2022 Annual Report

Presented at the May Member Meeting
May 11, 2023

"Water links us to our neighbor in a way more profound and complex than any other."
-John Thorson

May Member Meeting Agenda

May 11, 2023 at 4:30 P.M.

The Lawson Center, 73 Lakeside Drive, Bemus Point, NY 14712 & via Zoom

a. Call to Order

b. Approval of May 2022 Annual Member Meeting Minutes

c. Secretary's Report on Notification and Quorum

d. Election of Directors – Ballot Canvass and Report

e. Presentation of 2022 Annual Report

f. Member Open Discussion

g. Adjourn

Origin of an Alliance

The Chautauqua Lake & Watershed Management Alliance (Alliance) evolved from the Chautauqua Lake Management Commission (CLMC) in late 2014. Since its inception in 2005 and pursuant to its core mission, the CLMC was a major contributor to the development of the *Chautauqua Lake Watershed Management Plan* and initiated work on the *Chautauqua Lake Macrophyte Management Strategy (MMS),* which sets forth specific recommendations for the proper management of our precious natural resources. The CLMC was an advisory committee to the Chautauqua County Legislature and having accomplished its core mission, it was determined that the CLMC would sunset in 2014 in order to evolve into a new Alliance.

The Alliance framework was developed through a series of stakeholder meetings, significant research, and forward-thinking innovation. The Alliance is a non-profit 501(c)3 charitable organization and was established in order to secure funding to implement the recommendations contained within Chautauqua Lake and watershed guidance documents. The Alliance also aims to strengthen existing relationships among Member organizations already engaged in important lake and watershed activities, and to promote a comprehensive and coordinated effort to ensure the sustained health, ecology, and uses of Chautauqua Lake and its watershed.

Our Mission is as follows: The Chautauqua Lake & Watershed Management Alliance, working in collaboration with lake and watershed-related organizations, municipalities and other stakeholders, will promote and facilitate implementation of recommendations from the *Chautauqua Lake Watershed Management Plan* and the *Chautauqua Lake Macrophyte Management Strategy* by prioritizing projects, securing funding and allocating resources.

Summary of 2022 Achievements

The year 2022 marked the Alliance's eighth full year of operation. In those eight years, the Alliance has partnered on lake and watershed projects valued at approximately $9.5 Million. Past, current, and future successes of this Alliance, working collaboratively toward an economically and environmentally healthy Chautauqua Lake, are made possible through the dedicated work of our Members and generosity of our funders. We thank all those involved. Through the generosity and leadership of our local Foundations and the County of Chautauqua, the Alliance was proud to once again increase the level of local funding made available to our Members to implement a slate of 2022 projects and programs to benefit the lake and watershed. Coupled with ongoing projects funded by New York State grants, Alliance-partnered projects continued to apply a balanced approach blending lake maintenance, watershed projects, and

research. An even larger local allocation to Member projects is planned for 2023, and we look forward to pursuing additional outside funding to complement these critical local investments.

IN-LAKE MANAGEMENT

The year 2022 was highlighted by increased unity of effort between Members, more structured and objective understanding of lake health and usability, and new endeavors. The Alliance, through its many programs and partnerships, actively supported the County of Chautauqua's Memorandum of Understanding framework for community cooperation and coordinated lake management. The Chautauqua Lake maintenance program included a balanced approach utilizing both chemical and mechanical macrophyte management techniques. The near-shore clean-up program continued to feature collaboration between the Chautauqua Lake Association (CLA) and Town of Chautauqua. These joint operations resulted in increased efficiency and responsiveness and are expected to remain a crucial part of the work plan in 2023. Mechanical harvesting operations and shoreline cleanup were performed over an expanded timeframe, thanks to a three-week pre-season Curly-Leaf pondweed harvesting program by CLA and an additional postseason management program focused in the Lower South Basin in September by the CLA and Town of Chautauqua. The Alliance was proud to be able to support these lake communities in need of increased services late in the season thanks to our adaptive funding framework, generosity of our funders, and leadership of our lake service providers.

The Chautauqua Lake Partnership (CLP), the Towns of Ellery, Ellicott, and Busti, and the Villages of Bemus Point, Celoron, and Lakewood worked together to secure New York State Department of Environmental Conservation permits for the chemical treatment of Eurasian Watermilfoil and Curly-Leaf pondweed at targeted locations within the lake's littoral zone. The CLP continued to make progress on lake data collection, by contracting with researchers from North Carolina State University to perform aquatic plant surveys, which helped inform managers and stakeholders on lake conditions and added to long-term data archives.

DATA & RESEARCH

Sharing of data and open dialogue on scientific research have continued to grow in a positive direction. The 2022 Chautauqua Lake Water Quality Conference, sponsored by Chautauqua Institution, was presented on June 18 at Chautauqua Golf Club. The panel, which was free and open to the public, featured presentations by Dr. Courtney Wigdahl-Perry from the State University of New York at Fredonia; Dr. Greg Boyer from SUNY ESF, Mr. Cole Beale from SUNY Oneonta; Dr. Rick Relyea, Dr. Harry

Kolar, and Dr. Kevin Rose from The Jefferson Project at Lake George; Dr. Twan Leenders of the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy; and Dr. Charley Driscoll from Syracuse University. These public events are crucial to connect stakeholders with the many world-class researchers that conduct their work in our lake and watershed. The Alliance continued to facilitate data sharing among research groups and stakeholders when engaged, and distributed updated research information to the public via our Lake Data/Surveys webpage. Staff also provided assistance to The Jefferson Project research efforts by helping with late-season water sampling conducted by Stantec.

Alliance Staff continued several data and information collection initiatives on the lake. The Chautauqua Lake Aquatic Data (CLAD) Mapping Program continued its GPS Weed Management Program, which is implemented in partnership with the CLA and Town of Chautauqua and was initiated with a 2020 grant from the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation. Key pieces of equipment were once again fitted with GPS units in 2022, furthering the ability to track, map, archive, and assess the mechanical plant management programs. The CLAD program also employs consumer-grade underwater video and sonar technology to collect information and data on Chautauqua Lake conditions throughout the year. The program allows for the rapid deployment of staff and technology depending on lake conditions and priorities and helps augment other lake surveys completed by professional or academic entities. Data collected by staff, data shared by researchers or members, and data included in past reports and studies, are managed and archived in a Geographical Information System (GIS) platform. Unifying these often-disparate datasets under a single GIS umbrella unlocks the power of comparison and facilitates the multiple lines of evidence approach needed to increase our collective understanding of the complex natural system of Chautauqua Lake. The Alliance plans to continue and expand the CLAD program in 2023 to evaluate lake conditions and create a record of management actions throughout the year. This will help support an integrated lake management program by prioritizing the sharing of data and value of having readily accessible longer-term datasets on lake conditions and management actions.

WATERSHED & EMERGING INVASIVE SPECIES

Watershed management remained a key pillar of the longer-term work plan to help address the root causes of lake impairments. While outside grant opportunities were largely suspended throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the Alliance has reestablished this vital funding source. Throughout the winter and spring, staff worked with Members and stakeholders to identify projects well-suited to the New York State Consolidated Funding Application (NYSCFA) process, and drafted those applications

for submission. Three new Alliance-partnered engineering planning grants were secured for the towns of North Harmony and Chautauqua, as well as the village of Lakewood, via the NYSCFA. The reports generated by these plans will recommend water quality improvements at three key sites, and will help to better position the municipalities for implementation projects moving forward. The Alliance also worked alongside the Village of Celoron in the submission of its successful grant application, which will fund a new playground for Lucille Ball Memorial Park. Substantial progress continues to be made on NYSCFA watershed grants secured in 2021 as well, including the Grandview Stormwater Management Project, Ball Creek Stabilization Project, and Chautauqua Roadside Swales Stabilization Project. Construction on these three projects is scheduled to make significant headway in 2023, resulting in long-term improvement in the quality of water discharged to the lake in priority areas.

The Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy continued to implement initiatives in the watershed through its Chautauqua Lake Watershed Technical Assistance & Stormwater Management Program, and conducted vital public outreach via its popular LakeScapes program. Invasive species detection and management was an expanded priority this past year, as new needs were identified. The CWC continued to lead the way forward via its Aquatic Invasive Species Early Detection & Monitoring Taskforce program, which was used to survey and remove existing populations of water chestnut in the Chadakoin outlet. While conducting plant surveys in 2022, significant populations of the invasive macroalgae starry stonewort were identified by the CWC team. The Alliance was able to quickly utilize its adaptive funding framework to provide the Taskforce program with additional funding late in the season based on the detection and mapping of new outbreaks. Alliance staff joined stakeholders from the CWC, CLA, Audubon Community Nature Center, the Chautauqua County Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Chautauqua-Conewango Consortium on a pilot management project to address starry stonewort. The pilot removal effort took place in late September, and included hand-removal as well as mechanical removal of starry stonewort using CLA equipment in Ashville Bay. Stakeholders and Alliance staff attended the Western New York Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management Symposium in October, and are continuing to work alongside PRISM to assess future management options for starry stonewort.

CONSOLIDATED LOCAL FUNDING PROGRAM

In the fall, the Alliance submitted its fifth annual Consolidated Foundation Funding Grant Request, which prioritized funding for eight (8) Alliance Member-led lake and watershed projects. By early 2023, the Alliance secured $808,332 from The

Lenna Foundation, the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, the Ralph C. Sheldon Foundation, and Chautauqua County via the 2% Occupancy Tax Reserve Funding to support these projects for implementation in 2023. Additional funding was generously provided by the Hultquist Foundation and Chautauqua County to bolster the work planned for 2023. This level of funding and local investment in the lake and watershed is made possible by the growing partnerships and unity of effort between Alliance Members, as collectively, we work to employ a balanced approach aimed at a well-maintained lake and watershed that supports our residents, our businesses, and our environment. The full listing of these projects is included later in the report.

COMMUNICATIONS

Staff continued to expand content on the Alliance website throughout the year through the addition of new reference materials and a new projects page that will serve as an online archive of Alliance-partnered projects in the future. The Alliance established a recurring column submitted to The Post-Journal in 2022, titled the *Chautauqua Current*. These columns are scheduled to run bi-monthly during the recreation season and monthly during the remainder of the year. This communications platform is intended to inform the general public of developments related to lake and watershed issues. There are currently 22 Chautauqua Current issues published and available on the Alliance website at http://www.chautauquaalliance.org/the-chautauqua-current/. Alliance staff also continued to establish and grow valuable in-person relationships with stakeholders by participating in events and conferences, including those hosted by Western New York PRISM, the New York State Federation of Lake Associations, Northeast Aquatic Plant Management Society, North American Lake Management Society, and others.

The Alliance is honored to be comprised of Member organizations that understand the incredible asset Chautauqua Lake and its watershed are to the County and the entire region, and we are proud to have partnered with each of the nine Lake municipalities, the County, and numerous other Members to develop impactful projects, secure funding, manage implementation, and ensure project completion. By working in collaboration with as many stakeholders as possible, we deepen our collective focus, strength, and leveraging capabilities, for the benefit of Chautauqua Lake, its watershed, and ultimately our community. The Alliance would like to thank everyone – our Members, local Foundations, and other lake and watershed stakeholders – for their support and passion over the past eight years, as we look forward to another great year in 2023.

2022-2023 Members

- Chautauqua – Cattaraugus Board of Realtors
- Chautauqua County Visitors Bureau
- Chautauqua Institution
- Chautauqua Lake Association
- Chautauqua Lake Fishing Association
- Chautauqua Lake Partnership
- Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy
- County of Chautauqua
- Holmberg Foundation
- Jamestown Board of Public Utilities
- North Chautauqua Lake Sewer District
- South & Center Chautauqua Lake Sewer Districts
- The Lenna Foundation
- Town of Busti
- Town of Chautauqua
- Town of Ellery
- Town of Ellicott
- Town of North Harmony
- Village of Bemus Point
- Village of Celoron
- Village of Lakewood
- Village of Mayville

2022 Alliance-Partnered Project Summaries

This report includes information on projects that were open during 2022. For information on past projects, please review our prior Annual Reports on the Alliance website.

Town of Chautauqua, NYSDEC Non-Agricultural Nonpoint Source Planning Grant, Town of Chautauqua Stream Culverts Assessment

Description: The Town of Chautauqua's Stream Culvert Assessments Study is expected to generate an engineering design report to address erosion concerns resulting from two potentially inadequately sized and/or failing stream culverts located along Wright Road and Elmwood Road within the Town of Chautauqua. The Elmwood Road stream culvert is an old concrete open bottom culvert that is actively decaying, is in need of replacement and potential resizing, and is likely causing bank erosion directly upstream of the culvert. The Wright Road culvert is an approximately 42-inch-wide galvanized pipe that conveys a class C stream that is likely undersized and misaligned, which is likely contributing to bank erosion both upstream and downstream (significant expansion scour present) of the culvert. The Stream Culvert Assessments Study will produce an engineering design report that utilizes the North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative framework to identify erosion issues, potential barriers to aquatic connectivity, and repair/replacement options.

Projected budget: Total: $33,000 | State: $30,000 | Local: $3,000

Grantee: Town of Chautauqua

Alliance Role: Grant writing and administration; project management/coordination; local match via Alliance/Foundation Match Fund

Funding Overview: The majority of the project cost is funded by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation through the Non-Agricultural Nonpoint Source Planning Grant program. The local match is expected to come from the Town and the Alliance/Foundation Match Fund supported by the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, The Lenna Foundation, and the Holmberg Foundation.

Village of Lakewood, NYSDEC Non-Agricultural Nonpoint Source Planning Grant, Village of Lakewood Commercial Corridor Stormwater Engineering Study-Mall Boulevard

Description: This project aims to produce a stormwater engineering study to recommend actions to improve water quality, mitigate flooding, improve public safety, and encourage redevelopment within a targeted area of Mall Boulevard. Mall Blvd., which bisects Route 394 and Hunt Road, has at times experienced severe flooding that has posed safety risks to the general public and has damaged infrastructure. This flooding has also contributed to water quality impairments in Chautauqua Lake's south basin. Flood risk is also a factor for businesses considering settling in the impacted area, which has several areas that are being considered for redevelopment. The Village intends to hire a professional engineer to prepare a report recommending stormwater improvements to address these concerns.

Projected budget: Total: $33,000 | State: $30,000 | Local: $3,000

Grantee: Village of Lakewood

Alliance Role: Grant writing and administration; project management/coordination; local match via Alliance/Foundation Match Fund

Funding Overview: The majority of the project cost is funded by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation through the Non-Agricultural Nonpoint Source Planning Grant program. The local match is expected to be provided by the Village and the Alliance/Foundation Match Fund supported by the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, The Lenna Foundation, and the Holmberg Foundation.

Town of North Harmony, NYSDEC Non-Agricultural Nonpoint Source Planning Grant, North Harmony Ball Creek Stabilization Engineering Study Phase II

Description: The Town of North Harmony's Ball Creek Stabilization Engineering Study proposes to assess approximately 2,640 linear feet of stream corridor along Ball Creek from Route 394 to Chautauqua Lake. Within the proposed study area, there are several locations that have severely eroded banks and are in need of bank and/or channel stabilization. The Town intends to retain the services of a licensed professional engineer to assess the stream corridor and provide an engineering design report that would identify areas of erosion and stream instability and suggest potential management

actions that could be implemented at these locations to reduce sediment and nutrient loading to Chautauqua Lake.

Projected budget: Total: $33,000 | State: $30,000 | Local: $3,000

Grantee: Town of North Harmony

Alliance Role: Grant writing and administration; project management/coordination

Funding Overview: The majority of the project cost is funded by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation through the Non-Agricultural Nonpoint Source Planning Grant program. The local match is expected to be provided by the Town.

Village of Celoron, Environmental Protection Fund Grant Program for Parks, Preservation and Heritage, Lucille Ball Memorial Park Playground Improvements Project

Description: The goal of this project is to replace the 28-year-old existing playground in Lucille Ball Memorial Park, which is located along the lakeshore in the Village of Celoron. The playground will consist of play equipment designed for ages 2-5, ages 5-12 and an area with a solid surface and equipment designed for wheelchair use. It will be handicap accessible to provide a play area for use by all. The current playground was constructed below grade and floods in the spring and during heavy rainfall. It is not handicap accessible and only serves 5-12 year old children. It has some cracked parts that cannot be replaced and has become an eyesore in the recently revitalized park. A new playground will provide handicap accessible play areas for all ages that will be constructed above grade to prevent flooding. It is expected to include features such as swings, a climbing wall, seesaw, bobble riders, two playsense areas, features that will be designed for wheelchair bound children, or other similar features.

Projected budget: Total: $220,000 | State: $165,000 | Local: $55,000

Grantee: Village of Celoron

Alliance Role: Grant writing

Funding Overview: The majority of the project cost is funded by the Environmental Protection Fund Grant Program for Parks, Preservation and Heritage. The local match is expected to be supplied by the Village.

Town of North Harmony, NYSDEC Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP), Ball Creek Stabilization Project

Description: This project is intended to improve stream stability (grade control), stabilize two severely eroding streambanks, reduce sediment and nutrient loading, and protect highway infrastructure along approximately 440 linear feet of Ball Creek. This construction will provide for ~2,100 feet of stream corridor improvements. Best management practices (BMPs) will be incorporated to reduce ongoing channel and bank erosion, reduce water velocities, promote infiltration and bio-filtration, enhance biodiversity and habitat for birds and pollinators, and improve aesthetics. Such BMPs are expected to include rock bank protection, willow/dogwood live stakes and native plantings, hydro seeding, and the construction of a ~12-foot wide riparian buffer. A local grant from the Alliance's Consolidated Foundation Grant program was used to complete the first phase of the project and leverage this State grant. The grant was awarded in late 2021. The project is underway with the remaining construction anticipated to commence in 2023.

Projected budget: Total: $219,390 | State: $175,512 | Local: $43,878

Grantee: Town of North Harmony

Alliance Role: Grant writing and administration; project management/coordination; local match via Alliance/Foundation Match Fund

Other Involved Member Partners: Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy; County of Chautauqua (in-kind construction)

Funding Overview: The majority of the project cost is funded by the Environmental Protection Fund administered by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation through the Water Quality Improvement Project program. The local match is expected to come from the Alliance/Foundation Match Fund supported by the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, The Lenna Foundation, and the Holmberg Foundation, and a portion of a 2021 Alliance Consolidated Foundation Grant with funding provided by The Lenna Foundation, the Ralph C. Sheldon Foundation, and the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation.

Pictured above is the Stow Road bend of Ball Creek prior to construction.

Pictured above is the Stow Road Bend after substantial completion, including a bendway weir pictured at the bottom right of frame.

Town of Chautauqua, NYSDEC Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP), Chautauqua Roadside Swales Stabilization Project

Description: This project plans to implement swale improvements at approximately 11 sites within the Town of Chautauqua, stabilizing ~16,600 linear feet of roadside ditches. Through the construction of check dams, introduction of deep rooted vegetation, and channel stabilization these priority swales sites will help to reduce stormwater velocity, promote infiltration and biofiltration, and improve water quality in Chautauqua Lake. The grant was awarded in late 2021. The Town's Highway Department will perform construction on the project as the local match. The project is underway with construction anticipated to commence in 2023.

Projected budget: Total: $342,985 | State: $213,057 | Local: $129,928

Grantee: Town of Chautauqua

Alliance Role: Grant writing and administration; project management/coordination

Funding Overview: The majority of the project cost is funded by the Environmental Protection Fund administered by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation through the Water Quality Improvement Project program. The remaining

share is expected to be provided by the Town via in-kind local match from construction labor and equipment provided by Town Highway Department personnel.

Above: Erosion paths can be seen along the North bank of Moore road, left, and the East side of Burdick road, right.

Village of Lakewood, NYSDEC Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP), Grandview Stormwater Management Project

Description: This project is intended to improve water quality in the lake and watershed through nutrient and sediment reduction, enhance the aesthetics of the area, and reduce flooding impacts along Route 394 through the construction of engineered wetlands. Approximately 100,000 cubic feet of stormwater detention will be added to the eastern portion of the Grandview Subdivision via the installation of five shallow wetlands and an open channel with stone check dams. Best management practices from the New York State Stormwater Management Design Manual will be utilized, including native plantings, in addition to the addition of a natural trail, public access points and educational signage. The grant was awarded in late 2021. The project is underway with construction anticipated to commence in 2023.

Projected budget: Total: $312,580 | State: $250,064 | Local: $ 62,516

Grantee: Village of Lakewood

Alliance Role: Grant writing and administration; project management/coordination; local match via Alliance/Foundation Match Fund

Other Involved Member Partners: Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy; County of Chautauqua

Funding Overview: The majority of the project cost is funded by the Environmental Protection Fund administered by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation through the Water Quality Improvement Project program. The local match is expected to come from the Alliance/Foundation Match Fund supported by the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, The Lenna Foundation, and the Holmberg Foundation, a County Occupancy Tax 2% Lakes and Waterways Grant to the Village of Lakewood, and a portion of a 2020 Alliance Consolidated Foundation Grant with funding provided by The Lenna Foundation, the Ralph C. Sheldon Foundation, and the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation.

Above: Periods of heavy rainfall gouge out and overwhelm these erosion channels, bringing large amounts of stormwater, debris and sediment over the railroad tracks and towards homes and commercial areas.

County of Chautauqua & North Chautauqua Lake Sewer District, NYSEFC & NYSDEC Engineering Planning Grant (EPG), North Chautauqua Lake Inflow and Infiltration Study (I&I) Study

The project plans to develop an engineering report assessing a portion of the sanitary sewer collection system within the North Chautauqua Lake Sewer District (NCLSD), including the Village of Mayville and portions of the Town of Chautauqua. The project seeks to identify areas of excessive inflow and infiltration (I&I), recommend improvements to the collection system aimed at reducing I&I, and complete an engineering report describing the findings. This project will benefit both the lake and watershed as well as NCLSD District users as future improvements are implemented to improve water quality in the lake and watershed an improve the efficiency of the collection system. The grant was awarded in late 2021 and was underway in 2022.

Grant budget: Total: $36,000 | State: $30,000 | Local: $6,000

Grantee: County of Chautauqua & North Chautauqua Lake Sewer District

Alliance Role: Grant writing

Funding Overview: The State share of funding for the project is provided by a New York State Department of Environmental Conservation / Environmental Facilities Corporation Wastewater Infrastructure Engineering Planning Grant (EPG), funded through the New York Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) program. Local matching funds will be provided by the NCLSD/County.

County of Chautauqua, NYSDEC Water Quality Improvement Projects (WQIP), Streambank Stabilization

Description: Work involved six (6) separate grant awards to address streambank and channel instability at eight (8) priority sites along Prendergast Creek, Bemus Creek (two sites), Goose Creek, Ball Creek, Dutch Hollow Creek (two sites), and West Dutch Hollow Creek. The purpose of the work was to improve water quality in Chautauqua Lake and its tributaries by reducing erosion and associated sediment and nutrient loading caused by streambank and channel instability. Sediment transport to the lake, from unstable banks like those being addressed by this work, is a source of nutrients, including nitrogen and phosphorus, which can impair water quality when present at excess concentrations (e.g., contributing to algae blooms and/or excessive nuisance aquatic vegetation growth). Work also helped address ongoing property loss, including imminent threats to infrastructure, caused primarily by bank erosion. Construction has

been completed at all eight of the priority sites, and grant closeout has been completed. The NYSDEC approved a time extension request to utilize surplus funding to address erosion issues at an additional nearby section of Dutch Hollow Creek (Phase II). Construction on this Phase II stretch of Dutch Hollow Creek was completed in late 2021. Closeout for the remaining two grants, Dutch Hollow Creek and West Dutch Hollow Creek, was completed in 2022.

Projected budget (six projects): Total: ~$1.43M | NYS: ~$1.07M | Local: ~$358,000

Grantee: County of Chautauqua

Alliance Role: Grant writing and administration; project management/coordination

Other Involved Member Partners: Chautauqua County Soil & Water Conservation District (technical services); Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy (education & outreach)

Funding Overview: The majority of the project cost is funded by the Environmental Protection Fund administered by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. The remaining share is provided by the County of Chautauqua as local matching funds from the Occupancy Tax Program and reallocated Chautauqua Lake Management Commission (CLMC) capital funds. The State-funded share of nearly $1.1 million would not have been possible without the commitment of these matching funds. Local matching fund contribution percentage requirements vary depending on the source of funding. These particular WQIPs require a 25% local match. That is, for every $1,000 of a total project amount, a local match contribution of $250, in either cash or in-kind services such as equipment, labor, or service from local employees or volunteers, results in an additional $750 from the State in the form of the WQIP grant award. Local match requirements are a critical tool used by funding agencies to ensure local "buy-in" and encourage high-quality projects with clear value to the local populace. When projects are properly vetted, designed, and executed, both sides benefit because the grant recipient or beneficiary has successfully leveraged a significant return on its investment (in this case, $4 worth of work for every $1 spent from local funds), and the grant provider assures itself a well thought-out, effective project.

Project Descriptions:

1. **Dutch Hollow Creek** Stabilization Project, Ellery, NY

a. Status: Phase I construction completed in Fall 2018; Phase II planning design was completed in Spring of 2021, and Phase II construction was completed in Fall 2021. The grant was closed out in 2022.
b. Outcomes & Achievements: Streambank and grade stabilization and stream corridor restoration in Phase I of the project addressed an approximately 1,100-foot-long reach of Dutch Hollow Creek, just north of Interstate I-86, which is negatively impacted by excessive sediment loading and frequent debris jams that obstruct the channel, causing head cutting, erosion of banks and new side channels, and results in the formation of oversized depositional features. Work aimed to protect nearby infrastructure and banks, and to reduce the amount of sediment and nutrient loading to downstream areas, including Chautauqua Lake, caused by the ongoing bank and channel instability. Using remaining funding from this WQIP and from a second WQIP grant (West Dutch Hollow Creek), the project team was able to positively impact approximately 800 linear feet of additional stream corridor in Phase II construction through a blend of hard (rock) and soft (live stakes) restorative techniques.

Above: Photographs of the Phase I work area that was completed in 2018.

Above: Photographs of the Phase II work area that was completed in 2021. Before construction photos are on the left, and after construction photos are on the right.

2. **West Dutch Hollow Creek** Stabilization Project, Ellery, NY
   a. Status: Construction substantially completed in Fall 2018 and reached final completion in Fall 2019. Remainder of grant covered a portion of Dutch Hollow Phase II construction completed Fall 2021. The grant was closed out in 2022.
   b. Outcomes & Achievements: Streambank and grade stabilization and stream corridor restoration addressed an approximately 850-foot-long reach of West Dutch Hollow Creek, where abrupt localized channel erosion was resulting in larger-scale negative impacts further downstream in areas where the stream flows in close proximity to residential properties and roadways. The work aimed to significantly reduce the amount of sediment and nutrient loading to downstream areas, including Chautauqua Lake, caused by the stream instability. A portion of this funding was used to support Phase II construction of the Dutch Hollow Stabilization Project.

Photographs of the West Dutch Hollow Creek project area.

County of Chautauqua, NYSDEC Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP), Chautauqua Lake Mechanized Floating Vegetation Collection Project

Description: Chautauqua County received a grant to purchase two (2) aquatic skimmer vessels to collect and remove floating vegetation and/or surface scum from Chautauqua Lake, which will help reduce the amount of floating vegetation, improve conditions in the lake, and potentially reduce the growth of Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs). The grant was awarded in late 2018, and in 2019, the County secured the services of Alpha Boats Unlimited to build two (2) MC-202 Aquatic Skimmer Vessels, which have a payload capacity of two (2) tons. Due to significant COVID-19 related manufacturing delays, delivery of these skimmer vessels took place in June of 2021. The skimmer vessels are operated and maintained by the Chautauqua Lake Association. Grant closeout was completed in 2022.

Projected grant budget: Total: $500,000 | State: $375,000 | Local: $125,000

Grantee: County of Chautauqua

Alliance Role: Grant writing and administration; project management/coordination; local match via a grant from the Ralph C. Sheldon Foundation

Other Involved Member Partners: Chautauqua Lake Association

Funding Overview: The majority of the project cost is funded by the Environmental Protection Fund administered by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. The remaining share is provided as local matching funds by the County

of Chautauqua as operational support to CLA and by the Alliance via a grant from the Ralph C. Sheldon Foundation.

Photo 1. A skimmer is deployed from CLA headquarters for the first time in early July 2021.

Photo 2. A skimmer is pictured working in coordination with a Town of Chautauqua Mobitrac during a public demonstration.

Village of Lakewood, NYSEFC Green Innovation Grant Program (GIGP), Chautauqua Avenue Green Street Retrofit Project

Description: Sourced from the Village of Lakewood and Town of Busti Stormwater Management Engineering Study, this project is a comprehensive green infrastructure retrofit of Chautauqua Avenue in the Village of Lakewood to transform the existing impervious, over-widened Village Center roadway in an effort to improve water quality and quantity conditions by reducing sediment and nutrient loading to lake. The project will result in increased infiltration and biofiltration of urban stormwater, reduced burden on existing drainage infrastructure, and co-benefits of improved aesthetics, increased public awareness of urban stormwater management and lake stewardship, and reinvigoration of traditional "Main Street" character. The preliminary design was prepared as part of the recently completed Lakewood-Busti Stormwater Management Engineering Study, which was a collaborative project among the Town, Village, County of Chautauqua, Alliance, and the NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) and Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). The grant was awarded in late 2018 with implementation beginning in 2019 when the Village secured the engineering services of Barton and Loguidice. In late 2020, the Village retained the services of

Kingsview Enterprises to perform construction, which was completed by the fall of 2021. The NYS grant was closed out in 2022.

Projected grant budget: Total: $772,724 | State: $695,000 | Local: $77,724

Grantee: Village of Lakewood

Alliance Role: Grant writing and administration; project management/coordination; local match via Alliance/Foundation Match Fund

Other Involved Member Partners: County of Chautauqua (local match & financing assistance)

Funding Overview: The State share of funding for the project is provided by a New York State (NYS) Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) Green Innovation Grant Program (GIGP) grant. Local matching funds are provided by the Village of Lakewood (as in-kind construction services), County of Chautauqua from reallocated Chautauqua Lake Management Commission (CLMC) capital funds, and Alliance from the Alliance/Foundation Match Fund supported by the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, The Lenna Foundation, and the Holmberg Foundation.

Photo 1. This aerial photo provided by Barton & Loguidice offers a view of the Avenue's newly-constructed intersections and sidewalks, which feature Belgard porous pavers.

Photo 2. Pictured above are the Avenue's new storm water trees, which are planted in structural soil and protected by porous Flexi-Pave.

Town of Busti, NYSDEC Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP), Precision Swale Stormwater Retrofits

Description: Sourced from the Village of Lakewood and Town of Busti Stormwater Management Engineering Study, this project stabilized and enhanced approximately 4,885 linear feet of steep-gradient and shallow-gradient roadside swales at select locations throughout the Town of Busti and Village of Lakewood in order to reduce sediment and nutrient loading to Chautauqua Lake. Best management practices (BMPs) were incorporated to reduce ongoing channel and bank erosion, reduce water velocities, promote infiltration and bio-filtration, enhance biodiversity and habitat for birds and pollinators, and improve aesthetics. Such BMPs include vegetated filter strips, stone check dams, riffle-pool complexes, sorptive media for nutrient capture, native wetland plantings, and other features. The candidate locations were identified as part of preliminary design completed in the Lakewood-Busti Stormwater Management Engineering Study, which was a collaborative project among the Town, Village, County of Chautauqua, Alliance, and the NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation and Department of Environmental Conservation. The grant was awarded in late 2018 and project design and engineering by EcoStrategies was completed in 2020. Construction by Rock of WNY, Inc. began in the fall of 2020 and was completed in the fall of 2021. Grant closeout was completed in 2022.

Projected grant budget: Total: $253,097.50 | State: $202,478 | Local: $50,619.50

Grantee: Town of Busti

Alliance Role: Grant writing and administration; project management/coordination; local match via Alliance/Foundation Match Fund

Other Involved Member Partners: County of Chautauqua (local match)

Funding Overview: The majority of the project cost is funded by the Environmental Protection Fund administered by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. The remaining share is provided as local matching funds by the Town of Busti (cash and in-kind construction), County of Chautauqua from reallocated Chautauqua Lake Management Commission (CLMC) capital funds, and Alliance from the Alliance/Foundation Match Fund supported by the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, The Lenna Foundation, and the Holmberg Foundation.

Photo 1. The Southwestern Drive site is pictured before construction.

Photo 2. The site shows improved channel stability after construction, bank protection, native plantings, biofiltration features and check dams to reduce water velocity.

Other 2022 Alliance Projects & Programs

2021-2022 Alliance Consolidated Local Funding Program

In 2021, the Alliance renewed for a fourth consecutive year its partnership with the Ralph C. Sheldon Foundation, The Lenna Foundation, and the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation to offer 2022 local funding assistance opportunities to its Members via our local grant application process to identify, prioritize, and fund projects and programs to protect and improve water quality in Chautauqua Lake and its watershed. Funding applications, which were available exclusively to Alliance Members, were distributed on July 16, 2021 and due on September 14, 2021. This year's grant application template was modified and streamlined for efficiency and ease-of-use. The Alliance received 15 applications from Members totaling ~$2.2M in requests. Applications were subject to technical review by staff and volunteer Alliance Committee members using our *5-Year Strategy* and Multi-Criteria Analysis (MCA) Tool. The Alliance Board prioritized the candidate projects and assigned funding recommendations summarized in the list below. The funding recommendations were made by the Alliance Board of Directors to the partner Foundations in late 2021 with final decisions made in February 2022. Supplemental grants were also awarded by the Alliance in 2022 with funds provided by the Hultquist Foundation, the Holmberg Foundation, and the County of Chautauqua Occupancy Tax Program.

- Chautauqua Lake Association (CLA), 2022 Mobi-Trac Support.
- Town of Chautauqua Mobitrac Shoreline Cleanup, ~ 1,750 tons of plants and debris removed.
- CLA 2022 Operational Support, Program resulted in ~4,400 tons of plant debris removed from the lake.
- Two targeted herbicide treatments to manage non-native plants based on NYSDEC permits; Chautauqua Lake Partnership (CLP) led treatment of ~101 acres with Aquathol K on May 24 (targeting Curly-Leaf pondweed) with Ellery, Bemus Point, and Celoron; and treatment of ~369 acres with ProcellaCOR EC on June 13-14 (targeting Eurasian Watermilfoil) with Ellery, Ellicott, Busti, Bemus Point, Celoron, and Lakewood.
- CLA pre-season Curly-Leaf pondweed-focused harvesting resulting in ~710 tons of early nuisance plants removed from May 24-June 10.
- CLA Watercraft Steward Program stationing personnel at 7 public boat launches to monitor for invasive species and perform public outreach from ~Memorial Day-Labor Day.
- CLP plant surveys by NC State Univ. to support annual management program, including targeted herbicide treatments.
- Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy's (CWC) 'Watershed Technical Assistance & Stormwater Management Program', including around 124 LakeScapes landowner assistance consultations in the Chautauqua Lake watershed, technical assistance for stormwater projects and project development, shoreline buffer survey, and public outreach/education.
- CWC's 'Aquatic Invasive Species Early Detection & Monitoring Taskforce', public outreach, floating classroom training events and taskforce paddles to search for new invasive species e.g. hydrilla, hand-pulling of water chestnut in Chadakoin River, and initiation of late-season starry stonewort work at Ashville Bay and Prendergast Point.
- Late-season lake cleanup project focused on the Lower South Basin (CLA and the Town of Chautauqua Mobitracs performed work).

Total project budget: ~$970,464

Alliance Role: Grantee; Grant management

Funding Overview: Funding was provided by the Ralph C. Sheldon Foundation, The Lenna Foundation, the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, the Hultquist Foundation, the Holmberg Foundation, and the County of Chautauqua via its Occupancy Tax Program in the form of grants to the Alliance, which subsequently were distributed for Member projects.

CWC Invasive Species Taskforce

Town of Chautauqua Mobitrac Shoreline Cleanup

Photo of the CLA and Town of Chautauqua (Joint Operations Program) removing late-season debris near Townline Road (Source: Chautauqua Lake Association)

Photo of shoreline buffer implemented by the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy (Source: Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy).

2022-2023 Alliance Consolidated Local Funding Program

In 2022, the Alliance renewed for a fifth consecutive year its partnership with the Ralph C. Sheldon Foundation, The Lenna Foundation, and the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, to offer 2023 local funding assistance opportunities to its Members via our local grant application process to identify, prioritize, and fund projects and programs to protect and improve water quality in Chautauqua Lake and its watershed. Funding applications, which were available exclusively to Alliance Members, were distributed on July 13, 2022 and due on September 14, 2022. The Alliance received 17 applications from Members totaling ~$2.95M in requests. Applications were subject to technical review by staff and volunteer Alliance Committee members using our *5-Year Strategy* and Multi-Criteria Analysis (MCA) Tool. The Alliance Board prioritized the candidate projects and assigned funding recommendations summarized in the list below. The funding recommendations were made by the Alliance Board of Directors to the partner Foundations in late 2022 with final decisions made in April 2023. Supplemental funding was also secured via grants to the Alliance from the Hultquist Foundation and County of Chautauqua's Occupancy Tax Program. These additional funds have been awarded by the Alliance as supplemental grants for Member projects planned for 2023.

- Town of Chautauqua: Mobitrac Operations
- Chautauqua Lake Association: 2023 All-Inclusive Operational Support
- Chautauqua Lake Partnership on behalf of Town of Ellery, Town of Ellicott, Town of North Harmony, Town of Busti, Village of Bemus Point, Village of Celoron, and Village of Lakewood: Herbicide Treatments for Curly-Leaf pondweed and/or Eurasian Watermilfoil (Combined grant, contingent on 2023 NYSDEC permits)
- Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy: 2023 Chautauqua Lake Aquatic Invasive Species Early Detection Volunteer Taskforce
- Chautauqua Lake Association: 2023 Watercraft Steward Support
- Chautauqua Lake Partnership: Lake Surveys
- Chautauqua Lake Partnership: 5 Year Plan for Lake Management of Herbicides
- Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy: Watershed Technical Assistance and Stormwater Management Program
- Chautauqua Lake Association Capital Project Support
- Mobitrac Joint Operations Support Fund
- Adaptive Lake Management Fund

Total projected budget (YTD '23): ~$1,058,332

Alliance Role: Grantee; Grant management

Funding Overview: Funding was provided by the Ralph C. Sheldon Foundation, The Lenna Foundation, the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, the Hultquist Foundation, and Chautauqua County via the 2% Occupancy Tax Program in the form of grants to the Alliance, which will subsequently be distributed for Member projects.

Chautauqua Lake Aquatic Data (CLAD) Mapping Program

The Chautauqua Lake Aquatic Data (CLAD) Mapping Program, initiated by the Alliance in 2020, continued to be expanded and improved in 2022 based on past experience, increased collaboration, new availability and sharing of datasets, and priorities of the Alliance and other lake stakeholders. The program includes the collection of field data by Alliance staff and Members using a variety of equipment throughout the year, focusing on the development of new long-term data and information sets related to lake conditions and management actions. These and other lake-related data collected and shared by researchers are organized and mapped using Geographical Information System (GIS) software to help unify, increase the accessibility and shareability of, and aid a more thorough assessment of these once-disparate datasets.

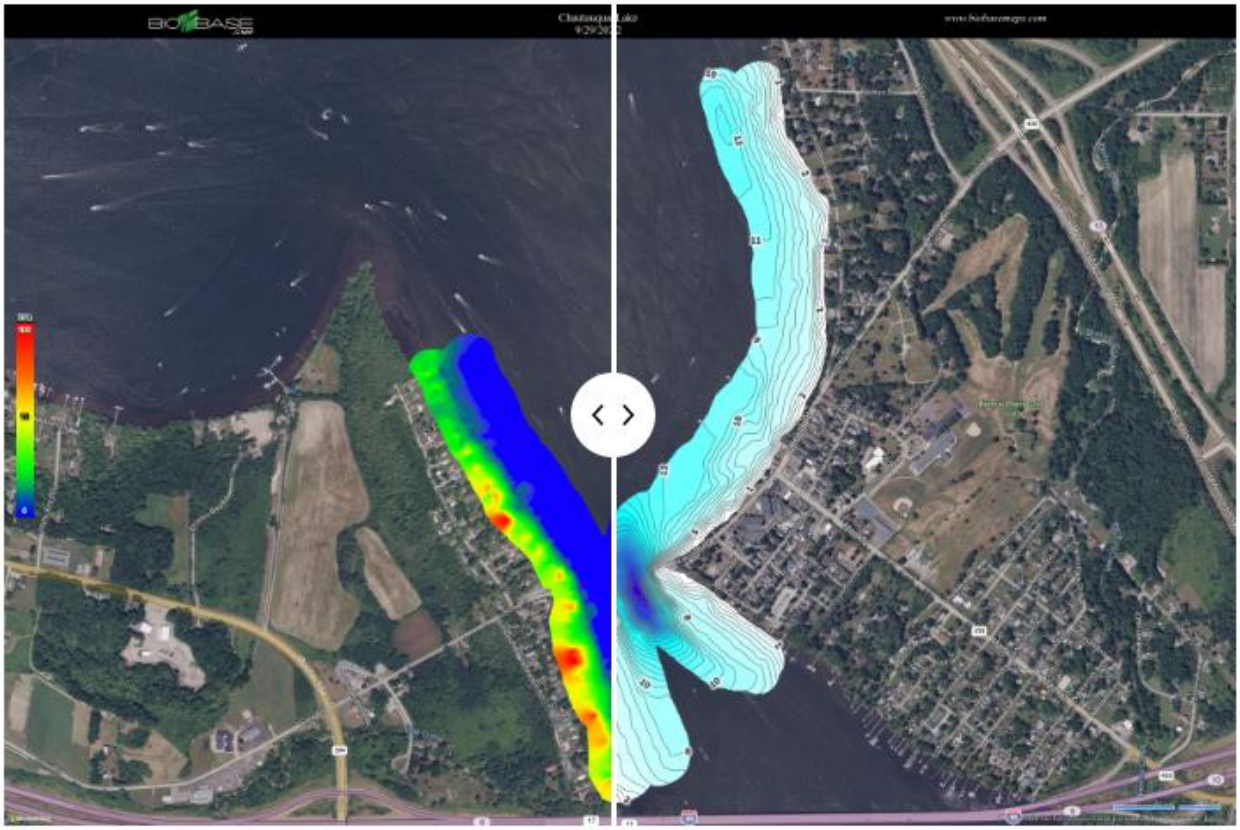
In the spring of 2020, the Alliance was awarded a grant from the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation (CRCF) to develop and implement a Global Positioning System (GPS) weed management program in coordination with the Town of Chautauqua and the Chautauqua Lake Association (CLA). The Alliance began this initiative by deploying seven Lowrance Elite Ti^2 Fishfinder/Chartplotter units on three Mobitracs and four harvesters for a portion of the 2020 lake maintenance season. In 2021, GPS tracking was expanded to include six harvesters, two Chautauqua County-owned skimmers operated by CLA, and four Mobitracs. This GPS data tracking program, which continuously records location, time and date, allows for a detailed evaluation of effort and work output over the course of the season, or other time periods of interest. The maps and other visualizations that can be generated from this program help build historical datasets and allow us to share information with stakeholders to help drive more evidence-based understanding, decision making, and adaptive lake management. After its successful initiation of the pilot GPS program in 2020, the Alliance now continues the GPS program under the umbrella of CLAD.

Also in 2020, the Alliance initiated a new CLAD program utilizing consumer-grade underwater video and sonar technology to perform surveys of select areas of the lake to

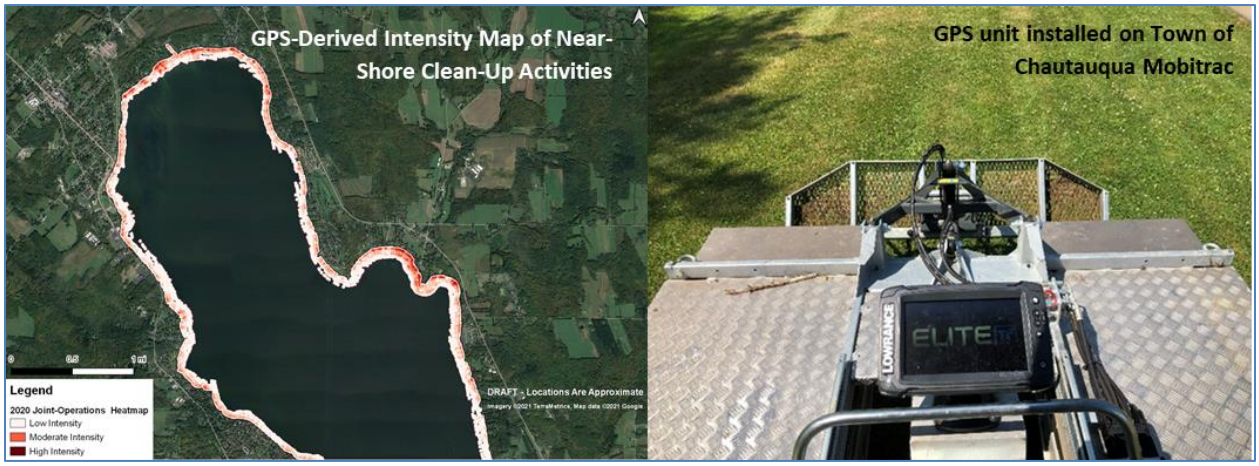
complement other lake survey initiatives led by its Members, NYSDEC, or others. Staff use the same type of Lowrance sonar unit mentioned above to collect data on macrophyte biovolume, bathymetry, and bottom hardness in targeted areas of the lake. The Alliance performed repeat surveys at a ~40-acre section Bemus Bay, which is located in an area of high use and economic significance, on a monthly basis between June and November as part of the 2020 pilot program. Staff also surveyed portions of Sherman's Bay and the Village of Lakewood. These surveys continued in 2021 and were expanded to include a ~70 acre portion of the Stow narrows between Tom's Point and the I-86 bridge. All field data are processed by BioBase software, which produces user-friendly outputs for the Alliance to download and map using QGIS. Staff continued these surveys throughout 2022 and plan to expand the biovolume program in 2023 to include monthly surveys of an approximate 1,000-acre survey of the lake's Lower South Basin, including Burtis Bay and part of the Chadakoin Outlet.

The underwater video program involves Alliance staff using a rod-mounted GoPro Hero 7 Black waterproof camera deployed through the ice or by boat to perform visual assessments of macrophyte and other lake conditions. After the pilot-program was started in February 2020, both 2021 and 2022 saw the introduction of additional underwater video survey locations. In building a data set of underwater conditions over several years, this program can provide a historical archive of plant conditions in select areas during a time when other surveys are not possible. By monitoring and cataloguing changes in these visual conditions, we hope to glean new information about the impact of different variables on plant growth. Mild weather conditions during the winter of 2022-23 resulted in a lack of safe surface ice to perform underwater video surveys, but staff began surveys by boat in the spring of 2023.

The Alliance also performed baseline bathymetry sonar surveys of select tributary mouths in the fall to assist Members with assessing the feasibility of future dredging projects. These surveys were followed by a sediment sampling program aided by the Alliance at these locations in January of 2022. Sediment samples were collected at tributary mouths through lake ice and sent for laboratory analysis. The Alliance is optimistic that in the future the varied capabilities of CLAD can continue to serve Members and other stakeholders in similar scenarios where data collection and monitoring are needed and provide a tangible benefit to future lake and watershed management actions.



Alliance staff perform multiple sonar surveys each year through the CLAD Mapping Program, which map plant biovolume (left side of map) and bathymetry (right side of map).



Alliance staff manage the lake's maintenance equipment GPS monitoring program through the CLAD Mapping Program.

Alliance Committees

The Alliance extends its thanks to its many volunteers serving on its committees.

1. *Data Analysis and Research (DAR) Committee*
   Chair: Mike Jabot, PhD
   Board Representative: David Shepherd
   In 2020, the Alliance transitioned the former Scientific Review and Advisory Committee into a Data Analysis and Research (DAR) Committee. The DAR Committee is populated with individuals who have backgrounds in research, the natural sciences, engineering, data analysis, and/or other related technical fields and experience with the environmental factors impacting the health of Chautauqua Lake and its watershed. The purpose of the Committee is to provide scientific and technical input to the Board of Directors and Executive Director.

2. *Lake Management Committee*
   Chair: Mike LaTone
   The Lake Management Committee was formed with the purpose of coordinating in-lake maintenance, harmful algal bloom mitigation efforts, and potential future dredging efforts. This Committee is populated with key County personnel, municipal leaders, and executive directors and presidents of local lake managing organizations. These meetings bring together many of the stakeholders involved with lake maintenance in order to share information and plan and coordinate work.

3. *Watershed Management Committee*
   Chair: Rob Yates
   The Watershed Management Committee was also formed in late 2019 with the purpose of providing guidance and feedback regarding potential Alliance partnered watershed projects and to recommend watershed project ideas for grant submission that attempt to reduce the flow of nutrients and sediments from the watershed into Chautauqua Lake. The Committee is populated with local municipal leaders, highway and department of public works superintendents, and representatives from the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy, Soil and Water Conservation District, County Watershed Coordinator, and County Health Department.

5/2022-5/2023 Board of Directors

Director	**Member Affiliation**
Bruce Erickson – Chair	Chautauqua Lake Association
Don Emhardt – Vice-Chair	Town of Chautauqua/Chautauqua Lake Association
Jan Bowman – Secretary	Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy
Ellen Barnes – Treasurer	Village of Lakewood
Martin Proctor	County of Chautauqua
Mike LaTone	Chautauqua Lake Partnership
David Shepherd	Arnold Holmberg Foundation
Paul (P.J.) Wendel, Jr.	County of Chautauqua (*Ex officio*)
Jim Andrews	Town of Busti
Mary Hutchings	Chautauqua Lake Partnership
Pierre Chagnon	County of Chautauqua
Rob Yates	Town of North Harmony

Note: A maximum of 9 directors comprise the board of directors. Those listed above served for all or some portion of 2022. The first 9 directors listed in bold comprised the Alliance Board as of the date of this report.

Special Recognitions

The Alliance wishes to recognize that we as a community stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before us. Special appreciation to all those listed below and to many more.

CLMC participants: Linda Barber, Chuck Battaglia, Bill Boria, Craig Butler, Sally Carlson, Pierre Chagnon, Doug Champ, Jane Conroe, Rick Constantino, Fred Croscut, Bill Daily, Jeff Diers, Tom Erlandson, Mark Geise, Tom Geisler, Lyle Hajdu, Vince Horrigan, John Jablonski, Joe Johnson, Don McCord, Wade Morse, Debbie Naybor, Andrew Nixon, Karen Rine, Kevin Sanvidge, Kim Sherwood, Mark Stow, Art Webster, Dave Wilson, Tad Wright and Chris Yates

Leading the evolution from CLMC to an Alliance: Linda Barber, Pierre Chagnon, Don Emhardt, Mark Geise, Lyle Hajdu, Vince Horrigan, Don McCord, Dave McCoy, Randy Sweeney and Tad Wright.

Funders: The Lenna Foundation, Ralph C. Sheldon Foundation, Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, Gebbie Foundation, Holmberg Foundation, Hultquist Foundation, County of Chautauqua, and Private Contributors.

Appendix A
2022 May Member Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 12, 2022 at 4:30 PM ET at The Lawson Center, 73 Lakeside Drive, Bemus Point, NY 14712 & via Zoom

Directors Present: Bruce Erickson, Paul Wendel, Jr. (via Zoom), Mike LaTone, David Shepherd, Pierre Chagnon, Mary Hutchings (via Zoom), Don Emhardt

Directors Absent: Rob Yates, Jim Andrews

Staff in Attendance: Randall Perry – Alliance Executive Director, Taylor West – Alliance Project Manager, and Jay Young – Alliance Communications Coordinator

Others in Attendance: Linda Swanson – Sheldon Foundation; Lisa Lynde – Chautauqua Region Community Foundation; Cassie Pinkoski – Chautauqua County Soil and Water Conservation District; Craig Butler; Joe Fabrizio; and Ted McCague

Member Representatives in Attendance: Jim Wehrfritz – Town of Ellery; Becky Nystrom, John Jablonski and Janis Bowman – Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy (CWC); Doug Conroe – Chautauqua Lake Association; Toby Shepherd – Chautauqua Institution; Dave McCoy and Martin Proctor – County of Chautauqua; Louise Ortman – Town of North Harmony; Jim Cirbus – Chautauqua Lake Partnership.

I. ***Call to Order***

B. Erickson called the Annual May Member Meeting of the Chautauqua Lake and Watershed Management Alliance (Alliance) to order at 4:30 pm. A quorum of seven out of nine Board members were present at the start of the meeting.

II. ***Review of the 2021 May Member Meeting Minutes***

M. LaTone made a motion to approve the 2021 May Member Meeting Minutes. P. Chagnon seconded the motion made by M. Latone, which passed unanimously.

III. ***Secretary's Report on Notification and Quorum***

M. Hutchings indicated that written notification of the Annual Meeting was provided to all Members in accordance with the Alliance By-Laws on 3/11/22 and 5/6/22.

M. Hutchings indicated that ballots were sent to all 24 current Alliance Members on 5/6/22, upon conclusion of the Member Nomination Window.

M. Hutchings indicated that 21 ballots have been received, which constitutes a quorum per Alliance By-Laws.

M. Hutchings indicated that the results have been tallied and independently checked by Alliance Staff.

IV. ***Election of Directors – Ballot Canvass and Report***

B. Erickson asked if there were any additional ballots to be submitted by Members. None were noted. B. Erickson declared that voting is now closed and thanked all Members for their participation.

R. Perry indicated that based on the final vote counts, Martin Proctor (15 votes yes), Ellen Barnes (15 votes yes), Mike LaTone (15 votes yes), and Janis Bowman (10 votes yes) were all elected to the Board.

J. Wehrfritz asked why the Board seat that is appointed by the Chautauqua County Legislature was listed on the ballot.

B. Erickson indicated that it is tradition to list appointed Board seats.

J. Wehrfritz suggested that in the future appointments to such a seat could be listed on the ballot for informational purposes only without the need for any ceremonial votes to be cast.

B. Erickson indicated the Board would look into the matter.

V. ***Presentation of 2021 Annual Report***

R. Perry presented on the Alliance's 2021 Annual Report. R. Perry thanked The Lawson Center for offering to host the Alliance's Annual Meeting, and thanked the Board, County, Foundations, Alliance Members, and all those involved for their support. R. Perry thanked R. Yates, M. Hutchings, and P. Chagnon for their work on the Board. A copy of the report and presentation is available on the Alliance's website.

B. Erickson thanked R. Perry, Alliance staff, R. Yates, M. Hutchings, and P. Chagnon for the work they have done.

VI. ***Member Open Discussion***

J. Wehrfritz asked if copies of the annual management plan and the 2022 consolidated work plan referenced in the Annual Report Presentation could be made available.

R. Perry indicated that the 2022 consolidated work plan referenced in the presentation refers to the overall collection of Alliance Member projects that have been allocated funding for 2022. R. Perry indicated that the list of those programs has previously been shared at public meetings.

J. Wehrfritz asked what the coordination involved in this plan was.
R. Perry indicated that there is coordination in that the Alliance Board receives funding, solicits requests for projects, and allocates funding to Members. R. Perry indicated that the work is often done independently or in parallel, but indicated there are cases where municipalities and the Chautauqua Lake Partnership have directly coordinated on their work, the Chautauqua Lake Association and the Town of Chautauqua Mobitracs directly coordinate on their work, as well as other examples.

J. Wehrfritz clarified that coordination done at the administrative level by the Alliance is different than direct coordination of management programs.

J. Wehrfritz asked for a clarification on the ~$4-million and ~$7-million figures referenced in the report.
R. Perry indicated that the ~$4-million figure referred to the approximate value of projects underway in 2021, including open New York State grants and local grants. R. Perry indicated that the ~$7-million figure referred to total project values from 2015 to 2021.

J. Wehrfritz indicated that the challenges faced on the lake and the projects being pursued to address them, as stated in the Annual Report presentation, are not within the scope of the Alliance's Mission Statement. J. Wehrfritz cited harmful algal blooms as well as sediment and internal loading as examples. J. Wehrfritz asked if there is any work being done to either alter the scope of work or alter the Mission Statement, and advised that if not, that it should be pursued.
B. Erickson indicated that he would follow up on these questions.

VII. ***Adjourn Annual Member Meeting***
D. Emhardt made a motion to adjourn the May Member Meeting. The Motion was seconded by D. Shepherd and was passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 5:09 pm.

The Alliance Board of Directors passed a motion to approve these 05/12/22 Meeting Minutes on 5/11/23.