

THE DISTRICT DISPATCH

The Cuba Lake District Board of Commissioners Information Letter

October 2007

Special Events or Notices:

Erick Laine:

After 20 years of service, Erick Laine has retired from the District's Board of Commissioners. We thank Erick for his long dedicated service on the Board and to our lake community. We wish him peace, tranquility and smooth sailing in his retirement. See a related article on page 4 which reviews some of the key issues in which Erick and the other members of the Board of Commissioners, were intimately involved through that 20 year period.



October Meeting of the Board of Commissioners:

At the next meeting of the Board of Commissioners scheduled for October 11, 2007, a presentation will be made on the results of the dive made to observe and record the condition of the entrance to the pipe outlet system that extends under the dam. The dive was made to record the construction of the inlet system in an attempt to determine the conditions that must be addressed if it is decided to seal the pipe to insure there is no progressive leakage from the lake. The pipes were installed to direct the water from the lake to the Genesee Canal System.

FOLA Region 1 Conference:

The 13th annual Federation Of Lake Associations (FOLA) region 1 annual meeting will be held October 20, 2007 at the Conesus Golf Club, Conesus, New York. The Agenda features special lake management projects in the western area including:

1. Alum application on Honeoye Lake
2. Solar Bees in Conesus Lake
3. Macrophyte Management Plan Preparation

For a registration form, please e-mail Nancy Mueller at fola@nysfola.org before **October 10th**. Or, go to http://www.ourcubalake.com/foa_meeting.htm.

A fee of **\$12 (includes lunch) and registration form** will be due no later than **October 14th**. Please make checks payable to: **Conesus Lake Association** and mail to **Jack Baldwin P.O. Box 637, Lakeville, NY 14480-0637**.

Garbage Collection:

The current service provided by the District's contract with SDS will end with the **last pickup on October 29, 2007**. Service is intended to resume the first week in May, 2008. This is a contract year so the specific start date and day of pick-up will be advised in a future publication. Those residents living at the lake through the winter season must make their own arrangements for collection. Some services available through the winter months are noted on page 3.

2007 District Election Results:

On August 25, 2007, a total of 125 ballots casting 245 votes, elected Jay Morris (#49) to a 5 year term as Commissioner and Joe Higgins (#259) to a 4 year continuation term as commissioner. The new commissioners were sworn in at the September 13th meeting of the Board of Commissioners.

Also, at the September 13, 2007 meeting the following elections and appointments were made:

[Note - dates in () are end dates for terms for the publicly elected positions.]

Elected to Chairman of the Board – Lynn Sweet (2010)

Elected as Deputy Chairman of the Board – Dave Shemeld (2009)

Appointed as Secretary – Isabel Warren

Appointed as Legal Counsel – Jack Hart

Other Commissioners on the Board and their term dates are:

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Jerry Collins (2008)

Joe Higgins (2011)

Jay Morris (2012)

Treasurer – Andy Lindquist (2009)

Lake Manager remains as Dave Bosworth who will retire from the position this year after his replacement is found.

Committees and assignments to those committees were established as follows:

- State Relations – Lynn Sweet & Jay Morris
- Budget & Finance – Dave Shemeld & Jerry Collins
- Public Relations & Communications – Dave Shemeld & Dave Bosworth
- Building & Lot Improvements & Maintenance – Dave Shemeld &
- Water Quality – Dave Shemeld & Joe Higgins

National Lake Survey:

Your editor has completed a report of the July 18, 2007 National Lake Survey day of sampling. See the report at <http://www.ourcubalake.com/National%20Study/Report%20of%207-18-2007%20Test.pdf>. Note the file opens in ADOBE -.pdf.

Lake Management Agreement:

On June 25, 2007 the State Comptroller approved the new “Management Agreement”. This is the second five year agreement and covers the period from November 6, 2006 through November 6, 2011. A copy of this agreement is available from the Secretary or by going to web site www.ourcubalake.com.

The basic provisions of the agreement are the same as the original agreement and include benefits to the Cuba Lake District in the following areas:

- Establishes the Cuba Lake Management Fund or the “Management Fund” for deposit of all lease fees.
- Provides for the return of those fees to the District to support budgeted/approved projects and equipment in support of the management of and the betterment of the Lake.
- Provides that the District is the Manager of the Lake.
- Enables the District to hire the “persons necessary to properly maintain and operate Cuba Lake”
- Delineates the services to be performed by the District as Manager.
- Requires the District to collect the lease fees.

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- **Don Clark – 585-593-7110.** Pickup is on Thursdays; recycle pickup is every week, *Our understanding of the rate* is \$18.00 per month (no surcharges). If you pay up-front for the 6 months November through April, the cost is \$100 payable prior to November. Price covers 4 bags per week plus recyclable items.
- **SDS – 716-372-6905.** Pickup is on Thursdays; recycle pickup every-other week. For continuous service, the first pickup would be Nov 1st, the first recycle pickup Nov 8th. *Our understanding of the rate (Allegany County)* is \$20.34 per month (includes tax) plus a fuel surcharge which can vary. Invoicing is done quarterly. Reportedly, typical quarterly billings are about \$68.00 including the fuel surcharge. Rates in Cattaraugus County begin at \$26.54 including tax, plus a fuel surcharge. If over 62 years of age ask about their senior discount.

To initiate service continuation on Thursday, November 1st, you must make arrangements prior to October 31, 2007.

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While the above discussion of rates is our understanding of current rates, they are subject to change and you must confirm your cost or potential costs with your intended service provider.

Spillway Activity:

- Winter Draw-Down Schedule (approximate total drawdown is 8 feet):
 - Remove First 4 ties – November 1, 2007.
 - Remaining ties – The first Monday after Thanksgiving; November 26, 2007.
- Repairs will be made to the West end of the spillway to eliminate water flow around that end of the spillway. A temporary solution has been the addition of sand bags to stem the tide. It appears the “bypass” was man-made.

Water Quality:

Bacteria test results for the 2007 season:

An Informal program of bacteria testing through the summer at fixed points in the Lake showed the results to the right. The single sample test results are comparable to the Allegany County Health Department’s “Single Sample” limits used in determining acceptability of water quality for bathing beaches. If the results represented the logarithmic mean of samples taken over a 30 day period then the limit criteria would be as shown in “30 Day Period Samples”.

Based on single sample results, at no time through the summer did the water quality recorded exceed the appropriate limit. It is noted that the first set of samples were collected on June 13th which was about a week after the manure spill from the Mallard Farms. Complete data can be seen at www.ourcubalake.com.

	June	July	August	September	Allegany County Health Dept. Limits	
Single Sample Tests					Single Sample	30 Day Period Samples
Total Coliform Bacteria - Colonies per 100ml						
Rawson Inlet	600	940	800	1850	N/A	2400
Spillway	400	860	500	1400		
Dam	30	290	200	1000		
Shore				2000		
E-Coli - Colonies per 100ml						
Rawson Inlet	<10	<10	<10	10	235	126
Spillway	<10	<10	<10	<10		
Dam	<10	<10	<10	<10		
Shore				30		
Fecal Coli - Colonies per 100ml						
Rawson Inlet	340	<10	<10	3	1000	200
Spillway	380	<10	10	1		
Dam	30	<10	<10	14		
Shore				15		

Fall leaves are coming!

A good way to help control the weed population is to keep nutrients from entering the lake.

A major source of nutrients can be the unnatural addition of high quantities of leaves into the lake. Please don't deposit your leaves into the lake water or into the lake bed.

Leaves sink to the bottom and provide compost nutrients for the aquatic plant life.

Weed harvesting:

Weed harvesting was interrupted this season by a breakdown in the hydraulic drive system causing an unfortunate inconvenience to many residents especially along the North Shore. After replacement of the drive motors, hydraulic lines and the main hydraulic pump as well as a complete cleaning of the oil sump and the hydraulic lines, the cutter was finally ready for launched.



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Our apologies to those cottage owners who were inconvenienced by our downtime.

A specification to allow bidding on a larger, more efficient weed harvester, trailer and off-loading elevator system is in the approval stages. The preceding picture shows a harvester with an 11 foot swath, 7 foot depth of cut (versus our current 6 foot swath, 4 foot depth) and matching elevator. Assuming cost of replacement is within the District's budget, a new unit will be ordered for next season. The old unit will either be kept to provide backup and greater coverage or will be traded in or sold.

Mount Monroe Project:

On September 21st we finally received approval from the Army Corps of Engineers to proceed with the project. Although the approval was contingent on receiving the NYSDEC's evaluation of impact on the watershed, we are now in a position to go out for bids. We have yet to get approval for an extension to the October completion date from FEMA. The request has been made to extend the date to May 2008 due to the delay in the Army Corp's response to our application for permit.

Other Notes:

A History of the "Erick Laine" era:

It had been my intent to write a comprehensive article on the Board of Commissioners happenings during the period from 1987 through 2007. Erick was one of what had to be a stalwart and dedicated group of individuals elected to the position of Commissioner to address a myriad of significant issues of the era. After scanning a bunch of Erick's files contained in 8 brief cases plus overflow, I think I can nail down the primary issues of the time but it would take much more effort to provide a "fully comprehensive" review. The Chairs of the Board through the period included Walter Lang, Karen Perrigo and Lynn Sweet. My apologies to any I've not mentioned.

A note on page 53 of the "1987 Cuba Lake Directory" kind of sets the tone, to wit – *"Cuba Lake is presently supervised by the Allegany State Park Commission, but is in the process of being turned over to a quasi public recreation district. The extreme western end of the lake is on the Oil Springs Indian Reservation"*

The Cuba Lake District had been established by the Laws of New York, Chapter 263 of 1981 and the confirming referendum. After that, a great deal of effort was spent trying to establish a "lease/purchase" agreement with the responsible State agencies. At the same time the commissioners were trying to establish a source of funding for maintenance and operation of the lake, the Allegany State Park Commission was trying to "surplus" the lake to the District. This process went through many attempts to find a workable solution until finally, in the year 2000, there was legislation (Chapter 342) that established a fund for the operation and maintenance of Cuba Lake. And, in November 2001 the first "Lake Management Agreement" was signed. This major accomplishment provides the means for the Lake District to manage the lake and provides for return of the lease fee monies to the District for the benefit of the lake. The second five year agreement was signed this year and continues through November 6, 2011 (see page 2).

In addition to participating in all of the actions that resulted in the Lake Management Agreement, upon his election to the Board in 1987, Erick was assigned to the Water Quality Committee and quick to take action. A Cuba Patriot article on September 16, 1987 headlined "New Lake Commissioner Says Let's Address Pollution Problem". The article goes on to identify the 3 step program outlined by Erick as:

1. Education of the Commissioners on all aspects of lake pollution.
2. Educate the Cottage Owners on the subject.
3. The third step was to take action. The type of action to be determined from the education steps.

In March of 2007, almost 20 years later, a major action was determined in the vote for formation of a new Town of Cuba Sewer District, District No. 5.

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Many other issues came before the Commissioners in those early days ranging from serious attempts to have the District and the Board eliminated, to public access; and, of course the Seneca Nation claim which was settled in March of 2005.

An article in the *Cuba Patriot* dated August 26, 1987 asked the three candidates for the one open position of District Commissioner, several questions. One of those questions was

“Is there a statement you would like to issue to the lake residents about yourself or your candidacy?”

Erick’s response was *“If elected I will take the assignment very seriously and work hard to promote concrete action not only on the water quality issues but also on the broader and longer term issues of the state’s responsibility and accountability for lake concerns (such as) the lease holders fees we pay annually.”*

Certainly an ambitious commitment for someone in Erick’s “other job” as Chairman of the Board of Alcas Cutlery Corporation. No one can deny that Erick has lived up to his commitment in his service to our community and to the betterment of the Lake.

Navigation Laws:

An issue that will be addressed through the winter will be how the District can enhance the enforcement of the State’s Navigation Laws. Increased complaints have been received specifically regarding:

- Unregistered boats.
- Speeding within 100 feet of shore (greater than 5 mph).
- Reckless riding by skiers or wave boarders in the close vicinity of slower cruise boats.
- Only one in the boat while towing a skier or tube.
- Skiing after sunset or when there is a need for navigation lights.
- No navigation lights or improper use or display of navigation lights.

The initial approach will be to review current laws and understand the current penalties associated with the infractions and to determine ways of encouraging the sheriff’s department to be more aggressive in enforcement.

If any of these violations look familiar to you, it is suggested you consider how to correct them at least by the next boating season.

Commissioners: E-mail - commissioners@cubalake.org

Lynn Sweet, Chairman (585) 968-1735

Dave Shemeld, Deputy Chairman (716) 968-3928
(www.ourcubalake.com)

Jerry Collins, (585) 968-0112

Joe Higgins, (716) 372-4265

Jay Morris, (585) 968-3828

Web site – www.cubalake.org

Lake Manager: E-mail –

cubalakedistrict@yahoo.com

Dave Bosworth, (585) 968-0500;

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

Location: Cuba Lake District Office, 31 Water Street, Suite 8, Cuba, NY

Other officials:

Jack Hart, Counsel (716)373-1600

Andrew Lindquist, Treasurer (585) 968-3269

Isabel Warren, Secretary (585) 968-3215

Meetings – District office; 2nd Thursday of each month; beginning at 7:00 PM (Exceptions are published in local newspapers.)