

**Minutes**  
**LMPA Annual Meeting**  
**Saturday, July 8, 2023**

The 117<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the LMPA was held at the Lake Morey Inn on Saturday, July 8, 2023. President Laura Tucker called the meeting to order at 4:09 PM. She welcomed the group.

**Moment of Silence for Passed Members**

- Since the last meeting, news of the passing of several members and friends has been received. A moment of silence was observed for Barbara Duncan, John Lazarus, and Lynn Chapman

**Introduction of new members**

Zander Charity and Caroline & Darcy introduced themselves as new LMPA members.

**Approval of Minutes from 2022 Annual Meeting**

- The minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting have been available on the website and were on the handout available at the meeting. Approval was moved, seconded, and passed.

**President's Report**

- The biggest functions of the LMPA relate to 'preserving the natural environment of Lake Morey and its immediate surroundings.' That said, the LMPA provides/supports a number of social and community events.
- These include: First Friday - which occurs on the first Friday of each month through October. The regatta and the ice cream social (celebrating the library's summer reading program) - both of which will be held next Saturday. The golf tournament was held today.
- Directories, updated every two years, are available today and online.

**Treasurer's Report**

- Bill Minard presented the Treasurer's Report poetically - again! It was noted that the 2022-23 budget has been made available to all on the handout. The LMPA is in good financial shape.

## Nomination of Directors

- Sue Minard announced that Nanci Carstens and Pete Gundersen, Jr. have been nominated to the Board of Directors.

## Election of the Nominating Committee

- The Nominating Committee will be made up of Carol Wertheimer and Sue Minard. A motion to that effect was stated, seconded, and approved.

## Greeter Program (Tad Nunez)

- The goals of the Greeter Program are:
  - To prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species by establishing a well trained network of public access greeters who:
    - Educate recreational boaters about the harmful effects of invasive species and what they can do to prevent spreading them.
    - Provide courtesy boat inspections to encourage boaters to “do the right thing” to stop the spread of AIS.
    - Stop invasive species introductions
- Boat Access Greeter Duties include:
  - Approaching and interacting with boaters/others in a welcoming manner
  - Inspecting watercraft
  - Identifying and handling suspicious specimens
  - Collecting and reporting data
  - Distributing educational materials
  - Work with and report to on a regular basis members of the Lake Morey Protective Association and state officials.
- A hefty part of the LMPA and Town budgets goes to this program. If anyone is interested in participating in the Greeter Program, please see Tad. The program will run through Labor Day.

## Water Quality Report (Greg Allen & Don Weaver)

- Milfoil
  - Don noted that during the 2023 spring season, Solitude evaluated the lake and found only 5 milfoil plants. Last month, 5 plants were found at the north end of the lake and more on the east side of the lake. The plants at the north end were removed. Divers will soon remove those on the east side.
  - For the third successive summer, the 2021 ProcellaCOR treatment remains a success.
  - Don thanked Greg Allen, Sue Minard, Tad Nunez, the Selectboard and the LMC.

- Hydrilla
  - Greg noted that hydrilla, another invasive, is potentially coming to the lake. Folks should be on the lookout for it and report it to him. More information on identifying hydrilla can be found at: <https://www.vtinvasives.org/news-events/news/watch-out-for-number-1>
- Cyanobacteria
  - Greg presented info on water chemistry. The data (levels of total phosphorous and chloride) on streams that come into the lake look better than last year. The Lay Monitoring Program (LMP) measures total phosphorous and chlorophyll A, and Secchi readings (which measures water clarity).
  - A downside of the LMP is that it doesn't provide results until the end of the year - in November. Greg noted that some new tools and technologies (including satellites) are being used to provide more contemporaneous information.
  - Water clarity has been amazing this year. The numbers indicating cyanobacteria have been quite low to this point this year, generally. A question was asked about identification of the various types of cyanobacteria - some of which are quite toxic. Greg responded that if an algae bloom is seen, folks should steer clear of it but noted that we don't have a good process for specific identification. An additional question was asked about the frequency of testing and reporting. A request was made for a testing site on the east side of the lake.
  - The question of whether or not 'good' readings could impede the process to get an alum treatment was asked. Tad reported that the activity occurring at the bottom on the lake is not stopping whether or not a bloom reaches the top.
  - To proceed with an alum treatment, a feasibility study is required. This study was funded by the LMF, LMPA, and Aloha Foundation - and was done in November, 2022.
  - The mechanics of Alum treatment was explained.
  - The State of VT and federal EPA have gotten 'touchy' on the issue of residual chemicals in water. They will be overseeing Solitude to make sure that over-dose does not happen.
  - Peter Berger reiterated that this is a complicated process involving a number of agencies. Based on current info, an early summer 2024 treatment is planned. At this point, we have been accepted as a treatment for early contaminants. Funding has been approved for the treatment by the State. There is opportunity for additional funding through the State review process. Following State review process is an EPA review. Information will be forthcoming. There will be opportunity for public input to weigh in on the economic impact of the problem/project.
  - Two paths - funding path and approval path - are moving forward. Fairlee is in line to receive funding - the question is how much. Once the draft review comes out, public comment will be important.
  - Cathy McGrath provided a handout on Cyanobacteria, Alum, and Lake Morey (see Appendix A). She introduced Lance Mills, who will chair the Selectboard this year. She encouraged people to check the Department of Health website for information that could be helpful in helping individuals make decisions of whether or not they choose to use the lake for recreation.

#### Lake Morey Foundation (Bob Wertheimer)

- Bob recognized members of the Foundation Board.
- He noted that in 2022 more than 90 individuals, families, and businesses contributed more than \$40,000 to the Foundation.

- Bob noted that the mission of the LMF is "to raise, steward and provide funds for initiatives that enhance the well-being of Lake Morey, its natural environment and its community." That said, the LMF is currently working to become more visible and transparent.
- Next year will be the 40th anniversary of the Foundation. Stay tuned for announcement of festivities about this.
- The LMF wishes everyone a wonderful, safe, and happy summer on the lake.

#### Adopt-a-Lake (Sue Minard)

- Control of milfoil and other invasive species is dependent upon volunteers. The Adopt-a-Lake initiative is critical to the success of our efforts. Flyers delivered by monitors to record when/how long folks watch, search, and pull milfoil.
- The number of forms turned in last year was significantly smaller than 2021. It's important to turn in the forms for the organization to get credit.

#### Loon Status (Bill Minard)

- Bill reported on the loons nested in the north end of the lake. The projected hatch date is in ~ 1 week. It was noted that last year, fireworks activities led to the parents' abandoning the nest. A predator then appeared and the egg was lost. This year, the mother left the nest during fireworks but came back.
- Bill noted that Lake Fairlee has a web cam on its nest. Discussion ensued about the feasibility of having a web cam here. The projected cost would be \$2500-3000. A grant request could be submitted to the LMF.

#### Watershed Action Plan (WAP) (Bill Minard)

- This was introduced a year ago when we received a \$30K grant to study stressors on the lake. Looking specifically at tributaries, roads, and lakeshore. The first two of these have been completed. While a report is not yet available, those interested in what such a report might look like could check that done for Lake Fairlee (<https://www.lakefairleevt.org/lake--watershed-action-plan.html>).
- LakeWise is an opportunity for properties to be evaluated as part of the assessment of lakeshore. About 30 properties around the lake have participated at this point in time.

#### Wastewater Management Workshop (aka Septic Social)

- A Wastewater Management will be held on Thursday, July 13 at 1:00 at the Town Hall Auditorium (<https://lakemorey.org/calendar/#event=wastewater-management-workshop-aka-septic-social;instance=20230713130000?popup=1>)
- Participation in such activities sends a message to the DEC that we care about the lake.

#### Wake boats

- Bill has been the point person on this project. Erosion on the shore is an issue. Historically (1962), there was no public access boat launch and boats were small. Now, observation shows that tubing is the largest contributor to big waves on the lake. Not many wake boats are currently on the lake - probably ~6-7. 500' appears to be the distance needed to dissipate waves from wake boats. A petition asked for 1000'. If the State regulated boats with a 1000' prohibition, only 15 lakes would allow wake boats. Lake Morey but not Lake

Fairlee would allow wakt boats. If the distance is 500', 31 lakes would allow wakeboats. The State has proposed regulations that look at the science and consider 500' to be the appropriate distance. There will be a hearing about this on August 1. Public comment is being sought.

- On behalf of the Bonnie Oaks Homeowners Association, Cathy McGrath read a resolution in favor of banning wake boat activity on Lake Morey and throughout the State. If such a ban is not enacted, the BOHA supports the 1000' limit. After the State makes its determination, Lake Morey will have an opportunity to petition for an exception. We could identify unique safety and conservation considerations here and ask for a ban. There was discussion asking that LMPA reopen the conversation to get a consensus.

#### Other Business

- Bill noted that there are new buoys this year - lighter, more manageable. These are a work in progress but working well to this point.
- Noel Walker reported that the Town has been going through town-wide reappraisal. An informational meeting to let everyone know the process and what to expect. will be held on Thursday, July 13 at 6:30 PM at the Town Hall. A zoom link is available at [Fairleevt.gov](https://www.fairleevt.gov) (under the municipal calendar). She noted that a change of appraisal notice will be mailed out to all shortly after the meeting. This information will also be available on the Town website.

#### Results of the Golf Tournament

- A perfect day for golf! A new award - the Fitbit award - went to Laura Tucker for walking the most steps playing.
- Closest to the pin on the 7th hole award - Bonnie Philipp.
- Winners of today's tournament are Byron Stone and Chris Kiggins.

The Regatta will be held on Saturday, July 15 at 10 AM.

#### Call to Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ginny Reed, LMPA Secretary

## Appendix A

### **CYANOBACTERIA, ALUM AND LAKE MOREY**

The Town of Fairlee, Lake Morey Commission, and Solitude Lake Management have an effective partnership with Vermont's Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), in part due to the persistent attention of Lakes and Ponds Manager Oliver Pierson. The Lakes and Ponds program believes that Lake Morey is eligible for an alum treatment. From a permitting perspective, an alum treatment in early summer 2024 is feasible based on recent conversations with DEC Lakes and Ponds. The accelerated funding and Solitude's rapid completion of the Lake Morey Sediment Study (a.k.a. alum feasibility study) has significantly shortened the timeline. *DEC Lakes and Ponds appreciates Lake Morey and Solitude as key sources of valuable scientific data.*

Part of what has been time consuming is Vermont's revision of the State Environmental Review Process (SERP).

- The accelerated funding and Solitude's rapid completion of the Lake Morey Sediment Study (a.k.a. alum feasibility study) has significantly shortened the timeline. *DEC Lakes and Ponds appreciates Solitude as a key source of valuable scientific data.*
- Fairlee applied for and was accepted as a Priority Project for Emerging Contaminants by the Clean Water Board, one of only two projects in the state. (The line item from the Draft Intended Use Plan (IUP): *Fairlee, Lake Morey Alum Treatment Project, 68 NPS-H 0 0, \$790,000, EC*)
- At this point, there appears to be just under \$1M available in Emerging Contaminants Grant funding, which would be a 100% forgivable loan.
- The revised SERP is currently in internal review, after which a duly warned public meeting will be held on the Draft IUP which will then go out for 30-day public comment.
- Once accepted, the revised SERP is subject to US EPA approval.



**What can LMPA members do to facilitate the process once the Draft IUP is accepted?**

Submit comments during the 30-day public comment period. **Contact information TBD.**

*Key points in your comments should include:*

- Cyanobacteria is a known problem that is solvable.
- The funding for the Emerging Contaminants projects at \$1M is inadequate.
- Underfunding Emerging Contaminants projects will have a significant economic impact to the Lake community and Fairlee.

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