



# CANDLEWOOD LAKE AUTHORITY

Member Municipalities: Brookfield • Danbury • New Fairfield • New Milford • Sherman

PO BOX 37 • SHERMAN, CT 06784 • P (860) 354-6928 • F (860) 350-5611

## Minutes of CLA Regular Meeting Wednesday, April 10, 2024 - 7:00PM via ZOOM

### ATTENDING:

P. Schaer Sherman  
D. Cushnie Sherman  
M. O'Connor Sherman

M. Gaffey Brookfield  
W. Meikle Brookfield  
B. Lohan Brookfield

E. Siergiej Danbury

S. Kluge New Milford  
M. Toussaint New Milford  
J. Wodarski New Milford

M. Howarth, Executive Director  
D. Wright, Administrative Coordinator  
M. Gasperino, Operations Manager

Recorder: D. Wright

Guests: 3

*Chairman, Martin O'Connor, called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.*

### PUBLIC COMMENT

none

### CONSENT AGENDA

*Martin O'Connor made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Steve Kluge, all voting in favor.*

### ABSENT:

B. Licht New Fairfield  
J. Archer New Fairfield  
J. Main New Fairfield

C. Robinson Danbury  
D. Rosemark Danbury

## **TREASURY (Will Meikle)**

Will mentioned we are nine months into the year with three months to go and we continue to be in good shape due to strong donations and interest income. Expenses are running slightly under budget.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY (Mark Howarth)**

Mark stated we have two new officers in training. Returning officers have their training at the end of the month also with EnCon. We continue to have conversations with DEEP on the MOA. Looking forward to our continued collaboration with Danbury and having one CLA patrol boat in Danbury at their EMS boat dock this year. We are working with DEEP and FirstLight on swim area permit requests. 2024 staffing looks good and we expect to be able to cover all shifts.

Will stated the purchase of tablets was authorized a year ago, for the marine patrol vessels, and science vessel which we acquired. He mentioned we've been evaluating software to remove some of the administrative burden and make our processes more efficient. He stated we are ready to proceed with the software purchase. It will allow us to be more efficient when submitting daily activity reports, saving time.

*Will Meikle made a motion for the board to approve a capital purchase of \$12,000 for the software modules necessary to apply to the marine patrol tablets and recommended the board authorize the movement of \$6,995 from accrued expenses that we accrued at the end of last season over to the capital account.*

Will discussed there will be an ongoing maintenance fee, which will be waived the first year, but it is anticipated to be around 15-18% which will go through the Public Safety operating budget. Nick M. will go through using the software with the vendor one more time before we commit any funds to the vendor.

*Motion was seconded by Phyllis Schaer, all voting in favor.*

## **EQUIPMENT & FACILITIES (Doug Cushnie)**

Doug mentioned the science boat is in the water, it's been a slow start due to lake levels and weather but the docks are in, ARK is in, it's been having a few engine issues and Echo Bay will be looking at it this week. Mike's been moving along with the enclosures and season preparations and we are in good shape. stated the Silver Ships fueling issues have been taken care of.

## **PUBLIC AWARENESS (Mark Howarth)**

Mark stated work has begun on the Clean Up scheduled for May 18, Save the Date posts are on Social Media and the signups will be up on the website soon. Mark stated we are talking to our website designer regarding a home page refresh to make important information easy to see. Mark discussed business partnership letters and that they will be ready to send out soon. Mark mentioned a video series which will be a major initiative this year. We will be creating approximately 10 short educational video clips for Public Safety and Lake Ecology

Will stated per our procurement policy, we received bids from two suppliers, both were close in cost and the team is ready to make a selection for the video supplier. Since not in our initial operating budget, we have been evaluating what funds are available from grants and currently recorded on our balance sheet. Will advise we have a grant on the balance sheet for education programs which this video series fits into.

*Will Meikle made a motion that the board approve the use of up to \$8,000 from our education grant/fund program that's sitting on the balance sheet use those funds for the production of this video education series and authorize the Public Awareness team to execute that program. Seconded by **Mark Toussaint.**, all in favor.*

Steve K. suggested making decals with a QR code linked to the videos and share with local merchants. Mark H. agreed to explore this idea.

#### **WATERSHED MANAGEMENT (Steve Kluge)**

Mark H. stated we are anticipating another interesting and exciting summer, between the study of the loss of vegetation, the zebra mussels, and the beginning of our nutrient budget work.

Steve mentioned the nutrient budget and sampling. For the nutrient budget this summer we will have six sites and we will take 22 samplings in New Milford, and 14 samplings from the other sites, once a month. This is a large increase in the amount of time and work. Steve spoke about the equipment that is used and new device that Mike G. created to make this process more efficient. Mark H. discussed the nutrient budget and that it is a comprehensive look at different inputs into the lake and sources of phosphorus.

#### **ADJOURN**

*Martin O'Connor made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by **Will Meikle**, all voting in favor.*

The meeting adjourned at 7:37pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Joan Archer* <sup>DW</sup>

Joan Archer, Secretary  
Dee Wright, Administrative Coordinator

*These minutes are not considered official until they have been approved at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Candlewood Lake Authority.*



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**Martin O'Connor, Chair**  
**Candlewood Lake Authority**

**April 10, 2024**

## **DEEP - MOA**

Continue to support the team by providing input and feedback on the latest draft of the MOA. Attended meetings with the team and our legal counsel with regard to alternatives.

Overall, positive progress continues as we work together with Deep on the MOA.

## **Delegate Initiative**

The team was able to complete a draft document. We plan to share that document with the five town leaders for input and concurrence. The intent remains to ensure a consistent and appropriate level of engagement from all delegates. Unfortunately, we were not able to get a delegate from each town to assist with developing this document.

## **New Fairfield Office**

We are working with our landlord and First Light in applying for docks at our new office. First Light recommended that the CLA apply independently for protection should the ownership of the building ever change in the future. We have applied for docks on both the North and South sides of the causeway.

The team and I both continue to enjoy the new location as we have mounted photos, maps, marker boards, etc. on the walls. We hope to soon have our CLA flag flying outside the facility making it feel even more like home.

A special thank you to Mike for all his work in both the Sherman base updates and his help in the New Fairfield office.

**Martin O'Connor**

**April 10, 2024**

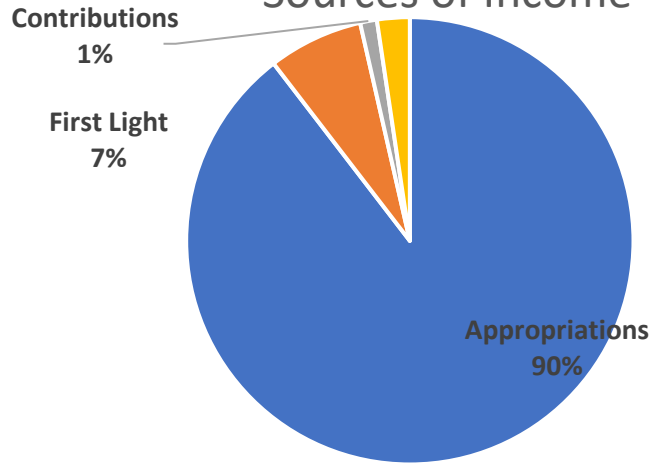
# Finance Committee Financial Results March 2024



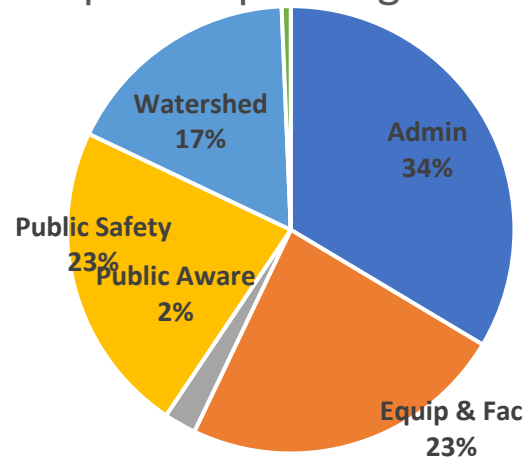
# Income & Expense Overview

Results thru March 2024

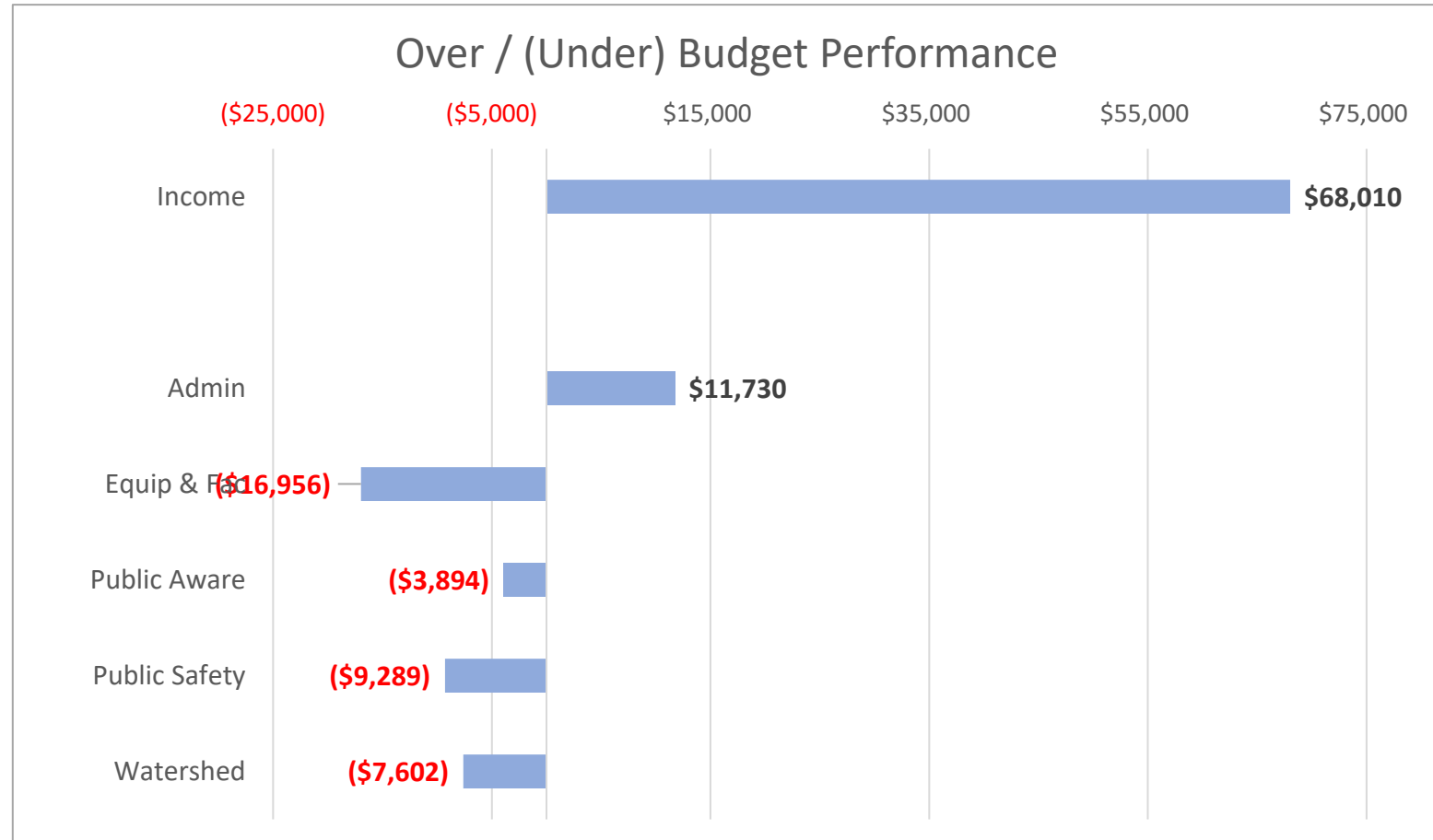
Sources of Income



Expense Spending Profile



Over / (Under) Budget Performance



# Operational Income & Expense Summary

Results thru March 2024

YTD March 2024	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	O / (U) YTD Budget	% of YTD Budget	FY Budget	FY Forecast	O / (U) FY Budget	% of FY Budget
<b>Income</b>	\$733,388	\$801,398	\$68,010	109%	\$754,595	\$822,605	\$68,010	109%
<b>Expenses</b>								
Administration	\$194,484	\$206,214	\$11,730	106%	\$256,773	\$268,503	\$11,730	105%
Equipment & Facilities	\$159,860	\$142,904	(\$16,956)	89%	\$179,782	\$162,826	(\$16,956)	91%
Public Awareness	\$10,950	\$7,056	(\$3,894)	64%	\$17,750	\$13,856	(\$3,894)	78%
Public Safety	\$128,882	\$119,593	(\$9,289)	93%	\$173,134	\$163,845	(\$9,289)	95%
Watershed Management	\$89,947	\$82,345	(\$7,602)	92%	\$132,156	\$124,554	(\$7,602)	94%
<b>Total Expense</b>	\$584,122	\$558,112	(\$26,011)	96%	\$759,595	\$733,584	(\$26,011)	97%
<b>Other Income/(Expense)</b>	\$3,750	(\$2,109)	(\$5,859)		\$5,000	(\$859)	(\$5,859)	
<b>Operating Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	\$153,016	\$241,178	\$88,162	158%	\$0	\$88,162	\$88,162	-

\* Accrual Basis Accounting

# Key Drivers of the deltas to Budget



**Income:** Continues to exceed budget as Donations and Interest Income are tracking well ahead



**Administration:** Over budget driven by higher Exec Director Wages, Insurance, Technology and Professional Services.



**Equipment & Facilities:** Below budget driven by lower Personnel Wages, Fringe Benefits and Vehicle Expenses.



**Public Awareness:** All line items well below budget YTD.



**Public Safety:** Below budget due to lower Lake Patrol Wages, Gas & Oil cost, and Uniforms, offset by Insurance and Boat Maintenance



**Watershed:** Well below budget due to lower Fringe Benefits, and Professional Development cost, offset by higher lab testing.



# Committee Details



## Income Details

	<u>March</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>YTD Mar Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Delta</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
<u>Income</u>						
901 · Appropriations	0.00	0.00	653,095.00	653,095.00	0.00	653,095.00
902 · Contribution from FirstLight	0.00	0.00	50,000.00	50,000.00	0.00	50,000.00
903 · Interest	3,914.87	0.00	36,241.77	0.00	36,241.77	0.00
911 · Miscellaneous Income	0.00	0.00	46.17	0.00	46.17	0.00
912 · Contributions and Donations	1,180.56	5.94	51,815.17	21,584.13	30,231.04	35,000.00
915 · Sponsorship -programs/activitie	0.00	2.12	6,000.00	7,708.61	-1,708.61	12,500.00
916 · Lake Patrol Services	0.00	0.00	1,200.00	0.00	1,200.00	2,000.00
917 · Buoy Contract	0.00	0.00	3,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>5,095.43</b>	<b>8.06</b>	<b>801,398.11</b>	<b>733,387.74</b>	<b>68,010.37</b>	<b>754,595.00</b>



# Administration Expense Details

	<u>March</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>YTD Mar Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Delta</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
<b>Administration</b>						
100 • Executive Director - Wages	7,800.00	7,163.75	70,200.00	64,473.75	5,726.25	85,965.00
101 • SS/Medi/CTUC	2,070.54	2,874.17	21,573.12	25,867.49	-4,294.37	34,490.00
101A • Workers Comp Insurance	0.00	375.00	4,428.00	3,375.00	1,053.00	4,500.00
102 • Exec Dir - Fringe Benefits	1,257.90	1,128.50	9,674.13	10,156.50	-482.37	13,542.00
110 • Admin. Coordinator - Wages	2,748.00	3,252.50	27,792.00	29,272.50	-1,480.50	39,030.00
112 • Admin Cor - Fringe Benefits	1,015.35	1,005.75	9,307.05	9,051.75	255.30	12,069.00
113 • Insurance	2,807.46	0.00	11,229.84	8,526.00	2,703.84	11,368.00
114 • Telephone	250.00	375.00	2,417.71	3,375.00	-957.29	4,500.00
115 • Office Supplies	13.98	491.67	4,482.91	4,424.99	57.92	5,900.00
116 • Postage	0.00	83.33	237.05	750.01	-512.96	1,000.00
117 • Audit	0.00	0.00	7,500.00	7,500.00	0.00	7,500.00
118 • Professional Services	162.40	850.00	11,979.85	7,765.00	4,214.85	10,315.00
119 • Bank and Service Fees	192.48	100.00	1,123.08	900.00	223.08	1,200.00
121 • Expenses	0.00	83.33	695.75	750.01	-54.26	1,000.00
122 • Internet Access	0.00	100.00	1,158.67	900.00	258.67	1,200.00
124 • Technology Hardware & Services	435.07	500.00	10,347.94	4,500.00	5,847.94	6,000.00
161 • Office Rent	1,100.00	1,432.83	12,066.53	12,895.51	-828.98	17,194.00
<b>Total Administration</b>	<b>19,853.18</b>	<b>19,815.83</b>	<b>206,213.63</b>	<b>194,483.51</b>	<b>11,730.12</b>	<b>256,773.00</b>



# Equipment & Facilities Expense Details

	<u>March</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>YTD Mar Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Delta</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
<b>Equipment and Facilities</b>						
200 · Personnel - Wages	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	-2,000.00	3,000.00
210 · Operations Manager - Wages	2,530.48	3,600.00	29,531.24	32,265.00	-2,733.76	43,065.00
212 · Ops Mgr - Fringe Benefits	100.00	1,000.00	900.00	9,000.00	-8,100.00	12,217.00
221 · Sherman Base - Repairs/Maint	0.00	250.00	3,381.69	2,250.00	1,131.69	3,000.00
222 · Utilities - electric	640.70	375.00	2,861.57	3,375.00	-513.43	4,500.00
223 · Internet and Security Systems	0.00	125.00	572.73	1,125.00	-552.27	1,500.00
226 · Work Boats	0.00	500.00	4,704.87	4,500.00	204.87	6,000.00
227 · Vehicle	115.55	300.00	693.68	2,600.00	-1,906.32	3,500.00
228 · Dock and Trash Pick Up	0.00	85.00	0.00	745.00	-745.00	1,000.00
231 · Buoy Maintenance	0.00	1,000.00	258.00	2,000.00	-1,742.00	2,000.00
261 · Capital Replacement Fund	0.00	0.00	100,000.00	100,000.00	0.00	100,000.00
<b>Total Equipment and Facilities</b>	<b>3,386.73</b>	<b>7,235.00</b>	<b>142,903.78</b>	<b>159,860.00</b>	<b>-16,956.22</b>	<b>179,782.00</b>



## Public Awareness Expense Details

	<u>March</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>YTD Mar Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Delta</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
<b>Public Awareness</b>						
413 · School Programs	0.00	0.00	0.00	550.00	-550.00	1,000.00
414 · Subscription services	119.99	333.37	1,802.45	2,999.89	-1,197.44	4,000.00
415 · Events and Displays	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,400.00	-2,400.00	4,000.00
417 · Fundraising	0.00	0.00	5,253.83	5,000.00	253.83	5,000.00
421 · Shoreline Cleanup	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,750.00
<b>Total Public Awareness</b>	<b>119.99</b>	<b>333.37</b>	<b>7,056.28</b>	<b>10,949.89</b>	<b>-3,893.61</b>	<b>17,750.00</b>



# Public Safety Expense Details

	<u>March</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>YTD Mar Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Delta</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
<b>Public Safety</b>						
300 · Lake Patrol Wages	0.00	577.00	43,910.24	50,758.10	-6,847.86	64,608.00
301 · CLAMP Chief Salary	3,333.34	3,333.33	30,000.06	30,000.01	0.05	40,000.00
311 · Boat Maintenance and Reimburse	135.00	200.00	14,265.92	11,790.00	2,475.92	13,250.00
312 · Gas and Oil	0.00	0.00	19,768.26	21,935.39	-2,167.13	29,160.00
313 · Insurance	2,391.54	0.00	10,080.16	7,373.25	2,706.91	9,831.00
314 · Training	80.40	1,325.00	340.68	1,325.00	-984.32	6,475.00
318 · Miscellaneous	0.00	100.00	519.76	700.00	-180.24	1,000.00
321 · Radio & Equipment	0.00	0.00	180.66	100.00	80.66	1,810.00
322 · Uniforms	0.00	200.00	88.00	4,900.00	-4,812.00	5,000.00
324 · CLAMP Services - Fireworks	0.00	0.00	438.84	0.00	438.84	2,000.00
<b>Total Public Safety</b>	<b>5,940.28</b>	<b>5,735.33</b>	<b>119,592.58</b>	<b>128,881.75</b>	<b>-9,289.17</b>	<b>173,134.00</b>



# Watershed Management Expense Details

	<u>March</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>YTD Mar Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Delta</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
<b>Watershed Management</b>						
500 • WM - Personnel Wages	5,761.66	5,761.67	51,854.94	51,854.99	-0.05	69,140.00
502 • Dir. Ecology - Fringe	1,196.74	1,076.33	8,912.67	9,687.01	-774.34	12,916.00
511 • Lake and Stream Monitoring	0.00	0.00	11,201.70	9,300.00	1,901.70	18,600.00
512 • E-Coli Bacteria Testing	0.00	0.00	3,000.00	1,100.00	1,900.00	2,000.00
513 • Cynobacteria testing (BG Algae)	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,100.00	-1,100.00	2,000.00
514 • Travel	0.00	250.00	1,834.18	2,250.00	-415.82	3,000.00
515 • Equipment and Supplies	0.00	200.00	1,456.57	1,800.00	-343.43	2,500.00
531 • Professional Development	0.00	0.00	4,085.26	5,500.00	-1,414.74	5,500.00
532 • Engineering and Consulting	0.00	3,000.00	0.00	7,000.00	-7,000.00	16,000.00
599 • Miscellaneous	0.00	30.00	0.00	355.00	-355.00	500.00
<b>Total Watershed Management</b>	<b>6,958.40</b>	<b>10,318.00</b>	<b>82,345.32</b>	<b>89,947.00</b>	<b>-7,601.68</b>	<b>132,156.00</b>

## Other (Restricted Grants) Income/Expense Details

	<u>March</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>YTD Mar Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Delta</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
<u>Other Income/Expense</u>						
Other Income						
900-14A · CLERC _ Education	0.00	1,250.00	0.00	3,750.00	-3,750.00	5,000.00
9000 · Contributions - Restrict/Unbugt - O	0.00		25,000.00		25,000.00	0.00
900-21B · DEEP AIS (Lake Steward)	0.00	0.00	17,400.40	13,500.00	3,900.40	18,000.00
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,250.00</b>	<b>42,400.40</b>	<b>17,250.00</b>	<b>25,150.40</b>	<b>23,000.00</b>
Other Expense						
Expense Restricted/Grants						
800-21B · DEEP AIS (Lake Steward)	0.00	0.00	16,137.80	13,500.00	2,637.80	18,000.00
8200 · Grants Expense - Other	0.00		294.55		294.55	0.00
800-20A · HMS Foundation Trust	0.00	0.00	25,000.00	0.00	25,000.00	0.00
<b>Total Other Expense</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>41,432.35</b>	<b>13,500.00</b>	<b>27,932.35</b>	<b>18,000.00</b>
<b>Net Other Income</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,250.00</b>	<b>968.05</b>	<b>3,750.00</b>	<b>-2,781.95</b>	<b>5,000.00</b>



# Capital Summary Status

Capital Summary for Fiscal Year 2023/2024			
Opening Balance as of July 1, 2023			\$387,714
Appropriations			
Annual Capital Appropriation	Aug		\$100,000
Donation - HMS Foundation	Nov		\$25,000
Donation - KFF Foundation	Jan		\$8,000
Capital Planned Expenditures			
Silver Ships 2 Final Payment	Aug	(\$31,223)	
Silver Ships 3 (\$250,000 - Sep 2023)	Nov	(\$45,722)	
Science Vessel (\$25,000 - Nov 2023)	Nov	(\$25,000)	
FLIR (\$15,000 - Feb 2023)	Aug	(\$14,041)	
Patrol Tablets (\$7,250 - Mar 2023)	Oct	(\$4,559)	
Sherman Base (\$3,500 - Apr)	Mar	(\$1,851)	
Total Expenditures			(\$122,396)
Closing Balance as of February 29, 2024			\$398,318
Items in ( ) show amount & when CLA Board approved the expenditure			

# Balance Sheet Summary

	Mar 31, 24
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
1120 · USB Checking -0212	858,468.07
11000 · Accounts Receivable	53,055.15
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<u>911,523.22</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u>911,523.22</u>

	Mar 31, 24
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
2000 · Accounts Payable	0.00
24000 · Payroll Liabilities	1,168.75
2500 · Accrued Expenses	6,995.00
2700 · Deferred Grant Income	
2700A · DEEP CO2 Grant	13,418.06
2700B · Grass Carp	4,981.00
2700C · CLAMP Radios	1,189.00
2700D · Lake Steward	950.00
<b>Total 2700 · Deferred Grant Income</b>	<u>20,538.06</u>
700 · Due to/from Capital Project Fund	398,317.63
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<u>427,019.44</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	427,019.44

	Mar 31, 24
<b>Equity</b>	
3200 · Retained Earnings	30,090.07
3200B · Restricted	
3200B 1 · Education Programs	21,592.57
3200B 2 · Zebra Mussell	6,276.00
3200B 3 · Watershed Products	0.00
<b>Total 3200B · Restricted</b>	<u>27,868.57</u>
3200D · Assigned	
3200D 1 · HMS Initiatives	5,245.06
3200D 2 · Lake Incentives	15,000.00
3200D 3 · Buffer Garden	1,983.77
<b>Total 3200D · Assigned</b>	<u>22,228.83</u>
3200E · Unassigned	163,138.79
Net Income	241,177.52
<b>Total Equity</b>	<u>484,503.78</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<u>911,523.22</u>



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**April 10, 2024**  
**Executive Director**  
**Mark Howarth**

## Monthly Report

- We are preparing for the Clean Up on May 18<sup>th</sup>. Once again, we will hold the Clean Up out of New Fairfield Town Park and will invite boat captains, with their own crews, to help clean up debris from the lake the morning of the 18<sup>th</sup>.
  - Once crews have finished cleaning up the lake, we will host a picnic lunch for all volunteers, where we will give out one clean up shirt to each volunteer, in addition to a 2024 Candlewood Lake magnet.
  - Speaking of the magnets, they just arrived, and we will be distributing them around the lake in the coming weeks and months.
- We are continuing to work with DEEP on the MOA and will report when we have an update.
- We submitted a grant application to FirstLight for their FirstLight Sustains 2024 grant and look forward to seeing if we are awarded the grant this year.
- Neil and I attended the Nuisance Plant and Technical Committee Meetings at FirstLight's New Milford Offices on March 22<sup>nd</sup>.
  - During the plant meeting we learned a lot more about the hydrilla recently found in Lake Lillinonah. We are working on a plan for Candlewood to help prevent that invasive species from entering here, and we are also preparing an early detection and response plan should it be found here in the future.
- We are engaging with our website company to refresh our website. While we have updated content regularly, it has not seen a design change since 2021 when we launched this version.

- The majority of the changes we plan to make are to the home page to make better use of space and bring the most important information to the forefront, make it more user-friendly and help educate visitors about the important projects and initiatives we are currently working on.
- We look forward to the CLA public safety and Candlewood Lake environmental education video series which we will use to help get important information and messaging out to our users and area residents about safe boating and protecting the lake's environment and water quality. We have been identifying key topics and drafting talking points.
- Congratulations to Neil on a well-received zebra mussel webinar. We had a great turnout and as the moderator I saw the many questions come in from the public. They were engaged and asked great questions of Neil. We received a number of comments and thank you notes from the public, thanking us for helping to answer many of their questions and clarifying their concerns.
- I have been working with our IT company to update the number of CLA email addresses and we are ready to roll those new email addresses out to delegates and staff.
- Chief Mellas and I met virtually with some of the emergency services personnel in Danbury to make plans for a CLA vessel to be docked at the Danbury EMS Dock this season, per our agreement with Danbury. We thank them for everything and look forward to working closely with them to continue to improve the emergency and public safety services provided on the lake.
- Per FirstLight's suggestion, we have applied for docks at the New Fairfield office so that we can move our science boat here and also have a patrol presence here. These are not new docks, this was an "existing use" application, and we will be utilizing existing docks here. We are looking forward to having some of our vessels here at the New Fairfield office, as well as a Patrol vessel in Danbury and also some remaining in Sherman.



# CANDLEWOOD LAKE AUTHORITY

Member Municipalities: Brookfield • Danbury • New Fairfield • New Milford • Sherman

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**J. Neil Stalter**

**Director of Ecology and Environmental Education**

**Candlewood Lake Authority**

**Re:** April Monthly Report

**Date:** 4/10/2024

- Mark and I gave the Zebra Mussel “Living With Your New Neighbors” presentation on 3/19/24 and it was a great success. Lots of valuable questions, and I think we were able to clarify a lot of concerns that folks were having.
  - There were 137 participants there live, and we have posted the video on our YouTube/Facebook/Website and it is up to 348 views.
  - We will continue developing zebra mussel educational materials for this year – including new hadnouts for the Lake Stewards.
- We are continuing to work with the CT DEEP Fisheries department to plan for the plant monitoring/carp removals/exclosure project this year.
  - They have preliminary removals planned for 4 days in April – but we will all be monitoring the plant community this month to evaluate whether all of those removals are necessary.
  - Thanks to Mike, Steve, and Doug for their help on the Exclosure designs. I’m optimistic that the project will be easier to manage for us this year!



- Steve and I sat down and planned the sampling strategy for the nutrient budget expanded monitoring this year. This includes additional sites, additional months of samplings, and 3 very significant sampling events at all the sites around the lake.
- I sent out an RFP for the watershed and groundwater portions of this monitoring for a contractor, but based on those bids and the amount of work required for that portion of the project, we've decide to wait until next year.
  - This allows me to focus on the in-lake portion of the monitoring, gives us time to raise additional funding, and hopefully will allow us time to get additional bids from many organizations ensuring we're getting the best price for the work.
- The FERC Technical Committee met at FirstLight's HQ this month to discuss the plant monitoring report from last year, as well as the upcoming drawdown.
  - There was a lot of discussion about the discovery of Hydrilla in Lake Lillinonah – this year's monitoring might not include as significant of a monitoring at Candlewood (still focusing on areas of concern) so that the other two lakes can both be monitored this year.
  - Although a deep drawdown was scheduled for this upcoming year, we expressed that should the plant community remain near 0, we would recommend another shallow drawdown and the CT DEEP agreed.
- We are working on a monitoring/rapid response plan should hydrilla every be discovered in Candlewood, based in part on how Lillinonah is planning on responding to the plants' existence there.
- We've started preparations for the Lake Steward Program for this year and will be putting up the job postings very soon.
- I have started setup of the new lab space at the office in New Fairfield.
- We're submitting an Abstract to NALMS to present the ongoing plant monitoring/experimentation and exclosure design at the conference this year.
- We had a meeting with Morweb to discuss the possibility of updating our website homepage to better express the projects we're working on!
- We have chosen the new magnet color... the season has officially begun!