

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

July 13, 2012

Keuka College

As mandated by the KLA By-Laws, President Bill Laffin called the meeting to order at 9:005 AM. He thanked everyone for coming.

I. Introduction of Officers and Directors and KLA – Bill Laffin

Bill stated that since we last convened, the Association has been very active on many fronts and he thanked all KLA members for their support.

He stressed that this organization is very fortunate to have a committed, engaged and active working Board of Directors, whose efforts make the KLA able to carry out its wide range of activities.

At this time, he recognized the KLA Board of Directors and Officers. Please stand when your name is called:

The Board of Directors:

For Barrington – Mike Gow and Barbara Allardice

For Jerusalem – Chuck Bastian and Jim Barre

For Milo – Mark Morris and Jeanne Wiltberger

For Pulteney – Sandra Pietropaoli and Stan Martin

For Urbana – John Hagreen and Ellen Shaw Maceko

And For Wayne - Wayne Hand and Dennis Carlson

At-Large Directors are – Doug DeFranco, Steve Hicks, Mike O'Brien, Steve Tomlinson, Al Wahlig and Don Wright.

The KLA's Officers are –Dennis Carlson, President Elect

John Webster – Treasurer

Bebette Yunis – Secretary

Rob Corcoran - Past President

Bill introduced the non-voting members of the Board of Directors, who are three very dedicated technical consultants:

Dr. Tim Sellers, Assistant Dean and Director of the Keuka College Center for Aquatic Research on water quality issues.

Nicole Landers, Executive Director of Yates County Cornell Cooperative Extension on Aquatic Invasive Species issues.

Scott Demmin, from DSD Webworks on web design and hosting and other information technology Office Administrator – Margo McTaggart.

Bill thanked them all for their tremendous support and efforts.

Bill proceeded to highlight recent KLA activities and concerns:

- Over the past 12 months, the Board has endeavored to keep you informed of its activities via our printed quarterly newsletter, our new monthly e-newsletter, our web site and our Facebook Page.
- I am very pleased that during the past 12 months, the KLA has maintained its direction and commitment to its overall mission to Protect and Preserve Keuka Lake for Future Generations.
- Today, we will update you on some of our newer and more recent activities, introduce you to the Esther N. Wahlig Keuka Watershed Endowed Scholarship Recipients, the winners of the Annual Kaleidoscope Photo Winners as well as carry out mandated KLA business.
- In addition to our ongoing water testing activities, we have partnered with Keuka College's Center for Aquatic Research and awarded them a grant for the purchase of a portable multi parameter water quality probe. This will provide more real time and comprehensive data on the lake's water. The probe will be used by the KLA's water sampling collection team as well as the students at the Center for Aquatic Research.
- We have funded a redesign of the lake level monitoring system that provides the Keuka Lake

Outlet Compact - KLOC - and the Penn Yan Municipal Board enhanced tools for managing the flood gates.

- Education is a key element of the KLA's overall mission. Whether it's distributing the boating and fishing regulations, Hydrilla information sheets or installing Hydrilla signs at boat launches, we continue to put resources in areas of greatest impact.
- However, dealing with diverse government groups is never easy. We've been successful in working on the installation of education and guide signs on NYS and Steuben County Roads within the watershed. These signs will welcome people to the watershed and some ask that they help to protect and preserve it.
- However, the process in Yates County has not gone well and continues to be thwarted by the legislature which enacted a policy against what they view to be non-essential signs. However, the KLA has no intention of going away and will continue to pursue approval to install 4 signs on Yates County Roads.
- While the KLA along with its counterpart on Seneca Lake were not successful in convincing the Yates County Legislature to enact an Aquatic Invasive Species Law, our activities and those of other groups have raised the awareness of the costs associated with the damage of Aquatic Invasive Species and the Legislature did agree and has sent a Resolution to Albany asking that a State Wide Law be adopted.
- Please remember the free Aquatic Invasive Species training being held at the Yates County Auditorium on July 24 at 10 AM. If all of our eyes are on the lake, we have a better chance of identifying problems before they become significant issues.
- We continue to actively communicate with the 2 Sheriff's Departments and as in past years have reached out to them as it relates to their needs for patrol boat equipment.
- We awarded a water safety grant to long time KLA member Camp Cory for the purchase of new Personal Floatation Devices for those who attend the camp.
- Again this year, the KLA will be chartering an airboat so that the Yates County Soil and Water Conservation District personnel can get farther into the outlet marsh and both inventory and remove invasive aquatic plants.
- A KLA Committee has begun work on updating our web site. Once this web redesign goes live in the fall, it will also enhance the graphics on the lake level and lake temperature pages.
- We will again publish a new directory in time for next year's Annual Meeting.
- The Land Use Leadership Alliance group of which the KLA was a founding sponsor in 2008 has been approved for a "Sustainable Keuka Lake" grant by the NYS Department of State. Part of the grant will be a survey of about 33% of the residents and municipal leaders of the 8 municipalities surrounding the lake. If you are contacted, please understand that the end result for this survey will be a plan that benefits the lake and watershed. We will also send it electronically to those members for whom we have email addresses. The survey is also located in the alcove. Please pick one up and either complete it here or drop it by the KLA Office.
- For those of you that fish, you are aware that there is a frequency of consumption warning for all fish caught in the lake. This relates to high DDT levels in fish tissue samples. The DDT got into the lake from off lake agriculture practices decades ago. For the past few years, we've been asking the DEC to resample lake trout and other Keuka Lake fish – even offering to help them fish. The DEC has recently acknowledged that they are seeing declining levels of DDT in fish samples and will pursue the conversation with the Department of Health on whether the advisories are still merited.

Keuka Lake (Yates, Steuben)	Lake trout	Greater than 25", up to 1 meal/month; Less than 25", up to 4 meals/month	DON'T EAT	DDT
	All other fish	Up to 4 meals/month	DON'T EAT	DDT

- The KLA as part of the Finger Lakes Regional Watershed Alliance continues search for regional solutions to common problems.
- It's been a busy year for your KLA with a lot to still accomplish.

Bill thanked everyone for their support.

II. Approval of the 2011 Annual Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the 2012 Annual Meeting were distributed in the September 2012 Newsletter as well as being posted on the KLA Website. Bill Laffin asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the 2012 Annual Meeting. There was a motion from Dennis Carlson and seconded by Mike Gow. The motion passed following an agreement to dispense with reading of the minutes from the 2012 Annual Meeting.

III. Introduction of 2013 Scholarship Winners

Bill and Scholarship Chair, Meg Cole reported the 2013 winners of the Esther N. Wahlig Watershed Scholarship: Emma Lannon from Gainesville, FL was introduced and Ryan Eckel from Hammondsport, who was unable to attend today due to a prior commitment. Both of the recipients were previously presented with certificates at their high school graduations. Ryan is from West Lake Road in Hammondsport and is the son of KLA Members Charles and Patricia Eckel. He will be attending Lock Haven University majoring in Physics. He plans on becoming a Chemical Engineer with a focus on remediation of environmental upsets.

Emma Lannon is the daughter of KLA Members Kurt and Heidi Lannon. She is from Gainesville Florida and summers every year on the lake in Branchport. Emma will be attending SUNY Geneseo, majoring in Biology with a minor in Environmental Science. She plans to pursue a career in Environmental Preservation and Regulation as well as the interaction between development, the environment and water quality.

Bill thanked Meg and the rest of the Scholarship Committee and best wishes to this year's scholarship recipients.

IV. Treasurer's Report – John Webster

John reported that the KLA remains in a strong financial position. The increase in yearly membership and donations has allowed the KLA to continue to support its mission. He shared the following financial figures for the 12-month period ending June 30th:

Revenue	\$119,414	\$107,075
Operating Expenses	\$113,905	\$ 84,550
Non Budgeted Expenses	\$ 500	\$ 6,048
End of Year Balance	\$134,206	\$150,693
Wahlig Scholarship Balance	\$24,976	\$22,125

2011 Non Budgeted Expenses: Finger Lakes Museum

2012 Non Budgeted Expenses: 1) Hydrilla Brochures
2) Water Chestnut Pull
3) Lake Level and Water Temperature Equipment

	Mid-Year 2012	Mid-Year 2013
Revenue	\$88,848	\$82,592
Operating Expenses	\$41,631	\$33,839
Non Budgeted Expenses	\$750	\$18,734
Mid-Year Balance	\$177,783	\$180,711
Wahlig Scholarship Balance	\$22,048	\$20,212

2013 Non Budgeted Expenses: 1) Water test probe
2) Website revisions to accommodate new lake level
and water temperature sensors
3) Watershed signs
4) Life vests for Camp Cory

It should be noted that in preparing the yearly budget the Board of Directors adopts a balanced budget that includes only the normally anticipated operating expenses, while depending almost entirely on member dues and donations for the revenue side of the budget.

Unanticipated and non-normal expenses are paid for out of the General Fund balance. The awareness campaign for hydrilla and the watershed signage project are examples of non-normal expenses. We are also anticipating some expenses for new computer hardware and software for the lake level data logging system which will also be paid for from our fund balance.

As you may remember from last year's annual meeting we awarded \$2000 in scholarships. These scholarships are funded by the Wahlig Foundation Scholarship Fund which receives no money from our General Fund.

V. Audit Report – Don Wright

Four KLA Directors meet in January and July for this process. All was in order.

VI. Recognition of Retiring Board Members – Bill Laffin

Bill stated that it is sad to say farewell to these Board members who have been great volunteers and who have given tirelessly to the KLA over the past several years. He asked the following retiring Members of the Board of Directors to come forward: Barbara Allardice and Sandy Pietropaoli. Bill also recognized Al Wahlig who is retiring from the Board but could not be here today. Bill thanked Barb, Sandy and Al for your service to the lake and the KLA. They each received a pottery wine cooler with the KLA logo on it.

VII. Nominating Committee Report – Dennis Carlson

The Nominating Committee would like to thank the KLA Members who responded to our call for volunteers to serve on the Board of Directors. The biographies of the proposed new Board Members were in the letter announcing this annual meeting. All have strong professional backgrounds and bring many years of interest and support for Keuka Lake and the Watershed.

Proxy cards have been distributed and received from members who are eligible to vote and will be voted by President Bill Laffin and Secretary Bebette Yunis. Dennis made a motion to elect the following first term members of the Keuka Lake Association Board of Directors:

At Large	Meg Cole
At Large	Candy Dietrich
At Large	Ira Goldman

And to re-elect the following current Board of Directors members:

At-Large	Steve Tomlinson
Town of Jerusalem	Jim Barre
Town of Urbana	John Hagreen
Town of Urbana	Ellen Shaw-Maceko
Town of Milo	Mark Morris

The motion was seconded by Mike Gow and approved by the membership. The Nominating Committee thanks you.

VIII. **Special Reports**

A. Lake Patrol Report

Chuck Bastian began by thanking the Sheriffs' Marine patrol for bringing equipment to display and offering informational flyers. He shared three boater safety publications. He reminded the audience about the Sheriffs' Boater courses; he described a "Seatow" app which would display your location by GPS.

Chuck then introduced Yates' Sheriff Ron Spike, his deputies, Ed Nemitz, Pam Housel, and Steuben Undersheriff Jim Allard & Deputy Chris Valdez.

Ron Spike spoke first. He expressed his appreciation of the KLA, its Navigation & Recreation Committee and the help from the KLA Office. With public safety a #1 priority, the Sheriff's Marine Patrol acts as a tow truck, EMT carrier, ambulance & taxi. He clarified the difference between "stop" & "inspections". He stated that over 200 people have come through their Boater Safety courses this year including education on invasive species. They participated in the National Safe Boating Council's "Wear it Campaign". (See related article & photo on page XX of this newsletter.) Sheriff Spike described a new law "S0168" pending in the state legislature stating anyone born after May 1, 1996 must take an approved boating course to operate any motorized boat. This would take effect May 1, 2014. He thanked his Marine Patrol unit for its work. He added that "Reverse 911" can be used with cell phones by accessing www.yatescountysheriff.com.

Jim Allard stated that Steuben Marine Patrol needed new programs. They did some revamping & transitions to the seasonal patrols: 3 people were trained in Marine Patrol, 2 people trained to conduct the Boater Safety courses and 2 boats are now permanently parked on Keuka Lake. In September there will be a joint meeting with the Yates Sheriff's Department & the Hammondsport Fire Department for disaster training. Jim thanked the KLA for its work.

Bill thanked the Sheriffs. He then mentioned that the KLA is offering larger dock plates that can include street name. The Sheriffs then fielded several questions about the following issues: large, noisy boats – can all the sheriffs' non-emergency number for a decibel reading; bass or cigar boats are rarely over the decibel limit (75 in motion); Boat amplifiers blasting music – if they exceed decibel level, it is up to the nearby town to enforce, not the Marine Patrol; concern about lost rafts – they should be marked for identification.

B. Lake Level – Wayne Hand

Wayne used Power Point for his presentation. He began by saying stating 3 Lake Level topics:

- *Lake level control & performance & Current level control strategy*

Gates at the outlet in Penn Yan are owned and managed by Keuka Lake Outlet Compact (KLOC), along with guidance from NY Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC)
KLOC – board consists of 6 town supervisors & 2 village mayors from the lake shore municipalities. Its primary Objectives are: Maintain the lake level within the defined objectives and minimize potential flooding resulting from extreme precipitation events. Gates are operated by village of Penn Yan, per instructions from KLOC and the Reservoir Regulation Manual (developed by US Army Corp of Engineers). Wayne complimented KLOC & the PY village gate operations for doing an excellent job in maintaining the lake level within the objectives.
Min. outflow is 20 cfs (required for PY village waste treatment)
Max. outflow is 1,000 cfs (min. any downstream flooding)
- *Improved level management process and equipment*

Lake level is monitored continuously at the Penn Yan Water Plant. New equipment and software installed in March, allowing automatic direct updates to the KLA web site every 2 hours. System also automatically calculates the resulting water outflow amount and updates the chart
- *Other Improvements*

Lake water temperature is now also totally automatically recorded and charted on the KLA web site. The resulting more accurate (and live) water outflow information has resulted in KLOC approving the addition of a new minimum water flow gate opening setting of 5 inches (vs. the previous 6" setting). For today's conditions, this results in ~ 21 CFS vs. 26 CFS outflow, keeping more water in the lake. For the past 2 years, less than "normal" summer precipitation, with minimum DEC required outflow rates, have resulted in the lake level being below the minimum for a few months
The only level control is water outflow, only "Mother Nature" influences what flows in
In case of dry summer the balance of this year, KLOC and Gate Operations have been maintaining the lake level closer to upper objective (vs. mid-point), keeping as more water in the reservoir
Lake Level Strategy Impact
With this strategy, along with improved information resulting from recent system improvements, and the new minimum outflow setting, we are expect 2013 level performance vs. objectives will be improve further. Shore residents and lake users should anticipate the lake level remaining above the objective mid-point for at least the first half of the summer, and remain above the lower objective in late summer (not like the previous 2 years). Please plan your portable dock and boat lift heights accordingly, and check the web site periodically for the actual level readings and future planned level changes.
Lake level & temperature will no longer be accessible by phone – only on the KLA website.
- Wayne closed his presentation by saying that the level and temperature monitoring system improvement efforts have been an excellent team effort, with PY team, CCE, and Scott Demmin (DSD Webworks). If you have any further suggestions for making the web site information more user-friendly, or better, please let us know.

Bill thanked Wayne for his presentation and all of the work he put into the new lake level and lake temperature systems.

C. Communications – Doug DeFranco

Doug summarized the following activities by the Communications Committee:

1. With the help & knowledge of Scott Demmin (DSD Webworks) the KLA is close to unveiling its new website which we think is much more user-friendly. Also members will be able to renew on line, read current newsletters, donate on line for memorials, matching gifts, etc.
2. Our e-newsletter continues to be a monthly success. Please make sure we have 1 or 2 up-to-date e-mail addresses for you.
3. We will be working on a new 2014 Directory, to be out by next summer.
4. Our calendar committee is very active and is looking forward to photo submissions for 2015. Our 2014 calendar is available at local vendors around the lake.

Bill stated that four years ago, the KLA needed someone to handle a new committee to deal with the issues of hydrofracking and well disposal. Jim Barre volunteered to head this committee and he has lead a great group of volunteers to educate KLA members and members of state and local governments on the potential hazards if these activities were allowed in the watershed.

D. Hydrofracking Report – Jim Barre

Using Power Point slides Jim explained several current points of interest:

1. KLA's Position on hydrofracking: No high volume hydraulic fracturing for natural gas in the Keuka Lake Watershed (hydrofracking) plus a 4000 foot buffer. This follows the KLA questionnaire results. We are waiting for the DEC decision!
2. Jim's committee has done the following: Met frequently; Provided Information for E-mail, Newsletters and Newspapers; Corresponded with DEC & Governor; and identified future plans should DEC permit HVHF in the Keuka Lake Watershed.
3. Jim described the hydraulic fracturing method for obtaining natural gas.
4. He added that the DEC is waiting for completion of Health Study by the NYS Department of Health prior to releasing revised SGEIS. The decision is likely to come later this year--2013. DEC has not indicated any of its thoughts into any specific geographical limitations except: NYC Water sources in the Catskills & Syracuse Water sources--Skaneateles Lake.
5. Jim showed a map of the Marcellus Shale location in NYS.
6. Jim stated the hydrofracking status of both Steuben & Yates Counties:
Steuben County - A minor portion of Steuben County is in Keuka Lake Watershed
 - Steuben County has refused to consider a moratorium for the Keuka Lake Watershed portion of the County.
 - Parts of the Steuben County Towns in the Keuka Lake Watershed:
 - Pulteney--refused to enact a moratorium.
 - Urbana--likely to enact a moratorium once the DEC decides.
 - Wayne--moratorium in place.*Yates County* - Yates County Legislature twice adopted a unanimous resolution that Yates County be treated like the water sources for NYC & Syracuse.--No HVHF in the Keuka Lake Watershed plus a 4000 feet buffer!
 - Jerusalem adopted a prohibition.
 - Barrington and Milo adopted moratoria but no prohibitions.
7. KLA Actions: The entire Keuka Lake Watershed plus a 4000 feet buffer including the portion in Steuben County must be protected from HVHF.
 - Not the Keuka Lake boundaries.
 - Not NYS
8. The Finger Lakes Regional Watershed Alliance (FLRWA) has taken a similar position for the entire Finger Lakes Watershed.
9. Jim summarized by stating that the Marcellus Shale Layer under the Keuka Lake Watershed is thin and less attractive to HVHF development; the top of the Layer is less than 2000 feet below the surface beneath the northern branches of Keuka Lake; steep slopes border most of Keuka Lake; and HVHF in the Keuka Lake Watershed could require a site specific SPEDES permit; NYS Appellate Court has upheld Towns right to prohibit HVHF; Revised SGEIS expected in 2013.
10. Concerns:

- Contamination of the Keuka Lake Watershed.
 - Gas permeation of the aquifer.
 - Accidents.
 - Hydrofracking chemicals and NORMS are not confined within the Marcellus Shale Layer.
 - The Utica Shale Layer lies below the Marcellus Shale Layer and extends north and east throughout most of New York State.
 - Although the KLA's mission is protecting the Watershed, there are other non-environmental issues:
 - Truck traffic/Noise
 - Multiple "quality of life" issues.
11. Actions:
- Keep informed
 - Voice and vote your opinion.
 - Although the KLA is concerned with protecting the watershed, there are other organizations addressing "quality of life issues":
 - Committee to Preserve the Finger Lakes (CTPFL).
 - Keuka Citizens Against Hydrofracking (KCAH)
- Jim finished by saying that he cannot over emphasize becoming actively involved.

Bill thanked Jim. He next reported that Dr. Tim Sellers could not be here today because of a family emergency, but he sent a recording of his presentation.

E. State of the Lake – Dr. Tim Sellers

- 1. Objectives: Review water quality testing program and results for 2012, New sampling probe starting in 2013, New Invasive species program
- 2. Water Testing Program:
 - The Crew: Dr. Alexander Wahlig; Stan Martin, Colby Peterson Jim Balyszak;
 - 2012 monthly lake sampling, seven months per year (April-Oct)
 - NYS Certified Labs and analysis: SUNY Brockport, Cornell University
- 3. State of the Lake
 - Nutrient levels (Phosphorus) averaged 4.4 ppb, down 1.1 ppb from 2011, and below the long-term average of 7.28 ppb
 - Water clarity averaged 7.9 m, up 0.3 m from 2011 levels, and 1.8 m above the long-term average of 6.1 meters
 - Algae levels averaged 1.1 ppb, down from 2011, and well below the long-term average (2.6 ppb)
- 4. Tim's charts showed:
 - Phosphorous Trends – 4.4
 - Secchi Disk – clarity 7.9
 - Chlorophyll – well-below average
 - Tropic Status - TP, algae, and secchi disk or clarity levels indicate the overall status of Keuka is oligotrophic or low nutrient status. Overall decline in nutrient and algae levels are most likely due to zebra mussels and watershed management efforts (improved septic systems and better nutrient management practices by agriculture). Lower production overall in the lake creates "clearer" and perhaps more aesthetically pleasing water quality, but may end up reducing overall trout populations due to a smaller forage base.
- 5. Tim showed a slide of the new submersible water quality probe which measures: Temperature, Depth, Chlorophyll (= algae), Cyanobacteria (= blue green algae), pH
- 6. Tim discussed invasive species:
 - As part of the Finger Lakes Watershed Alliance, CCE is coordinating a **Citizens Science Lakeshore Monitoring Program** on Keuka Lake and Yates County portions of Canandaigua and Seneca Lakes.

- The first step to get involved is to attend the AIS ID workshop on July 24 at YC Office building (handouts available). You can get more information by contacting **Nicole Landers** at CCE.
- CCE, SWCD, YC Legislature and KLA helped draft a resolution to be sent to the DEC and associated industries and interested parties, urging the state to develop regulation around aquatic invasive species.

IX. KLAeidoscope of Keuka – 2014 Calendar Photo Contest – Jeanne Wiltberger announced this year's winners: 1st & 2nd – Brett Lange, Mike Carney– 3rd & Mary Sothoron for the cover. Mary Foster, whose photo is in the calendar, was the only recipient present. Our cover winner was present earlier with Cali, our cover dog, but was not able to stay for the meeting.

XI. Announcements – Two were made: one about a hydrofracking movie to be shown and another about the Invasive Species Citizens' Watch workshop.

X. Questions/Comments: 1. KLA was thanked for trying to help convince the Yates Co. Legislature to pass an Invasive Species law. 2. 50% of boat registration money goes to sheriffs – help support it to be raised to 75%

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 AM after a motion by Dennis Carlson, seconded by Harry Stoneham and approved by all...