



Chautauqua Lake & Watershed Management Alliance, Inc.

201 West Third Street | Suite #115

Jamestown, NY 14701

Ph. 716-661-8900

<http://www.chautauquaalliance.org/>

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Contact: Randall Perry

(716) 661-8923

**ALLIANCE ACHIEVES FUNDING GOAL FOR 2021 CHAUTAUQUA LAKE CONSOLIDATED
WORK PLAN**

The Chautauqua Lake and Watershed Management Alliance (Alliance) is pleased to announce that it has secured \$690,000 to implement its 2021 consolidated work plan for the care and maintenance of Chautauqua Lake and its watershed. Funding is provided by The Lenna Foundation, the Ralph C. Sheldon Foundation, and the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, who continued their generous support of the Alliance's consolidated local funding process. The process, available exclusively to Alliance Members, works to identify, prioritize, and fund projects using a structured decision-making framework that balances a variety of management techniques, stakeholder priorities, and lake uses. Since its inception in 2018, the process has grown to deliver increased funding for Member-led projects and increased participation by both Members and local foundation partners.

The 2021 work plan will include a slate of projects and programs led by Alliance Member organizations aimed at improving the health and usability of Chautauqua Lake. It represents a balanced approach with a mixture of lake management projects, watershed projects, and data collection and research to serve the lake and its users in both the short-term and long-term. The work plan continues to promote our Unity of Effort strategy that employs Member core competencies to avoid duplication in lake maintenance through collaboration to deliver a more effective and responsive maintenance capacity for the entire lake. It maintains flexibility for adaptive lake maintenance as 2021 conditions emerge by utilizing a blend of mechanical and chemical (pending NYSDEC permits) aquatic plant management and near-shore clean-up techniques. Watershed projects and invasive species early detection teams will guard against storm water flooding, sediment and nutrient loading, and new invasive threats. Community education programs will engage and empower the public to protect Chautauqua Lake. A strategic expansion of data collection and research capacity will support better harmful algal bloom (HAB) understanding and scenario modeling for decision making moving forward.

"I wish to recognize the generosity and community leadership of our foundation partners, the hard work of our staff and Board, and the dedication of our Members to a healthy Chautauqua Lake," said Alliance Executive Director Randall Perry. Alliance Board Chairman Pierre Chagnon added, "We are extremely grateful for the financial support from the local foundations, and heartened by their continued support of our efforts to protect and enhance the health and usability of Chautauqua Lake."

For more information about this press release or the Alliance, please contact Alliance Executive Director Randall Perry at rperry@chautauquaalliance.org.