

THE DISTRICT DISPATCH

The Cuba Lake District Board of Commissioners Information Letter

Happy New Year! Here's hoping you have clear, sunny, dry weather where you are.

The January issue of the District Dispatch highlights the following issues:

State Negotiations with the Seneca Nation

While it is apparent that people have, subsequent to the October 29, 2004 settlement with previous leaseholders, occupied most if not all the properties on the lakeshore identified as part of the Oil Springs Indian Reservation; Information given to the Board of Commissioners indicates that negotiations are still ongoing and could go on beyond February 2005. Upon completion of the final agreement, a full report on the terms of agreement that impact the District residents will be made via a special issue of the *District Dispatch*. It is important to note that there is cooperation between the Seneca Nation Leadership, the State and the Cuba Lake District Manager to ensure and enable normal operation and maintenance of the Spillway.

'tis the Season to Build:

Many leaseholders are making plans to modify, repair or newly build structures, docks, break walls or make other changes to property that require (in addition to any Town and/or County requirements) review and approval by the Board of Commissioners. Information should be sent to the Commissioners through the Lake Manager, Dave Bosworth (see address at the end of this information letter). A copy of the ***Cuba Lake Land Use Restrictions and Controls*** are available at <http://www.cubalake.org/pages/815227/index.htm>. The submittal requirements taken from that reference are listed below:

10.2 Accompanying the application shall be the following:

- (a) A detailed, dimensioned map of the property showing the proposed change(s) and all boundaries, all existing structures, and all existing water and waste disposal systems.
- (b) When new structures are proposed, plans and specifications must be submitted.
- (c) Engineering drawings that show how runoff and the potential for erosion will be handled during and after construction.
- (d) Any other material the Board of Commissioners deems necessary for its review.

Two copies of all materials shall be submitted. The Board of Commissioners may waive the requirement to submit items that it deems are not relevant to its consideration of a particular application.

Report on Projects:

Past studies and ongoing testing of the lake waters indicate that the quality of the water is marginally acceptable for recreational use. We are all aware of the increasing encroachment of the weed population including a proliferation of undesirable weeds such as the Eurasian Milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) pictured at right. This invasive plant spreads rapidly, crowding out native species, clogging waterways, and blocking sunlight and oxygen from underlying waters. The major projects sponsored by the District are directed to the improvement of water quality and long term survival of the lake for recreational purposes including fishing, swimming and boating. Past Testing confirms the need to reduce fecal coliforms and nutrients such as phosphorous from the lake to insure the water continues to be safe for swimming and to avoid *eutrophication*** of the lake. Each year the water testing is done by the Cottage Owners



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Association with data taken at the deepest point of the lake. The data is taken as a part of the voluntary program directed and evaluated by CSLAP (Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program). The 2003 CSLAP, "Cuba Lake Findings and Executive Summary" can be found on the District's web site at www.cubalake.org under "Water Quality".

Sewer Project:

On November 4, 2004, Clark Patterson Associates submitted their report to the Town of Cuba and to the Cuba Lake District. The report titled "*Facilities Plan for Cuba Lake Wastewater Collection System*" describes the installation of a sanitary sewer collection system to serve Cuba Lake and portions of the Towns of Cuba in Allegany County and of Ischua in Cattaraugus County. The report recommends a "Grinder Pump System" wherein each house or unit being serviced would have a pump to liquefy the sewage and pump it to the sewer mains which then carry the sewage to the existing Cuba Lake wastewater treatment plant. The majority of the report evaluates the capacity of the existing plant and its ability to accept the increased input of sewage. The report concludes that the existing plant can easily handle the projected EDU's (Equivalent Dwelling Unit's) projected daily amount of wastewater produced. The EDU's considered include 394 single family dwellings, 58 EDU's of "Commercial entities" and 16 EDU's for the C-R High School. The properties assumed to be included in the Sewer District are all properties along the Cuba Lake shore line; the developed properties on the opposite side of the roadways surrounding the lake; as well as the developed properties along the routing between the Lake and the Village of Cuba. This would include businesses such as Moonwinks and would include the High School. Usage for each EDU is considered at 225 gallons per day. The grinder system is seen as the most cost effective approach to the elimination of contamination of Cuba Lake waters by private septic systems. The project is undergoing DEC review at this time. The next steps in the process will confirm initial costs, identify the source of funds for the initial project, determine the projected operating and maintenance costs per EDU and other information in preparation to bringing the project to the proposed Sewer District for approval. Targeted scheduling calls for informational meetings in the spring or early summer with a go-forward decision to be made in late summer of 2005.

Sediment Basins:

The ***Munger Hollow*** sediment basin, shown at right, was completed at a total cost of \$115,000. It has demonstrated its effectiveness in greatly reducing the amount of sediment and sediment held nutrients as well as eliminating large debris from being carried to the lake during high runoff events.



The sediment basin at ***Abbotts Creek*** is still in the review/approval phase by the DEC and the Army Corp of Engineers. Timing is indeterminate at this time and work will proceed after bids and permits are received.

FEMA has responded positively to the application for funds to plan and build a sediment basin on ***Mount Monroe Creek***. Target for project start is the fall of 2005.

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Wetland Reserve Project/Rawson Creek:

This is a federally funded project with matching funds from the District. The concept is to create an enhanced wetland area of approximately fifty acres between the Strezlac Farm and the lake. This would catch sediment and sediment held nutrients prior to runoff entering the lake. It will also attract wildlife to the wetland as opposed to their being attracted to the lake proper. The project has been approved and engineering plans are complete. This project is another start targeted for Fall of 2005. Work required to create an enhanced wetland includes building a levee to back water into the area providing a marsh and to provide for floras that will attract wildlife. Engineering plans are in process.

Boat Launch Ramp:

The best facility for launching your boat is at the North end of the lake at the Rawson Creek Inlet. Identified for major upgrade by the DEC sometime in the future, the site is currently maintained in excellent condition and is the recommended place for launch. The ramp and adjacent dock are show in the picture to the right.



Spillway Damage:

The draw-down of the lake in November revealed significant and unexpected damage since last year. The current condition of the concrete indicates a need for repairs to be completed preferably before the “dropping of the logs” this coming spring. This is a priority project. On January 15th, agreement of all involved parties was reached. Work will be done by LC Whitford Co., Inc. and proceed on an emergency basis.



Our next issue is scheduled in April probably in time to see the water rise. Enjoy the rest of winter.

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Commissioners: E-mail - commissioners@cubalake.org

Lynnford J. Sweet, Chairman (585)968-1735

Erick J. Laine, Deputy Chairman (585)968-1279 or (716)372-7952

Jerry Collins, (585)968-0112 or (716)373-1000

Jeff Bradley, (585)968-3949

Dave Shemeld, (716)968-3928

Web site - www.cubalake.org

Lake Manager: E-mail - cubalakedistrict@yahoo.com

Dave Bosworth, (585) 968-0500;

Address: Cuba Lake District, PO Box 201, Cuba, NY 14727

Location: Cuba Lake District Office, 15 W. Main St, Cuba, NY

Other officials:

Jack Hart, Counsel (716)373-1600

Andrew Lindquist, Treasurer (585)968-3269

Pamela Konieczka, Secretary (716)372-4775

Meetings - District office; 2nd Thursday of each month; beginning at 7:00 PM

****Definition of the day: Eutrophication** - Eutrophication is a condition in an aquatic ecosystem where high nutrient concentrations stimulate blooms of algae (e.g., phytoplankton).

Although eutrophication is a natural process in the aging of lakes and some estuaries, human activities can greatly accelerate eutrophication by increasing the rate at which nutrients and organic substances enter aquatic ecosystems from their surrounding watersheds. Agricultural runoff, urban runoff, leaking septic systems, sewage discharges, eroded stream banks, and similar sources can increase the flow of nutrients and organic substances into aquatic systems. These substances can over stimulate the growth of algae, creating conditions that interfere with the recreational use of lakes and estuaries, and the health and diversity of indigenous fish, plant, and animal populations.

Trophic States

Oligotrophic

Clear waters with little organic matter or sediment and minimum biological activity.

Mesotrophic

Waters with more nutrients, and therefore, more biological productivity.

Eutrophic

Waters extremely rich in nutrients, with high biological productivity. Some species may be choked out.

Hypereutrophic

Murky, highly productive waters, closest to the wetland status. Many clearwater species cannot survive.

Dystrophic

Low in nutrients highly colored with dissolved humic organic material. (Not necessarily a part of the natural trophic progression.)