

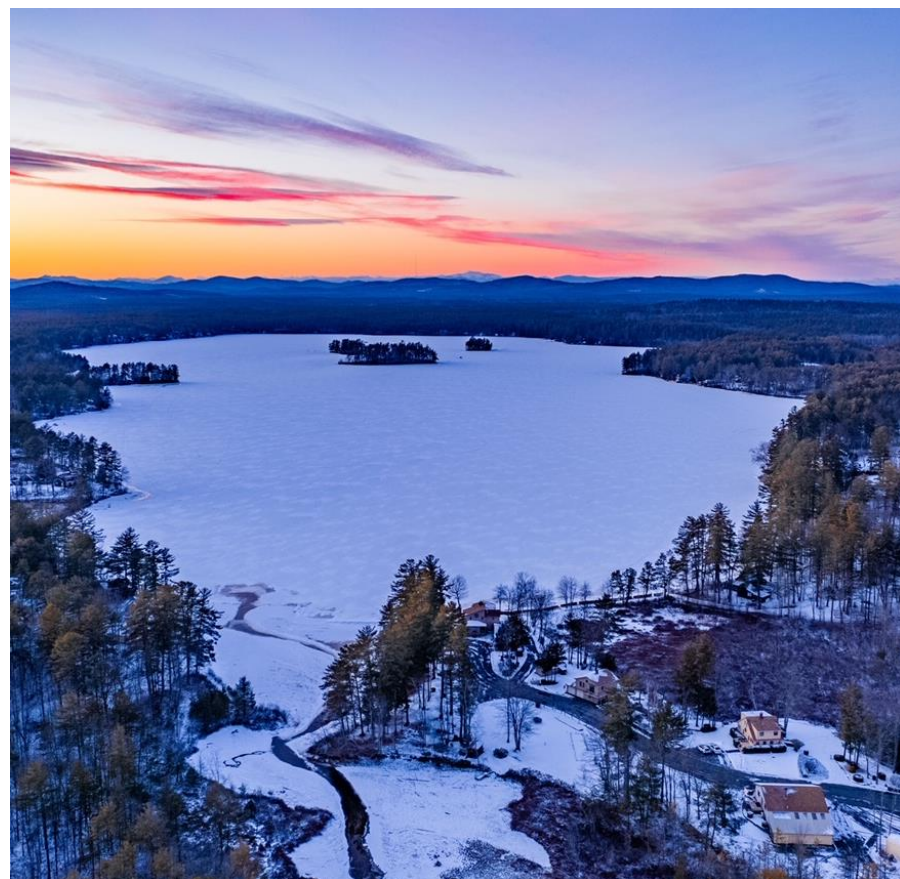


Watchic Lake Association Annual Meeting

Via Zoom
July 10, 2021

Thank you! Owen Smith

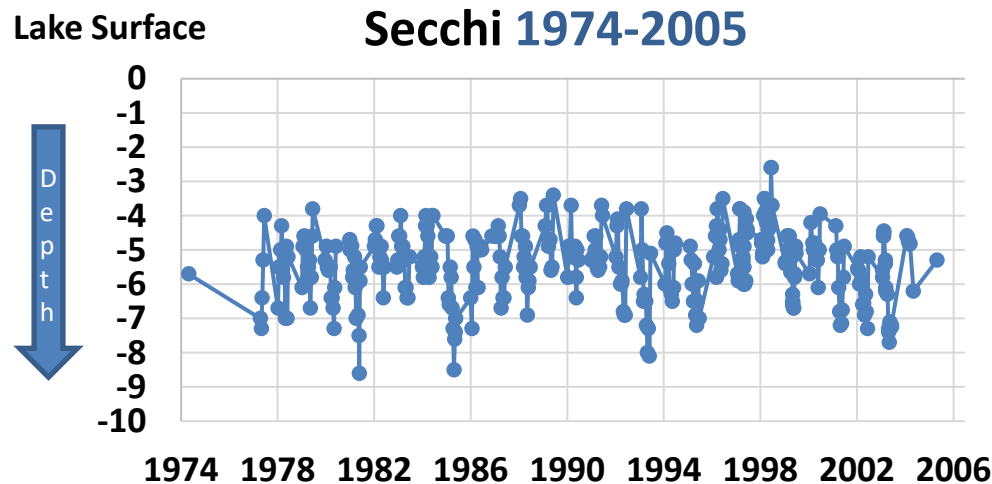
- **Thank you for your continued support!**
- **Covid-19 made 2020 a difficult year for all of us. Most WLA volunteer work continued.**
- **Making progress on long-term goals:**
 - Approved for DEP/EPA matching grant of \$124,000. Projects being scoped.
 - WLA volunteers now managing all advanced water quality testing
- **Our biggest challenges:**
 - **Nutrient rich runoff** and development around the lake increase algal bloom risk
 - **Increasing membership** to support ongoing operational expenses and help educate property owners
 - Funds to cover potential major projects such as invasive plant removal



- Water Quality
- Environmental – Invasives and Loons
- LakeSmart
- Dam Update
- Education
- DEP Watershed Protection Grant
- Membership and Social Events
- Finance
- Voting

Water Quality – Cathy Watson

Recent Water Clarity (via Secchi Disk) is consistent with Historical Data

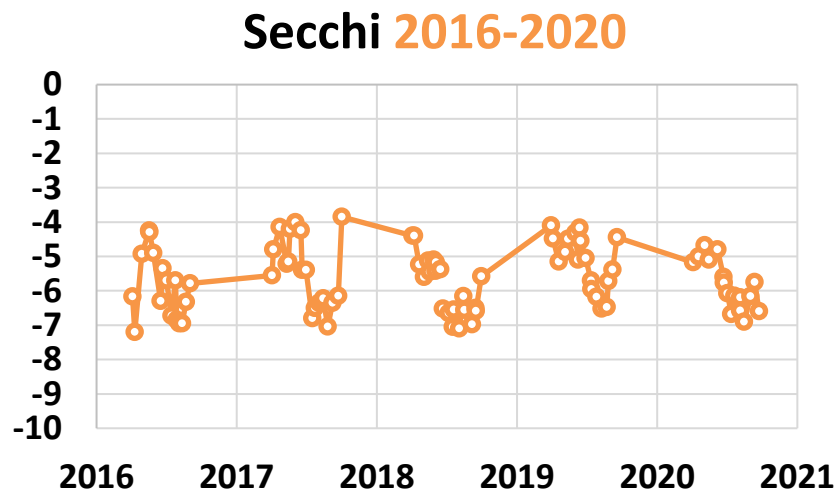


Secchi Readings from 1974 to 2005

Average = -5.4m

Lowest = -2.6m

Highest = -8.6 m



Secchi Readings from 2016 to 2020

Average = -5.8m

Lowest = -3.9m

Highest = -7.2 m

Water Quality Long Term Risks

- While **water quality is good today**, Watchic Lake is in a delicate balance with it's environment.
- **Human activities, large and small** within the watershed are increasing the amount and transport of harmful chemicals, pollutants and dangerous foreign materials into the lake and its streams.
 - Large waves increasingly believed to churn up bottom sediment – **please keep wave size down.**
- **Increased rainfall, especially catastrophic events** such as mega-storms put roads, drainages, and septic systems at risk of introducing deadly runoff.
- **Its up to each property owner and road association to do their part:**
 - Check your property for signs of unmitigated runoff, and soil erosion
 - Maintain a vegetated shoreline buffer
 - Don't use lawn chemicals containing nitrogen or phosphate compounds.
 - Maintain your septic system

- For the fifth year the WLA ran an LSM (Lake Stewards of Maine) certified plant inventory event in the summer of 2020.
- 23 native plants identified over the past three years and submitted to LSM.
- No invasives found.
- Watchic Lake has not experienced any invasive plants but must remain vigilant.
- **Renters, visitors, seaplanes – please clean ALL watercraft and fishing gear before entering the lake!**



Inventory map.

Thanks to Steve and Kim Lajoie, Don and Martha Drew, Paul and Nancy McNulty, Cathy Watson, Wendi Rodriguez, David West, Agnes and Rick Wiggin, Bob Babcock, and Owen Smith for making our 2020 inventory day a success!

2021 Plant Inventory – 8/21: Paddle the lake to gather and evaluate native and invasive plants. Learn more by contacting Steve Lajoie at steve03229@aol.com

Loons – Kim Lajoie

- There currently are no nesting pairs on the lake this year.
- The eggs pictured are from the abandoned nest on Middle Island.
- The nesting platform in Paine Brook was not used this year but we have plans to deploy it next year in a way that will hopefully make it more attractive.
- The groups of 5-8 loons on the lake are teenagers who stay together until they reach maturity – about 6 years old.
- The leading cause of loon deaths in Maine is boat hits – please be vigilant when boating and watch out for diving loons!
- Annual Loon Count **July 17**, 7:00 to 7:30 AM
 - For more on the loons contact Kim Lajoie at kimj03229@aol.com

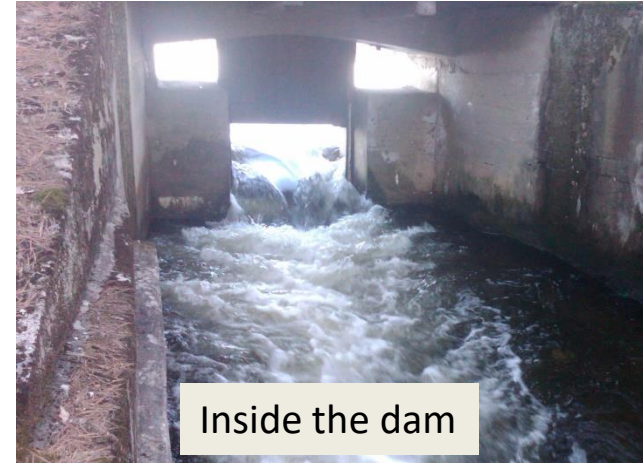


- **LakeSmart** - free opportunities to learn how to manage your home and yard to protect the lake.
- 2 new properties in 2021 for LakeSmart and LoonSmart
- Congratulations Mike and Nancy Smyth and Don Drew
- For more information contact Martha Drew at 4650Drew@TWC.com



Dam Update – Bob Babcock

- Dam gate installed in 2015 continues to operate well.
- Minor repairs planned for this fall.
- New safety buoys installed in June.
- **Spring:** Dam was closed March 27, one day after Ice Out. Water finally trickling over the top with recent rain.
- **Fall:** based on WLA member voting, opening date is now November 1, plus/minus a week due to weather. Impact of change will be evaluated over the coming few years.



Boat Safety Class June 19, 2021

- State of Maine Inland Fisheries & Wildlife and National Association of State Boating Law Administrators Boat Safety Class
- Sponsored by Watchic Lake Association, partnered with Town of Standish Parks and Recreation and Kiwanis Beach
- 18 Participants
- Successful completion enables participants to operate a watercraft in states where boating safety class is required
- *FYI: Persons 16 of years of age and under 18 of age MAY NOT operate a personal watercraft unless they possess on their person, identification showing proof of age and proof of successful completion of a NASBLA approved boating safety class unless they are accompanied by a person 18 years of age or older who physically occupies the personal watercraft*

Website Updates

- Living in Loon Territory brochure
- Maine inland Fishing Laws Brochure
- Septic system care for renters and home owners
- Welcome Pack for New Watchic Lake Property Owners (found under Resources, under “New to Watchic” on the www.watchiclake.org)

Boat Launch Education Display Board

Plans for upcoming year

- Boat Safety Class 2022
- Shoreline Vegetation Education and Runoff Remediation Education with DEP



*Education Display Board
at the Hi Vu Dr Boat Launch*

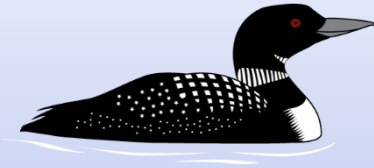
WATCHIC LAKE 319 GRANT UPDATE

**2021 WLA Annual Meeting
FB Environmental**

Funding for this project, in part, was provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act. The funding is administered by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection in partnership with EPA. EPA does not endorse any commercial products or services mentioned.



PROJECT PARTNERS



Watchic Lake Association

Grantee & Grant Lead



FB Environmental Associates

Contracting Scientific Support



CUMBERLAND COUNTY
SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Cumberland County Soil & Water Conservation District

Engineering Design and Support

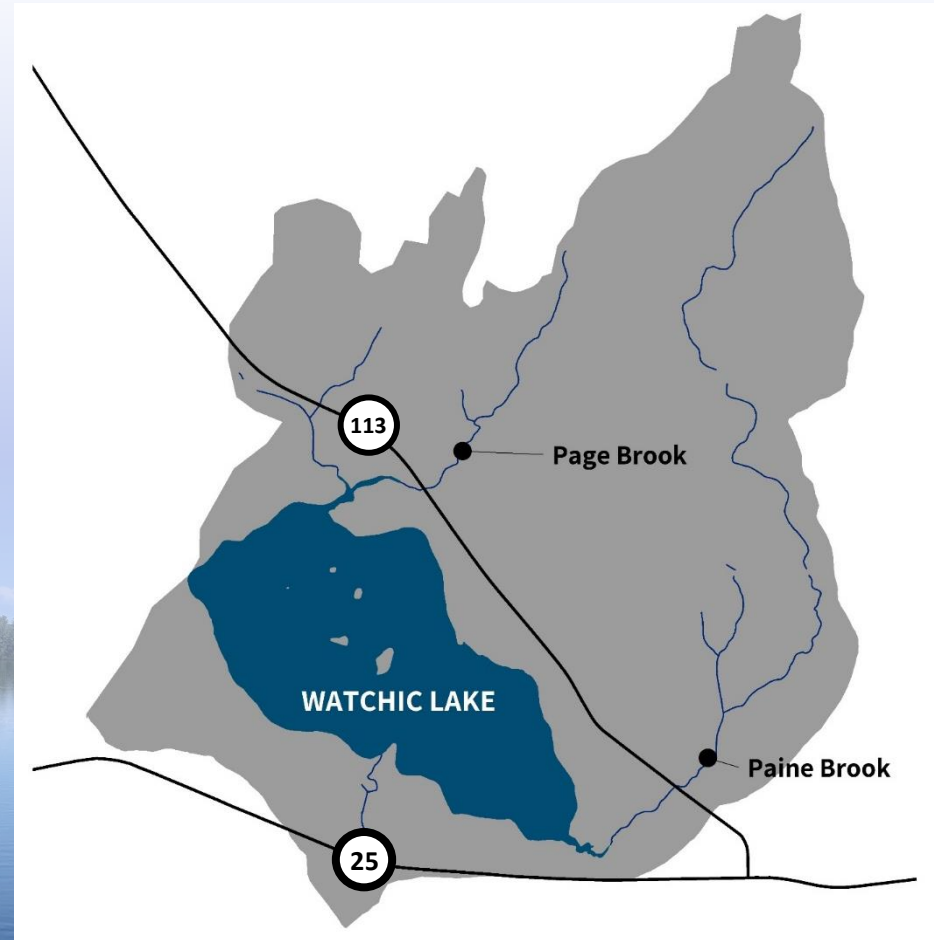
PURPOSE

The purpose of this grant is to *protect* Watchic Lake by *reducing pollutants* entering the lake from the surrounding land area.



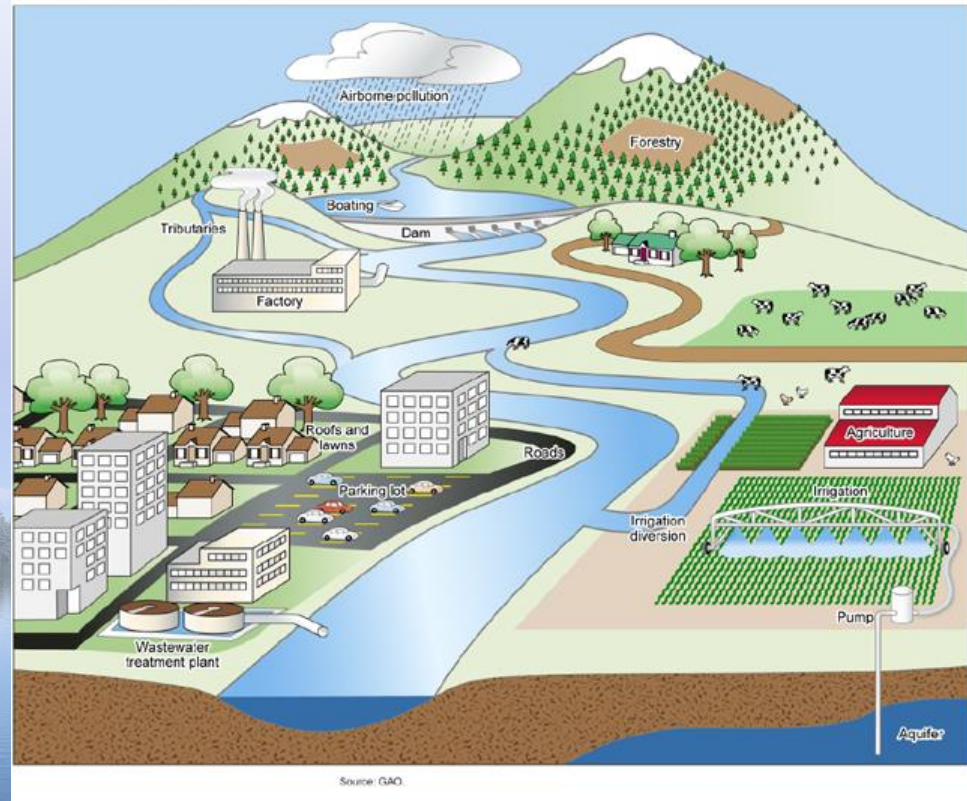
THE WATCHIC LAKE WATERSHED

- Covers 2,752 acres
- Includes a mix of land uses
- Contains two main tributaries – Page Brook and Paine Brook
- The State has listed Watchic Lake as *threatened* because of increasing development pressures.



WHAT IS NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION?

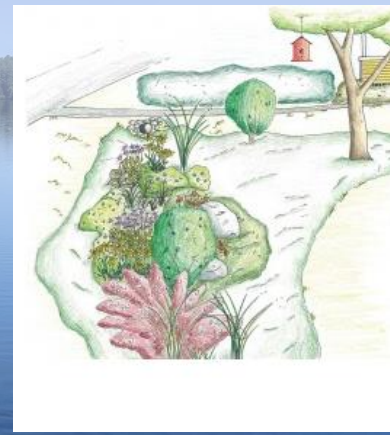
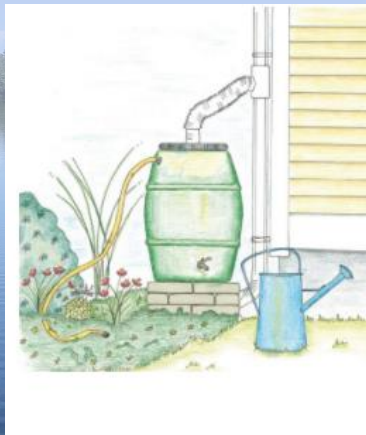
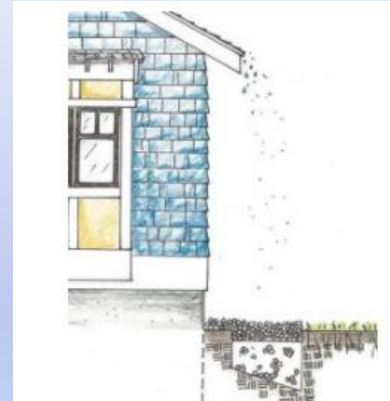
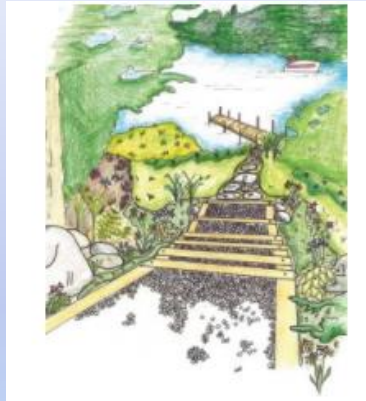
- Nutrients from excess fertilizers, herbicides and insecticides from agricultural lands and residential areas
- Bacteria and nutrients from livestock, pet wastes and faulty septic systems
- Oil, grease and toxic chemicals from urban runoff
- Sediment from improperly managed unpaved roads, construction sites, and eroding stream banks
- Salt from winter road salt application



WHAT ARE BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES TO PREVENT IT?

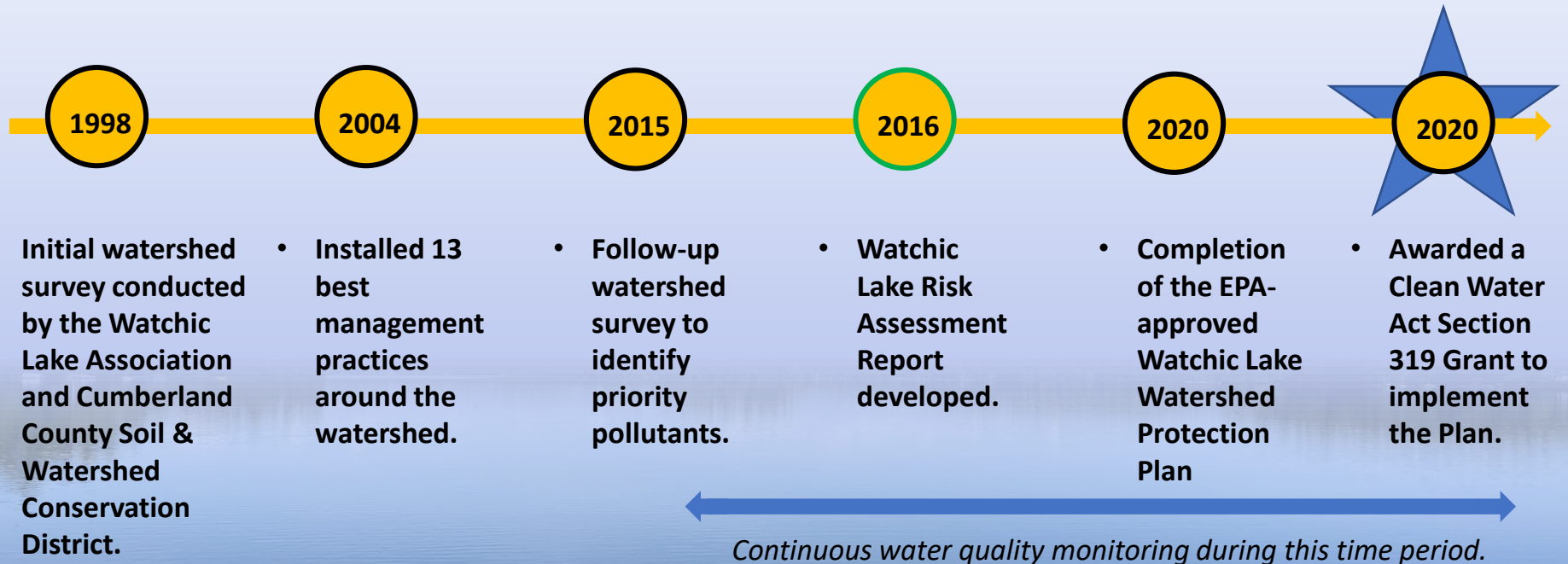
Practices that:

- Reduce the volume of stormwater runoff
- Promote infiltration, and
- Improve water quality!



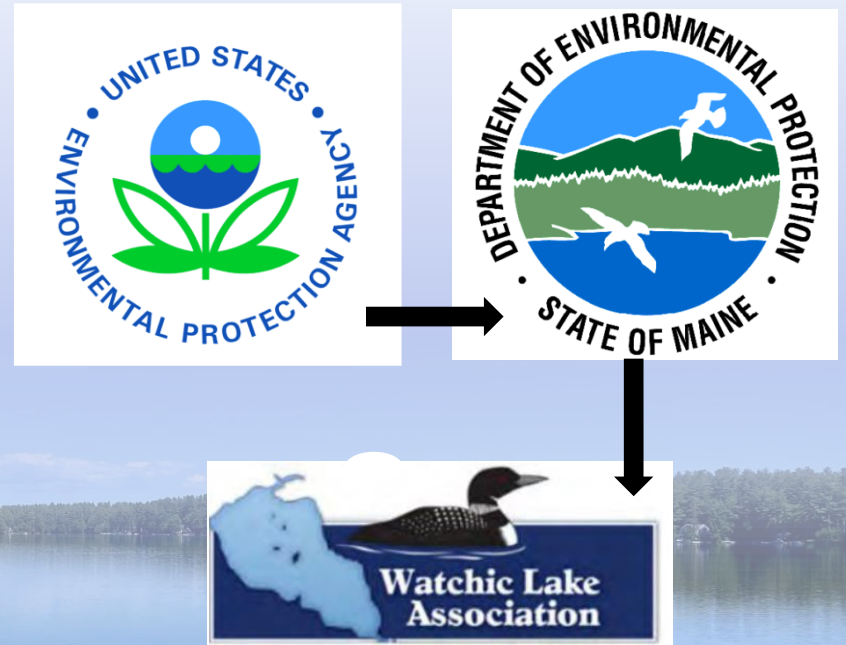
Sketches from: NH Soak up the Rain Program

HISTORY OF PROTECTION AT WATCHIC LAKE



WHAT IS A CLEAN WATER ACT 319 GRANT?

- Section 319 of the US EPA Clean Water Act funds the implementation of nonpoint source pollution management programs
- These can be projects on public or private roadways & properties but must address erosion and other nonpoint source pollutants



PROJECT PRIORITIES

To protect Watchic Lake by significantly reducing the pollutant load into the lake by:

4

Restoring 3 priority road erosion sites on 1 town road and 3 private roads

6

Providing technical assistance to 6 shorefront erosion sites on residential property



Raising public awareness



Strengthening local involvement and awareness

ROAD SITES



1

DOLLOFF ROAD



2

WATCHIC ROAD 3



3

WATCHIC ROAD 15



4

HI-VU DRIVE



Photos courtesy of Bob Babcock (spring 2021)

RESIDENTIAL SHOREFRONT SITES



EXAMPLES *(not from Watchic Lake)*



PROJECT OUTCOMES

- Prevent delivery of sediment and phosphorus to the lake
 - Preliminary estimates indicate these projects will address 22% of the sediment and phosphorus reduction opportunities identified in the Protection Plan through NPS abatement sites.



Sediment -2.5 tons. Phosphorus: -2.3 pounds

- Raise awareness of threats to Watchic Lake among the local lake community

Icon from the Noun project. Created by Evgeny Tarasenko.



QUESTIONS?



Created for the Watchic Lake Association
annual meeting by FB Environmental.



Membership – Paul McNulty

- Due to Covid-19, in 2020 we changed membership dues to “whatever you can afford”
 - 2021 back to standard dues
- Lower membership – driven by limited seasonal lake usage and in person meetings
- Members as of 7/7/2021
 - People: 116
 - Properties: 83
- Summer social events planned to help encourage engagement
- For Clynk info contact Martha Drew at 4650Drew@TWC.com

As of July 7, 2021



Social Events – Paul McNulty

- “Meet your neighbors”
 - August 4, 5:00 to 7:00 pm
 - Outpost Restaurant, RT 113
 - Great chance to meet other lake residents and exchange lake-life experiences
 - More info will be posted on our website
 - RSVP p3mcnulty@gmail.com



**THE
OUTPOST**
• PUBLIC HOUSE •

- Ice Cream Boat Returns!
 - Saturday 7/31, afternoon
 - Chance to meet WLA volunteers, learn about the lake, and get FREE ice cream!
 - Thank you Hannafords!



Looking for Watchic Lake and Apparel? Stacey Kane

Support the Lake ♦ Give Great Gifts



- ♦ sweatshirts
- ♦ t-shirts
- ♦ pillows
- ♦ tea towels
- ♦ ornaments
- ♦ and more...



*available
at*



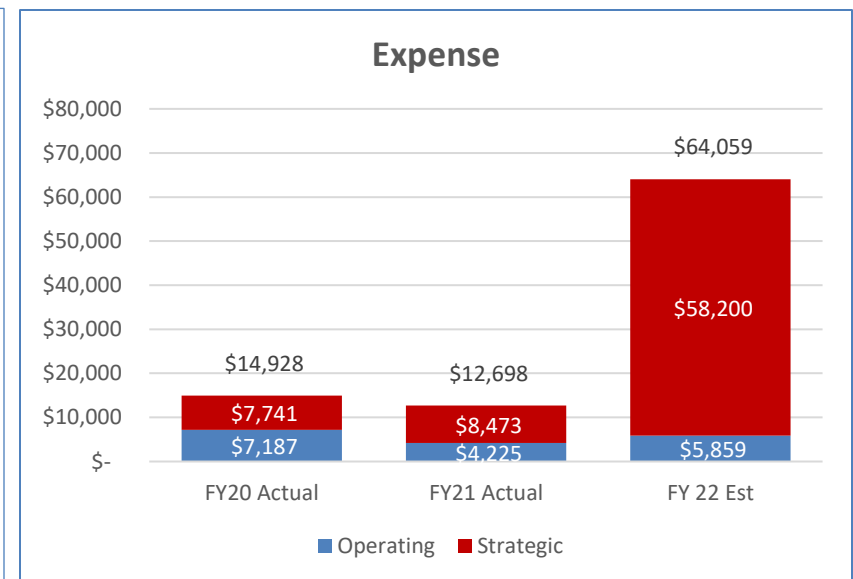
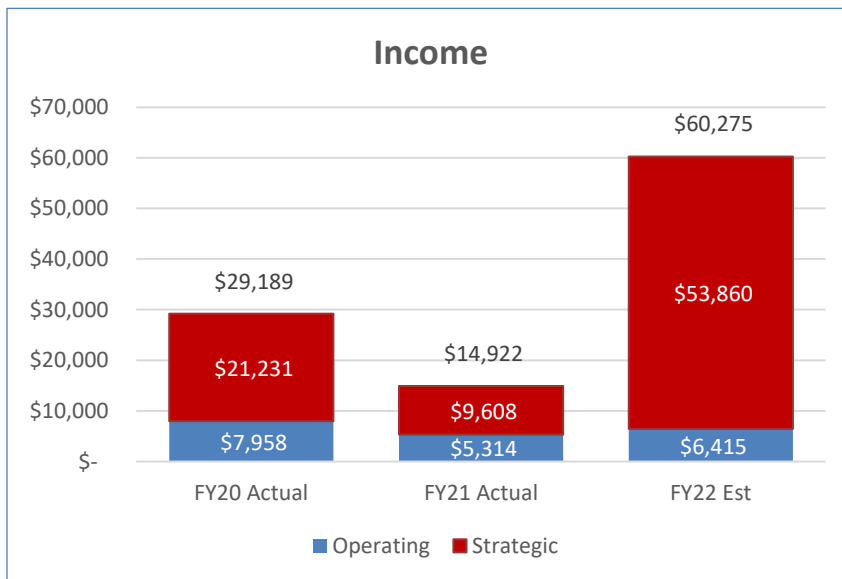
“Meet Your Neighbors” Social & Hometown Furnishings, 1 Ossipee Trail

♥ *proceeds donated to* **WLA** ♥

**On Sale at August 4 Social Event.
Profits to WLA**

Financial Update – Agnes Wiggin

- Splitting operating and strategic income/expense for better control and transparency.
- FY20 (year end 6/30/21) positive net operating income (\$1,089) and overall positive due to strategic donations.
- FY22 estimate breakeven operating income, assuming no major unfunded projects. Volunteers continue water quality testing.
- DEP grant income/reimbursements will equal DEP project expenses, less WLA and property owner matches.



As of 6/30/21 Operating Savings: \$42,954. Strategic Savings: \$118,871

- **Nominations for the Board:**
 - Kim Lajoie 3 years
 - Nancy McNulty 3 years
- **Nominations for Officers:**
 - President, Paul McNulty 2 years
 - Vice President, Steve Lajoie 2 years
 - Historian, Nancy McNulty 2 years
- **Approval of July 11, 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes**
 - Minutes published on website August 2020.

Voting questions will be listed twice to cover second members

Unsung Hero 2021 – Kim Lajoie

This year we present the “Unsung Hero Award” to an outstanding volunteer on our lake. This Award is given to an individual who goes above and beyond giving greatly of their time, their energy, their expertise and their commitment. The board and its members are proud and honored to work with this volunteer.



Thank You
Donal Drew!

Closing Remarks – Owen Smith

- Shorter Term
 - Continue with core work of water quality testing, managing the dam, avoiding invasive plants, and helping the loons.
 - Reenergize membership engagement post-pandemic
 - Complete most DEP grant-funded remediation projects
- Longer Term
 - Learn from DEP grant projects and consider new remediation projects for 2022 and beyond.
 - Increase our pool of strategic funds via Stewardship program
- Volunteers needed and welcomed!

Thank you! Your time today and throughout the year is a gift to the lake and all who use it.



Thank you!

Courtesy Eileen Burnell