



**Chautauqua Lake & Watershed Management Alliance, Inc.**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 17, 2022

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**ALLIANCE OUTLINES 2022 CHAUTAUQUA LAKE AND WATERSHED COORDINATED  
WORK PLAN**

The Chautauqua Lake and Watershed Management Alliance (Alliance) has announced its 2022 coordinated work plan for the management of Chautauqua Lake and its watershed. Thanks to generous financial contributions totaling \$695,000 from The Lenna Foundation, the Ralph C. Sheldon Foundation, and the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, the Alliance's fourth annual Consolidated Local Funding Program has resulted in a comprehensive range of Alliance Member-led projects designed to benefit the ecological health and recreational usability of Chautauqua Lake and its watershed. This grant opportunity and application process, available exclusively to Alliance Members, works to identify, prioritize, and provide funding for projects using structured evaluation that accounts for a variety of lake and watershed management techniques, stakeholder priorities, and lake uses. Over the past five years, the Alliance has utilized this local funding opportunity to expand the impact of its Member-led projects by unifying the application, review, and award process under a single coordinated program and to increase participation by and cooperation between Alliance Members.

The 2022 work plan aims to build upon the successes and lessons learned from past years, increase efficiency, and limit redundancy by capitalizing on the core competencies of our Members. Priorities for the year include in-water and near-shore maintenance across the lake's nine municipalities and approximately 42 miles of shoreline, development of new watershed improvement projects, public outreach and education, invasive species programs, and data collection to increase the collective understanding of the lake ecosystem and its impairments. The Alliance Members anticipated to lead projects in 2022 are the Chautauqua Lake Association, Chautauqua Lake Partnership, Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy, Towns of Busti, Chautauqua, Ellery, and Ellicott, and Villages of Bemus Point, Celoron, and Lakewood. As in year's past the Alliance has sought to maintain flexibility in the work plan, taking into account the unpredictability of seasonal environmental conditions, which can impact the need for and balance among near-shore cleanup, mechanical aquatic plant management, and targeted chemical aquatic plant management (pending NYSDEC permits). The work plan includes continued investments in macrophyte and harmful algal bloom (HAB) monitoring and research to better inform and assess management decisions. Watershed programs aim to educate and empower homeowners to implement best management practices (BMPs) to reduce sediment and nutrient loading in Chautauqua Lake while also working to develop watershed projects for future grant applications. Aquatic invasive species prevention and early detection programs aim to guard against new invasive threats and manage existing populations of water chestnut in the Chautauqua Lake outlet.

"Coordinated effort is crucial when deploying our community's precious financial resources to protect and manage our shared resource of Chautauqua Lake. We thank The Lenna Foundation, the Ralph C. Sheldon Foundation, and the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation for their generosity, and we recognize our Members for their vital contributions to this collaborative approach," said Alliance Executive Director Randall Perry. For more information, please contact Randall Perry at [rperry@chautauquaalliance.org](mailto:rperry@chautauquaalliance.org).