

# ***THE DISTRICT DISPATCH***

## The Cuba Lake District Board of Commissioners Information Letter

### **Who are we?**

At the October 14, 2004 meeting of the Cuba Lake District Board of Commissioners, a new standing committee was formed identified as "The News Letter Committee". The appointed members of the committee are Dave Shemeld and Dave Bosworth. (Note that any complaints about the letter can be addressed to Dave.) Our goal is to convey or dispatch information on the activities of the Board and any other factual information that may be of interest, to the Cuba Lake Community. We have already taken the editorial prerogative of identifying the "news letter" as an "information letter". As it is felt this is in keeping with our goal. However, it is hoped some of the information will still be news by the time we publish as we intend to publish on a quarterly basis. So, for our first issue:

### **What is the "District" and who are the members of the Board of Commissioners?**

The Cuba Lake District Commission was formed in 1981 between New York State and the Cuba Lake District. The commission is represented by five commissioners who are elected by the District cottage owners of record or are District residents who are registered voters in the counties of Allegany and Cattaraugus. The commissioners constitute the governing body representing the lake property leaseholders. The current commissioners are:

- 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)373-6121 or (716)373-1000
- Jeff Bradley, (585)968-3949 [Term August 2001 - August 2006]
- David Shemeld, (716)968-3928

Other officials include:

- Jack Hart, Counsel (716)373-1600
- Andrew Lindquist, Treasurer (585)968-3269
- Pamela Konieczka, Secretary (716)372-4775

Contact via e-mail [commissioners@cubalake.org](mailto:commissioners@cubalake.org)

Contact via mail: Cuba Lake District, PO Box 201, Cuba, NY 14727

### **Meeting information**

Location - Cuba District Office 15 W Main St Cuba NY; on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00pm.

As a governing body, the District is authorized

- to levee taxes and negotiate agreements with the State
  - The most recent agreement is the "Management Agreement" which provides that the commission will collect annual lease fees, oversee the lease agreements between the State and the Leaseholders. And provides,
  - That collected lease fees will be returned to the District to be spent on, or reinvestment ed into the Lake, based on the District's proposed budget for maintenance which is approved by the State.
  - Approval of all building or leasehold property improvements or changes.

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- Budgeted Projects are managed by the Lake Manager, Dave Bosworth who is employed by the District. These projects include:
  - Aquatic weed cutting
  - Sediment removal
  - Construction of Sediment basins
  - And other projects associated with maintaining and improving the lake environment.

### ***Well then, What is the Cuba Lake Cottage Owners Association, Inc. (CLCOA)?***

The CLCOA is separate and distinct from the District Board of Commissioners. It is a non-profit, voluntary membership organization supported solely by membership dues, and donations; as well as public fund raising. (Dues are \$20 per year per cottage.) The association arranges for

- Social events for its members typically including the Winter and Summer parties as well as the picnic and annual membership meeting.
- Public events including the annual fireworks and ring of fire displays celebrating the 4th of July and the Band Concert and Ice Cream Social.
- Special projects such as monitoring of lake water quality and providing cottage owners with environmental improvement information through membership in the NYSFOLA (New York State Federation of Lake Associations).

The CLCOA is managed by a team of 14 officers and directors (Board of Directors) who are elected by the membership.

You can learn more about the CLCOA from their information letter *The Sunny Times*.

### ***The following is the second annual report from the Lake Manager, Dave Bosworth as submitted to the Commissioners at the October 14, 2004 meeting:***

The Cuba Lake Manager, through the Management Agreement with the State of New York and the Cuba Lake District would like to report the following:

We are grateful to all those who worked on the Lake projects listed it would have been impossible without their efforts and cooperation:

The Cuba Lake District Commissioners and staff

The State of New York General Services

Senator Pat McGee

Assemblywoman Catherine Young

The CLCOA

Allegany County Soil & Water District

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

Perrigo & Kahle Attorneys at Law

Clark Patterson Associates

Cuba Lake Marina

Allegany County Sheriffs Department

Allegany County Highway Department

Allegany County Office of Emergency Services

Ungerman, Winters & Slotman – Excavating Services

Dana Harvey – Weed Harvester Operator

And many other individuals who contributed time and effort on our behalf

As I enter my third year as Cuba Lake District Manager, I am beginning to see Cuba Lake progress more towards a community atmosphere. The new signage "Entering Cuba Lake District" along with the reduced speed limit to 30 mph around the lake and with more year round residents conveys its image.

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### ***Maintenance***

We are continuing to do ***mowing*** at the dam, spillway, sediment basin and public access (boat launch) areas. We have received many compliments on the appearance of these areas and notice an increase in recreational use.

The ***aquatic weed harvesting*** resulted in a plentiful harvest especially in August. Hopefully the cutting provided for better quality boating and recreational use at the lake during the summer months.

### ***Sediment Basins***

The ***Munger Hollow*** sediment basin continues to be very effective. We have removed over two hundred tons of sediment from the catch basin, all of which would have gone into the lake.

Plans for a second sediment basin at ***Abbotts Creek*** are complete and have been submitted to the DEC and the Army Corp of Engineers for approval. Pending approval, work should be in early December 2004 and be completed by the Spring of 2005.

### ***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 nutrients and sediment prior to entering the lake. The project has been approved and engineering plans are underway. We are hopeful for a 2005 start.

### ***FEMA Projects***

Between the summer of 2003 and 2004, we have applied for three FEMA projects. These were sediment removal projects resulting in a great deal of gravel and silt being removed from the lakebed during winter drawdown. Approximately \$115,000.00 was spent of which 87.5% will be returned to the District. I am also applying to FEMA for funds to plan and build a sediment basin on Mount Monroe Creek.

### ***Speed Limit around the Lake***

As I previously mentioned, the speed limit on all roads around the lake has been set at 30 mph. Many thanks to the Speed Committee and Assemblywoman Cathy Young for all their efforts.

### ***DEC Public Launch Site***

A new and improved public launch site with docks, concrete pads, parking and restrooms is planned at the existing launch site in the areas known as the Taylor Property. They have assured us that this will be built pending the outcome of negotiations with the Seneca Nation in regards to control of water levels at the lake.

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## ***State Negotiations with the Seneca Nation***

As many of you know, the state has proposed to "Buy Out" the 19 lease holders on the Nation lands and turn the property over to the Nation. The latest report from the state was that this would happen the 27<sup>th</sup> of October 2004. Other negotiations between the State and the Nation are ongoing.

## ***Sewer Project***

It has been decided that the sewer project will include leased lots on the lake as well as homes across the road from the lake and all those homes and businesses along Route 305. Currently funds in the form of grant dollars and low interest loans are being sought. By the Summer of 2005, information should be complete so that individuals will be informed as to an exact dollar amount regarding cost to them. At that time, a decision as to whether to proceed with the sewer or not will be made by the voices of the people involved. It will be by vote or petition but only after all the information has been made available.

***As the Cuba Lake Manager***, I appreciate the opportunity to work for the betterment of Cuba Lake. If you have any questions, please call me at 585-968-0500.

David Bosworth, Lake Manager

**REMINDER: The first draw down of the Lake will be on Monday, November 1<sup>st</sup> with 3 ties being removed and the final draw down will be the first Monday after Thanksgiving.**