided an update that all is financially well. Will noted that we finished the fiscal year on June 30<sup>th</sup> with a surplus and stated that he plans to send the draft year-end reports before closing last year's books.

***Will Meikle** made a motion to transfer \$15,000 to the Phase III (Report/Analysis) of the Lake Management Plan, seconded by **Mark Toussaint**, all voting in favor.*

(Jeff Main joined)

***Will Meikle** made a motion to transfer \$75k to the capital fund from Account 261 in line with our approved budget, seconded by **Bill Lohan**, all voting in favor.*

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

Bill Licht discussed a productive meeting with DEEP about officer and public safety, including BUI enforcement. The policy and procedures manual should be finalized in approximately three weeks. Nick M. added that the fireworks were successful and went well with a lot of support from the municipal PD/FD/EMS. The vessels are running well, the software, tablets and connectivity have all been great. Mark H. mentioned the upgrades that Michael G. and Matt S., one of our officers, made to the PWCs, adding lights and a siren. Nick confirmed that it has added to their visibility and is working well.

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

Ed discussed the new truck which should be arriving this month. Ed noted that they are in the process of receiving quotes for a roof replacement at the Sherman location. Mike G. provided an update on the season and all is going well. Mark H. advised the manufacturer of SS#3 advised the delayed windows had arrived and being installed. Delivery should hopefully be soon.

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

Mark noted that seven more videos were filmed with a few more to be filmed for next spring. The updated homepage from MorWeb has been received and we will be reviewing. Martin O. asked about a fall cleanup, which will not be scheduled.

#### **WATERSHED MANAGEMENT (Mark Howarth)**

Neil S. discussed water sampling, which has been going well. Neil noted that stream sampling has been successful. The Lake Steward program has had a lot of interactions, and useful data has been collected; all is going well with full coverage and no call outs. Neil discussed that we have an intern for the summer who will be working on an independent research project on the water pumped up from the Housatonic into the lake and her findings will be presented in September. She will also be joining us for field work. Neil added that E.coli and blue-green algae monitoring has begun.

***Will Meikle** made a motion to go into the Executive Session at 7:28pm, seconded by Martin O'Connor, all voting in favor.*

*All attending delegates and Mark Howarth went into an Executive Session.*

*All delegates and Mark Howarth returned from an Executive Session at 7:34 pm. No decisions or actions were taken in executive session.*

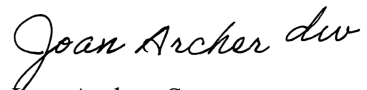
***Will Meikle** made a motion to approve the pay structure for the employee discussed in executive session, seconded by **Mark Toussaint**, all voting in favor.*

#### **ADJOURN**

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "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**

**July 9, 2025**

## **Municipalities**

We continue to follow up with all the Municipalities regarding the Islands. We intend to connect with the New Fairfield Selectman to discuss the existing signage. As previously stated, we have agreed to remain the first level of contact and will escalate as required.

## **MOU - Marine Patrol**

We continue to review BUI and enforcement of such in relationship to the existing MOU with DEEP. We are currently seeking the appropriate guidance on how best to move forward. Our meetings with DEEP on this subject remain positive.

## **Corporate Sponsors**

We lost several Corporate Sponsors during COVID. We have made an effort to reconnect in person with local business owners to discuss the various initiatives we have in progress and seek their support in the CLA.

## **Committees:**

All committees continue to meet regularly with no major concerns noted. My sincere thanks to all the Members and Volunteers of the CLA and for their efforts in allowing us to have another successful year of operations.

## **Financials**

Overall financial position remains on track as we close out the fiscal year end.

**Martin W. O'Connor**

**July 9, 2025**

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



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**July 9, 2025**  
**Executive Director**  
**Mark Howarth**

## **Monthly Report**

- We have been releasing more of our educational video series, including several public safety videos. We are very pleased with the final product as well as the educational value we are getting from them. We had two more days of filming recently, one at the end of July where we filmed three ecology videos and one last week where we filmed four boating safety videos. Additionally, while filming we often get ideas for new videos, which we did again this round.



- Thank you to all of our business partners who have supported us this year. We have continued to reach out to potential partners and hope that more will join us this year.
- I have been working with members of the Public Safety Committee, Chief Mellas and the CT DEEP regarding BUI education and enforcement. Bill Licht and I had a productive meeting with DEEP on that and also on how to improve communication between EnCon



and CLAMP for more effective scheduling and on-water communication. This was done in an effort to improve both officer and public safety on Candlewood.

- I joined Neil for a morning of stream monitoring and sampling at three of our stream sites for the nutrient budget. My role as data recorder and equipment hauler wasn't glamorous but was hopefully helpful! It was good to get out into the field to see the progress on this important research project Neil is leading this summer.



- After a 1-day delay on the Danbury Fireworks, they went off without major incident on Sunday the 29<sup>th</sup> of June. Many thanks to Nick and the CLA Marine Patrol for their professional work that day and night, along with the CT DEEP, municipal EMS/FD/PD and others, in keeping everyone safe.
- The upgrades made at the end of the last season to the Patrol PWCs, which included blue lights, sirens and mic/speaker, are now in use and a benefit to the officers on the water. Previously, the PWCs did not have those items, leaving the officers without a good way to get the attention of boaters when necessary and without blue lights to help identify them as law enforcement. Thank you to Mike G for the after hours repair to improve the starting ability of one of the PWCs so that the officers would have two reliable PWCs for the busy 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend.





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**J. Neil Stalter**

**Director of Ecology and Environmental Education**

**Candlewood Lake Authority**

**Re: July Monthly Report**

**Date: 7/9/2025**

- Water quality monitoring is continuing for the 2025 season and everything is looking normal! No unusual algae blooms or surprising results. We're back to once-per-month sampling to make room for the other monitoring projects this year.
- We have conducted multiple stream samples so far this year, and all have been very successful. Working with GEI has been easy, and they've been providing us the equipment necessary, and been very supportive. We'll continue sampling through the rest of the summer, and I look forward to some very interesting results!
  - We are also planning the well monitoring, which will likely last even through the winter time, as once the wells are drilled, they can stay in place and be sampled for a full year very easily to provide lots of useful information.
- So far the Lake Steward program has been going very smoothly! Despite the bad weather at the beginning of the season, we haven't had any cancelled shifts and have had full teams throughout the entire summer. As the weather has improved, the stewards have been interacting with many more boaters and have been collecting lots of good data.





- Mark and I had fun recording some additional videos with RMedia including a FAQ on algae blooms and a “Carry In-Carry Out” message to prevent littering. We’ll then have 4 ecology videos recorded and ready to go once they are all finished.
  - We have also been posting additional Patrol educational videos on YouTube, Facebook, and our website – and they have been getting some good attention!



- We’ve chose and hired our Ecological Research Intern for the summer! She has already begun work on her independent research project and will be helping us out with sampling this year. She’ll be presenting her project, which will be examining water coming from the Housatonic River via the pump-up, at the September board meeting.
- We have submitted a permit request for a hydrilla rapid response plan, and should be getting some assistance in filling that out soon so that it is in file with DEEP.
  - We are continuing our monitoring to look for hydrilla in an effort to quickly respond should it be found.
- The normal volunteer E. Coli sampling program has begun this week, and will go through September! All results from week one were below the threshold, except for Lattins Cove. DEEP was notified of the elevated result.
- WCSU’s blue-green algae monitoring began last week too and all results were well below the threshold. Those results will be posted on our Facebook starting this Friday.