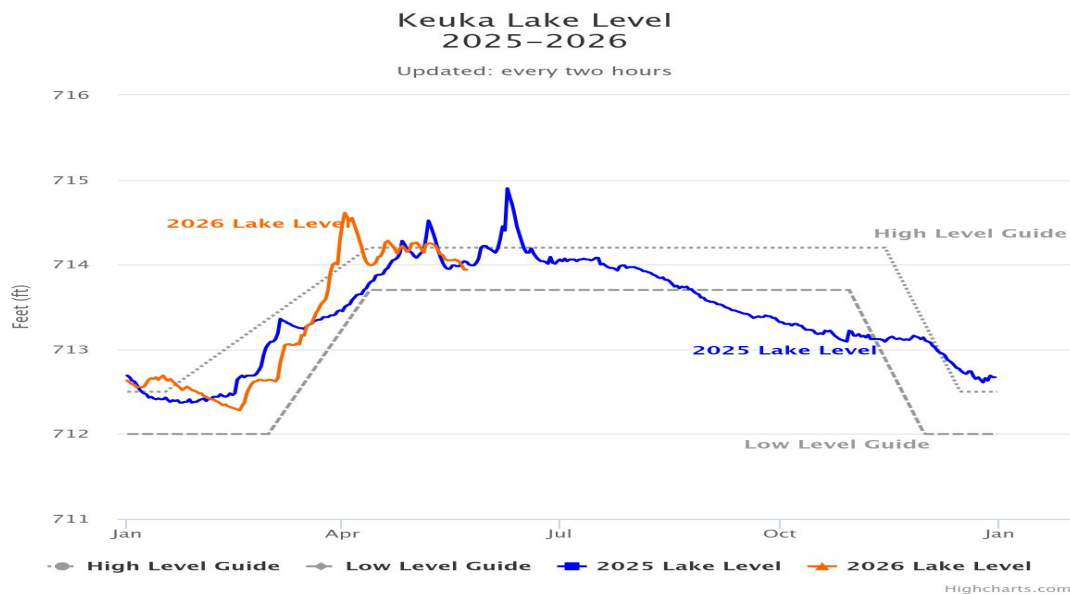


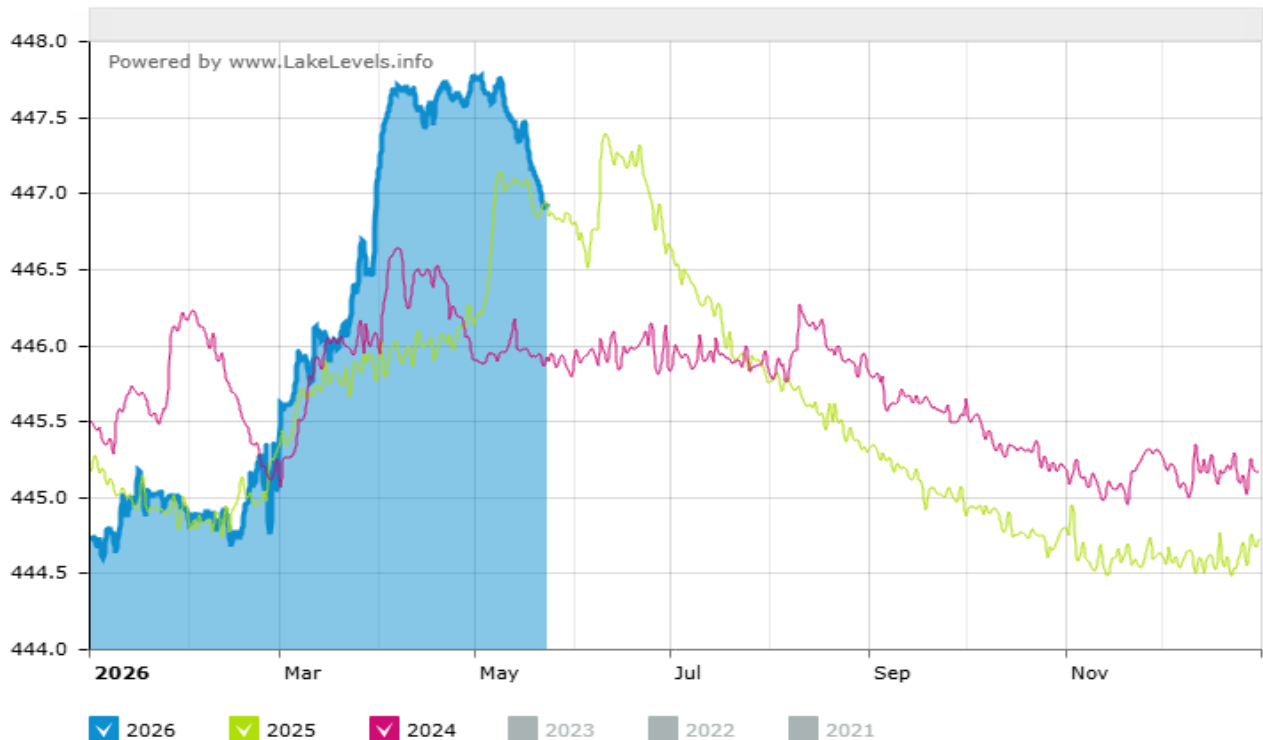
## **KLOC Board Update Regarding Seneca Lake Issue in April and May**

1. On March 31<sup>st</sup> – April 1<sup>st</sup> heavy rains were experienced in Finger Lakes, with spotty extreme results in several areas like Pulteney, W Lake Rd., & Keuka Village.
  - a. 5 gates were opened full April 1
  - b. 6 gates full open April 2, level peaked at 714.6' and remained until April 11, when level reached mid objective at 714.0'. Gate water outflow ranged from 822 – 961 cubic ft. per second (cfs).
2. On April 12<sup>th</sup>, representatives from Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association (SLPWA) requested contacts for KLOC, which led to a specific request to reduce Keuka Lake water release into the outlet, when possible, to aid their higher than desired lake level. To aid our Seneca neighbors, impact on the Keuka Outlet and in full compliance with the Army Corp Engineers, KLOC has minimized gate water releases and maintained the level close to the high-water objective of 714.2', with water flow ranging from 154 – 653 cfs during a continued rainy period. There were some Keuka shoreline residents who were not happy about not getting back to the mid -level objective quicker, which normally would have happened.



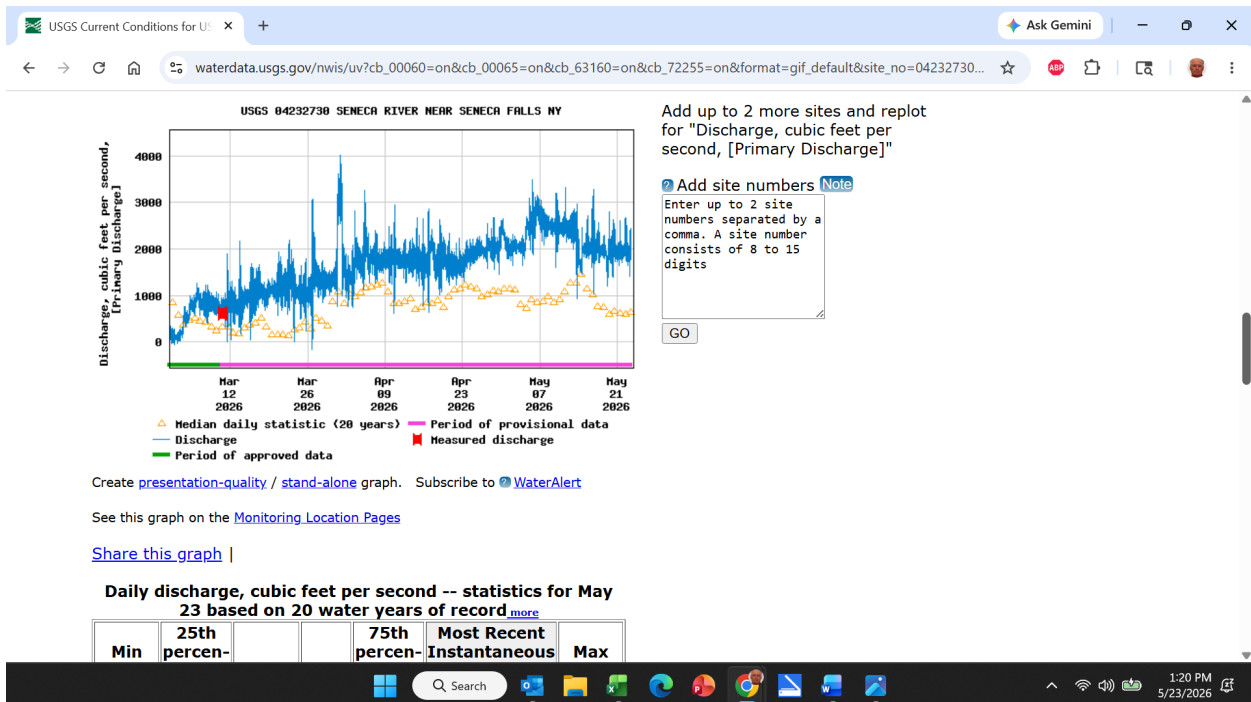
3. Since the April 1<sup>st</sup> rain event, the Seneca Lake water level remained in their "Action Level" area above 447.5' for the next six weeks, but below their official "minor flood" condition, which begins at 448.0'. During this time, magnified by heavy winds, several shoreline property owners experienced some asset damage. Just like what we see on Keuka, many people have docks and other assets lower than they should, to avoid periodic issues.

## Seneca Lake Level (per SLPWA website)



4. Thanks to social media, there was a lot of misinformation communicated where many people blamed Keuka Lake outflow for Seneca's lake level issues. During that period numerous emails were exchanged between SLPWA leadership and Wayne Hand in clarifying and agreeing on several facts below, where KLOC & KLA leadership were also copied, along with Colby and a few others:
  - a. Keuka Lake's gate outflow flows into the outlet, travels downstream to Seneca Lake at Dresden, where the total flow is measured by a USGS gauge. Depending on Keuka's lake level and the resulting gate settings, the weather and the surrounding outlet watershed soil conditions, on any specific day, anywhere from 10 – 80% of the water measured at the USGS gauge in Dresden and flowing into Seneca, is not coming from Keuka Lake (it comes from other streams feeding into the outlet downstream from Penn Yan). During April's 12 days with 6 gates full open, Keuka accounted for about 80% of what flowed into Seneca from the Keuka Outlet.

- b. The average daily Keuka gate discharge for the entire year of 2025 was 10.3 million cu.ft./day, which equals only about 7% of Seneca Lake's top 1" of surface water, at 156 million cuft.
  - c. For the entire year, the total Keuka discharge amounted 3.8 billion cu.ft. or 28 billion gal/year, which is only 5% of Seneca's total lake volume of 590 billion gal.
  - d. Keuka only accounts for 20 to 25% of all the inflow into Seneca Lake. However, it is the only input which is controllable.
5. SPWA has no control over their lake level via what flows out of Seneca lake. It is controlled by Relevate Power and the NYS Canal Corp. SLPWA leadership states that neither one will even communicate with them regarding Seneca Lake level.
6. Water flows from Seneca into the Cayuga-Seneca Canal, travels 4.8 miles to the Waterloo hydroelectric power plant where gates regulate water releases (and controls the lake level), but no water flow information is made available. Water continues another 4.3 miles to the Seneca Falls hydroelectric plant and another set of gates, which finally provides some data regarding lake outflow. Below is a screenshot of the daily water releases measured at the USGS gauge at Seneca Falls for March through May:



- a. As can be seen above, water discharges, from Seneca Lake, were only in the neighborhood of 1,000 cfs for March, doing little to prepare for potential April showers. By the end of April, releases finally increased to 2,000 cfs, and it

was well into May before they approached much more than that. The downstream Relevate/Canal System appear to have ignored Seneca's requests for more water release since early April.

7. After Seneca Falls, water continues East another 4 miles where it joins Cayuga Lake at another dam which controls the level of Cayuga Lake, then through the Montezuma Swamp where it joins the Erie Canal, carrying water from Canandaigua Lake and parts West, ... eventually gaining more water from the East, then to Lake Ontario. It is a complex, out of date, and flood prone system.
8. Aren't you glad KLOC has historically been able to make lake level decisions mostly independent of what is happening downstream? Of course the Keuka gate manager has always taken into account downstream effect when making decisions.
9. This recent exchange of information over the past few weeks has only made clear the vast opportunities there are in improving all facets of the Ontario Watershed system.