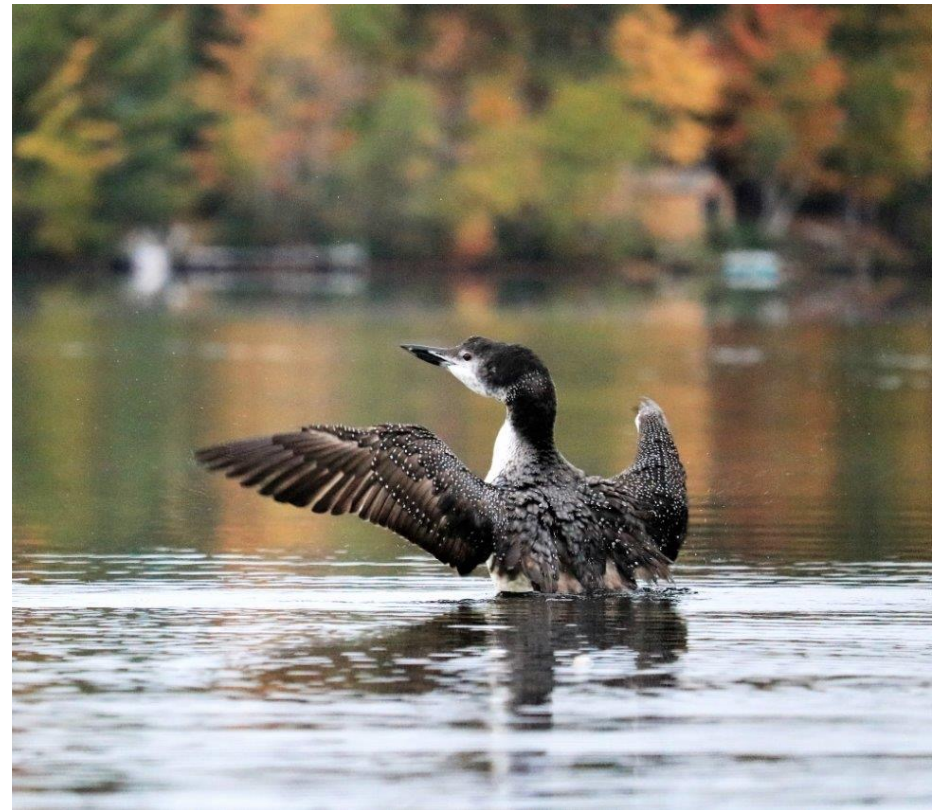


The background of the slide is a photograph of a calm lake. In the foreground, the water is still, reflecting the sky and the distant shore. A small, dark boat is visible on the water towards the right side. The middle ground shows a dense line of trees along the far shore, with a soft mist or fog rising from the water's surface. The sky is filled with light, wispy clouds, and the overall color palette is dominated by warm, golden-yellow and blue tones, suggesting the time is either early morning or late evening. The text is overlaid on the upper half of the image.

# **Watchic Lake Association Annual Meeting**

Standish Town Hall  
July 8, 2023

- **Welcome to 65th Annual Meeting since our incorporation in 1956.**
- **Thank you for your continued support**
- **2022 was a good year as we made progress on long-term goals:**
  - Completed the DEP/EPA matching grant projects
  - Record breaking membership
- **Looking ahead our biggest challenges:**
  - **Nutrient rich runoff** and development around the lake increase algal bloom risk
  - **Risk of Invasive plants** as more people rent and use the lake.
  - Understanding how **changing weather patterns** affect the lake.



- Water Quality
- Environmental – invasives and boat inspections
- LakeSmart
- Dam Update
- Loons of Maine - Jim Paruk
- DEP Watershed Protection Grant Results
- Membership and Events
- Finance
- Voting

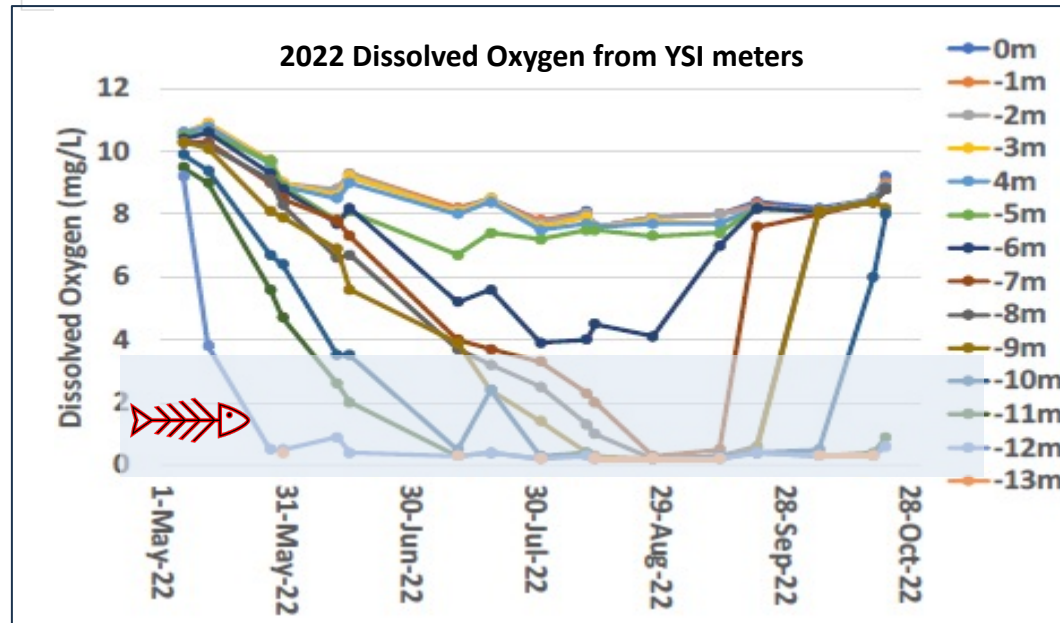
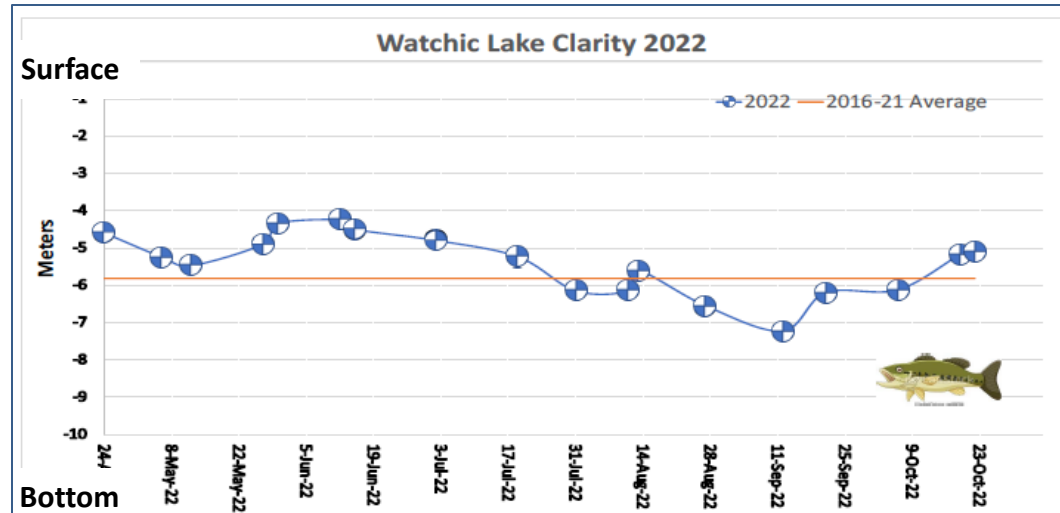


# Water Quality at Watchic Lake

Water quality in our Lake remains good, and is not substantially changed from data collected over the previous 6 years.

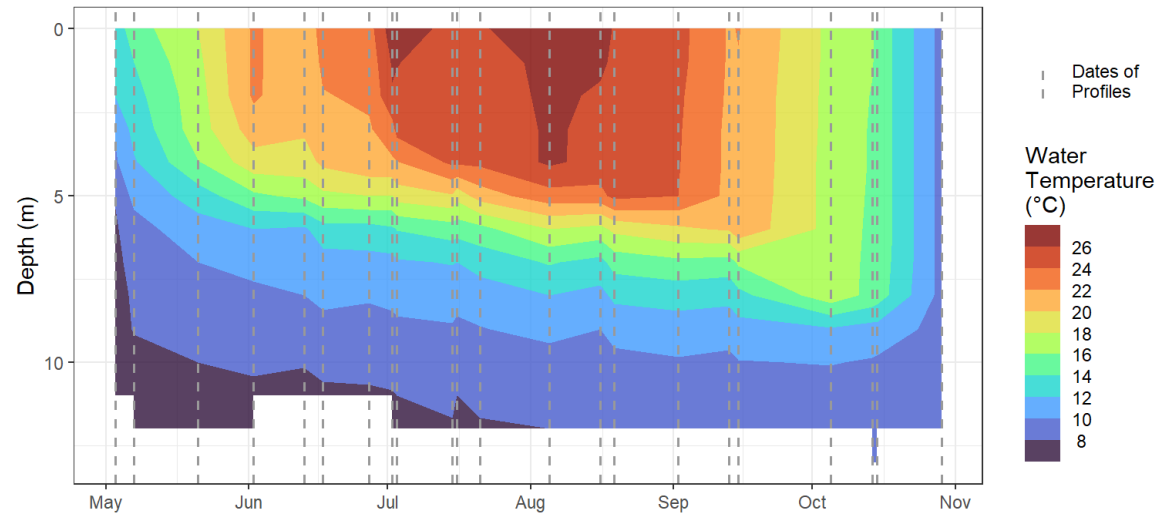
But our lake is at risk due to the lack of oxygen at the bottom. Development around the lake and in the watershed and the associated run off during storms is also a big concern.

Cathy Watson for the Water Quality Committee

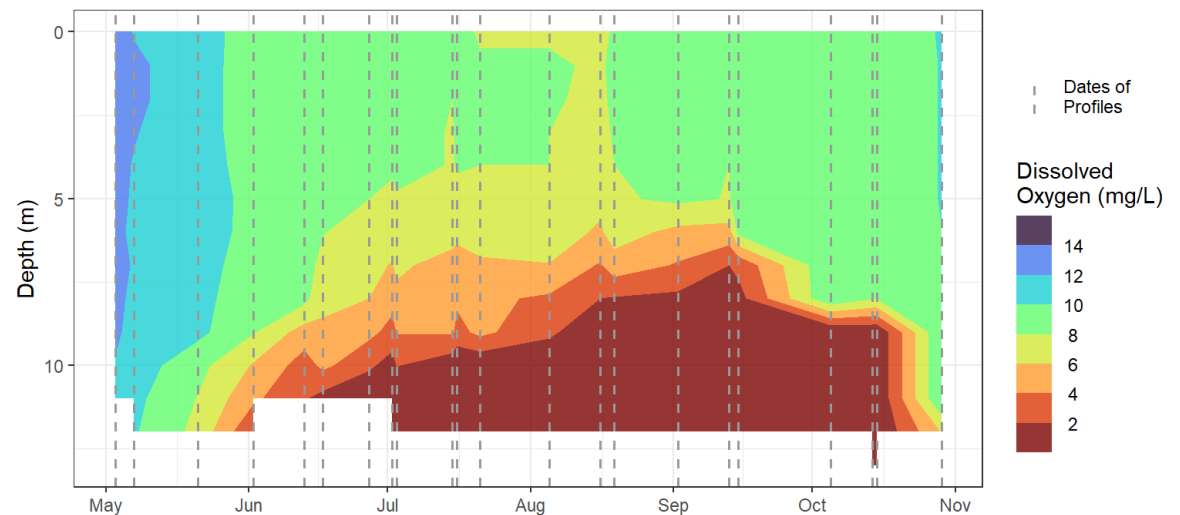


Warm lake temps and lack of oxygen at the bottom of the lake for most of the summer put our Lake at risk for algae blooms.

Watchic Pond (MIDAS 5040) - Water Temperature - 2018

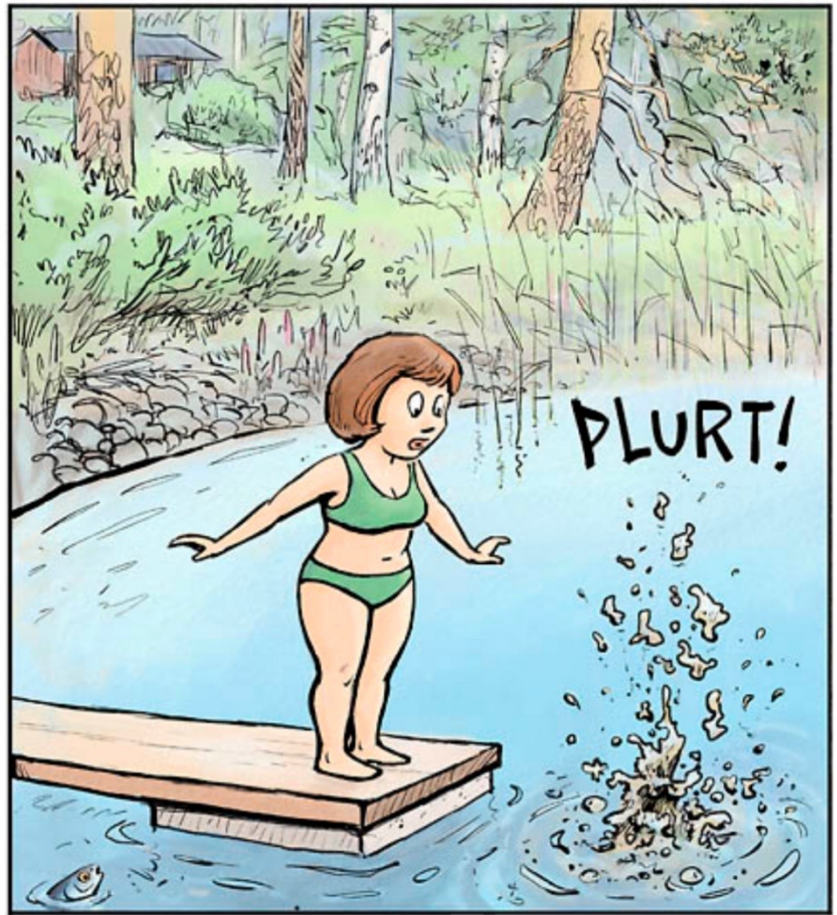


Watchic Pond (MIDAS 5040) - Dissolved Oxygen - 2018



# Septic Systems – Cathy Watson

Protect your family and the Lake. Maintain your septic system.





# Septic Systems – Cathy Watson

## Do Your Part. Be SepticSmart!



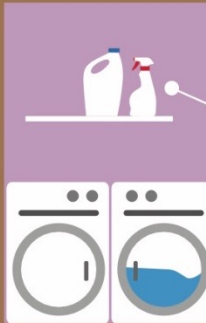
**Shield Your Field**  
Divert rain and surface water away and avoid parking vehicles and planting trees on your drainfield.



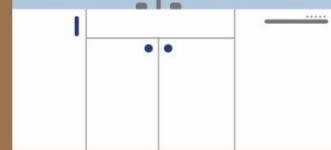
**Don't Overload the Commode**  
Don't flush diapers, wipes or other items meant for a trashcan down the toilet.



**Think at the Sink**  
Limit use of your garbage disposal and avoid pouring fats, grease, solids and harsh chemicals down the drain.



**Don't Strain Your Drain**  
Use water efficiently and stagger use of water-based appliances, such as your washing machine or dishwasher.



**Drainfield**

**Septic Tank**

**Well**

**Groundwater Recharge**

**Protect It and Inspect It**  
A typical septic system should be serviced every one to three years by a septic service professional.

**Pump Your Tank**  
Ensure your septic tank is pumped at regular intervals as recommended by a professional.

**Keep It Clean**

If you are on a well, test your drinking water regularly to ensure it remains clean and free of contamination.

**Aquifer**

- **What are Cyanobacteria?**
- **What does a Bloom look like?**
- **Are all Blooms Toxic?**
- **How Toxic are these Compounds?**
- **Are these Toxins found in Maine Lakes?**
- **How can I Avoid Problems?**
- **Who do I call with questions?**



DEP Lakes Staff at 207-287-7688 or visit the DEP Report a Bloom page.

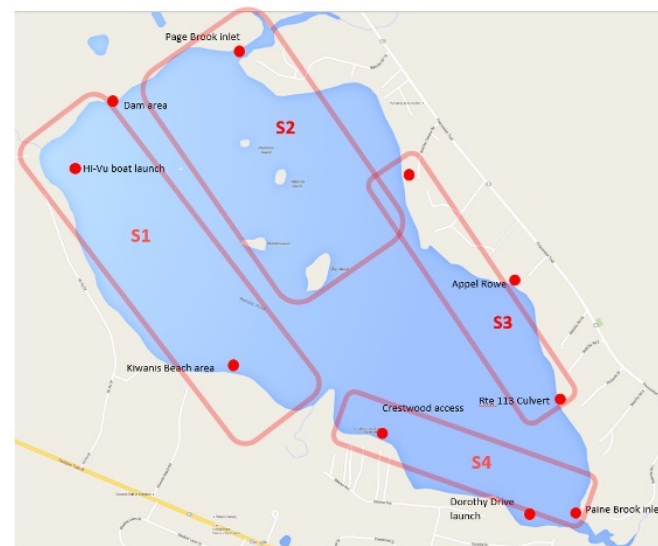
<https://www.maine.gov/dep/water/lakes/reportbloom.html>

For more information on blooms visit the DEP Algal Blooms in Maine Lakes page.



- For the seventh year the WLA ran an LSM (Lake Stewards of Maine) certified plant inventory event in the summer of 2022.
- No invasives found.
- 26 native plants identified over the past three years and submitted to LSM.
- Two questionable plants were found and cleared by MLS as non-invasive.
- Renters, visitors, seaplanes – please clean ALL watercraft and fishing gear before entering the lake!
- Courtesy Boat Inspections by Certified Volunteers are available!

**Contact board member Dave Burnell at (603) 630-4297 to schedule an inspection before launching any watercraft in the lake!**



### **Inventory map.**

Thanks to Steve and Kim Lajoie, Don and Martha Drew, Agnes and Rick Wiggin, Monica Mahoney, Rob Brisk, Paul and Nancy McNulty, Stephanie Parker, and Owen Smith for a successful 2022 inventory day.

**2023 Plant Inventory – Saturday 8/05/23:** Paddle the lake to gather and evaluate native and invasive plants. **Learn more by contacting Steve Lajoie at [steve03229@aol.com](mailto:steve03229@aol.com)**

## Loons – Steve Lajoie

- The WLA floating nest was left in over winter in Paine Brook to see if that would make it more attractive. Unfortunately, no activity again this year.
- Loon Chick Update
- The leading cause of loon deaths in Maine remains boat hits – please be vigilant when boating and watch out for diving loons!
- On June 20 Gov. Janet Mills signed LD 958, the bill to expand protections to Common Loons from lead poisoning, into law

### Annual Loon Count

**July 15, 2023**

7:00 to 7:30 AM

For more on the loons  
contact Kim Lajoie at  
[kimj03229@aol.com](mailto:kimj03229@aol.com)



Loon Counters 2022



## Jim Paruck - Loons



More info at [www.jamesparuk.com](http://www.jamesparuk.com)



# Section 319 Grant Completed

- An estimated 2.33 tons of sediment and 1.99 pounds of phosphorus will be prevented from washing into Watchic Lake each year. 112 feet of streambank or shoreline will be protected.
- Projects totaled \$150,300
  - Federal match: \$74,600
  - Property owner and WLA match \$75,700
- Projects were completed with Watchic Road 3, Watchic Road 15, Hi-Vu Common Area, Kiwanis Beach, three residential properties, and the Town of Standish.

Thank you ME DEP and  
Watchic Lake property  
owners!



- **LakeSmart** - free opportunities to learn how to manage your home and yard to protect the lake.
- One new property in 2022 for LakeSmart and LoonSmart
- DEP grant recipients encouraged to apply... good for you and good for the lake!
- For more information contact Martha Drew at [4650Drew@TWC.com](mailto:4650Drew@TWC.com)





# Dam Update – Owen Smith

- Volunteers endeavor to keep water level at within a few inches of full pond.
- **Fall:** Dam was opened for the winter on 10/30/2022.
- **Spring:** Dam was closed 4/5/2023 one day before Ice Out.
- The spring of 2023 has been extremely wet, with nearly 6 inches of rain in June alone, impacting the water level.
- Restaining the dam building is planned for summer 2023.
- Join us for a dam visit on July 22, at 10:00 am. Check WLA website for details and directions.



Water level observations will vary significantly around the lake due to differing wind conditions. Mother Nature and managing the water level of a 450 acre lake via a 10 foot-wide dam gate is an inexact science – your understanding is appreciated.



- Record breaking membership again in 2022
  - People: 163 - 1 % YoY increase
  - Properties: 111 – 1% YoY decrease
  - 43% of properties are members, with higher percentage from seasonal owners
- 2023 Members as of 7/5/2023: 112 members and 82 properties.
- For Clynk info contact Martha Drew at [4650Drew@TWC.com](mailto:4650Drew@TWC.com)

As of December 31, 2022



## Visit the Dam

- July 22, 2022, 10:00 am
- Learn how it operates
- Details on the website



## Ice Cream Boat Returns!

- Sunday August 20 afternoon



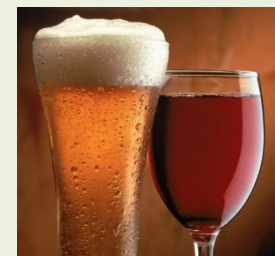
## Lake Garden Tours

- Two or three tours based on your schedule
- See lake friendly gardens
- Sign up today



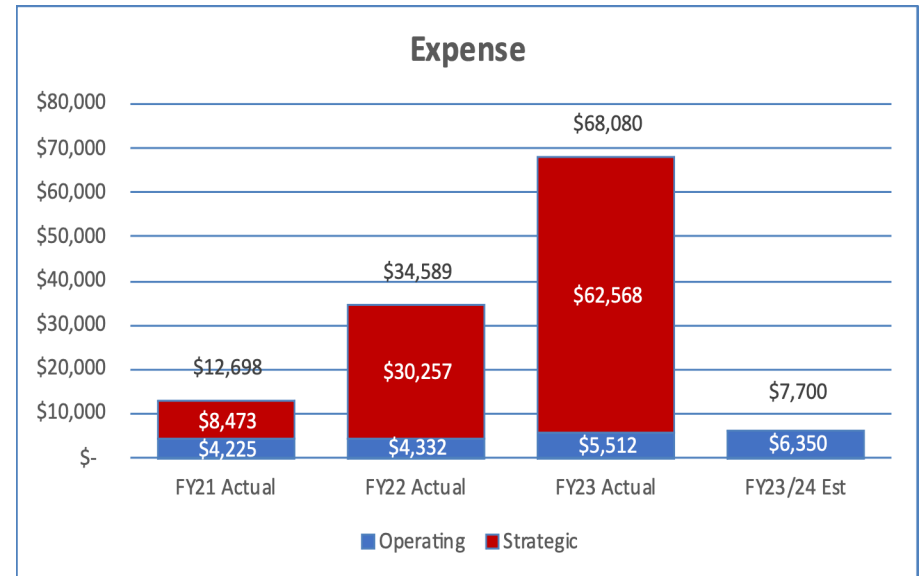
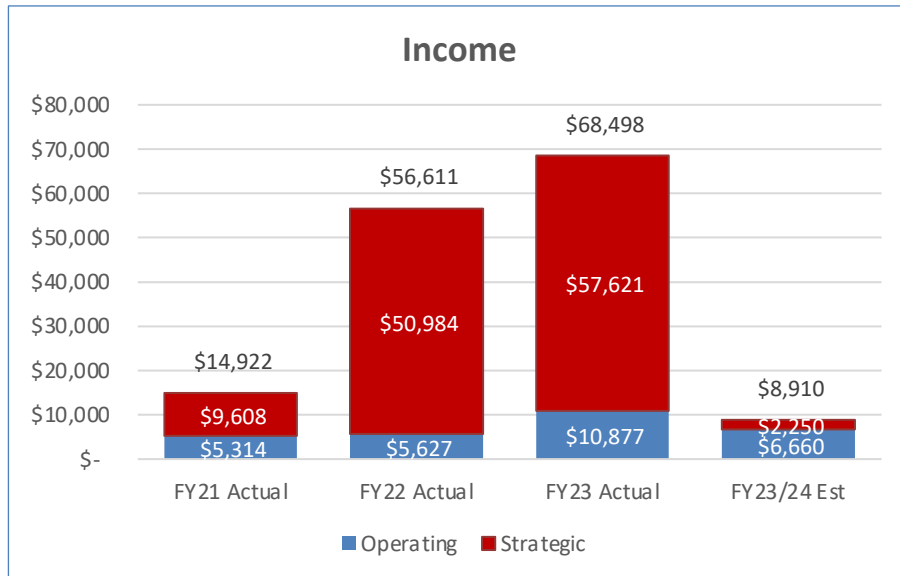
## “Meet your neighbors”

- Wednesday July 19, 5:30
- Outpost Bar and Grill, RT 113
- Updates on the website



# Financial Update – Agnes Wiggin

- FY23 (year end 6/30/23) positive Operating net income \$5,365 due to more members and more (and larger) donations. Strategic activities (\$4,947) due timing of DEP grant payments. Overall net income \$418.
- FY24 estimate breakeven income, assuming no major unfunded projects. Volunteers continue water quality testing. Strategic account will show about \$1,350 profit.
- Shifted \$40,000 into a higher yield Fidelity account, already generated \$441 in Q4.
- Income and expense in FY22 and FY23 skewed due to DEP Grant program.



As of 6/30/23 Operating Savings: \$49,800. Strategic Savings: \$134,333



- **Nominations for the Board:**
  - Stephanie Parker 3 years
  - Travis Roney 3 years
  - Bill Murray 3 years
  - David Burnell 3 years
  - Owen Smith 3 years (renewal)
  - Chris Martino 3 years (renewal)
- **Nominations for Officers:**
  - President: Paul McNulty 2 years
  - Historian: Nancy McNulty 2 years
- **Approval of July 9, 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes**
  - Minutes published on website August 2022.
- **Volunteers sign up sheet**



## Steve Center!

Thank you for your  
energy and your  
vision!

## Closing Remarks – Paul McNulty

- Shorter Term
  - Continue with core work of water quality testing, managing the dam, avoiding invasive plants, and helping the loons.
  - Continue growing membership and education
  - Ensure DEP funded and similar projects are well maintained.
- Longer Term
  - Learn from DEP grant projects and consider new remediation projects for 2022 and beyond.
  - For long term health of the lake and the WLA, board members and volunteers needed and welcomed!

Thank you! Your time today and support of the  
lake throughout the year



A serene sunset scene over a calm lake. The sky is filled with soft, golden light from the setting sun, with scattered clouds catching the light. The water is still, reflecting the warm colors of the sky. In the distance, a dark line of trees marks the far shore, with a thin layer of mist or fog hanging just above the water's surface. A small, dark boat is visible in the middle ground on the right side of the lake. The right edge of the frame is partially obscured by the dark, silhouetted branches of a tree in the foreground.

# Thank you!