

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

July 12, 2008

Keuka College – Lightner Library

President Bob Worden called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM and welcomed everyone

I. Introduction of Officers and Directors – Bob Worden

Bob introduced the current KLA Officers, Directors and Administrative Assistant.

II. Approval of the 2007 Annual Meeting Minutes

Following an agreement to dispense with reading of the minutes from the 2007 Annual Meeting, the minutes were accepted as submitted.

III. President's Annual Summary – Bob Worden

Bob began by going back to first principles stating the KLA's mission to preserve and protect the quality of Keuka Lake. He said that this can be simple to understand: have to have strong membership base, be a community organization and present a united front. What it means is to ensure water quality is having a clean watershed, influence lake level and support safe navigation. These can be accomplished by: key investments such as:

1. *Grants* –

A. The KLA granted \$5000 as seed money to Cornell Cooperative Extension to develop Land-Use Leadership Training workshop. Cornell received \$90,000 from the state. Thirty-five local leaders participated this year. From it, there is a sub-set working on a watershed plan as a guide to land-use development. There will be another course in the fall.

B. The KLA granted \$5000 to the *Friends of the Outlet* to help with stream bank repairs. Water sometimes has to be let out quickly and this will help manage it.

C. The KLA granted \$6000 to KWIC to fund an intern last year to help document septic inspections. There is money left over which can be used to hire another intern if required.

2. *Time* –

A. Water testing: A lot of dedicated time is spent in sometimes extreme conditions. Al Wahlig, who also donated his boat, and a crew consisting of Peter Landre, Peter Robbins, Jim Balyszak and some others motor up and down the lake gathering samples to insure the lake remains pure.

B. The KLA Board is one of the best ever. They not only attend the meetings, but follow up to make sure all gets done. Many faithfully attend KWIC/KLOC meetings to show the support of the work of these organizations: water quality and lake level.

C. Time has to be taken to manage the inevitable "hand grenades" that come along, such as the impact of DOH's Fact Sheet 5, which will be discussed later on in the meeting.

3. *What else is new?*

A. KLA Web site – A committee has been working on up-dating our website. They are looking at three proposals and hope to have it up and running by the end of the year.

B. Scholarship – This is the first year of the Esther N. Wahlig Keuka Lake Watershed Scholarship Award. A \$1000 scholarship was awarded to Hannah L. Catherman from Hammondsport Central School. Hannah is planning to attend University of North Carolina at Wilmington to study marine biology. Funds from the Wahlig family endowment fund are supporting this continuing scholarship.

C. KLA Office – By the end of July, the office will be moving from its Hammondsport location to 142 N. Main St. in Penn Yan. This office will be big enough to store our archives, files and hold meetings.

4. *Reflections – Three words to remember as I end my term as president:*

A. Vigilance – Continue an abiding awareness of what is going on at the lake; care for the quality of the lake and its watershed; be aware of future development.

B. Involvement- Continue to be involved in the KLA as the KLA is involved with lake issues; get involved with your town's government – attend their meetings.

C. Action – With 2800 properties around the lake people need to make decisions that will influence Keuka's quality of water and quality of life. These individual decisions include living within local zoning and the Docks & Moorings law, reduced use of fertilizers and pesticides, covered garbage placement and avoiding personal and pet bathing in the lake. If we all make good decisions, Keuka's high quality of water and life will continue for the future.

IV. Treasurer's Report – Dick Honeyman

Dick reported that the KLA is in good shape and shared the following financial figures for the 12-month period ending June 30th:

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Revenue	\$87,575.65	\$110,126.50	\$103,505.01
Expenses	\$68,935.15	\$100,946.18	\$81,853.19
Balance on Hand	\$104,921.53	\$114,101.85	\$135,753.67
Ester N. Wahlig Watershed Endowment Fund	\$25,195.05	\$26,299.59	\$27,314.18

V. Audit Report – Chuck McCausland

In accordance with Article 6, Section 4 of the By-Laws of the Keuka Lake Association, the Audit Committee met on February 7, 2008 & June 2, 2008 to review financial information and related procedures. The Committee concluded that all was being dealt with properly and that adequate controls are in place to protect the assets of the corporation.

In addition, at each board meeting of the association, the treasurer presents a detailed financial report detailing income and expenses, including a review of the monthly bank statements.

VI. Recognition of Retiring Board Members – Bob Worden

Bob recognized the retiring KLA Directors, some of whom have served for six years: Tom Murrin, Jerry Saxton, Pete Robbins, Chuck McCausland, Jim Stork and past-president, Bill Oben.

VII. Nominating Committee Report – Rob Corcoran

Rob presented the proposed slate of directors for election:

Barrington	Sue Lange
Jerusalem	Chuck Bastian
Milo	Jeanne Wiltberger
Urbana	Marcia Coon
Pulteney	Stan Martin
At Large	Dennis Carlson

Following a call for nominations from the floor, the membership approved the slate of directors as presented.

VII. Special Reports

A. Lake Patrol Report

- Jerry Saxton introduced the Sheriffs, praising them and their efforts in patrolling Keuka, making it safer for all of us.
- Ron Spike, Yates County Sheriff, thanked the KLA for its mission to protect the lake. He shared some of his background, citing his former marine patrol boss, Bill Moorehouse's advice, "We are here to protect the lake" and that what are doing.

Our budget from the state is "to do more with less", but we do the best we can. All our costs have a reimbursement from the state. This year was 84% - the highest it has been in years. We have made a lot of changes to keep costs in line: we have gone to 4-stroke engines, which almost double gas mileage; we have changed some patrol ideas to be aware of rising

gas prices; we are using our jet ski (He introduced Officer John Roselli, who mans it). We have also answered concerns about cars driving too fast along lake roads, by placing patrol cars in those areas.

Finally, He thanked the KLA for its association and partnership with the sheriffs. He stated that they were proud to work with the KLA Board – our mission is your mission. He introduced Marine Patrol Sgt. Ed Nemitz.

- Sgt. Nemitz re-emphasized the methods they are using to conserve fuel, adding the use of stationary radar. He said their goal to prevent problems is to be “out there and be seen”. He then fielded some questions. One was about whether or not the federal government will enforce the ballast law; he answered that it, hopefully, will not affect pleasure boating. Another was about how often they use the PWC – he stated about 5-8 shifts a week. The boat is acquired through a state “loaner program”.
- Jack Merriam spoke on behalf of Steuben Sheriff Tweddell, who was unable to attend. He shared the state’s annual report that cited the Yates and Steuben County Sheriffs’ department as top instructors for their boater safety courses. He shared that currently the courses use a generic booklet, put out for several states, but next year they will have a NYS-only booklet. He stated that there are no new laws for navigation, so far, in 2008. He added that there has been an increase in the use of people-powered boats, resulting in an increase of accident/deaths with these craft. He emphasized that there must be a personal flotation device (PFD) for everyone on board – neither flotation cushions nor noodles are acceptable. He shared that PWC’s owners are liable if guests using their PWC do not have a valid license. A question was asked if there has been an increase of incidents of docks being hit late at night. Officer Merriam replied that the causes are probably alcohol-related, timid boaters or hugging the shoreline and not knowing the area.
- See related article in this newsletter.

B. Lake Level Management – Bill Weber, Pulteney Town Supervisor & Chairman of the Keuka Lake Outlet Compact (KLOC)

- Bill explained that KLOC is a municipal corporation founded in 1990 from a loosely-knit group, the Keuka Lake Perimeter Committee. The villages that comprise the group own the gates. He displayed the Lake Level chart that is available on the KLA website. This year was a pretty much “ho-hum” year thanks to Ed Balsley’s gate control and Mother Nature’s cooperation. It is most important where we start on Jan. 1st at the lower level so we can get some fill-up. What is important is the bottom of the curve and where we are in the summer weather. In order to explain the chart, he referred to other events that have occurred in the past. He showed slides of the various gates in the PY outlet explaining their names, ages, and uses. He shared that he has been receiving calls that people are saying the lake is too high compared to the graph. We have employed the services of Rick Wilson, a surveyor, to go around and use USGS

benchmarks to try and verify we have a series of measurements that are consistent. He then asked that, before they finalize Mr. Wilson's report, if any of you who have the means to measure the lake (data like 714.5') to please send your information to the KLA e-mail and it will be forwarded to me. "What I would like is to plot the data from around the lake and compare to curve and surveyor's report."

- Bill fielded several questions concerning flood insurance, lake level in regards to the height of the gates, new dock construction affecting the shoreline, winter lake level, and ownership up to the high waterline.

C. Keuka Watershed Report – Paul Bauter & Dawn Dowdle, KWIC

- Dawn began with stating her positions as Supervisor on the town of Wayne for 3 years and Chairperson of KWIC. She commented that KWIC and the KLA work closely together. Their involvement with LULA resulted in the towns becoming aware that they share the same problems and views. KWIC is looking at all the septic systems in the watershed and Dawn urged owners to comply with periodic septic inspections as soon as they receive their notices. KWIC is also looking to improve its computer system of record keeping, which is old and cumbersome.
- Paul stated the number of inspections is down from normal for all inspectors as owners are not getting the inspections scheduled. He addressed the concerns about Fact Sheet 5 from the DOH. As it stands, these are recommendations only. Future concerns could involve building permits issued by the towns.
- Paul and Dawn fielded many audience questions concerning regularity and notification of septic inspections, the future of a lake perimeter water/sewer system, and code enforcement officers.
- Dawn also addressed the Fact Sheet 5 issue by stating that there will be an informational meeting with the Depts. of State and Health, Supervisors, CEOs of all the towns around and will be open to the public. Your thoughts and opinions can be given and they will use this information to reword what they have already done.
- Bob Worden thanked Dawn and Paul for all they have done regarding the Fact Sheet 5 situation. He also thanked those who have sent letters to our state representatives and DOH. These letters are the reason the DOH is backing off, so it is good to keep the pressure on.

D. State of the Lake – Peter Landre

Peter began by stating this is similar to going to the doctor – his presentation will seem like a health check – but of Keuka Lake. He provided data and facts on some objective water testing and showed what

is coming. His first slide showed two of the water testing crew and explained their operation and where testing is analyzed

Using slides, he provided an overview of the most recent sampling results for 2007. The water monitoring program has revealed the following:

- Nutrient levels are averaging 7.3 ppb, up 1 ppb.
- Water clarity averaged 7.3 m, up 0.8. Zebra mussels continue to help filter the lake
- Algae level averaged 1 ppb down 1 ppb
- E. coli & fecal bacterial levels were very low, meeting all standards (for drinking and swimming) for the lake
- Lower density of zebra mussels
- Decline in nutrient levels – which are good, improving fish population of warm water species. We are seeing a change in the biological structure of the lake.
- Phosphorous level is up
- Chlorophyll A levels are down, below average, which affects the algae level.
- Secchi disk measures water clarity
- Trophic chart shows the over-all status. We are between the mesotrophic and oligotrophic levels which is ideal
- Bacteria results are good for both swimming and drinking water, which should still be treated.
- We cannot test the whole perimeter of the lake. Our testing uses limited sites around the lake. They try to go where there is a high concentration of houses.
- Overall, the lake is in excellent condition.

2. Emerging Issues

Invasive Species: Many are terrestrial affecting plants and trees. As for the water the Bilge water Federal legislation was designed to keep invasive species from the lakes. To help in this matter, if you have visitors coming with a boat from another body of water, have them drain and clean both the bilge and the hull before putting it in Keuka.

- VHSV – No new news about it in the area; can affect all species; found in Conesus and Skaneateles lakes.
- Water Chestnut – This exotic invader has been found in the Seneca River Canal. It is a plant with submerged leaves and produces a 4-pointed nutlet about the size of a fist. If you see it, call the Cornell Coop. Extension. You can “hand pull” it from the lake.
- Annette Toaspern, Yates County master gardener has been helping the Extension and warns about Japanese knotweed and giant hogweed. If you find these on your property, call us and we will help you get rid of it. We are tracking these species.

- Rock “snot” (didymo) – nasty algae that is being tracked and being brought in by boats.

3. Watershed Protection – Peter quoted Joe Littleton who said “The world is run by those who show up.” This was demonstrated recently by people getting involved in Fact Sheet 5 issues. Using slides and further examples, Peter emphasized four important things to consider:

- Awareness
- Keep clean water clean
- Slow the flow of storm water
- Minimize chemical use around the home
- Compost yard waste
- Avoid feeding waterfowl
- Treat drinking water. Information on KLA website
- Storm water run-off increasing as number and severity of storms increase
- Use of pervious paving
- Develop rain gardens
- Increase number of trees

4. Municipal Actions

- Pace university LULA Training. Contact Peter if interested in fall session. Plan to have 80 trained people to guide development
- Yates Farmland Protection Program which provides 75% cost to farmers to keep land as agricultural land – two farms involved

5. Get Involved

- Support local efforts to protect land & open space
- Help towns update their comprehensive plans
- Make sure they focus on water quality protection

6. Peter thanked Bob Worden for his work with and contributions to the KLA throughout the years.

7. Questions & Answers:

- Bacteria – can get home water tested, but use treated water
- Fish population and weight – DEC to do a study on it
- Treatment of drinking water: sediment filter, UV systems. DOH would prefer we use chlorination treatments.

8. Bob Worden praised Peter for his contributions to the KLA and Keuka Lake with his knowledge base and resources. Our lake is very fortunate to have him.

D. KLA Photo Contest – Nancy Feinstein

Nancy thanked Steve Knapp, Marsha Senges and Howard LeVant for all the work they did on the calendar, the KLA members for their beautiful photo submissions and the businesses who placed their ads and coupons in the calendars. Nancy announced the winners and gave them prizes of checks & a calendar.

E. Presentation – Rob Corcoran spoke of Bob Worden’s contributions to the KLA. He has provided tremendous leadership, devotion and energy, both as a Director and President. Bob was instrumental in developing the Docks and Moorings Law He presented Bob with a photograph put on canvas done by Director Steve Knapp.

The meeting was officially adjourned at 11:15.