

Chautauqua Lake & Watershed Management Alliance

201 West 3rd Street, Suite 115

Jamestown, NY 14701

716-661-8900

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Randall Perry

(716) 661-8923

**ALLIANCE THANKS MEMBERS FOR LOCAL FUNDING APPLICATIONS, WORKS TOWARD
2022 CHAUTAUQUA LAKE AND WATERSHED COORDINATED WORKPLAN**

The Chautauqua Lake and Watershed Management Alliance (Alliance) would like to thank our Members for their recent work submitting applications through our 2021 Consolidated Local Funding Program. Since it was established in 2018, this grant program has been used to identify, prioritize, and fund projects and programs to protect and improve water quality in Chautauqua Lake and its watershed through a balanced approach of short-term and long-term management techniques. The Alliance debuted an updated and streamlined version of the program application for 2021, which was distributed exclusively to Alliance Members on July 16, 2021 with proposals due by September 14, 2021. Alliance staff were available to assist Members with their applications throughout the application period.

We are pleased to announce that we have received 15 applications representing 10 different Member organizations, totaling approximately \$2.2 million dollars in funding requests for 2022 projects. Last year, the Alliance funded 14 Member-led projects through the program thanks to \$690,000 in funding provided by The Lenna Foundation, the Ralph C. Sheldon Foundation, and the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation. Additional funding for 2021 Alliance Member projects was also generously provided by the County of Chautauqua and the Holmberg Foundation yielding even greater investments in the lake for the benefit of its many stakeholders. We are encouraged by this continued growth of the program and the multifaceted approaches proposed by our Members. This year's slate of applications include requests to fund in-lake maintenance (harvesting, shoreline and near-shore cleanup, and targeted herbicide treatments based on New York State Department of Environmental Conservation permitting), watershed stewardship and storm water management programs, scientific monitoring and research, equipment upgrades, and invasive species prevention, monitoring, and management.

These projects encompass the wide range of watershed and in-lake efforts that are necessary to protect the environmental and economic health of Chautauqua Lake and maintain it as a world-class fishery and destination for visitors of all types. In addition to focusing on their core competencies and varied areas of experience, our Members continued to emphasize the need for mutual effort and cooperation between stakeholders in their applications. As in previous years, submissions through this program are in the process of being independently evaluated by the Alliance using our Multi-Criteria Analysis (MCA) Tool, which was updated in 2020 based on stakeholder input and the most up-to-date lake and watershed science. Following preliminary technical review, the applications will be reviewed by the Alliance Board of

Directors with funding recommendations expected in late 2021, and final allocations anticipated in early 2022.

We are encouraged by the applications we received this year and would like to thank those who applied. The Alliance would also like to extend its sincere thanks to its funding partners for their continued support of the Alliance mission and commitment to the health and vibrancy of Chautauqua Lake for its many uses and users.

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