

Winnisquam Watershed Network
Annual Meeting July 24, 2021
Leslie Roberts Town Beach, Belmont

Attendees: About 30

Meeting Start: 10:00 am, End: 11:30 am

Lisa Eggleston (WWN President) welcomed everyone and introduced Board members and WWN intern.

Invasive Species Management & Prevention Program Updates:

Milfoil management program (Lisa Eggleston)

- After several years of consistent treatment we've made great progress reducing the spread of invasive variable milfoil
- This year we're managing the milfoil with divers only, no herbicide. Divers have been working in Jay's Marina, southern Belmont shore and in Mallards Landing pulling milfoil this summer. Lake is currently milfoil free but like most weeds it will come back.
- Still have budget for divers, will check later in the summer and remove any new growth.
- Also trying to build budget reserves for the future if we need to use herbicide again

Weed watchers (Bill Esrich)

- Looking for new volunteer weed watchers as we lost a few this year
- Weed watchers should check monthly and submit report online, including hours spent
- Comment: can there be a place for people to post about known milfoil? A couple years ago someone found some in the island in the river in Laconia past the railroad tracks – concerned since that water flows into the lake (WWN will follow up and find more information about that)
- WWN has floating markers to place in lake so divers know where milfoil is
- Can also drop a pin or use phone's GPS coordinates to note where you see milfoil

Lake host program (Dean Anson)

- Water Street boat ramp monitored by lake hosts 7 days a week this summer
- So far this summer over 1,700 boats have been inspected (second highest in the state so far)
- Boat and trailer inspections for invasive species and educating boaters about Clean, Drain & Dry
- Most boats launching from this site primarily boat on Winnisquam
- 2 "saves" this year so far, both water chestnuts (Winnisquam has never had water chestnuts before)
- Lake hosts also (on their own) check the trailers in the parking lot and pick up trash
- WWN currently working on a survey of boaters on the lake to find out where they are launching their boats (private property, rental property, marinas, etc)

- Suggestion: distribute paper copies of this survey in neighborhoods (volunteers)
- Suggestion: use photos from shoreline survey to see who has a ramp/dock
- Messaging to people who rent their homes to inform renters of clean, drain & dry

Water Quality Monitoring Program Updates:

Lake monitoring (VLAP) (Ed Stephenson)

- Directed by NHDES, conduct testing at 3 sites: north of Three Islands in 60ft of water, south of Pot Island in 180 ft of water and south of Mohawk Island in 60 ft of water
- Testing for water clarity using secchi disc, dissolved oxygen, temperature and percent saturation, collect water samples at 3 different depths using Kemmerer sampler, and water column sampling using integrated tube
- 20 years of monitoring data
- Sampled in May, June and July and plan to sample again in August and September

Lay Lakes Monitoring Program (Lisa Eggleston)

- Sampling occurs on the same day as VLAP
- 2 near shore sampling stations: near Waldron Bay in 40 ft of water, near Bartlett Cove in 40 ft of water
- Measure water clarity using secchi disk, find thermocline by measuring temperature at ½ meter intervals, and collect sample of water column above thermocline using integrated tube
- DES analyzes samples for consistency
- 30 years of data for this program
- Question: Bartlett beach this week has no swim advisory, how many locations are being tested for bacteria?
- Only public beaches tested for bacteria – bacteria levels are usually higher after rainfall
- WWN doesn't test for bacteria because we wouldn't see any in the deep areas we sample, only really seen in shallow areas like beaches
- Winnisquam hasn't had any harmful algal blooms in many years, but if you see one (bright green in the water) please take a picture and report as it can be toxic to pets and humans

Tributary Monitoring (VRAP) (Lisa Eggleston)

- 9 locations – 8 that flow into the lake and one that flows out
- Measure temperature, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, and pH
- Collect samples for chlorides and total phosphorus
- Sampled in June and July and will plan to sample again in August and September

Loon update (Lisa Eggleston)

- Loon census last weekend counted 12 adult loons on Winnisquam plus one chick "Liberty" born this year July 4th
- Volunteers rebuilt nest platform this year

- Unsuccessful loon nest on Three Islands (bad location)
- Data from LPC census of lakes should be on their website soon
- 2 bald eagle nests also on Winnisquam

Watershed Management Planning Updates:

Watershed Management Plan (Lisa Eggleston and Melissa Macheras)

- Working with consultants FB Environmental and Horsely Witten Group
- Received \$80,000 funding from EPA for the management planning process – pays consultants
- Received \$19,600 funding from moose plate grant also which funded Trout Unlimited culvert assessments and intern
- Consultants surveyed the watershed to identify existing conditions and areas of concern
- Melissa did a survey of septic systems in the watershed to determine the age of the systems and how much of the watershed is sewer vs. septic
- Trout Unlimited assessed stream crossing culverts for hydraulic compatibility and aquatic organism passage to identify which could use replacing
- WWN has been speaking with representatives from communities, gathering information from town offices and making connections with town employees and representatives to keep everyone involved in the process and determine what regulations/practices are in place
- Public Workshop held in May – good discussion of management process and received feedback from residents
- Received great feedback from survey before Public Workshop – about 120 responses – information has helped consultants identify some areas of concern
- Consultants put together build-out analysis that will model future watershed conditions if the land in the watershed becomes fully developed
- WWN will be applying for grant funding to complete some remediation projects

Lake Smart program

- Partnering with NHLakes - free, non-regulatory, voluntary program to educate property owners about lake-friendly living
- First, take online self-assessment (Link will be on website). Receive personalized feedback for your property. Once changes are made, request a site visit from Lake Smart evaluator.
- Can receive Lake Smart award if your property and activities are deemed lake-friendly

Business meeting (Tom Camp)

- Plans to find ways to grow the organization
- Our role: water quality management, building community, watershed management planning, advocating partnerships, and generating funding

- Currently 120 active memberships (some family) and approximately 200 donors – need to expand
- Strategies and programs:
- Water and habitat quality: monitoring, implementation of management plan, continue all invasives programs, advocate land conservation
- Watershed community growth: recruit more volunteers
- Education: Lake Smart program
- Develop a sustainable organization: property for educational facilities, keep WWN going into the future
- Lots of opportunities - Working towards having part-time staff to help
- Looking for volunteers (don't have to be board members) – someone to sell apparel, someone with graphic design skills

Treasurer's report (Ed Stephenson)

- Presented 2020 end of year report and 2021 year to date report
- Presented proposed 2022 budget
- Budget voted & approved

Bylaw Revisions (Lisa Eggleston)

- Presented bylaw revisions - posted on website
- Bylaw revisions approved

Election of board and officers (Dean Anson)

- Presented nominations for 12 2021 – 2022 board members
- Staggered terms for board members – some will expire 7/22 and others 7/23
- All board members approved
- Still have 3 vacancies – looking for volunteers
- All current officers reelected