

Indian Lake Association ADK, Inc.  
Annual Meeting and Picnic  
August 28, 2021

President Maggie Crowley calls the meeting to order at 5:51p.m. at the Byron Park Pavilion, Indian Lake, NY. Maggie welcomed all to this meeting expressing thanks for the opportunity to gather in person, thanks to the grill master Joe, the members, and guests gathered today. The board members present include: Maggie Crowley, Carmen Adler, Martha Bilsbeck, Gail O'Brien, Jon Voorhees, and Dr. Dan Way. Autumn Blanchard was not available due to a work conflict. We counted 39 people in attendance at this meeting with 12 proxy votes. We have a quorum. Maggie welcomed the guest speaker: John Callaghan, Executive Director of the Hudson River Black River Regulation District (HRBRRD) guest speaker this year.

Maggie continues following the agenda for the business portion of this meeting. Agendas were available at the registration desk.

**Approve Minutes of Annual Meeting held via Zoom on September 10, 2020**

Due to the covid-19 pandemic, the annual meeting was held via Zoom. She thanked all those who participated in that meeting. Minutes have been available on the ILA web site. Maggie asked the membership if they had any corrections or questions. None were noted and Maggie made a motion to accept minutes as written seconded by Paul Coppock. All voted in favor.

**Election of Directors:**

Maggie recognized the board member in attendance. Our treasurer, Gail O'Brien, will be ending her time as treasurer and board member after this meeting. Maggie thanked Gail for her many years of service. She has been a great asset to the board. Maggie also announced that she also will be ending her time on the board after this meeting as her first term as president ends. We thank her for her leadership as president especially during the covid-19 pandemic.

Maggie introduced two new candidates for board membership:

Glen Van Norstrand: Glen has been coming to Indian lake since 1999 and has been a homeowner in Birch Hill for 31 years. He retired from the United Parcel Service and now lives in Indian Lake full time. He is currently managing the Indian Lake Marina. He is very interested in helping to serve the lake and community. Glen is also interested in taking up the role as board president.

Russ Evatt: Russ has lived in Indian Lake for 60 years. He is retired military and airline pilot. He previously served on the ILA board for many years and we are excited to welcome him back. Russ has also volunteered to search the shoreline for invasive species and is involved with the water quality testing.

At this time, board member Autumn Blanchard is eligible for election of her 3<sup>rd</sup> and final term.

Jon Voorhees is eligible for a second term on the board.

Maggie asked the secretary to put all of the nominees together on one slate for a vote. She asked for a motion to vote on the slate of nominees. Paul made the motion and Gail seconded. All voted in favor.

With the addition of Glen and Russ, we still have two vacant seats on the Board. We will also still be looking to elect a new Treasurer. If you are interested in any to these positions, please contact a board member.

Lastly, we are saddened to report the recent passing of Dick Catlin. Dick was one of the founding members of the ILA and served as president for many years. We paused our meeting for a moment of silence in respect for Dick and his family.

**Financial Report:** Gail O'Brien presented the report, and a copy was given to the secretary for the records. Beginning bank balance as of August 5, 2021 was \$8,558.22. Revenue consisting of Membership dues was \$1,570.00. This makes a total revenue of \$10,128.22. The listed expenses were \$1,391.70 This makes the current balance in our account as of August 28, 2021 \$8,736.52. A motion was made to accept this report, and all agreed. Thank you Gail for this report.

**Membership Report:** Gail gave the presented the membership report and a written report was given to the secretary. Active membership as of August 21, is 73. This is down from 84 last year.

**Newsletter and Boater's Guide:** Every year the newsletter is a team effort. Thank you to all of our contributors, Jon Voorhees, Dan Way, Joe Hancock, Gail O'Brien, and Paul Coppock, and Bruce Caitlin for his formatting help. Maggie gave special thanks to Jon for his local news and views article contribution that keeps us all up to date with what goes on in our community throughout the year. She also thanked Dr. Way for sharing his photography for use in the newsletter.

This year we printed 175 newsletters and 500 boater's guides. The newsletter was mailed to all our members. Extras were available at this meeting. Every year we put out a boater's guide to provide information on New York State boating laws, local agency contacts information (DEC, lake sheriff, Indian lake campgrounds), invasive species reminder, boater's license requirements, as well as warnings specific to Indian Lake regarding the varying water levels creating unmarked hazards. The boater's guide was distributed to the state launch, Marina, Chamber of Commerce, and Pine's Country Store. We thank Russ for his help in distributing these guides. Both the Newsletter and Boater's Guide are available on our website.

**Indian Lake Association/ Dick Merrill Scholarship:** Maggie reported that our scholarship was named for Dick Merrill, a long-time board member, educator, and lake advocate. It is awarded to graduates of Indian Lake Central School. This year's \$500 was awarded to ILCS 2021 graduate, Aiden Atwell. Aiden was this year's Salutatorian and will be studying pre-law at St. Lawrence University this fall. We thank Maggie and Jon for serving on the scholarship committee.

**Water Quality Report:** This is our 18th year in the program. Joe Hancock and Russ Evatt have been doing the water quality report for about 11 years. Many thanks to Russ for providing the watercraft for the testing. The program is administered by Protect the Adirondacks and is run by the Adirondack Watershed Institute which is located at Paul Smiths College.

Joe and Russ do their sampling/testing 3 times each summer, once each in June, July and August. Sampling takes place in the "deep hole" of the lake. This is so that they have a consistent place

that they can draw a sample from and also by taking it from the deep hole they avoid potential contamination, primarily from shoreline influences, and discharges from brooks, streams, etc.

Sampling includes 3 main areas. One area is taking a secchi disc reading. This is a round aluminum plate with an alternating black and white pattern. (Joe demonstrated the tool). They lower it into the water, attached to a tape measure, until it is no longer visible. Their readings are typically about 4 meters, although their last reading was about 3 meters, probably due to the heavy rain and runoff that had occurred a few days prior. This test indicates the amount of dissolved solids in the water and algal productivity. This is a contributor to algae blooms.

So far we have been very lucky that our lake has not had any algae blooms. This has become a major problem on the finger lakes and the Great Lakes and their harbors. What helps our situation tremendously is our lake has a very high "flush rate". This is the number of times each year that the lake turns over completely. In a normal year our flush rate is somewhere between 1 and 2 times. This year with the major rain events that we have had it is probably higher.

The second area is taking a measurement for chlorophyll. A sample of lake water is drawn through a very fine cellulose filter using a vacuum pump. Chlorophyll is the photosynthetic pigment in algae and cyanobacteria, which in high levels can produce algae and algae blooms. Our lake consistently tests in the good range.

The third area is collecting a small sample of water to be analyzed for PH, phosphorous, and sodium/calcium (road salt). Fortunately, our lake's test results are all in the good range. The reduction in acid rain has helped the PH, our readings are typically about 6.8, which is about neutral on the PH scale. Phosphorus levels are low due to very little fertilizer influence, and by the time they do the sampling the residue from road salt has been primarily flushed out of the lake.

Overall, our lake is doing very well, our source watershed which covers some 83,000 acres is primarily undeveloped wild forest. It is sparsely populated and very little agricultural influence. their readings have changed very little over the years. Please remember to keep septic systems in good working order, and don't apply fertilizers near the shoreline or where it could be easily flushed into the lake.

### **Lake Level:**

Paul Coppock reported that this summer was a very different one from last year. This has been a mix of golden lake days and torrential storms. The task of managing the IL dam through these weather events falls to the HRBRRD. We are very fortunate to have the Executive Director John Callaghan joining us today. We will hear from John shortly. Six years ago, our association proposed a schedule of seasonal target lake levels that would provide an improved stable draw down during the boating season. The HRBRRD was receptive and said that it would try to approximate those draw down levels subject to unusual weather and their obligations for managing downstream water flow.

Summer of 2020 was unusually dry in IL. This caused the RD to cut water releases rates below normal. It was able to keep levels close to target into mid-August.

This summer season was different. We started with a dry June then monsoons arrived. They came in two waves. First, mid-July storms caused rising water levels in IL. We had a sharp spike July 17 to 20 peaking about 6" over the IL spillway. The RD responded by dumping water from our dam at a release rate of 1,100cfs. (this is far above the median rate of about 230cfs. They continued an elevated release rate of about 900cfs into August. By August 1: IL had receded but was still 1 foot above target. By August 17 we were down to the target level. That day a second wave of torrential downpours began from Wednesday August 18 to Saturday August 21 the lake rose 3.5 feet and peaked last Sunday about 5' below crest of the spillway. RD allowed a high release rate of about 800 cfs. Now the lake is down to about 26" above target and is continuing to drop.

What does this mean to us? As Paul talked to a number of residents who had boats go missing, gangways overturning, and docks twisting sideways. These spikes disrupted the waterfronts too.

RD has a tough balancing act in these deluge situations. Due to IL's large steep watershed, water can flow in faster than it can flow out. The RD has an essential function of regulating downstream flow to prevent flooding and providing for wastewater treatment, hydro electric plants and other needs. They try to accommodate recreational needs which is where we fit in to the equation.

For more information on lake levels and release rate statistics please check the HRBRRD website: <http://www.hrbrrd.com>

### **Invasive Species:**

Paul Coppock reported that the ILA team survey the lake each summer. In the past, Ellie Menz, Russ Evatt, Pete and Ellen Sinski, and Paul Coppock conducted the annual survey of Indian Lake, inspecting for any aquatic invasive plant species. No invasive plants were found. To date, the only invasive that has been discovered in the lake is the spiny water-flea. These are tiny crustaceans, with barbed tails that consumes zooplankton, is a food chain interrupter less than ½ inch long that clings to fishing line and boat lines.

The team is surveying the shore again this summer. They are looking vigilantly for: eurasian milfoil, variable leaf milfoil, and hydrilla (this is not in ADK yet. It is in areas close to the park and is a very dense and very fast growing invasive.).

Animal invasives: spiny waterfleas, zebra mussels (1", sharp), quaga mussels (up to 2"), Asian clams (small), native mussels are large and gray.

Blue Mountain Lake's recent experience is a cautionary tale: Last summer, variable leaf milfoil was found in Utowana Lake. This lake connects to Eagle Lake and Blue Mountain Lake. It is fast growing, dense and mobile. It spreads thru pieces breaking off and rooting. It threatens Eagle and Blue Mountain Lake. BML Association has raised \$140K to fight it and hired a contractor (Aqualogic) They expect monitoring and removal to continue for years to come. Complete eradication is unlikely according to their association newsletter. DEC has funded an additional line of defense: Boat stewards employed

through the ADK Watershed Institute, and free boat wash station. With boat traffic booming on IL, the stewards play an increasingly important role. Stewards check boats and trailer, inform boaters, wash dirty boats on site. Last year they intercepted and cleaned multiple boats and trailers carrying milfoil, curly leaf pondweed and zebra mussels. We can use your help if interested in joining the survey team. Contact Paul or a board member. Program offers free species identification and reporting training.

Online training video and other information at: [adkinvasives.com](http://adkinvasives.com).

### **Other Business:**

Maggie asked if we had other business to discuss. No other questions were asked.

### **Guest Speaker:**

Maggie welcomed and introduced John Callaghan, Executive Director of the Hudson River Black River Regulation District (HRBRRD) as our guest speaker tonight. John will give an overview of the dam rehabilitation project, as well as the role of the regulating district and the impact on our lake levels. We thank John for volunteering his time to be here with us tonight.

John thanked us for inviting him to our Annual Meeting and Picnic. The Indian Lake dam restoration project, HRBRRD water regulating, and invasive species were topics he touched on. Invasive species are a big concern for all lakes in our area. Not only are they ugly, but also, difficult to control when discovered in a water body. Surveys of the lake shoreline are essential to the discovery and removal of invasive species as well as boat stewards at wash stations help to control the spread of invasives.

Water levels were high this year in many lakes and reservoirs. That made the regulation of downstream flow more difficult. They are involved with flood protection and regulate to water flow to “flatten the curve” to prevent flooding. You can check their website for forecasts of water flow.

The Indian Lake dam has been awarded \$4.5 million dollars for reconstruction purposes such as increasing the earthen embankment and gate structures to be replaced in kind. A bid from Bergman Engineering has been submitted and is under consideration. Their plan is to not have a “Draw Down” of the lake, but to use coffer boxes or plates to isolate the gate work under replacement. That work will be done underwater. Before the contract can be approved, two public meeting will be held. One meeting in February or March. Another will be scheduled for late spring or early summer. In other words, the selection process will start in late summer. Work could start in the fall of 2022 or spring of 2023. In September some cosmetic repairs are planned.

John asked if there were any questions:

Is there a risk of unintended damage to the dam to the dam due to the repair work? John responded that their intent is to do no harm.

Can we follow the project on the web site? John responded that the public can follow the progress of the dam reconstruction. The information will be available on the website when all is set to go.

Funding for this project? Hopefully the of the Federal Infrastructure Bill will contribute to this project, although; this bill does not put an emphasis on dams.

Hydro-electric power? This project will not promote nor preclude hydro-electric considerations.

John asks us to “Like Us” on Facebook and Instagram. He thanked us for the Indian Lake business card.

Maggie asked if we had any other questions: A question about starting a co-op to operate the Marina was answered by Glen. He is currently operating the Marina.

Maggie thanked Glen for offering to serve as president of our organization.

Scott Chase asked about the road salt polluting our water wells. He suggests we contact the Town to Indian Lake to use some of their federal funds to extend the public water system to more homes.

Maggie announced that we were at the end of our business meeting. Carmen thanked Maggie for serving as our President, especially during the very difficult Covid-19 pandemic. We also thank Gail O’Brien for her service as Treasurer. We are looking for someone to serve as treasurer.

Paul made the motion to adjourn, and Carmen seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 6:40

Respectfully submitted by Carmen Adler, Secretary to ILA.