

## MEETING SUMMARY NOTES CAROGA LAKES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

### **May 19, 2026 Town Hall 5:30 PM**

Participating:

John Glenn, Town Supervisor

Marcus Harazin, CLCA

Rick Fink, CLCA

John Olm, Town Boat Inspection Coordinator

Karen Seeley, ECLEA

Phil Addeo, ECLEA

Rick Mendetta, ELCEA

Debbie Drain, WCLA

Brian Drain, WCLA

Jed Potocor, WCLA

Chris Collins, Caroga Marina

Lorrie Mott, CLCA

Jon Freeman, CLCA

Kate Freeman, CLCA

Anita Long, CLCA

Archer Newell, CLCA via zoom

Dr. Glenn and Marcus Harazin welcomed the group. Summary of items discussed:

**1. Boating Safety Course June 24 and 25-** Debbie Drain from the West Caroga Lake Association noted that the WCLA has arranged a course for the area. There are still seats available in the NYS Boating course that WCLA has arranged. The Great Sacandaga Safe Lake Initiative is providing training. The training is free. Please help get the word out.

It will be held at Pine Lake Park Adirondack Paradise Hall from 4-8 pm on Wednesday June 24 and Thursday June 25. To register sign up at: [wclainfo.com](http://wclainfo.com)

**2. New DEC Grant Award for Inspection and Decontamination-** Marcus Harazin  
The Town has been awarded \$65,000 of additional state funding through the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Invasive Species grant program. The high volume of boaters using waterways in our area and the strong letters of support from lake associations and area stakeholders helped justify funding for Caroga in this competitive grant program. Marcus thanked all of the lake associations for their commitment to supporting this effort to educate boaters and inspect watercraft to keep the lakes free from invasive species.  
The grant will provide the Town with 2 more years of funding beyond this season. Through this project we will continue to will run the boat decontamination station (a free service to boaters in the Caroga area), the West Lake boat launch inspection station, and inspect boats at the Caroga Marina. The Town works in conjunction with the Adirondack Watershed Institute (DEC's contractor for providing partial coverage at local program sites) to provide staffing for seven days a week.

Marcus passed out an informative article about the grant and invasive species efforts in Caroga that was in the Leader Herald on May 8. Linda Gilbert could not attend the committee meeting, but she sent the Committee notes from her discussions with the reporter who did the article Todd McCadam. She noted that she made some suggestions for the program including more education programs in 2026 maybe had out information at the WCLCA annual Sale or the Town Garage Sale, or Mr. Hogans popcorn stand or at the local museum. She noted that the program serves Stoner Lakes and Pine Lake also. She would like to see more use of the boat decontamination station. More enforcement of the law would help. Perhaps the town should consider hiring a constable to enforce the rules.

### **3. Plans for milfoil removal and the boat inspection and decontamination program for the 2026 season-**

Weed Removal -Dr. Glenn noted that Luke Horst has been hired as a senior diver/coordinator. Walter Hogan is retiring and Dr. Glenn thanked Walt for the tremendous job he has done to remove invasive species from the Caroga Lakes. This season Luke will map the weed beds; he will arrange diver assisted weed removal in areas where Milfoil is found and will monitor the Caroga Lakes throughout the season. The use of ProcellaCOR treatment greatly reduced Eurasian Milfoil and greatly reduced the annual cost of treatment to the Town.

It was noted that at the recent APIPP partners meeting Brian Greene the Director noted that they studies 5 lakes to determine if Procella COR treatment or DASH weed removal had an impact on the ecology of the lakes. We have asked for a copy of that study. It seemed to indicate that based on the ALAP factors there was little change. They did not examine residual chemical impact.

Boat Inspection and Decontamination- John Olm, the Town program coordinator, noted that the Town program was had one of the highest volumes of boats inspected in the Adirondack region and the second highest volume of decontaminations. This year AWI will staff the launch at the DEC Campsite, the West Lake Boat Lauch, and the Decon station 4 days a week and the Town will staff the Decon Station and West Lake launch for the remaining 3 days so that there is coverage 7 days a week.

Lorri Mott the Co-Chair of the CLCA Invasive Species Committee, noted that she is coordinating trained volunteers from the CLCA to help provide coverage during the 5:30 - 7:30 am morning shift and the 4-7 pm late afternoon shifts to continue to educate those launching into the Canada Lakes.

This year the Caroga Marina will also be inspecting watercraft launched there as they are the major launch for power boats coming on to the Caroga Lakes. Chris Collins from Caroga Marina noted that they have been inspecting boats already and entering the data into the AWI system. They will refer boats needing decontamination to the town decon station.

- 4. Update on water quality test results from Adirondack Lake Assessment Program and Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program-** Archer Newell from the CLCA has added the 2025 reports to update the on-line ALAP trend reports that she developed for the area lakes. The charts track available results from 2011-2025. Here is the link to the ALAP metric charts:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1FLSfJV88VmQ3e5WfucY4NTNePVAONW1fENnW0tHabsM/edit?gid=0#gid=0>

The results for each testing category were reviewed. Archer noted that there was little change from the prior year which is good news for the area. Chlorophyll, Nitrogen and Phosphorus levels remained stable.

In terms of acidity, East Caroga had the lowest level of pH (least acidic) and Irving Pond had the highest level of pH. All lakes were in an acceptable range. Calcium levels are the highest in East Caroga Lake and lowest in Irving Pond, which is also at a slightly higher elevation and shallower. These may be contributing factors.

Colored Dissolved Organic Matter and Organic Carbon levels increased slightly for area lakes but were still in the middle of the rankings among Adirondack lakes tested. Sodium levels increased slightly in area lakes except for Green Lake where it is slightly decreased. Chloride and Conductivity levels remained fairly level.

Lake Associations are urged to share the results with members to help educate them about water quality.

The group thanked Archer for her efforts to make the data much more understandable!!!

## **5. Wake Boat Information- Information from the Upper Saranac Lake Foundation “WAKE SMART” campaign**

New wake boats designed for providing waves for surfing have been found to churn the lake bottom up to a depth of 15 feet and produce waves from 3-4 high. This can affect water quality, weed and algae growth, impact the loon population by ruining nests, and cause dock damage and shoreline erosion. The Saranac Lake Foundation provides an educational brochure through the “WAKE SMART” campaign. This is great information to share with lake association members!!!

See the link below.

<https://usfoundation.net/programs/wakesmart/>

Area Lake Association are urged to share this information with their members. Vermont has passed a law that lays out where these boats can operate. Owners of these watercraft in the Town are encouraged to operate them in the widest sections of the lake, in areas over 20 feet deep, and not during areas of high water which can damage docks and the shore.

## **6. Request to dredge East Caroga Lake**

There was a letter posted on Facebook suggesting that outlet channel for East Caroga Lake should be dredged to make it deeper. This was done many years ago. To dredge would require permitting through DEC.

## **7. Testing for Bacteria**

Jed Potocor from WCLA, noted that the WCLA has been testing for pathogens for the last two seasons. He collected 10 samples in each of the months of June, July and August and submitted the samples to a lab in Albany for evaluation of total coliform bacteria, e coli bacteria, and fecal matter.

All of the samples displayed some coliform bacteria, e coli , and fecal matter, but were mostly at levels well under the New York State listed thresholds for having to close down a beach.

However, there was an exception for the month of July , where several of the samples posted total coliform and or e coli counts that approached that threshold. One case went over the threshold. Last July was unusually warm with water temperatures being over 80° and an excessive amount of migratory waterfowl passing through . We are not certain but think that could have been the cause for this spike as the numbers went back down to typical levels in August.

In 2026 WCLA will continue with the 3 ALAP and 4 CSLAP samples, as per usual. In addition, there Association has budgeted to again perform approximately 10 samples per month throughout the summer for bacterial testing.

There is a plan for some discussions between the different associations to coordinate some of this type of testing this season and to possibly request assistance from the Town in helping offset the costs of the sampling.

A discussion was held at the Committee regarding the value of having East Caroga and Canada Lake also sample and share the results with the Town. There is some interest in expanding efforts to investigate options for waste treatment and septic system compliance. It was noted that Mayfield and Northville recently tapped into the Johnstown Gloversville waste treatment line as their treatment plant needed repairs. Also, there is funding available in NYS to help income eligible residents that need new system with loans or grants. However, Fulton County is not eligible applied for this program. Marcus Harazin will try to find out more information about this program.

## **8. UPDATES AND EVENTS other lake association members are invited to attend these events.**

- **Speaker at West Caroga Lake Association Meeting**  
Jun 27, 2026, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM  
Caroga Lake Chapel, Chapel Rd, Caroga Lake, NY 12032, USA

-Andrew Brainard from Upstate Freshwater Institute as a guest speaker, who will speak on "Good Weeds/Bad Weeds."

WCLA is also inviting Dr. Glenn to attend and will ask him to provide an update as our new Town Supervisor on his vision for the next two years, especially regarding the Lake Management Committee.

- **July 6 there WCLA is organizing a Paint Recycling Event**  
With Kingsboro Lumber and Vrooman's.

As a partner in the New York Paint Care program, Kingsboro Lumber will have a truck at Vrooman's to make it easy for the Caroga Lake community to dispose of leftover paint, stain, and varnish.

Time & Location

Jun 06, 2026, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Vrooman's, 2040 State Highway 10 Caroga Lake, NY 12032

- **On July 9, the CLCA is hosting a terrestrial invasive species educational session at the Shermans Pavillion from 6-7:30 pm..**

Kate Freeman, the Chair of the CLCA Ecology and Environment Committee noted that Ari Giller-Leinwohl the Terrestrial Invasive Species Program Director for the Adirondack Park Invasive Species program will provide an educational session on terrestrial invasive species in our area and how to identify, reports, prevent and treat them.

Our area has seen an increase of invasive pests including knotweed, phragmites (reed grass) Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, Emerald Ash Borer, and other problematic species.

### **Free Training from Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP)**

**Lake Protectors Virtual Training.** Learn how to inspect your lake for invasive species and track invasives. (This is a great refresher training for volunteers at any of the lakes that are already doing this or have new volunteers this season.)

Here is the link for the registration.

[https://tnc.zoom.us/meeting/register/m9HSHODqQv-kHP\\_zUKIkSw#/registration](https://tnc.zoom.us/meeting/register/m9HSHODqQv-kHP_zUKIkSw#/registration)

In this virtual webinar APIPP will review how to identify the top eight animal and eight plant species that we are looking for. They will review how to report your observations via APIPP forms and by using iMapInvasives. Participants commit to monitoring a waterbody of their choice at least one time between July and September.

They will also have some in-person events this summer. You can find out more about these events on their website. <https://adkinvasives.com/events-news/events/>

**9. The Next Committee Meeting is Tentatively Scheduled for :**

October 6, at 5:30 pm at the Town Hall.  
PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR