



Bruce E. Young  
Chairman

Dave Wick  
Executive Director

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## **MEETING MINUTES**

**MEETING No. 501**

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2020**

**MEETING HELD VIA TELECONFERENCE**

**PRESIDING:**

Bruce E. Young, Chairman

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Kenneth Parker, Vice-Chairman  
Joe Stanek  
Catherine LaBombard  
Erin Burns  
Dave Floyd  
William Mason  
James Kneeshaw  
Dean Cook

**COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:**

John McDonald

**COMMISSION STAFF PRESENT:**

Dave Wick, Executive Director  
Joseph Johns, Director of Law Enforcement  
Joe Thouin, Environmental Analyst I  
Michelle Way, Office Assistant III  
Justin Luyk, Park Ranger

**COMMISSION COUNSEL PRESENT:**

Karla Buettner

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Frank Pusateri Walt Lender Pat Dowd  
Chris Navitsky Lorraine Ruffing Carol Collins  
Dr. Rebecca Gorney Ginger Kuenzel Jackie Lendrum  
Stephanie Copeland Bob Carbognin Steve Ramant  
Ed Pontocoloni Gwen Craig Adam Shinder  
Karen Stainbr

**Item #1 — Introductions, Roll Call, Minutes of Previous Meeting: Bruce E. Young, Chairman**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. and the roll call was taken.

Dean Cook made a motion to approve the October meeting minutes which was seconded by Catherine LaBombard; all members present voted unanimously.

**Item #2 — Fiscal Actions Report for October 2020: Bruce E. Young, Chairman**

Dean Cook made a motion to approve the October Fiscal Actions Report which was seconded by William Mason; all members present voted unanimously.

**Item #3 — Project Review, Acceptance of the Project Review Actions Report: Joe Thouin**

***Resolution 2020- 45— Project Review Actions Report***

Joe Stanek read and moved to approve the Project Review Actions Report which was seconded by Dave Floyd; all members present voted unanimously.

**WHEREAS** the Commission has received and reviewed the Project Review Actions Report prepared by staff and dated November 17, 2020.

**WHEREAS** the Project Review Committee recommends acceptance of the Project Review Actions Report.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Commission directs that the Project Review Actions Report be incorporated in the minutes of the full Commission meeting.

**\*\*Please note that there are no projects before the board this month\*\***

**Item #4 — Harmful Algae Bloom in Lake George: NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, Dr. Rebecca Gorney & Jackie Lendrum**

Jackie Lendrum, DEC's Director of the Division of Water Quality, told the Lake George Park Commission that her staff confirmed the presence of a harmful algae bloom from November 7 through 10 and with photographic evidence on November 15. However, she did indicate that this is probably not the first bloom in Lake George.

Ms. Lendrum said that the samples were sent to three different labs to test for harmful toxins. She said that no toxins were found but they are being very careful about this. "Not being able to detect toxins should not give people false comfort that it is therefore safe to drink untreated lake water."

Ms. Lendrum added that people should know what a harmful algae bloom looks like, take pictures and keep your animals away from them.

Jackie Lendrum further discussed why the blooms may have occurred. She said that temperature profiling confirmed that Lake George's water had turned over before the blooms occurred.

Commissioner Dean Cook asked if any nutrients were found in the location of the algae blooms.

Testing was not done to determine if there were any nutrient levels in the areas of the blooms.

Commissioner William Mason spoke about his small water system and asked how he could be alerted to any water concerns.

Jackie Lendrum directed Commissioner Mason to the New York Harmful Algal Bloom Notification System (NYHABS) as well as the New York State Department of Health (DOH).

Commissioner LaBombard asked why nutrient levels were not tested knowing that nutrients like phosphorus and nitrogen are the main diet of cyanobacteria.

Ms. Lendrum explained that nutrient levels would be sampled many times throughout the year and would occur for many years. This isn't something that we would test for on an emergency basis.

Carol Collins, Lake George resident and Limnologist, said that she believes that Cathy is right on the mark and explained that she is the only person in this room that has done the study on nutrients during this algae bloom.

Ms. Lendrum said that she doesn't disagree but believes it is going to be more complicated than that for Lake George, just like Skaneateles Lake because the systems are very clean and the harmful algal blooms are proving to be challenging and finding them in these low nutrient systems is something we are going to be battling.

Jackie Lendrum spoke further about something she calls "no regrets actions" which means that anything you can do to keep nutrients out of the lake should be done.

Lorraine Ruffing said that the particular bay where the bloom occurred has two failing septic systems and the conditions are shallow and still.

Ms. Lendrum spoke about a stakeholder meeting that she hopes LGPC will be represented at.

Ed Pontocoloni said that back in August he raised concerns to Mayor Blais and Chris Navitsky regarding Algae blooms and the geese population. He said that large geese populations defecate and their manure increases the phosphates, phosphorus and e-coli loads into the lake. This should at the very least be looked at.

Steve Ramant said that the Town of Hague does have a permit to remove the geese from April 1 through August 1 and we are aware of the geese problem in Hague.

Ed Pontocoloni spoke further about biological agents that can be used to get rid of the geese populations.

Stephanie Copeland said that this is a special year due to covid. Many people are out using the lake so there should be an extension of monitors on the lake. The discussion also followed regarding monitoring buoys on the lake.

Jackie Lendrum explained that the DEC does not have that type of technology and their monitors are real people – citizen monitors. She said that the LGA is their partner and they have extensive training in HABS.

**Item #5 — Update on Stream Corridor and Stormwater Regulations: Karla Buettner, Commission Counsel**

Commission Counsel, Karla Buettner, discussed both the stormwater regulations and the stream corridor regulations. She said that on July 22, 2020 the stormwater regulations were posted and the Commission held a hearing on September 22, 2020. The public comment has been extended to November 27, 2020.

The Stream Corridor regulations were published in late October. A tentative hearing is scheduled for January 12, 2021 at the Fort William Henry and you have until January 18, 2021 to submit comments. The regulations will be adopted at the February meeting and we are hoping to have regulations effective for April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Item #6 — 2020 Eurasian Watermilfoil Control Program Outcomes: Dave Wick, Executive Director**

Dave Wick, LGPC Executive Director, gave a brief presentation regarding 2020 milfoil efforts. He explained that the LGPC works with a company out of Manchester, Vermont called AE Commercial Diving using a system called diver assisted suction harvesting (DASH).

AE Commercial Diving used 4 suction harvesting units this year.

**2020 FUNDS**

\$100,000. LGPC/EPF Funds

\$100,000 LGA

\$60,000 Fund for Lake George

\$240,000 Warren County/DOS Grant

Mr. Wick thanked his partners for their assistance and gave a big thank you to the LGA because they fronted an additional \$140,000 for Warren County.

Please see the meeting video for complete details.

## **Item #7 — Law Enforcement Committee Report: Kenneth W. Parker, Vice-Chairman**

Kenneth Parker said that the Law Enforcement Committee met this morning. He said they discussed the marine patrol report. He said that officers are still available for emergency purposes.

Kenneth Parker moved to approve Resolution 2020-46 which was seconded by Catherine LaBombard; all members present voted unanimously.

**WHEREAS** the Law Enforcement Committee met November 24, 2020 to review matters pertaining to the Lake George Park Commission's Marine Patrol and the Commission's Law Enforcement Program, and

**WHEREAS** active Law Enforcement cases and their status were reviewed in Executive Session, and

**WHEREAS** the Law Enforcement Committee has reported on the results of that committee meeting at this full Commission meeting, and

**WHEREAS** the Law Enforcement Committee recommends acceptance of this month's Law Enforcement Report.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Commission accepts the report of the Law Enforcement Committee.

## **Item #8 — Public Comments**

No additional comments.

## **Item #9 — Adjournment**

Joe Stanek made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Catherine LaBombard; all members present voting affirmatively. The meeting was adjourned at 11:11 a.m.

**SECRETARY'S NOTE:** The next Commission meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, December 15, 2020 via Tele-Conference.**