

## ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

July 11, 2015

Keuka College

### **I. Welcome & Introduction of Current Officers and Directors – Bill Laffin**

Bill Laffin introduced himself and stated that as the Keuka Lake Association's President and at this time, as mandated by our By-Laws, he called the 2015 Annual Meeting of the Keuka Lake Association to order. He also wanted to state for the record that we have the quorum to conduct the KLA's business.

Bill stated that since we last convened, the Association has been very active on many fronts and that he wanted to personally thank all of our members for their support.

He stressed that this organization is very fortunate to have a committed, engaged and active working Board of Directors, whose efforts make the KLA able to carry out its wide range of activities. He stressed the word "working".

At this time, he recognized the KLA Board of Directors and Officers. He asked them to stand when their name was called:

Your Board of Directors:

For Barrington – Mike Gow and Steve Hicks

For Jerusalem – Don Wright and Jim Barre

For Milo – Mark Morris and Dick Osgood

For Pulteney – Doug DeFranco and Al Wahlig

For Urbana – John Hagreen and Ellen Shaw Maceko

And For Wayne - Wayne Hand and Steve Tomlinson

At-Large Directors are – Ira Goldman, Meg Cole, Mike O'Brien, Diane Edwards, Woody Stenz and Candy Dietrich

The KLA's Officers are – Dennis Carlson - Vice President

John Webster – Treasurer

Bebette Yunis – Secretary

Rob Corcoran - Past President

Bill recognized the technical consultants to the Board of Directors:

- Dr. Tim Sellers, Assistant Dean and Director of the Keuka College Center for Aquatic Research on water quality issues. He is not able to be with us today.
- Emily Staychock, Invasive Species/Watershed Educator, Yates County Cornell Cooperative Extension on Aquatic Invasive Species issues.
- Scott Demmin, from DSD Webworks on web design and hosting and other information technology, who was not able to attend.
- Laura Bailey – She is a senior at State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry. The KLA hired her in June to coordinate our Boat Ramp Steward Program. Laura has been a tremendous asset to the KLA and is doing a great job for us.
- Margo McTaggart - Office Administrator – Bill stated that no activity of the Keuka Lake Association would be possible without her total dedication.

Bill thanked them all for their tremendous support and efforts.

Bill proceeded to highlight recent KLA activities and concerns:

- Over the past 12 months, the Board has endeavored to keep its members informed of its activities via the KLA printed quarterly newsletter, new monthly e-newsletter, web site and Facebook Page.
- As the members have read, the overall state of the KLA is strong and it continues to try and grow its membership. However, with about 3000 dwellings around the lake and many more in the watershed, the KLA's goal of increased membership participation is a long way from being met. The watershed is the KLA's neighborhood and it needs more members on its Neighborhood Watch.
- The KLA Hydrofracking and Well Disposal Committee was very pleased when the Cuomo administration recently released its final findings on the multiyear study on hydraulic fracturing and as a result have officially banned the

practice in New York State. This committee of both KLA Members and other volunteers has persevered for several years in educating our government officials about the uniqueness and beauty of Keuka Lake Watershed and they deserve to be commended for their efforts. They will continue to monitor activities that could affect this topic.

- At last year's meeting Bill reported that State Senator Tom O'Mara had sponsored a bill giving to the DEC the legal mandate to develop rules and regulations to prevent the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species. The governor signed the bill into law in September of last year and the DEC is currently working on the details of the new law. According to the DEC they hope that law will be fully implemented in the late fall of this year. Part of the DEC program is to erect uniform educational signs at all municipal public launch sites throughout the state. Because this part of the law did not include funding for the signs, the KLA purchased them for all the municipalities on Keuka Lake that have public launches.
- Educational outreach continues to be a key element of the KLA's overall mission. Whether it's distributing the boating and fishing regulations, Invasive Species information sheets or installing signs at points of impact, we continue to put resources in areas of greatest impact. The KLA is also reaping a huge benefit from the funding to Yates County CCE for part of the cost of an Invasive Species educator – Emily Staychock. She has made presentations to school classes, created an AIS training program for the Marine Patrol Officers, designed our Boat Launch Steward Program and assisted in recruiting our coordinator Laura Bailey. She has presented at Finger Lakes Regional Watershed Alliance regional meetings and other gatherings of the Partnership Regional Invasives Species Management or PRISM as it is called. Emily is currently working on designing a citizen based volunteer program for monitoring aquatic plant life in Keuka.
- The KLA continues to actively communicate with the 2 Sheriff's Departments, the Keuka Watershed Improvement Cooperative and the Keuka Lake Outlet Compact on issues of concerns to our members. The KLA continues to participate with The Land Use Leadership Alliance group of which the KLA was a founding sponsor in 2008 and supports their efforts to develop informational outreach to municipal leaders in watershed.
- Perhaps one of our largest undertakings in many years has been the design and implementation a volunteer based Boat Ramp Steward Program that focuses on high risk boating activity. With over 30 fishing tournaments on Keuka every year, it was imperative that the DEC's Clean Drain and Dry protocol be well publicized to all boaters on Keuka Lake. Bill was pleased to say that the overall awareness of the threat of Aquatic Invasive Species among our target group is growing both at Keuka Lake launches but also at launches throughout the state. Thus far our 19 volunteers have logged over 140 hours at the Penn Yan launch. The volunteers who staff the inspection points deserve a big thank you and more volunteers are still welcome.
- There is one point that Bill believe is important for all of us to understand. While there are many vital and noble causes around Keuka Lake and in the Finger Lakes region, our activities and those that allow us to maintain our status as a 501C3 organization are spelled out in our Certificate of Incorporation. Bill quoted: "The KLA is organized to promote the understanding, preservation and improvement of the water quality, natural habitat, and general environmental conditions of Keuka Lake and its watershed by sponsoring or undertaking scientific research, by collecting, preserving, publishing and disseminating information concerning Keuka Lake and its watershed and by encouraging and supporting the enforcement of laws and regulations and patterns of development and technology aimed at preserving and enhancing the water quality of the lake."
- It's been a busy year for your KLA with a lot to still accomplish. The Board of Directors and other volunteers do a tremendous job in representing the needs of Keuka Lake. It is important to emphasize that the KLA is in its 59<sup>th</sup> year and in 2016 we will be celebrating 60 years of Preserving and Protecting Keuka Lake and its natural beauty for future generations.
- Bill thanked the members for their continued support.

## **II. Approval of the 2014 Annual Meeting Minutes**

The minutes from the 2014 Annual Meeting were distributed in the September 2014 Newsletter as well as being posted on the KLA Website. Bill Laffin asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the 2014 Annual Meeting. There was a

motion from Barbara Thorne and seconded by Mark Morris. Bill asked all in favor of approval – say “Aye”, against – say “Nay. The motion passed following an agreement to dispense with reading of the minutes from the 2014 Annual Meeting.

**III. Introduction of 2015 Scholarship Winners**

Bill asked Meg Cole to come forward to present this year’s Esther N. Wahlig Keuka Lake Watershed Scholarships.

Meg introduced each winner, sharing some of their background, accomplishments and goals. This year’s winners are Cole Hartman from Dundee Central School, Noah Schuster and Erin Siebert from Bath High School. She gave each winner a certificate. They will each receive \$1000 from the Esther N. Wahlig Keuka Lake Watershed Scholarship Fund upon successful completion of the first college semester.

Bill asked for a round of applause for this year’s Esther N. Wahlig Keuka Lake Watershed Scholarship winners. Bill thanked the Wahlig Family, the Scholarship Committee and wished the winners the best in their college careers.

**IV. Treasurer’s Report – John Webster**

John reported that the KLA remains in a strong financial position. He shared the following financial figures for the 12-month period ending December 31st:

	12/31/13	12/31/14
Revenue	\$107,736	\$125,102
Operating Expenses	\$80,108	\$105,484
Special Items	\$33,763	\$6,681
Year End Assets	\$144,585	\$157,521
Wahlig Scholarship Balance	As of 6/30/15 We paid \$1000 in scholarships in 2014	As of 6/30/15 \$22,507 The Board of Directors transferred \$5,000 from the General Money Market account to the Wahlig saving account

How are we doing so far this year?

	Revenue	Expenses
6/30/15	\$84,941	\$54,317
6/27/14	\$101,945	\$34,734

John added that in 2014-5 “special items” include Aquatic Invasive Species education and eradication.

**V. Audit Report – Don Wright**

Don explained the members of the committee all have financial backgrounds. They meet twice a year to review the KLA’s financials. Don also meets annually with our CPA from EFP Rotenberg. The committee met with Margo McTaggart & John Webster on July 7th and all was in order.

**VI. Recognition of Retiring Board Members – Bill Laffin**

Bill stated that one of the duties of the KLA President is the recognition of those members of the Board of Director who have reached the end of their elected term. It is sad to say farewell to these Board members who have been great volunteers and who have given tirelessly to the KLA over the past several years. He asked the following retiring Members of the Board of Directors to come forward:

Jim Barre, Ellen Maceko, Mark Morris

In addition to Board Members who reach the end of their terms, this year the KLA's Corporate Secretary – Bebette Yunis and its Treasurer - John Webster will be stepping down having reached the end of their allowable terms. Both are previous Board members and over the years have contributed significantly to the success of the KLA.

Bill thanked them all for their service to the lake and the KLA. They each received a pottery wine cooler with the KLA logo on it.

**VII. Nominating Committee Report – Dennis Carlson**

The Nominating Committee would like to thank the KLA Members who responded to our call for volunteers to serve on the Board of Directors. The biography of the proposed new Board Members was in the letter announcing the annual meeting. Charles Murphy, Ron Lowenstein, Michele Rowcliffe and Monique Ullom all have strong professional backgrounds and bring many years of interest and support for Keuka Lake and the Watershed. Proxy cards have been distributed and received from members who are eligible to vote and will be voted by President Bill Laffin and Treasurer John Webster. Dennis made a motion to elect the following first term members of the Keuka Lake Association Board of Directors:

At Large	Charles Murphy
At Large	Ron Lowenstein
Town of Urbana	Monique Ullom
Town of Milo	Michele Rowcliffe

And to re-elect the following current Board of Directors members:

Town of Wayne	Steve Tomlinson
Town of Urbana	John Hagreeen
At-Large	Margaret Cole
At-Large	Candy Dietrich
At-Large	Ira Goldman

The motion was seconded by Bill Laffin and approved by the membership. The Nominating Committee thanked the membership for their support.

**VIII. Special Reports**

**A. State of the Lake** – Bill informed the KLA audience that Dr. Tim Sellers from Keuka College could not be with us due to conflict in scheduling but has sent us a recorded presentation.

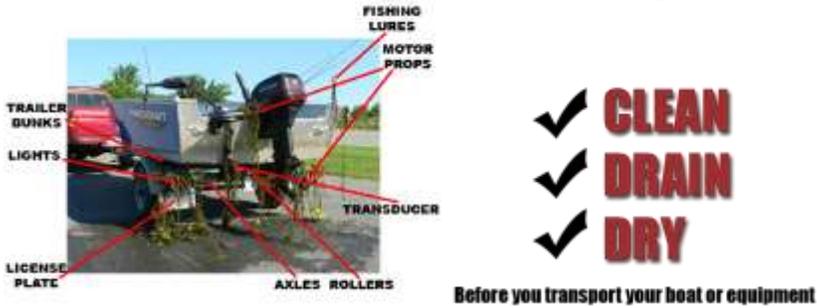
- **Keuka Lake Looking Back and Looking Ahead**
- **State of the Lake 2014 –**  
Nutrient levels (Phosphorus) - Averaged 3.9 ppb, down 2.6 ppb from 2013; well below long-term average of 7.3 ppb  
Water clarity - Averaged 7.8 m, similar to 2013 levels, 1.7 m above the long-term average of 6.1 meters  
Algae levels - averaged 1.62 ppb, up from 0.9 in 2013, below the long-term average of 2.6 ppb  
 Tim's presentation contained charts to further explain the data: phosphorus trends, algae, and secchi disk or clarity levels indicate the overall status of Keuka is oligotrophic or low nutrient status.
- Submersible Probe provides a variation under the waves. It measures for: Depth, Temperature, Chlorophyll a (= algae), Cyanobacteria (= blue green algae), pH Conductivity (= salts). He provided several chats to illustrate the uses of the probe.
- Tim concluded with: 2014 data show the lake is in generally **good health**  
 - **Improving trends** in many important parameters (*algae, phosphorus*)

- Cyanobacteria levels continue to be **low** (but present!)
- May 2014 storm dumped a lot of phosphorus in lake but we saw **little algae** growth resulting in 2014. Other results were: some increased macrophytes (seaweed), very little cyanobacteria (*Microcystis*), still waiting for blooms (aftershocks)
- Thank you for your dedication to protecting Keuka Lake! Continue to the “Listen to the Lake” “If not now, when? If not us, who?”

**\*\* Tim’s complete slide presentation is available on the KLA website.\*\***

## B. Aquatic Invasive Species – Emily Staychock

- Emily began her presentation by using photos warning us to be on the lookout for hydrilla, round goby, water chestnut, native sculpin. Next she showed illustrations of invasive species already present in Keuka: Eurasian water milfoil, Chinese mystery snail, Curly-leaved pondweed, quagga & zebra mussels, Asian clam & Rudd. Her next slides were of native aquatic plants: eel grass, elodea, coontail, pondweeds, northern water milfoil naiad, watermeal & duckweed.
- Emily then explained the regulations that went into effect in 2014 that prohibit boats from launching from or leaving DEC launch sites without first draining and cleaning the boat, trailer and equipment of visible plant and animal material
- By September 2015 these same regulations will apply to all public boat launches.



- Emily showed photos of the Universal signage now required at all public boat launches.
- <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/85939.html>



- Emily introduced Laura Bailey and explained the Boat Steward Program that the KLA launched this summer which encourages compliance through education and outreach:
- Funded and implemented by the Keuka Lake Association
- One paid part-time boat launch steward program coordinator
- ~ 25 volunteer boat launch stewards
- Stewards on duty at the Penn Yan Village and Keuka Lake State Park launches
- On duty on days when there are fishing tournaments, with shifts covering 5:30 AM – 4 PM
- Developed and implemented in partnership with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Yates County
- Implemented in partnership with the Village of Penn Yan and Keuka Lake State Park

- She asked for more volunteers!



KLA President Bill Laffin with our Boat Steward Coordinator, Laura Bailey.

- Emily further explained how this program is working across NYS.
- Emily concluded her presentation by asking members to maintain their ditches and stream corridors.

### C. Lake level – Wayne Hand

Lake Level Topics:

Lake level control & performance vs. objectives

Abnormal conditions

Web site issues

Fall lake level draw down delay

Potential future web site additions

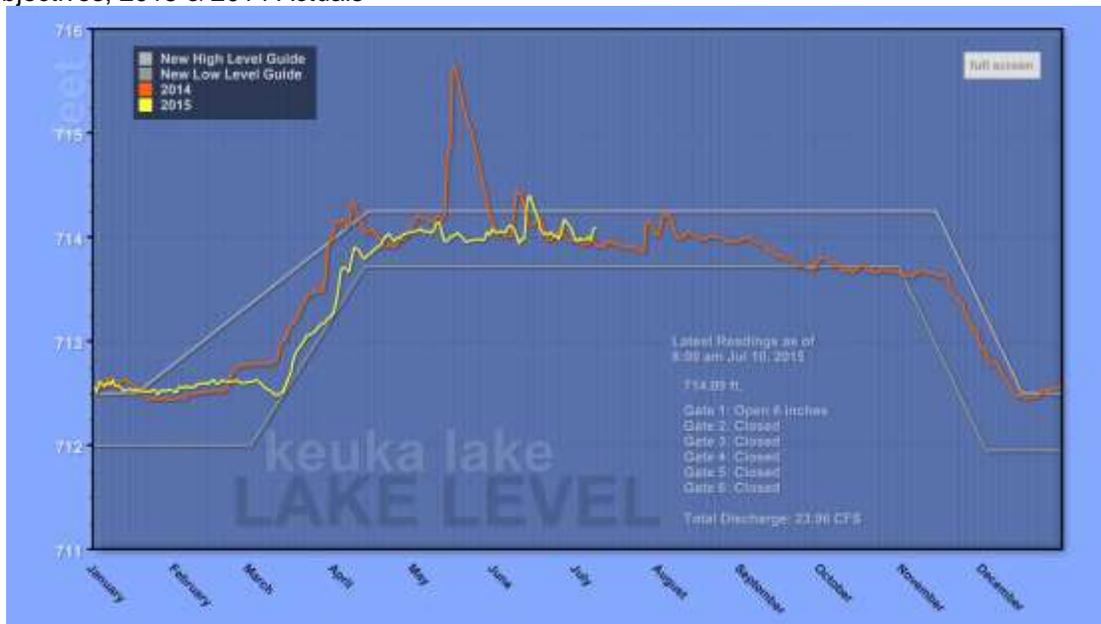
#### Keuka Lake Level Control

- The lake level is controlled by 6 gates at outlet in Penn Yan, owned and managed by Keuka Lake Outlet Compact (KLOC), along with guidance from NY Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC)
- KLOC – board consists of 6 town supervisors & 2 village mayors from the lake shore municipalities
- Gates are operated by village of Penn Yan, per instructions from KLOC and the Reservoir Regulation Manual (developed by US Army Corp of Engineers)
  - Min. outflow is 20 cfs (15 CFS required for PY village waste treatment)
  - Max. normal outflow is 1,000 cfs (min. any downstream flooding)

#### KLOC's Primary Objectives:

- Maintain the lake level within the defined objectives
- Minimize potential flooding resulting from extreme precipitation events

#### Level Objectives, 2015 & 2014 Actuals



### Level Control Performance

- KLOC and the Penn Yan village gate operations team have done an excellent job in maintaining lake level within the objectives

### KLA Level Monitoring Process

- Lake level monitored continuously at the Penn Yan Water Plant
- KLA web site retrieves level data every 2 hours
- System also automatically calculates the resulting water outflow amount, posts the level & flow information, and updates the chart
- Need Flash app to view all functions, or can view mobile version

### Execution of Fall Draw Down Delay

- Consistent with KLA member survey results, KLOC implemented 30 day delay of fall draw down last fall, effectively extending the boating season (shifting draw down from Oct. to Nov.)
- The resulting member feedback from last fall was very positive
- This is now the normal process for KLOC level objectives

### Spring Ice Damage vs. Last Year

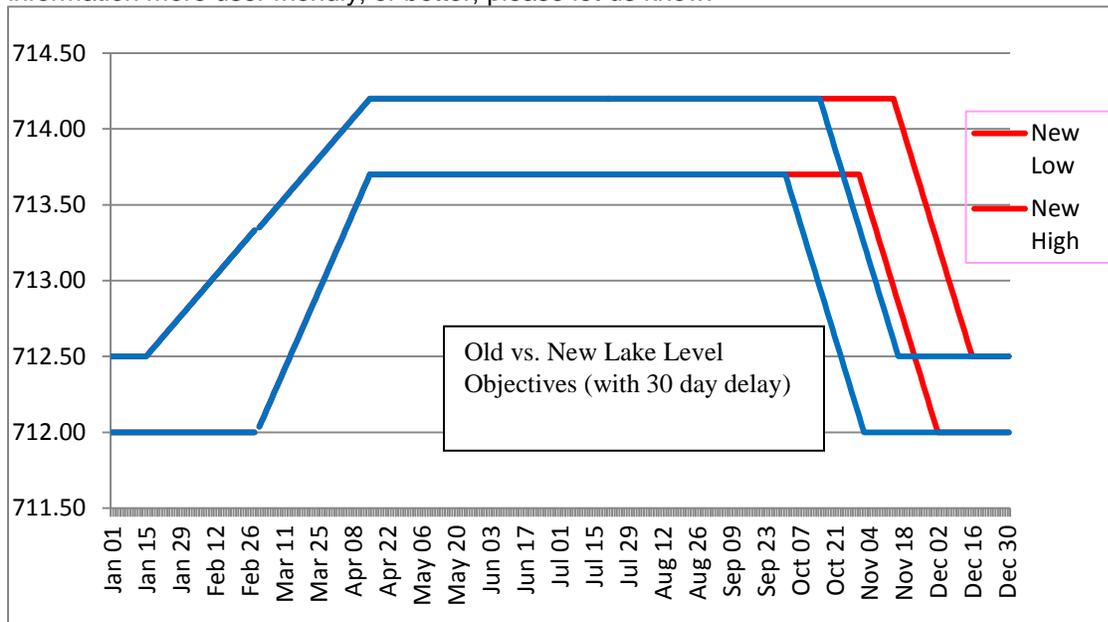
- Significantly less flowing ice damage
- Mother nature also was kinder to us
- Many believe that this was aided by KLOC maintaining the lake level at or near the minimum objective until the ice softened. This should be their future normal procedure with heavy ice coverage.

### Gate Outflow Calculations

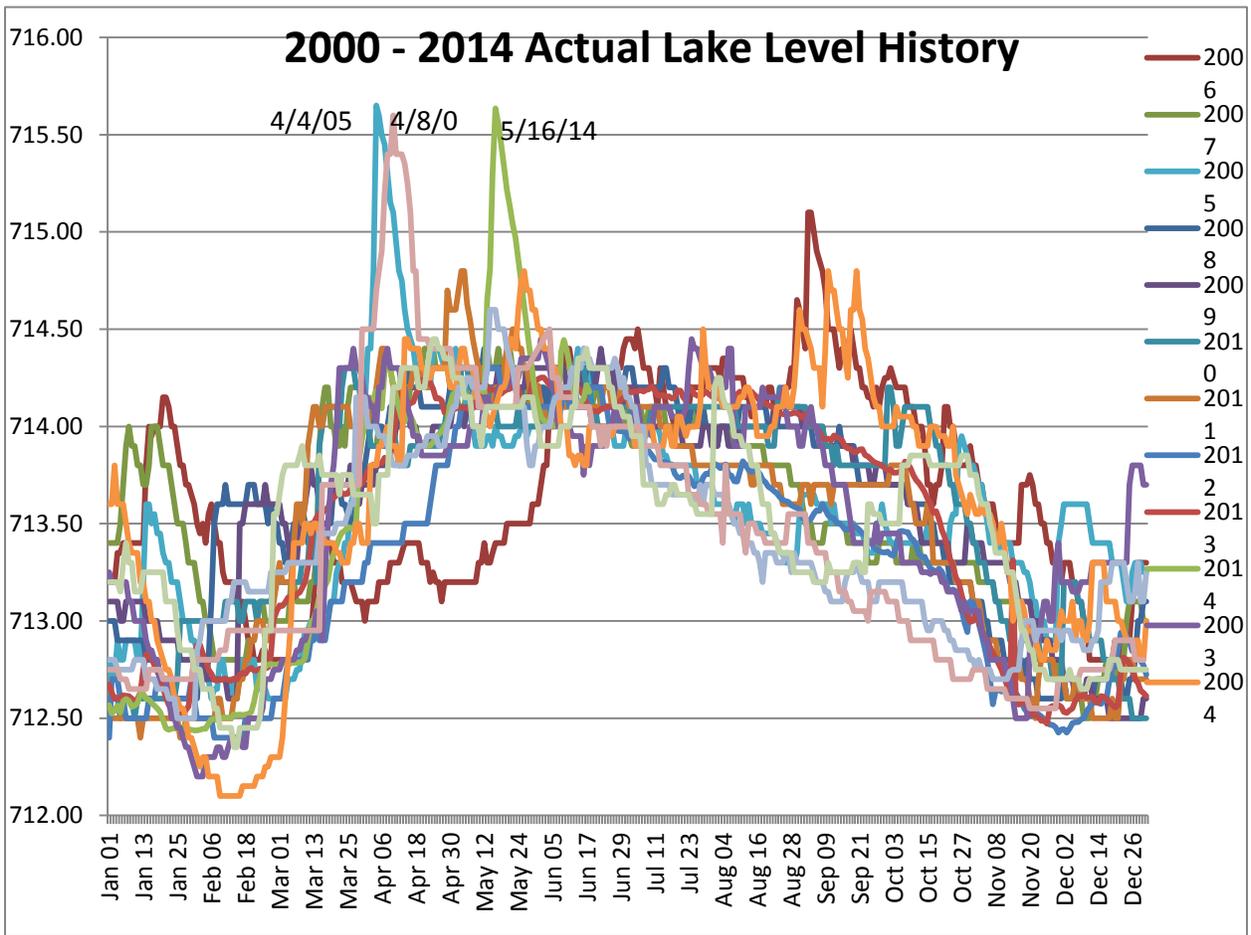
- The US Geological Survey (USGS) maintains a water flow gauge where the Keuka Outlet enters Seneca Lake. There is an excellent correlation between what is shown on our web site as calculated gate outflow, and that measured at Dresden. Still working with them in understanding infrequent differences during high flow

### Sharing of Live Lake Level Data

- National Weather Service (NOAA) web site now shows live lake level and discharge information from our web site, as well as lake level data from the Flood Water Control gauge located in Hammondsport [NOAA Binghamton NY Gauges](#)
- Working with NYS Canal Corp. to allow them to retrieve live lake level and discharge information from our web site.
- Closing Comments If you have any further suggestions for the lake level committee, or making the web site information more user friendly, or better, please let us know.



**Keuka Peak Lake Level Years**  
**Official Mean High 715.30', Top of Dam & Gates - 716.04'**



Bill thanked Wayne for being proactive in updating this data and monitoring the lake level.

#### **D. Communications – Doug DeFranco**

Doug shared a Power Point presentation covering the following topics:

1. How we reach our members  
Website (Announcements), Quarterly Newsletter, Facebook Page, Direct Email, Member Surveys, E-Newsletter
2. 2015 Activities: Monthly E-Newsletters, Communications/Social Networking Survey, Initiated creation of Mobile Website, Initiated discussions on minor website redesign
3. Communications Survey – November 2014 – Goals:
  - Better understand our members use of social networking
  - Clarify how this fits into our overall communications strategy
  - Identify members general communications preferences
  - Solicit improvements to website, emails, etc...Sent to 1643 Emails, 979 Opened (67%), 501 Surveys Completed (30%)
4. Survey results: Doug illustrated the results with six tables. The general conclusions were:
  - a. Membership mainly driven by referrals/word of mouth
  - b. Preferred method of communications is Newsletters and Website
  - c. Majority of Facebook members who have “liked” our page are not KLA members
  - d. No demand from current members to expand use of social media
  - e. If needed members would support revenue generating ads on the website
  - f. Members in large part utilize KLA business members/directories when purchasing
  - g. Members are satisfied with the quality of the website and newsletters
  - h. Single biggest suggestion for improvements was to add a mobile website
5. Looking Ahead;
  - Mobile website creation and launch
  - Minor adjustments to full website
  - Maintain and utilize Facebook at current levels of activity
  - Leverage current Facebook “Likes” to drive memberships
6. Doug concluded by thanking the membership.

Bill thanked Doug added that basic membership dues would not allow the KLA to do everything that it does. He thanked all the members who contribute above the Basic Membership level.

Bill next called up Ira Goldman, Chair of the KLA Navigation & Recreation Committee, who will introduce our county sheriffs.

#### **E. Lake Patrol Reports – Yates and Steuben County Sheriffs**

1. Sheriff Spike spoke first. He thanked Bill and Ira Goldman and the KLA for its support and its mission. He introduced his two Marine Patrol Officers: Greg Fingar and Jack Stover and stated that their mission is prevention, education and support. He then touched upon the following topics:
  - In 2014, the Patrol issued 53 citations and 63 warnings. Most tickets were a result of “reckless operation” – passengers bow riding.
  - They have 2 new PWCs on loan from the Parks & Recreation Dept.
  - Department budget is created by the county legislature.
  - They also receive funding from the Parks & Rec Dept. boat registrations done locally.
  - They have issued boating advisories for the lake after weather events.
  - Sheriff Spike thanked Emily Staychock for her AIS training for the sheriffs.
  - He concluded by saying he did not think he has ever missed a KLA Annual Meeting!
2. Steuben County Undersheriff James Allard spoke next.
  - He began by recognizing former Undersheriff Ray Dell, who was in attendance as a KLA member.
  - Sheriff Allard explained that their Marine Patrol is expanding and receiving more training.
  - The Department reacted to a recent flood event in Urbana & E. Lake Rd.
  - They also have 2 PWCs on loan from the Parks & Rec. Dept.

- They are very involved in the Community Outreach Program.
- Sheriff Allard thanked Sheriff Spike for his leadership role, especially with handling effects of weather events on the lake.

Bill thanked the Sheriffs for their participation.

**IX. KLAeidoscope of Keuka – 2016 Calendar Photo Contest** – Candy Dietrich explained the judging process and announced this year’s winners: 1<sup>st</sup> & cover –Laura Juberg, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Gary Brown, 3rd – Christina Stocking

**X. Questions/Comments concerned the following:**

1. Who to contact for floating, hazardous debris: Yates County – 315-536-4438; or 911.
2. Sound of cigarette boats – limit is 90 decibels – these boats run at 80 decibels!  
Is there a limit to the length or size of a boat on the lake? No is the answer.
3. It was suggested that when an advisory gets lifted, that info needs to get out sooner.
4. There was a question as to which weather service id used: NOA or Accuweather?

**XI. Adjournment** – Bill asked for a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 AM after a motion by Candy Dietrich, seconded by Ray Dell and approved by all.