



## 2024 Annual Report

Presented at the May Member Meeting

May 8, 2025



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

# May Member Meeting Agenda

May 8, 2025 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 2024 Annual Member Meeting Minutes
- c. Secretary’s Report on Notification and Quorum
- d. Election of Directors – Ballot Canvass and Report
- e. Presentation of 2024 Annual Report
- f. Member Open Discussion
- g. Adjourn

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## 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 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.

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, the County of Chautauqua Government, and other lake and watershed stakeholders – for their support and passion over the past 10 years, as we look forward to another great year in 2025.

## **A Brief Note on 2024**

The year 2024 marked the Alliance's tenth full year of operation. In those ten years, the Alliance has partnered on lake and watershed projects valued at nearly \$13 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 coordinate a high level of local funding to our Members to implement a diverse 2024 work program 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. A strong 2025 work plan is already underway by our Members, and we look forward to pursuing additional outside funding to complement these critical local investments.

We invite you to please read about our Members' efforts and accomplishments in the pages that follow - or by visiting our website, or those of our Member organizations. Thank you to all who work tirelessly every day to help make this lake the wonderful place that it is.

## 2024 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

## 2024 Alliance-Partnered Project Summaries

*This report includes information on projects that were open during 2024. For information on past projects, please review our prior Annual Reports on the Alliance website.*

### **Town of North Harmony, NYSDEC Non-Agricultural Nonpoint Source Planning and MS4 Mapping Grant (NPG) Grant, Cedar Avenue Stream Culvert Assessment**

**Description:** The Town of North Harmony’s Stream Culvert Assessment is expected to generate an engineering design report to address erosion concerns resulting from a potentially inadequately sized and/or failing stream culvert located along Cedar Avenue. The existing culvert is an approximately 8-foot-wide, 40-foot-long corrugated steel pipe that is degraded, is beginning to fold upward in the streambed, and appears to be getting undermined by the stream.

**Projected budget:** Total: \$48,000 | State: \$ 43,636 | Local: \$ 4,364

**Grantee:** Town of North Harmony

**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 NYSDEC Non-Agricultural Nonpoint Source Planning and MS4 Mapping Grant (NPG) Grant program. Local matching funds are expected to be provided by the Town and the Alliance/Foundation Match Fund supported by the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, The Lenna Foundation, and the Holmberg Foundation..

### **County of Chautauqua, NYSDEC Non-Agricultural Nonpoint Source Planning and MS4 Mapping Grant (NPG) Grant, Bemus Creek Sediment and Debris Management Plan**

**Description:** This project is expected to produce a stream sediment and debris management plan for a section of Bemus Creek in the Town of Ellery and Village of Bemus Point which will identify areas in the stream basin that contribute to flood risk and erosion. The plan will develop recommendations to reduce the risk of future flooding, erosion, and debris jams to benefit the overall function of the creek and

protect homes and infrastructure in the area. The focus area of this study will be the lower sections of the creek, including areas near the Shore Acres community that have suffered from flooding in recent years.

**Projected budget:** Total: \$55,000 | State: \$50,000 | Local: \$5,000

**Grantee:** County of Chautauqua

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

**Funding Overview:** The majority of the project cost is funded by the NYSDEC Non-Agricultural Nonpoint Source Planning and MS4 Mapping Grant (NPG) Grant program. Local matching funds are expected to be provided by Chautauqua County.

### **Village of Lakewood, NYSDEC Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP), Village of Lakewood Fairmount Avenue Constructed Wetland Project**

**Description:** This project will construct a new wetland pond system to capture and treat stormwater from a 109-acre area. The project will use native seed mixes, live stakes, shrubs and trees to increase flood resiliency and reduce sediment and nutrient conveyance to Chautauqua Lake. The project area is near the business corridor of Fairmount Avenue, which has been subjected to flooding during storm events in recent years.

**Projected budget:** Total: \$306,095 | State: \$244,876 | Local: \$61,219

**Grantee:** Village of Lakewood

**Other Involved Member Partners:** Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy, County 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 Environmental Protection Fund administered by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation through the Water Quality Improvement Project program. Local matching funds are expected to be provided by the Village through a County 2% Waterways grant 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 Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP), Town of North Harmony Carpenter-Pringle Road Stream Culvert Replacement**

**Description:** The Town of North Harmony will replace an aged stream culvert with a new larger arch pipe, and install bank protection at the project site in order to reduce erosion and protect road infrastructure. This Culvert replacement will also improve stream function and reduce the negative impacts of storm events, ensuring climate resilience.

**Projected budget:** Total: \$273,500 | State: \$218,800 | Local: \$54,700

**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 Environmental Protection Fund administered by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation through the Water Quality Improvement Project program. Matching funds are expected to be provided by the Town in the form of in-kind construction services.

## **Town of North Harmony, NYSDEC Invasive Species Grant, Chautauqua Lake Ashville Bay Starry Stonewort Control Project**

**Description:** The Town of North Harmony's Chautauqua Lake Ashville Bay Starry Stonewort Control Project is expected to manage an approximately 3 acre monoculture of invasive algae using diver assisted suction harvesting (DASH). Starry stonewort is an invasive macroalgae which spreads easily via fragmentation, and can impair recreation and crowd out native species. The DASH management technique is intended to limit impacts on native plant and animal species while addressing the algae growing in the water column as well as the lake bottom.

**Projected budget:** Total: \$125,000 | State: \$100,000 | Local: \$25,000

**Grantee:** Town of North Harmony

**Alliance Role:** Grant writing and administration; project management/coordination; local match via Alliance Lake Maintenance Operations and Capital Fund

**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 Invasive Species Grant Program. The local match is expected to come from the Alliance Lake Maintenance Operations and Capital Fund supported by the County of Chautauqua.

### **Town of Chautauqua, NYSDEC Invasive Species Grant, Chautauqua Lake Prendergast Point Starry Stonewort Control Project**

**Description:** The Town of Chautauqua’s Chautauqua Lake Prendergast Point Starry Stonewort Control Project is expected to manage an approximately 5 acre monoculture of invasive algae using diver assisted suction harvesting (DASH). Starry stonewort is an invasive macroalgae which spreads easily via fragmentation, and can impair recreation and crowd out native species. The DASH management technique is intended to limit impacts on native plant and animal species while addressing the algae growing in the water column as well as the lake bottom.

**Projected budget:** Total: \$125,000 | State: \$100,000 | Local: \$25,000

**Grantee:** Town of Chautauqua

**Alliance Role:** Grant writing and administration; project management/coordination; local match via Alliance Lake Maintenance Operations and Capital Fund

**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 Invasive Species Grant Program. The local match is expected to come from the Alliance Lake Maintenance Operations and Capital Fund supported by the County of Chautauqua.

### **Town of Chautauqua, NYSDEC Non-Agricultural Nonpoint Source Planning Grant, Town of Chautauqua Stream Culverts Assessments**

**Description:** The Town of Chautauqua’s Stream Culvert Assessments generated an engineering design report to address erosion concerns resulting from two inadequately sized and/or failing stream culverts located along Wright Road and Elmwood Road. 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 produced 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. The grant is scheduled to be closed out in 2025.

**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 Environmental Protection Fund administered 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 produced 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 hired a professional engineer to prepare a report recommending stormwater improvements to address these concerns. The grant is scheduled to be closed out in 2025.

**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 Environmental Protection Fund administered 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 I**

**Description:** The Town of North Harmony's Ball Creek Stabilization Engineering Study assessed approximately 2,640 linear feet of stream corridor along Ball Creek from Route 394 to Chautauqua Lake. Within the study area, there are several locations that have severely eroded banks and are in need of bank and/or channel stabilization. The Town retained the services of a licensed professional engineer to assess the stream corridor and provide an engineering design report to 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. The grant is scheduled to be closed out in 2025.

**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 Environmental Protection Fund administered 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 Village replaced its 28-year-old playground in Lucille Ball Memorial Park, which is located along the lakeshore in the Village of Celoron. The new, state-of-the-art playground now consists 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 is handicap accessible to provide a play area for use by all. The old playground was constructed below grade and flooded in the spring and during heavy rainfall. It was not handicap accessible and only served 5-12 year old children. It had some cracked parts that could not be replaced and had become an eyesore in the recently revitalized park. The new playground now provides handicap accessible play areas for all ages and was constructed above grade to prevent flooding. It includes an array of kid-friendly features designed for all, including wheelchair bound children. It marks the latest in a long list of enhancements to the Village's historic lakeside park.

**Grant 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 was coordinated by the Village with a variety of funding partnerships including the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation.

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

**Description:** This project was done to improve stream stability (grade control), stabilize two severely eroding streambanks, reduce sediment and nutrient loading, and protect highway infrastructure along approximately 400 linear feet of Ball Creek. It provided ~2,200 feet of stream corridor improvements. 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. These included rock bank protection, willow live stakes and native plantings, hydro seeding, log veins, and the construction of a 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 majority of construction was completed in late 2023, with project monitoring in 2024, and final work expected to be completed in 2025.

**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 an Alliance Consolidated Local Grant and 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.



Photo 1. Ball Creek Tri-James bend 7/21/2021 before construction.



Photo 2. Ball Creek 10/11/23 after construction.



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 will 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 engineer, Barton and Loguidice is finalizing the design for some remaining sites, and construction by the Town Highway Department began in 2024, achieving about 50% substantial completion by the end of the year.

**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: Swale construction can be seen along Haight road, left, and Burdick road, right.

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

**Description:** This project will 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 have been added to the eastern portion of the Grandview subdivision via the installation of two main stormwater detention ponds connected by cascading swales. Best management practices from the New York State Stormwater Management Design Manual were used, including native plantings. Project features also include a natural trail, public access points and educational signage. The grant was awarded in late 2021. Construction achieved substantial completion in 2023-2024 and is expected to be finished in 2025.

**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 an Alliance Consolidated Local Grant and Alliance/Foundation Match Fund



Photo of the east wetland pond after construction.



Photo of a new stormwater channel after construction.

**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.

### **Other 2024 Alliance Projects & Programs**

#### **2023-2024 Alliance Consolidated Local Funding Program**

In 2023, the Alliance renewed for a sixth consecutive year its partnership with the Ralph C. Sheldon Foundation, The Lenna Foundation, and the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, to offer 2024 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 12, 2023 and due on September 7, 2023. The Alliance received 17 applications from Members totaling ~\$3.2M 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 2023 with final decisions made in early 2024. Supplemental funding was also secured via grants to the Alliance from the Hultquist and Holmberg Foundations and County of Chautauqua. A grant for a new data dashboard was also made to Chautauqua Institution using Jefferson Project-specific funding from the Alliance. These additional funds were awarded by the Alliance as supplemental grants for Member projects in 2024. Member-led projects in 2024 are listed below.

- Town of Chautauqua: Mobitrac near shore cleanup
- Chautauqua Lake Association: 2024 All-Inclusive Operational Support
- Chautauqua Lake Association: 2024 Early Season Lake Maintenance Operations
- 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 2024 NYSDEC permits)
- Chautauqua Lake Partnership: Algaecides for Starry Stonewort
- Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy: 2024 Chautauqua Lake Aquatic Invasive Species Early Detection Volunteer Taskforce
- Chautauqua Lake Partnership: Lake Surveys
- Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy: Watershed Technical Assistance and Stormwater Management Program
- Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy: Stormwater mitigation study - Goose Creek engineered wetlands concept development and engineering (Towns of North Harmony & Busti)
- Chautauqua Lake Association: Mobitrac Joint Operations Support Fund
- Chautauqua Institution: Jefferson Project Data Dashboard

**Total Member Grants Awarded for '24:** ~\$ 832,176

**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 Chautauqua County in the form of grants to the Alliance, which were subsequently distributed for Member projects.



CWC Invasive Species Taskforce (Source CWC).



Chautauqua Lake Association Spring Debris Cleanup (Source: CLA).



Photo of a Town of Chautauqua Mobitrac collecting plant debris (Source Mobitrac operator).



Photo of a Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy Community Outreach Event (Source: CWC).

## 2024-2025 Alliance Consolidated Local Funding Program

In 2024, the Alliance renewed for a seventh consecutive year its partnership with the Ralph C. Sheldon Foundation, The Lenna Foundation, and the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, to offer 2025 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 10, 2024 and due on September 5, 2024. The Alliance received 16 applications from Members totaling ~\$2.2 million 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 2024 with final decisions made in early 2025. Member projects planned for 2025 are listed below.

- Chautauqua Lake Partnership: 2025 Chautauqua Lake Herbicide Program – on behalf of Towns of Ellery, Ellicott, Busti, and North Harmony, and Villages of Bemus Point, Celoron, and Lakewood (Combined grant, contingent on 2025 NYSDEC permits)
- Town of Chautauqua: Mobitrac (Operations)
- Chautauqua Lake Association: 2025 All Inclusive Operational Support
- Chautauqua Lake Partnership: Lake Surveys
- Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy: 2025 Chautauqua Lake Aquatic Invasive Species Early Detection Volunteer Taskforce
- Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy: 2025 Chautauqua Lake Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Native Plant Nursery Pilot Program
- Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy: Watershed Technical Assistance and Stormwater Management Program
- Mobitrac Joint Operations Support

**Total projected budget (Awarded YTD '25):** ~\$566,666

**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 Chautauqua County in the form of grants to the Alliance, which will subsequently be distributed for Member projects.

## **Chautauqua Institution's Jefferson Project Tributary Stations Capital Grant**

In 2023 the Alliance was asked by the Ralph C. Sheldon Foundation to serve as a pass-through fiduciary for Chautauqua Institution's Jefferson Project Tributary Stations Capital Grant. In June the Alliance Board approved the request, which was used to fund

the construction of six tributary monitoring stations to monitor the quality of water entering the lake. Under the leadership of the Chautauqua Institution and The Jefferson Project, stations were constructed on Dewittville, Mud, Prendergast, Ball, Bemus, and Goose Creeks, and a seventh station was built to monitor flow in the Chadakoin River. Stantec Consulting Services has served as the technical lead during the construction process, and TimberHut Cabin Company provided the pre-fabricated structure of the stations. Construction commenced in the fall of 2023 and was completed in the spring of 2024. Measurements of various water quality variables from these stations will be incorporated into environmental models developed by The Jefferson Project with IBM Research. In April of 2024 the project team held a ribbon cutting ceremony at the Mud Creek station to unveil this new project. Throughout the summer, Chautauqua Institution and The Jefferson Project began building its data dashboard webpage (funded by a smaller, separate grant from the Alliance to Chautauqua Institution), which now displays data from these stream stations and vertical profilers at <https://chq.jeffersonproject.live/sensors>.

**Total grant budget:** \$500,000

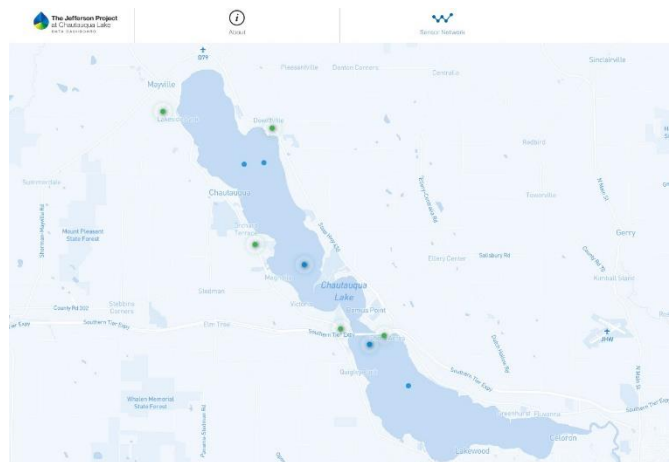
**Project Lead:** Chautauqua Institution

**Alliance Role:** Pass-through fiduciary.

**Funding Overview:** Funding was provided by the Ralph C. Sheldon Foundation



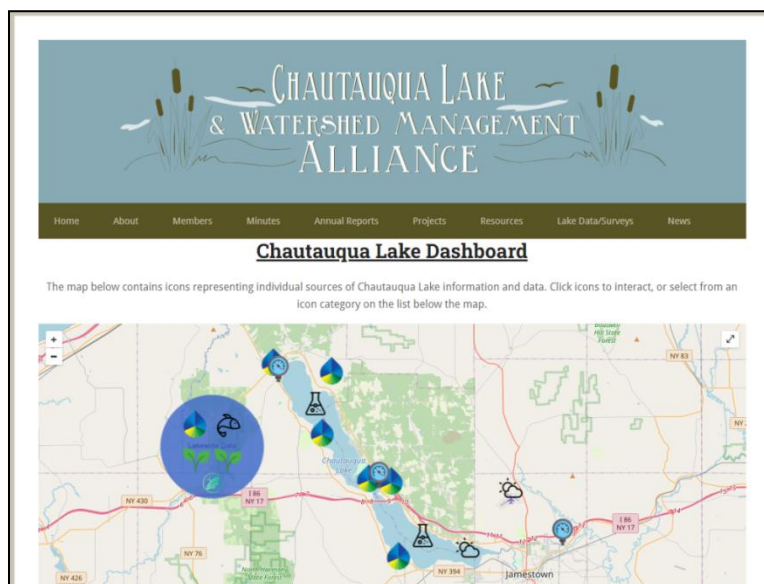
Pictured above are members of the project team unveiling the Mud Creek station in the spring of 2024.



Pictured above is the new Jefferson Project at Chautauqua Lake Data Dashboard.

## Chautauqua Lake Aquatic Data (CLAD) Mapping Program

The Chautauqua Lake Aquatic Data (CLAD) Mapping Program, initiated by the Alliance in 2020, continued in 2024. 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 and management of 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. Data collection – and access to those data – took major steps forward in 2024, with the introduction of a pair of new interactive ‘dashboards’ that are now publicly available online. The Alliance established its new Chautauqua Lake Dashboard as a repository of the many datasets available from federal, state, and local initiatives. Among those are the cutting-edge data being produced by The Jefferson Project at Chautauqua Lake in coordination with Chautauqua Institution, who launched a new data dashboard that displays the stream station network and lake vertical profilers. The Alliance is optimistic that in the future, the varied capabilities of CLAD can continue to serve Members and other stakeholders when and where data collection and monitoring are employed and provide a tangible benefit to future lake and watershed management actions.



Pictured above is the new interactive Chautauqua Lake Dashboard, available on the Alliance website.

## Alliance Committees

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

1. *Data Analysis and Research (DAR) Committee*

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.

## 5/2024-5/2025 Board of Directors

Note: A maximum of 9 directors comprise the board of directors. Those listed above served for all or some portion of 2024. The first 9 directors listed in bold comprised the Alliance Board as of the date of this report.

<u>Director</u>	<u>Member Affiliation</u>
<b>Don Emhardt - Chair</b>	Chautauqua Lake Association/ Chautauqua Lake Association
<b>Pierre Chagnon - Vice-Chair</b>	County of Chautauqua/ South & Center Chautauqua Lake Sewer Districts
<b>Jan Bowman - Secretary</b>	Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy
<b>Ellen Barnes - Treasurer</b>	Village of Lakewood
<b>Martin Proctor</b>	County of Chautauqua
<b>Mike LaTone</b>	Chautauqua Lake Partnership
<b>JoDee Johnson</b>	Chautauqua Lake Partnership
<b>Paul (P.J.) Wendel, Jr.</b>	County of Chautauqua ( <i>Ex officio</i> )
<b>Jim Andrews</b>	Town of Busti
Bruce Erickson - Past Chair	Chautauqua Lake Association

## 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 Crocut, 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**

## **2024 May Member Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, May 9, 2024 at 4:30 PM ET at The Lawson Center, 73 Lakeside Drive, Bemus Point, NY 14712 & via Zoom

Directors Present: JoDee Johnson (Zoom), Janis Bowman, Don Emhardt, Ellen Barnes, Martin Proctor, Jim Andrews

Directors Absent: Paul Wendel Jr., Bruce Erickson, Mike LaTone

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

Others in Attendance: Craig Butler; Jim Wehrfritz; Cassie Pinkoski – Chautauqua County Soil & Water Conservation District; Doug Champ.

Member Representatives in Attendance: John Jablonski – Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy; John Ford and Doug Conroe– Chautauqua Lake Association; Dave McCoy – County of Chautauqua; Louise Ortman – Town of North Harmony; Jeff Molnar– Village of Bemus Point; Jim Cirbus and Frank Nicotra – Chautauqua Lake Partnership; John Shedd – Chautauqua Institution.

### **I. Call to Order**

D. Emhardt called the Annual May Member Meeting of the Chautauqua Lake and Watershed Management Alliance (Alliance) to order at 4:33 pm. A quorum of six out of nine Board members were present at the start of the meeting.

### **II. Approval of the 2023 May Member Meeting Minutes**

J. Andrews made a motion to approve the 2023 May Member Meeting Minutes. M. Proctor seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

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

J. Bowman indicated that notification of the Annual Meeting was provided to Members on 3/14/24 and 5/3/24.

J. Bowman indicated that ballots were sent to all 22 current Alliance Members on 5/3/24, upon conclusion of the Member Nomination Window.

J. Bowman indicated that 18 ballots have been received, which constitutes a quorum per the Alliance By-Laws.

J. Bowman indicated that the results have been tallied and independently checked by Alliance Staff.

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

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

R. Perry thanked all of the nominating agencies, nominees, and voters. R. Perry indicated that the nominees included Don Emhardt, Supervisor of the Town of Chautauqua, Larry Anderson, Supervisor of the Town of Ellery, Bruce Erickson, representing the Chautauqua Lake Association, and Pierre Chagnon, representing the County of Chautauqua.

R. Perry indicated that based on the final vote counts, D. Emhardt (13 yes votes) and Pierre Chagnon (14 yes votes), were elected to the Board.

#### **V. Presentation of 2023 Annual Report**

R. Perry presented on the Alliance's 2023 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. A copy of the report and presentation is available on the Alliance's website.

J. Cirbus asked if there was any more information about the June 2 conference being organized by Chautauqua County.

R. Perry indicated he had recently received some information that he could share with J. Cirbus.

R. Perry thanked B. Erickson for all of his work with the Alliance including his last three years serving as the Chair. R. Perry also indicated that T. West will be leaving his position as Alliance Project Manager to pursue a career with the New York State

Department of Environmental Conservation. R. Perry thanked T. West for all of the work he has done for the Alliance.

T. West indicated his new position will be as a NYSDEC Environmental Program Specialist 1 within the Region 9 Division of Water. T. West thanked all those at the Alliance, including Members, those in attendance, past and present Board Members, R. Perry, Vince Horrigan, and J. Young. T. West indicated that he expects to be interacting with many local stakeholders in his new position.

D. Emhardt thanked T. West for all of his work, especially his help navigating state grants and online reporting of those grants.

E. Barnes thanked T. West for all of his work.

D. Emhardt thanked B. Erickson for all of his work with the Alliance.

#### **VI. Member Open Discussion**

J. Jablonski asked how many active Alliance Members there are.

R. Perry indicated that there are 22 active Member organizations.

#### **VII. Adjourn Annual Member Meeting**

M. Proctor made a motion to adjourn the May Member Meeting. E. Barnes seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 5:09 pm.

*The Alliance Board of Directors passed a motion to approve these 05/9/24 Meeting Minutes on 5/8/25.*