

Keoka Lake Association
Fall Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
October 6, 2023
Waterford Library and Zoom

President Richard Orr called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Rich asked everyone to introduce themselves. There were 19 people present, virtually and in person.

Board members present: Riley Hasson, Ginger Eaton, Kim Struck, Charlie Tarbell, Melissa Tarbell, Jim Flynn, and Andy Tabor

Board members on Zoom: Rich Orr, Brenda Hambleton, Arne Klepinger, Liz Stockwell, Tom Hammett

Board members not attending: Joanne Eaton, T'ing T'ing Doerr, Al Struck, and Bill Robichaud

Non-board members attending: Doss Hasson, Jonathan Hasson, Hannah Suh, Olivia Twigden, Angela Adams, David Adams, and Tom Schaefer

Meeting Business:

Secretary's Report – Riley Hasson

Riley Hasson asked for a motion to waive the reading of the May minutes which have been posted on the website and to approve the minutes. Motion was approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – Liz Stockwell reporting:

The KLA has healthy balances in the operating account at Key Bank as well as at the Maine Community Foundation (MCF). The income statement shows that operating income is currently positive relative to expense and will remain that way, even after paying two outstanding invoices for the Courtesy Boat Inspectors and merchandise.

The KLA50 capital campaign will end at the end of 2024. There is \$5,500 in outstanding pledges from the KLA 50 capital campaign to collect by the end of 2024.

Donations totaling \$137,670 have already been received and transferred to MCF. Liz reported that \$2,320.10 in KLA50 capital campaign contributions were still in the operating account.

A Motion was made to move \$2310.12 from the KLA 50 event from the operating account to MCF.

RESOLVED that the treasurer shall transfer from the operating account to the KLA 50 fund at the main Community Foundation any contributions to the KLA 50 capital campaign which are currently in the operating account. Currently such contributions total \$2,310.12.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Invasives:

Courtesy Boat Inspectors (CBI) – Charlie Tarbell reporting:

The total cost for the summer was \$7,300 and we have not been billed for the last piece yet. We are still owed money from the Town of Waterford and the DEP to pay for the CBI. No plants were found this year. We should plan for 400-500 hours from the CBI next year.

Plant Patrol – Arne Klepinger reporting:

The patrol is going well. Tom Schafer is resigning from his areas of shoreline and we are hoping someone can take over his area.

Plant Patrol training with Bear Pond – Rich Orr reporting:

Four members from the KLA attended training sponsored by owners at Bear Pond. The training was presented by the Lake Stewards of Maine. It included on-land instruction on how to look for suspicious plants, how to mark the area where the plant was found, how to take a sample, and how to submit to LEA or the Lake Stewards. The training also included how to use the provided paper guide to help identify invasives.

LEA divers - lake survey summer 2023 – Charlie Tarbell reporting:

On 09/11/2023, Charlie met with 3 LEA divers and went to the 5 areas on Keoka Lake most likely to harbor invasive plant species. Nothing suspicious was found. This diver survey will be scheduled again in 2024 and the divers will pick new sites on the lake.

Water Quality:

Water Testing – Charlie Tarbell reporting:

The LEA does water sampling every other week all summer long. There is no report from the 2023 field work yet. The reports are prepared in the fall and winter and will be available then.

The data for how clear the water is shows that the clarity is only down 20% from the long term average. The tannin is coming from the leaves. Phosphorus levels are high at 23% above the long-term average. The woman at the LEA who writes the report, indicated that, given how much rain we've had in combination with the clarity levels, she would think phosphorus would

be higher than it is. In addition, the algae levels are not as high as she expected, given the conditions. Overall, the lake was not as productive this year as she would have expected.

The water level is very low right now.

Stream Survey – Kim Struck reporting:

The rain report for New England from the National Center for Environmental Information indicates that August 2023 was the 12th wettest August on record with 5.25 inches of rain, 130% of normal. Maine received rain at 171% of normal.

Kim and T'ing met with Lauren Pickford from the LEA because they were concerned about the condition of culverts because of the heavy rainfall this summer. Kedar Brook was the main concern, but Lauren looked at the website that pinpoints culverts and none of the culverts in Waterford were on the list. Kedar Brook has one culvert that runs below Valley Road but the wash out it causes to the bridge is the DOT responsibility. Johnson Brook has two small culverts and one was blocked with debris, but overall, the brooks are still running well.

Tannin levels are up based on a visual assessment, especially in Sucker Brook. During the Annual meeting in July, a question was asked about the foam in the brooks. This is just organic material.

Kim and T'ing were working on a written report that was not completed before the Board meeting but was provided subsequently. A copy is attached.

Upland Efforts – Tom Hammett reporting:

Tom had 2 conversations with Colin at the LEA and Colin agreed to host some of the KLA members next year at the LEA watershed demonstration area in North Bridgeton.

Tom will be putting together some education materials for distribution as well as for the KLA website. There have been reports of sand and other sediment in some of the runoff this summer and he will coordinate with Kim and T'ing about this.

Tom was working on a written report. That was not completed before the Board meeting but was provided subsequently. A copy is attached.

LakeSmart – Ginger Eaton reporting:

Ginger plans to transition off of the LakeSmart Committee to focus more on the education activity. She is currently figuring out the future of LakeSmart on Keoka and is planning to continue with LakeSmart through the summer of 2024 to assure a smooth transition.

Education & Outreach

Education efforts – Ginger Eaton reporting

This summer's event at the campground was well attended and well received. It included on shore education by LEA about recognizing invasive plants, and pontoon boat visits to hot spots on Keoka which may be susceptible to invasives

Membership – Rich Orr reporting for Page Nalipinski who could not attend.

The KLA has 123 memberships, counting individuals. In advance of the Board meeting he distributed the following statistics that had been compiled by Paige:

- **Total memberships:123** (up from 63 last year largely because couples paying \$50 now count as two separate memberships rather than one)
 - **Individual** membership, not part of a couple: 36 individuals
 - **Couples paying \$50** or more are treated as two members: There are 35 of these or 70 individuals.
 - **Couples paying only \$25** currently treated as one “couples” membership: 15 memberships
 - $36+70+15=$ 121 memberships of natural persons
 - In addition there are two memberships that are not natural persons, One is an LLC and one identifies as a “family.”
 - 121 individuals plus these 2 equals a total of 123 Memberships

Communications Update – Brenda Hambleton reporting:

The KLA had two requests to use KLA communication channels for non KLA business: 1) a boat for sale and 2) an Op Ed objecting to a decision from the Town Planning Board. The KLA board discussed whether we should have a communications policy. Rich Orr had drafted a proposed policy that was circulated prior to the meeting.

There was a motion to approve the proposed communications policy.

RESOLVED That KLA communication channels, including, but not limited to, the website, newsletters, and social media, should be used only for KLA business or matters directly related to KLA's mission. By way of example, it is not appropriate to use the communication channels to advertise items for sale or commercial services. It is appropriate to use such channels for KLA activities including soliciting dues and donations, selling merchandise and raffle tickets, and similar matters. Similarly, it is not appropriate to allow individuals to use KLA communication channels to advocate a position on public policy issues. It is appropriate for KLA to use communication channels to educate its members on public policy issues and to advocate on issues related to KLA's mission in a manner consistent with the Bylaws.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Brenda reported that after October there will be a bimonthly newsletter until the spring.

Merchandise Sales—Ginger Eaton reporting for Joanne Eaton:

Merchandise sales were amazing this whole year. Joanne bought way more than she thought she would sell and sold it all.

Water Safety

Dam (including winter water level)—Charlie Tarbell reporting:

It was a challenge to get the water level to where people wanted it this year because of the big rainstorms. We have been reactive rather than proactive, but currently the water level is down to a decent end of the year place. The dam is in good operating order.

Water Safety, Signage – Andy Tabor reporting:

The dam signage was folded in half but Andy worked it back to its original state.

Brett McCarter will be helping Andy this fall with the buoys

Town Beach Dock Removal – Andy Tabor reporting:

Removal is scheduled for Saturday after the Board Meeting

New Lighted Buoys – Andy Tabor reporting:

Bill Robichaud volunteered to fund the effort to light buoys on the lake. Andy bought 6 illumination modules for our existing buoys. The lights are solar powered and will stay lit for a month if fully charged. There are three buoys around rock Island, one for the LEA water testing equipment and two for the entrance of the boat launch channel

Regatta Report – Rich Orr reporting for Al Struck:

Rich Orr referenced the article that Al Struck wrote. The event was a big success and the decision to postpone the regatta a day was a prudent one given the weather on Saturday.

Boat Parade report – Brenda Hambleton reporting:

The Boat Parade was great! There was large on shore participation this year. Brenda estimates there were 200+ people on shore cheering the parade on. The bulk of these people were on Town beach. She suggests that we do more planning next year around the participation on Town Beach. She also suggested boats go slower by Town Beach or do circles so the audience can see more of the boats.

Tom Schafer offered that the lead boat was going too fast, which created gaps and led to some boats skipping Stones Cove as they had been left behind and were trying to catch up.

T-shirt sales broke even and next year there will be style improvements!

New Business

Proposed policy on use of KLA Communications was covered previously in the minutes.

Old Business – Rich Orr

Membership

- Affirming Memberships should be consistent with Bylaws.
- Endeavor to allow members to identify as a couple or other group.

Brenda mentioned we are setting up a system to connect a property number to membership to associate families with each other.

The board discussed the voting issue. Prior KLA bylaws allowed for proxies and now does not. President Rich Orr clarified that proxies are currently not authorized and the proposed resolution does not affect that policy. He suggested that we address the membership issue now and revisit the proxy issue separately.

Prior to the meeting Rich distributed a proposed resolution on the membership issue. The recommendation was to conform membership practices to the bylaws and endeavor to allow for affinity groups to be identified.

RESOLVED (1) KLA shall implement membership practices and procedures to conform to the membership provisions of the Bylaws, particularly Article IV which provides ““Active Members” shall be those natural persons who have paid the annual dues”; and (2) KLA shall endeavor to have a process that will allow for individual members to be identified as part of an affinity group with other members if they so desire.

The motion passed unanimously.

Courtesy Boat Inspectors Future Funding (for discussion no action)

Expenses continue to go up faster than dues revenue goes up. Charlie reported at the Annual Meeting that the DEP may stop funding boat inspections prevention and channel funds into remediation, which would put more financial pressure on KLA. This discussion was to alert the board to this and discuss what to do if we need to come up with more money. Almost half of the cost is still covered by the Town of Waterford. A few possible solutions were mentioned:

- Interest from the funds invested at MCF
- Raise membership dues
- Increase KLA merchandise sales

Corporate or Organizational Sponsors

Liz Stockwell, Treasurer, mentioned that the KLA will likely have a surplus in the budget in the coming years.

This year the total cost was \$7300 of which \$3400 came from town of Waterford

President, Rich Orr, asked if there were any additional topics people wanted to discuss. Andy Taber mentioned that he received unsolicited offers to purchase his property. Paige Nalipinski also did.

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Adjourned at 8:25 pm

Brook Walk Fall 2023 Report

October 6, 2023

The report will begin with the statistics for rainfall in the Northeast for August. Prior information was recorded in the July report. To note, on September 18, 2023 rainfall was 2.88 inches in 24 hours.

Precipitation

The Northeast had its 12th wettest August on record, picking up 5.25 inches of precipitation, 130 percent of normal. State precipitation totals for August ranged from 56 percent of normal in Delaware to 171 percent of normal in Maine, with nine of the 12 states being wetter than normal. This August was among the 20 wettest Augusts for four states: Maine, fourth wettest; New York, eighth wettest; Vermont, ninth wettest; and New Hampshire, 11th warmest. The Northeast had its third wettest summer since record keeping began with 16.26 inches of precipitation, 127 percent of normal. Nine of the 12 states were wetter than normal, with precipitation ranging from 89 percent of normal in Maryland to 160 percent of normal in New Hampshire. Summer 2023 was record wet in New Hampshire and Vermont and among the 20 wettest on record for six other states: Maine and Massachusetts, second wettest; New York, fourth wettest; Connecticut, ninth wettest; Rhode Island, 10th wettest; and Pennsylvania, 13th wettest. Albany, New York, had its wettest summer since records began in 1874 with 18.89 inches of precipitation, beating the old record for 18.51 from 2009. **National Centers for Environmental Information August 2023 National Climate Report**

Maine continues to be drought free in the entire state. **Maine U.S. Drought Monitor**

This year due to the incredible amount of rain T'ing and I met with Lauren Pickford from the LEA to start the brook walk with Kedar Brook. Lauren has shared a website usgs.gov/streamstats so we can start to look at trends of water movement in our area including culvert issues on Kedar Brook and the surrounding brooks.

Kedar Brook

Kedar Brook has one culvert. One runs under Valley Rd below the Murch property. There is the dam and then the bridge. For the brook that continues its run to the culvert there isn't much we can do about the road washout due to that being DOT responsibility. I can reach out to them and ask what a plan might be. Below the culvert T'ing and I will see how the high walls are doing. The Struck's had a bank washout where the property is lowest. The granite blocks have washed into the brook over the summer and the dirt that held the granite in place has been eroded away. They are in the process of repairing the retaining wall. I have asked the Waterford PTO next year

roping off the higher stone wall and stand next to the lower bank instead. Vegetation suggested by Lauren are several species of plants, she will email suggestions.

We examined Ms. Murch's bridge and talked about how the narrow opening causes the overflow. Lauren will connect with Ms. Murch about ideas on how to remedy the situation. The brook above her driveway is the perfect spawning ground for the brook trout and we did see many fish.

Johnson Brook

Johnson Brook has two small culverts that run under Johnson road. One culvert was blocked with debris but not enough to impede flow on the lake side. The brook is running well due to more recent rainfall on September 13. We also noticed the tannin level was up. There is a clear delineation of how high the water has been overflowing the brook since the May rains, we estimate 15 feet from the brook bank on the horse farm side. A question came to mind if measuring possible phosphate from the horse farm is doable? There are undercut banks, most of the alders are still anchored to the banks and other vegetation.

Sucker Brook

Sucker brook is running high and the tannin is very dark this year. There was a question about foam in the brooks in July, I found an article to share that I have placed in the report. Sucker brook has washed over the banks several times this summer, as a result a great deal of debris is present. When Ting and I talked with Lauren she told us to not clear it out as this creates a natural barrier to hold back sediment and creates pools for fish.

Naturally occurring stream foam can be off-white, light tan, or brownish and can have a fishy or earthy odor. It's formed by dissolved organic matter, usually dissolved organic carbon (DOC). DOC results from the breakdown of organic debris, such as sticks, leaves, and tannins and watershed soils that hold organic materials. One way to describe organic matter is to compare it to a tea bag. The earth and its soils are rich in organic materials from the breakdown of plants and animals and as water moves through the soils of a watershed it collects the organic matter and then darkens just like a cup of hot tea. Once in a stream, the color largely dissipates but can tint the foam it produces.



Natural foam on the Ausable River.

In a stream, DOC acts as a surfactant reducing the surface tension of water – a common example of a surfactant is olive oil. DOC interacting with the moving water causes tiny air bubbles to form, creating an area of lower surface tension so water subsequently flows away from that spot and foam can stabilize there. Natural foam build-up is more prevalent in streams and rivers after rainfall because there's more water moving through the ground and more organic matter being dissolved. With higher water, more turbulent conditions form bubbles, and the DOC attaches to these forming foam at the surface.

While most foam is naturally occurring, it can also be human-made. Synthetic or human-made foam is usually a by-product of chemical runoff or industrial discharge. Sources include household cleaning products that contain synthetic surfactants, house paint, pesticides used on lawns or fields, or motor oils running off impervious surfaces. These chemicals – small repeating amounts over time or large pulses – can disrupt the aquatic ecosystem and undermine its balance. Human-made foam tends to smell fragrant (from detergent discharge) or unpleasant (the product of septic failures). Although you should never touch it, human-made foam is sticky and usually a pure white color but may turn darker as debris particles filter through. It will often be found near the point of discharge.



Organic rich foam trapped by a tree and natural debris on the East Branch of the Ausable River. To minimize human-made foam, reduce the use of synthetic chemicals on outdoor surfaces and, where you do use them, follow label instructions carefully. Also, make sure your septic system is properly maintained. Most residents of the Ausable watershed rely on private septic systems. Wastewater leaving your house from the shower, toilet, sink, clothes washer, and dishwasher all enter your septic system, carrying chemicals, solids, grease, dirt, and pathogens. A properly designed and maintained septic system treats and disposes of this wastewater, preventing contaminants from entering our natural waterways. - *Leanna Thalmann, Water Quality Associate*

Lenassi Brook

As with the other brooks this year the channels have changed dramatically with the amount of water this spring into summer. The brook has since subsided into the main channel with the deep pools the further away from the lake. This is normal for the time of year. I noted many deer tracks, turkey and what I believe to be racoon.

Stony Brook

Stony Brook at the mouth usually tends to be dark with tannin by this time of year. The water has a clarity I have not seen before. Due to lack of rain in the last couple weeks, unlike the previous downpours the brook follows the regular pattern of going underground and pooling under trees. One has to be careful stepping around this area further up the brook as there are many holes just under the moss which is also typical of this brook during the autumn months. The moss is quite thick this year and a vibrant green. I noticed a fungus growing, at least I think it is, very small and white, not shaped like a mushroom. I will send pictures to LEA for identification.

Respectfully submitted
Kim Struck
T'ing-T'ing Doore

Upland (Watershed) Report
For KLA Board Meeting on October 6, 2023

By Tom Hammett

Goal: to increase knowledge of the watershed and its impact on Keoka Lake (especially water quality, erosion, sediment)

Our topic areas and plans include:

1. The initial idea I had was to take a group from KLA to visit the LEA watershed demonstration area in North Bridgeton. This was mentioned at a few meetings in the past. I visited there with Colin right after the site was established- in late 2019. The plan for a field trip to that site was tabled due to COVID. This summer I had two conversations with Colin. He and LEA are still open to hosting us. But timing/scheduling conflicts and events in the village prevented us from scheduling this event while I was in Waterford late August or early September this year.
2. During the winter we hope to develop simple education materials focused on the watershed for distribution by KLA.
3. Also, during the winter, we hope to coordinate with the Communications Group to post information (educational) on the KLA website. I will coordinate with Brenda on this (after she returns!)

Observations:

1. I attended a LEA workshop on the lake in 2022. Could we also get LEA to come to Keoka for a watershed care workshop?
2. Need to coordinate more with Stream Survey Group at KLA
3. Excess road sand and other sediments have been noted by some in the runoff.
4. We need another member or two to join this group.