

## ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

July 8, 2017

Keuka College

### I. Welcome & Introduction of Current Officers and Directors – Dennis Carlson

Dennis Carlson 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 2017 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.

Dennis 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, without whose efforts the KLA would not be able to carry out its wide range of activities that you as members count on us for. Being a Board of Directors Member is something that indicates a **passion** for Keuka Lake and a desire to **diligently work** to protect and preserve it.

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 –Diane Edwards and Ira Goldman

For Jerusalem –Mike O'Brien and Charles/Chip Murphy

For Milo – Michele Rowcliffe and Dick Osgood

For Pulteney – Meg Cole

For Urbana – John Hagreen and Ellen Maceko

And For Wayne – Candy Dietrich and Steve Tomlinson

Your At-Large Board Members are – Thom Love, Ray Dell, Scott Drake, Bob Young, Nonie Flynn and Maria Hudson

The KLA's Officers are – Mark Morris - Vice President

Steve Tomlinson – Treasurer

Steve Hicks – Secretary

Bill Laffin - Past President

Dennis recognized the very dedicated technical advisors to the Board of Directors:

- Dr. Tim Sellers, Associate Provost for Academic Innovation, Professor of Biology and Environmental Sciences, and Director of the Keuka College Center for Aquatic Research on water quality issues.
- Emily Staychock, Invasive Species Educator, Cornell Cooperative Extension Yates County
- Scott Demmin, of DSD Webworks on web design and internet issues which includes the real time lake level and water temperature displays on our web site. Scott was unable to attend.
- Bryan Hill, who in his second year as part of the Watercraft Steward Program, functions as Coordinator for the program and provides direction to the watercraft stewards.
- Arlene Wilson, Executive Director Cornell Cooperative Extension Yates County, who, also could not attend.
- Dennis added that there are several past officers and Board Members in the audience. He asked them to raise their hands and thanked them for their past work on behalf of the KLA.
- Dennis stated that no activity of the Keuka Lake Association would be possible without the total dedication of our Office Administrator – Margo McTaggart.

Dennis thanked them all for their tremendous support and efforts.

Dennis proceeded to highlight recent KLA activities and concerns:

This spring, we unfortunately lost a long term KLA Member, Board Member, Officer and individual that kept us all focused on the lake and water quality – Dr. Al Wahlig - His contributions and efforts will not be forgotten and he will be missed but we are all better able to do our jobs because of him.

In our continual communications, the KLA Board strives to keep you informed of its activities via the KLA printed quarterly newsletter, monthly e-newsletter, web site and our Facebook Page.

One continued message that you hear is about membership and knowing that each of you that are here today are members, we thank you. The overall health of the association (as you have read and will hear more later), is strong with the main source of revenue coming from memberships. With only about 50% of the lake property owners represented in our 1700 membership base and the demands growing for areas of our involvement, membership renewals and new members are important. So, again we thank you for keeping your membership up to date and through your day to day contacts neighbors helping us grow our membership base.

With it being very easy to become distracted, I am very pleased that the KLA has maintained its direction and commitment to its overall mission to Preserve and Protect Keuka Lake and the Watershed for Future Generations.

Today, we will update you on recent activities to include reports on the state of the lake, aquatic invasive species and lake level management. We will have the opportunity to hear from law enforcement officials whose Patrol Officers do an excellent job on Keuka Lake. We will introduce you to the Alexander F. and Esther N. Wahlig Keuka Watershed Endowment Scholarship Recipients, the winners of the Annual Kaleidoscope Photo Winners as well as carry out mandated KLA business.

The KLA continues to communicate and educate both in person and in writing with numerous groups on a variety of topics.

We remain vigilant as it might relate to any change regarding hydrofracking influenced by new less invasive technologies. The KLA's Hydrofracking and Well Disposal Committee continues to voice our position to various State Officials and educate/remind them about the uniqueness and beauty of Keuka Lake Watershed and its value to our agri – tourism based economy.

As most of you are aware, the DEC's Aquatic Invasive Species Law was finalized and implemented on May 25, 2016, providing the legal framework for regulating individual boater responsibility and accountability for removing visible plant life and animal matter from boats, trailers and associated running gear as well as cleaning, draining and drying all watercraft and floating docks prior to launch into a public waterbody. Our communications with the DEC positioned 2016 as a year of general public awareness and education on this topic.

Since the DEC does not have the staffing to adequately reach all boaters throughout the state, they announced a series of grants at the end of 2015 so that other groups could assist in this endeavor. The KLA applied for the maximum allowable amount and was awarded a three year grant that totals \$100,000 grant to operate a Boat Launch Steward and Educational Outreach program. Part of this grant requires the KLA to ante up matching in-kind labor, materials or money. The KLA's three year commitment is a little over \$33,000. We had a very successful 2016 season and want to thank all that provided volunteer hours or materials. We more met the match requirements. However, it is 2017 and year two of the grant and again we need volunteers to augment our paid launch stewards. Please call the KLA office if you can volunteer. You will hear more about this from Emily.

Educational outreach continues to be a key element of the KLA's overall mission. Whether it's distributing the boating and fishing regulations, publishing revised Invasive Species information sheets or installing signs at points of impact, we continue to put resources in areas of greatest impact. The KLA continues to reap huge benefits from its funding to Yates County CCE for part of the cost of an Invasive Species educator – Emily Staychock. In addition to all of her other ongoing programs in Keuka Lake, Emily is currently working on designing a volunteer program for monitoring aquatic plant life in Keuka. Part of our DEC Stewarding Grant also has the KLA working with the Finger Lakes Museum at their Kayak Livery in Branchport as well as assisting the Finger Lakes Institute when they experience increased activity on Seneca Lake.

We continue to actively communicate with the 2 Sheriff's Departments, the local DEC officers, the Keuka Watershed Improvement Cooperative and the Keuka Lake Outlet Compact on issues of concerns to our members. We participate in the Finger Lakes Regional Watershed Alliance and The Land Use Leadership Alliance. The KLA was a founding sponsor of both groups and we support their efforts to develop informational outreach to municipal leaders in the watershed.

There is one point that I 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. "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.”

2016, as with any year in a volunteer based organization, has been a busy one with more still on the plate to accomplish. Your Board of Directors and other volunteers do a tremendous job in representing the needs of Keuka Lake. Over the last 61 years, there have been hundreds of committed volunteer Board Members and Officers that have laid a solid foundation for lake preservation and protection and the fore sight of those people.

Dennis thanked the members for their continued support.

**II. Approval of the 2106 Annual Meeting Minutes**

The minutes from the 2015 Annual Meeting were distributed in the September 2016 newsletter as well as being posted on the KLA Website. Dennis asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the 2016 Annual Meeting. There was a motion from Don Wright, seconded by Steve Hicks to accept the minutes from the 2016 Annual Meeting. As there was no discussion, Dennis asked for a vote. The motion was passed

**III. Introduction of 2017 Scholarship Winners**

Dennis asked Meg Cole to come forward to present this year’s Alexander F. and Esther N. Wahlig Keuka Lake Watershed Scholarship winners.

Meg introduced each winner, sharing some of their background, accomplishments and goals. This year’s winners are Graham O’Donnell from Hammondsport Central School, Jessica Divens from Bath Central School and Anna Von Hagn from Bath Central School. The Committee reviewed several excellent candidates and is proud of each student’s many accomplishments. The award recipients will receive a one-time \$1000 scholarship to support their continued education in the area of environmental sciences, limnology and/or water quality/watershed management. Dennis asked for a round of applause for this year’s Esther N. Wahlig Keuka Lake Watershed Scholarship winners.. He thanked the Wahlig Family, the Scholarship Committee and gave best wishes to this year’s recipients in their college careers

**IV. Treasurer’s Report – Steve Tomlinson**

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

	<b>12/31/15</b>	<b>12/31/16</b>
Revenue	\$103,286	\$148,164
Operating Expenses	\$87,733	\$139,902
Special Items – not budgeted, but requested	\$5,863	\$431
Year End Assets	\$188,790	\$195,899
Wahlig Scholarship Balance	As of 6/30/17 We paid \$2000 in scholarships	Fund value as of 6/30/17: \$19,661

How are we doing so far this year?

	<b>Revenue</b>	<b>Expenses</b>
6/30/17	\$113,468	\$54,005
6/30/16	\$81,501	\$63,284

Now looking at the first 6 months of 2017, compared to 2016, our revenue is up primarily due to Membership revenue increasing.

## **VI. Annual Financial Review & Audit Report – Diane Edwards**

The KLA Financial Review and Audit Committee for this past year consisted of six KLA board members:

Ray Dell  
Nonie Flynn  
Ira Goldman  
Mark Morris  
Mike O'Brien

Each of us has financial background from our varied business and personal lives, are comfortable with financial statements and reports, and work together to ensure that revenue and expenses are properly used and accounted for in our internal and banking reports.

The committee meets twice a year at the KLA office in Penn Yan, along with our Administrative Assistant Margo McTaggart, for the purpose of reviewing our compliance with internal control issues, and reviewing and reconciling all areas of financial matters within Keuka Lake Association. During these sessions, we pour over treasurer's reports, Quick Book and membership reports, and bank statements including checking, money market, savings, and CD accounts.

In January we reviewed and reconciled transactions and reports covering July thru December; on June 20 we reviewed and reconciled the months of January thru May, and will do the months of June through December next January.

Our efforts are supported on the outside by our accountants, EFP Rotenberg in Rochester, who prepares our year end statements and tax returns, and provides us with a reports covering their review of our statements of assets and liabilities and our statements of receipts and disbursements for the prior calendar year. As suggested by EFPR, we switched from Quicken to Quick Books in 2016 for better control. They commend the efforts of both Margo and the rest of us, commenting that our diligence exceeds that of other 501C3 organizations with whom they work, and that "they are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the accompanying financial statements in order for them to be in accordance with the cash basis of accounting".

Our payroll is provided by Wheat and Fitzpatrick, Bath, NY; payroll reports are forwarded to the KLA office and me every two weeks; I review each of them for accuracy.

The most recent financial review performed in June yielded no irregularities or areas of concern; the same is true of the financial review from January.

I would like to thank both: Margo McTaggart, for her timeliness and accuracy in processing transactions, for maintaining our many computer systems and paper files, and for her patience in switching systems and Steve Tomlinson, our KLA Treasurer, who provides our monthly treasurer's reports reviewed at each of our monthly meetings.

Diane concluded by thanking all for listening and for being a part of Keuka Lake Association.

## **VI. Recognition of Retiring Board Members – Dennis Carlson**

Dennis 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 bittersweet 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: John Hagreen – Urbana and Steve Tomlinson – Wayne.

The commitment of these individuals to the KLA has been phenomenal and should be a lesson for all current and future Board members. .

Dennis added that Steve Tomlinson will remain as Treasurer and John Hagreen as Chair of the Membership Committee. Dennis 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. Dennis asked for a round of applause.

Dennis stated that just as Board members reach the end of their allowable terms, we elect new Board members at this meeting. I'd like to introduce Mark Morris, KLA Vice President and Chair of the Nominating Committee. Proxies will be voted by KLA Secretary, Steve Hicks and me.

**VII. Nominating Committee Report – Mark Morris**

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. They 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 Secretary Steve Hicks.

Mark made a motion to elect the following first term members of the Keuka Lake Association Board of Directors:

At-Large	Maria Hudson
At Large	Tim Cutler
At-Large	Nancy Feinstein
Wayne	Bob Young
Urbana	Sam Pennise

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

Town of Barrington	Ira Goldman
Town of Wayne	Candy Dietrich
Town of Milo	Michele Rowcliffe
Town of Jerusalem	Chip Murphy
Town of Pulteney	Meg Cole

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

Dennis thanked Mark and the members of the Nominating Committee for their fine work and congratulated the new Board members.

**VIII. Special Reports –** Dennis introduced the next portion of agenda and asked that questions be limited until the completion of the meeting,

**A. State of the Lake – Dr. Tim Sellers** - The KLA is very fortunate to have Dr. Tim Sellers as our Science Advisor. As I stated previously he is the Associate Provost for Academic Innovation, Professor of Biology and Environmental Sciences, and Director of the Keuka College Center for Aquatic Research. Tim will now report on the state of Keuka Lake.

Tim began by expressing his thoughts about the many contributions made by Dr. Alexander Wahlig to the KLA and especially to the water quality goals.

Basically, the lake is in very good condition. Tim explained the phosphorus levels, clarity & algae levels using comparison tables. He referred to the DEC Fisheries presentation on June 12 that is on the KLA website. His slides referred to the two topics below:

- **Keuka Lake Looking Back and Looking Ahead**
- **State of the Lake 2016 – Tim’s complete slide presentation will be available on the KLA website.**

**B. Aquatic Invasive Species – Emily Staychock** – Dennis stated that with all of the KLA focus this year on Invasive Species, it important that we present you with an update on this topic as well as a brief update on the Watercraft Steward Program’s season to date findings. Dennis introduced Emily Staychock from CCE Yates. Through a grant to CCE, the KLA continues to fund a portion of Emily’s work.

Emily began her presentation by using photos and descriptions to warn us to be on the lookout for starry stonewort which is very invasive by forming dense beds that block sunlight and fouls motors. It has been present at the Penn Yan Village boat launch and the mouth of Sugar Creek and possibly in the lake. Emily added that currently there is no possible eradication, but there are control options: chemicals, hand-pulling and mechanical harvesting. We hope to use the harvester in the outlet.

Emily continued by describing the AIS Monitoring Program in 2017 which is in conjunction with the Finger Lakes Institute Citizen Science initiative. She said the focus will be on 5 high-risk areas, (See her slides on the KLA website)

Emily described the Keuka Lake Watercraft Steward Program with Bryan Hiill, Coordinator/Steward and 3 full time stewards: Ryan Eckel, Chris Gilbert, Kati VanEtten. Emily also listed the many volunteers which make up our "in-kind" grant requirement. She shared a chart showing the number of watercraft inspected and individuals encountered in 2015, 2016 and through 6/26.

Emily finished by asking for "Citizen Scientists" to participate in the Steward Program (Contact: [obrykh@gmail.com](mailto:obrykh@gmail.com)) and/or the AIS lake monitoring (Contact: [ecs268@cornell.edu](mailto:ecs268@cornell.edu)). She concluded by thanking all who have helped

**C. Lake Level – Dick Osgood –** Next, Dennis introduced Dick Osgood, Chair of the Lake Level Committee who will provide an update on this important topic.

The lake level is important and of interest to all of us. The objective is to maintain the level of the lake within a predetermined curve to protect the lakeshore and prevent damage to property. Doing this also allows safe ingress and egress of boats to and from the lake and protects downstream infrastructure and downstream residential property.

Maintaining the lake level within this curve requires a good deal of intervention. Prior to 1993 this was difficult. We had three gates and a stone dam. During flood events it was impossible (or at the least hazardous) to manipulate the gates after the lake reached a certain elevation. In 1993 the stone dam was removed and three new gates were installed along with a sheet pile dam. These new gates allowed a faster response to rising lake elevation. Please note the combined area of the 6 gates at the outlet is 187 square feet (please note that is smaller than a 12 x 16 room). These small gates must control the level of an 11,700 acre lake. This is quite a daunting task.

The 6 gates are operated by the Village of Penn Yan Municipal Utilities, usually the water treatment plant crew. Their primary job is to make, store and deliver potable water to users in Dresden, Benton, Towns of Milo, Jerusalem and Pulteney and the Village of Penn Yan. This includes fire protection.

The gates and the dam are managed by the Keuka Lake Outlet Compact (KLOC), along with the NYSDEC. The KLOC board is made up of the 6 town supervisors and the mayors of Penn Yan and Hammondsport. The gates are operated per KLOC instructions and the ARMY Corps of Engineers Reservoir regulation manual. Keuka Lake Association does not direct gate settings. We will advise but we do not direct.

A minimum flow must be maintained to satisfy the DEC permit for the waste water treatment plant discharge at Penn Yan. That low flow posed lake level problems last year with the very dry weather causing a low elevation making it difficult to sail boats to and from the boat launch in Penn Yan and even causing difficulty with boaters unable to get their boats out of their boat lifts. Not so this year. Mother Nature doesn't follow our curve.

This year has been considerably cooler and wetter in addition to a good snow pack over the winter months. The resulting snow melt and wet weather kept us slightly above the desired level from mid February to April 25, 2017. Since then we have been within the curve with one brief exception.

During this period we also experienced a good deal of obstruction in the outlet due to the environmental cleanup of the old coal gasification plant in Penn Yan. This plant discharged hazardous waste into the outlet that settled in the bottom and needed to be properly removed and treated. In stream work was necessary to remove these deposits and to bring new soil in to fill in the excavated areas back to original bottom level. It was also necessary to replant bottom plants to reestablish a suitable environment for marine life. This work is progressing and the in stream work is nearly complete. There remains some debris that must be removed near the gates at the dam and the sheet piling in place in the outlet by

the old plant must be removed after the land around the old plant is removed and replaced as required. Stream plantings have been completed. There have been 8600 plus plants replanted in the new bottom soil and I can also say that fish life is coming back too. I noticed 3 largemouth bass near the gate structures looking for a suitable place to start the next generation of bass during my onsite tour on June 28, 2017. This project has also helped us with the control of the lake level because the contractor replaced gate 6 with a new gate *but the old lifting mechanism was not changed*.

All of what I have just said is recent history but I want you to know that, prior to the commencement of the cleanup project, your Keuka Lake Association was vigilant in insuring that the work didn't prohibit the control of the lake elevation. My predecessor, Wayne Hand, and others noted that the cleanup plan had an extended impact on the number of gates available for use and presented our concerns to KLOC and then the DEC, and the Army Corps of Engineers. Schedules were amended and the method of construction altered to protect the lake from flooding. These KLA stewards are to be commended.

As I mentioned the dredging is nearly complete and the contractor has now stopped work with resumption scheduled for mid-July. The schedule for onshore soil removal and replacement should be completed by December of this year with final project cleanup and replanting on land scheduled for the spring of 2018.

There remains work that could be done to the dam and gates if time and money allow. A project was advertised recently for the grouting of the stone dam adjacent to the bridge. The bids were rejected because they were too high. The new gate at Birkett Mills, gate 6 is still operating with the old cast iron ratchet mechanism to raise and lower the new gate. If a new mechanism could be installed such as the system used for gates 1 through 5 and a downstream scour protection mat placed beneath the bridge we would have faster response time to rising water. If we could change all gate lifting mechanisms to state of the art electronically controlled mechanisms, we could really decrease response times to rising water. Forgive my dreaming please.

The village of Penn Yan is working on a project to span the outlet with two new footbridges, one upstream of the dam, one downstream. The impacts to lake level are not yet known. It appears that the impact may be small, but we will remain vigilant.

#### **D. Communications – Mike O'Brien –** Dennis introduced Mike.

Mike shared a Power Point presentation covering the following topics:

1. Primary Communication Methods
  - Website & Mobile Website, Quarterly Newsletter, Facebook Page, Direct Email, Monthly E-Newsletter
2. 2017 Activities & Review of some 2016 initiatives:: Monthly E-Newsletters, Mobile Website, Minor website changes, Messaging on Lake Level & Temperature
3. Direct Email Activity 2017 –
  - 12 Monthly E-Newsletters,
  - A number of Additional E Mail Special Announcements,
  - 1783 Email Addresses
    - ~60% Open Rate
    - ~7% Bounce Rate
  - Emails opened on:
    - Desktop 44.7%
    - Mobile 55.3%
4. Mike showed an illustration of the Mobile Website Home page.
5. He showed illustrations of the website additions/changes: a) on the home page, enlarging the indication to join/renew; b) on the application form, an added box to fill in for an additional donation; c) a new notice for non-members when they access the temp & level charts asking if they are members and, if not, to consider joining.
6. Mike had a slide showing website visit numbers, reasons for visits and comparison with Canandaigua site.
7. Looking Ahead:
  - Continue to Monitor our Website and Mobile Website Usage
  - Continue to Evaluate Our Social Media Presence
  - Continue to Look for Ways to Bring the KLA Message to You in a Meaningful Manner.
8. Mike concluded by thanking the membership.

**E. Lake Patrol Report** – Dennis stated that Next is our annual update by the local County Sheriff's and DEC Officers. He introduced Ira Goldman - Chair of the Navigation and Recreation Committee to begin this portion of our agenda. Ira introduced Jim Allard – Steuben Co. Sheriff, Ron Spike - Yates Co. Sheriff and Josh Crain, NYS DEC Officer

1. Sheriff Allard –
  - He emphasized that all three departments work well together and share their schedules.
  - Steuben has two patrol vessels and two PWCs.
  - Last year was the first time they had a BWI go to trial in Steuben Co
  - Sheriff Allard stressed that the Marine Patrol is much more interested in education and compliance than in arrests.
  - He commended the KLA for its assistance.
2. Sheriff Spike introduced the Marine Patrol Officers that were present.
  - He shared slides of two 2016 BWI accidents.
  - He shared that the vessels they – and Steuben – use are supplied by the NYS Patrol Boat Loaner program.
  - He stated they have “zero tolerance” when it comes to necessary life jackets, reckless operation and operating a boat under the influence of drinking or drugs.
  - He shared that Marine Patrol Boats have blue flashing lights.
  - He reviewed their 2016 record and stated that so far in 2017, they have had 70 complaints and 4 accidents.
  - He added that the Marine Patrol are th “Tow Trucks” of the lake – they did 40 in 2016.
  - This year they are handing out whistles to boaters.
3. Joshua Crain, DEC
  - Josh stated they are involved with thr hunting and fishing laws of NYS.
  - They are very concerned with the quality of the environment.
  - He asked to be called with any concerns.

**IX. KLAeidoscope of Keuka – 2018 Calendar Photo Contest** – Candy Dietrich explained the judging process and announced this year's winners: cover- Larry Barnes, 1<sup>st</sup> – Bill Laffin, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Ken Nykiel, 3rd – Bob Bayer, Back Cove r- Dave Dinehart. Other monthly winners were: Dave Owens (twice), Jan Williams, Christine Detweiler, Kate Gaffney, Chris Stocking (twice), Nancy Feinstein, Rod Blumeneau. She thanked all who submitted their photos.

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

1. Fireworks question: Aerial fireworks are illegal in NYS without a permit
2. Untethered Chinese lanterns are also illegal – and dangerous.
3. A member of the audience offered to pay for a BWI tester.
4. There was a question about noise control, but the time of day/night is a factor in responding to these complaints.

**XI. Adjournment** – At 11:25, Dennis asked for a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned after a motion by Ray Dell, seconded by Bill Laffin and approved by all.