

Ripples

LAKE
Winnepesaukee
ASSOCIATION

Spring 2018

PROPOSED CHANGES TO WETLANDS RULES THREATEN NH LAKES WATER QUALITY.

NHDES Wetlands Bureau is conducting a complete re-write of the Wetlands Administrative Rules.

In February, NHDES announced the release of a draft revision of the New Hampshire Wetlands rules, the first complete rewrite of the rules since 1991.

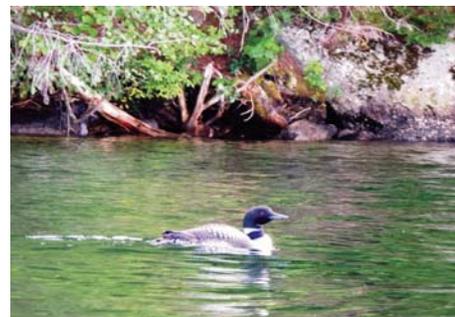
The Lake Winnepesaukee Association believes the proposed changes to the NH Department of Environmental Services Wetlands Administrative Rules threaten the water quality of New Hampshire's lakes; this is especially dangerous at a time that mounting evidence shows that the rules should actually be strengthened.

Over the past 30 years, Lake Winnepesaukee has suffered from extensive milfoil infestations, seen an increase in algal blooms and cyanobacteria, a reduction in water clarity in some areas of the lake, a decrease in crayfish and other fish species, and a reduced loon population. As most in New Hampshire know, milfoil is an invasive species that can take over a lake, choking out other native plants, affecting swimming and boating opportunities. Even worse, cyanobacteria blooms involving toxin-producing species can pose serious threats to animals and humans. Both of these problems are

fueled by too much phosphorus flowing into the lake. Thirty years of water quality data show the phosphorus level in Winnepesaukee has doubled.

The key changes to the NHDES Wetlands Administrative Rules that pertain to lakes are found in the **Env-Wt 500** section. As an example of proposed changes, Part **Env-Wt 513** pertains to private docking structures:

- baseline frontage is reduced from 75 feet to 50 ft.
- maximum dock width increased from 6 ft. to 8 ft.
- dock size based on square footage of structure surface allowed per feet of frontage, rather than # of boat slips per feet of frontage, up to a potential maximum of 900 sq. ft.
- more flexibility in configuration
- allow deck construction as an alternative to beach construction.



The shoreline represents the first line of defense against pollutants from reaching the lake. NHDES' proposed rule changes will send even more phosphorus and other contaminants into Winnepesaukee and all of New Hampshire's lakes. (continued on page 2)

Working to protect the water quality and natural resources of Lake Winnepesaukee and its watershed now and for future generations.

Wetlands Rules Changes

The NHDES Wetlands Bureau should protect our public waters for the benefit of all by adopting more stringent rules to reduce the negative impacts that result from development along the shoreline. In, on, and over the water structures disturb the natural shoreline and lake bottom, resulting in reduced light penetration, reduced plant growth, an alteration in the fish and aquatic habitat, and an alteration in the flow of water and sediment transport. **We are losing near shore habitat that is critical to the survival of certain fish and wildlife, such as our beloved loons.**

The vast majority of lakefront property owners, lake users, and the public benefit from stricter controls that aim to protect the health of the lake. If we can reduce phosphorus and other contaminant flow into Winnepesaukee by 20-30%, then we will have cleaner, clearer water similar to what existed just 20-30 years ago, with better swimming, fishing, and boating for all. The Lake Winnepesaukee Association is midway through a comprehensive analysis of the lake's watershed and water quality. We have identified over 400 opportunities for improvement in Gilford, Laconia, Meredith, Center Harbor, New Hampton, and Moultonborough. This summer we are extending our analysis to include Tuftonboro and Wolfeboro, and will be assisting the towns of Alton and New Durham in their watershed analysis work as well.

The LWA will continue to review the rule changes, and will participate in lake focus groups convened later this summer. We urge you to become familiar with the proposed changes and make your comments to us and/or NHDES. <https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wetlands/process-improvement.htm>



Two eagles perch above Lake Winnepesaukee on Round Island.



LWA Lake Protection Project

FUNDING AWARDED TO ADVANCE MOULTONBOROUGH BAY AND WINTER HARBOR WATERSHED STUDY.

This spring, the Lake Winnepesaukee Association (LWA) in partnership with the Town of Tuftonboro, will begin development of a watershed management plan for Moultonborough Bay and Winter Harbor, Lake Winnepesaukee, following our successful application for a Watershed Assistance Grant from the NH Department of Environmental Services with Clean Water Act Section 319 funds from the U.S. EPA.



View of Winter Harbor from the Libby Museum.
Photo Courtesy: Marty Koons

This project builds on six years of effort by the Lake Winnepesaukee Association to develop a comprehensive lake-wide management plan for Winnepesaukee, and is a continuation of a community-based watershed planning effort to improve and protect all of the water resources within the lake's watershed.

Development of a watershed management plan for the Moultonborough Bay and Winter Harbor areas will include conducting watershed and water quality analyses to identify sources in the subwatershed that are contributing nutrients and pollutants to these areas of the lake. Representatives from the communities of Moultonborough, Tuftonboro, and Wolfeboro, the Lake Winnepesaukee Association, and other stakeholders will work together to develop an action plan of strategies that will protect the value, uses, and health of the lake for generations.

The community of Tuftonboro is contributing \$15,000 toward this project, recognizing how important water quality is to their local economy. Steve Wingate, Chair of the Tuftonboro Conservation Commission, states, *"Our lakes are the source of most of our outdoor, recreational activity as well as the base of our local economy. In the last comprehensive survey, swimming and boating were two of the top three recreational activities of Tuftonboro residents, with fishing close behind. Over 85% of tax revenue comes from shoreline ownership. The value of our real estate and all our activities around the lake depend on the quality of the water."*

We know that pollutants in the environment, if not properly mitigated, wash into our lakes through stormwater runoff. A watershed plan can identify where problems currently exist and promote ways to eliminate or avoid these problems in the future. Today we have the technology through smart development to live, play and work around our lakes while preserving the water quality we all enjoy and rely upon."

A kick-off public meeting for the project will be held in June - stay tuned for more information!

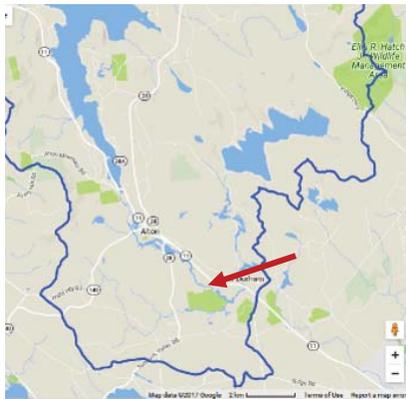
Around the Watershed

Alton and New Durham fund watershed and water quality study for the Merrymeeting River.

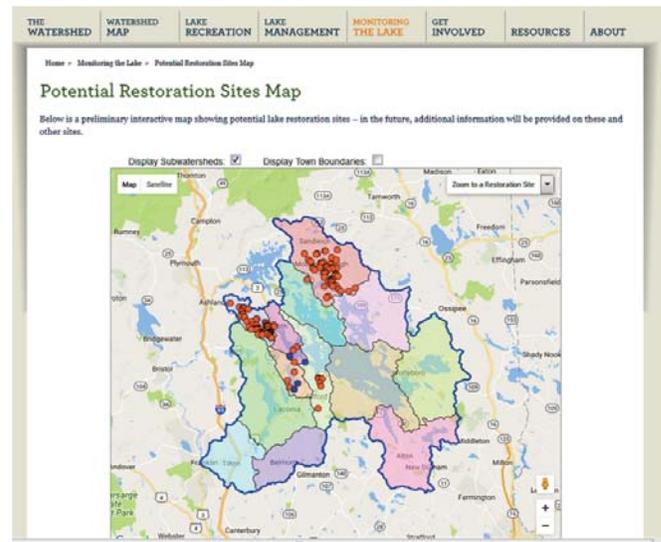
The communities of Alton and New Durham are supporting volunteer efforts to assess the factors that are contributing excessive nutrients and pollutants to the Merrymeeting River and ponds located within the river system.

The Merrymeeting River, the largest inflow of water to Alton Bay, Lake Winnepesaukee, has experienced frequent cyanobacteria blooms over the last several years. The amount of vegetation in Downing Pond (part of the river system) has grown from 5% in 2003 to 30% in 2017. Downing Pond and Jones Pond are impaired due to the presence of two different cyanobacteria genera. Milfoil and the Chinese Mystery Snail, both invasive species, are present in the river. Water quality data shows high concentrations of phosphorus along the river system. In 2017, the Merrymeeting River Cyanobacteria Mitigation Steering Committee (CMSC), made up of concerned residents in Alton and New Durham, began investigating options to raise funds to address the impairments.

The Lake Winnepesaukee Association will provide technical assistance to the CMSC as they work on development of a watershed management plan for the river. We will also assist with outreach and education efforts, and post the data and study on the Winnepesaukee Gateway website.



So much to do! Watershed Surveys generate a body of work.



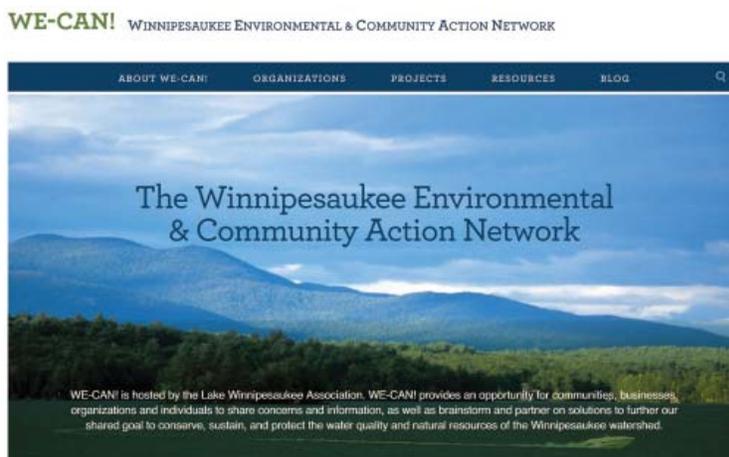
Winnepesaukee Gateway
www.winnepesaukeegateway.org

The Lake Winnepesaukee Association's work to develop watershed management plans for the various subwatersheds of the lake has resulted in a growing database of sites in need of mitigation. As part of the watershed management planning process, watershed surveys identify and document sites that are contributing pollutants to the lake.

To date, over 140 sites have been documented, and there are hundreds more to find. We will be adding the results of the watershed survey for Moultonborough Bay, Winter Harbor, and the Merrymeeting River as they are completed. Visit the Winnepesaukee Gateway to click on a site to view a description of the problem, the recommended solution, pollutant load reduction estimate, and an estimate of the cost.

The database represents the heart of the work that we have been doing, and provides a tool to help us work with communities on implementation as well as track our progress in reducing nutrient loading to Lake Winnepesaukee.

CHECK OUT THE WINNIPESAUKEE ENVIRONMENTAL & COMMUNITY ACTION NETWORK! WWW.WECAN-LWWA.ORG



Launched in December, WE-CAN is a means by which communities, businesses, organizations, and individuals can share their concerns and information, as well as brainstorm and partner on solutions to further our shared goal to conserve, sustain, and protect the lake's health and the natural resources of the Winnepesaukee watershed.

The goal of WE-CAN is to provide the watershed community with an online forum and clearing house of resources to bring the various stakeholders in the Winnepesaukee watershed together to align efforts and resources on issues of mutual concern.

Want to know what organizations are working in the watershed, and what projects they are involved in? Or perhaps you want to know who to contact about a particular issue; WE-CAN can help direct you to the right place.

Looking for volunteer opportunities, or help on a project or issue?

Currently, the town of Moultonborough is seeking volunteers to help with milfoil removal, weed watching, and to be part of a Task Force to work on implementing recommendations from the recently completed Moultonborough Bay Inlet Watershed Restoration Plan. If you live in Moultonborough and want to help in their lake protection efforts, please contact the Conservation Commission at 476-2347.

The Waukegan Watershed Advisory Committee (WWAC) is looking for people to be part of their committee. The WWAC meets bi-monthly at the Meredith Town Hall Annex to oversee the implementation of the recommendations in the Waukegan and Winona Watershed Management Plan, completed by the LWA in September 2016. Contact the Meredith Community Development Office at 677- 4215 for more information.

LWA welcomes two new Board Members



Peter Glick, taking the water temperature of Moultonborough Bay.

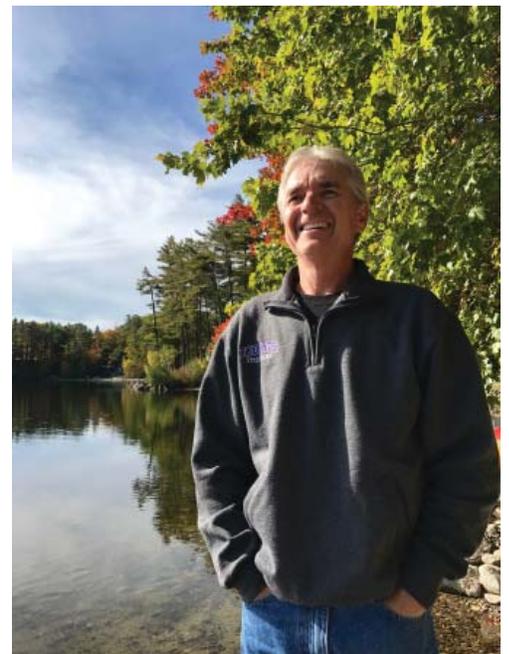
The Lake Winnepesaukee Association is pleased to have Peter Glick and Tim Baker join the LWA Board in our mission to protect the water quality and natural resources of the lake.

Peter Glick joined the LWA Board last fall, and has made significant contributions in a very short time. Peter loves the lake, and has been swimming, paddling, and sailing on Winnepesaukee and other area lakes since he was a boy. After serving as a water quality monitor and reviewing our restoration plans for the Moultonborough Bay Inlet and other watersheds, he became convinced that the LWA is playing a critical role in protecting the lake today and preserving it for our children tomorrow.

Peter's a serial entrepreneur and investor who has served as Chairman and CEO of companies focused on instruments for clinical diagnostics, contract research for new drug development, and other efforts to improve healthcare. Peter, his wife Kerstin, and their mostly grown children split their time between Tuftonboro and Massachusetts.

Tim Baker is a new addition to the LWA Board, and is excited to support its mission to protect the waters and natural resources of the Lake Winnepesaukee watershed. Tim recently retired to focus his efforts on philanthropic causes on a local level. Prior to retirement, Tim spent 35 plus years in executive management and financial positions focusing in the area of medical technology, where he was most recently the President and Chief Financial Officer of Cynosure Inc., a medical aesthetics company. Throughout his career, he has focused on business development and strategic growth in early stage organizations and business turnaround opportunities. Tim is a certified public accountant and holds a master's degree in operations management.

On a personal level he has been a volunteer in Massachusetts serving Westford youth sports, Westford youth theatre and the Westford food pantry. Tim and his family have been part time residents of Moultonborough for almost 20 years enjoying the lakes region throughout all its seasons.



Tim Baker, enjoying a beautiful fall day at Lake Kanasatka.

Keep Winnepesaukee Clean - Put a Sock In It!



Proper boat maintenance protects our lake. Oil and fuel can leak from your engine and collect in the bilge compartment. When the bilge is activated, these chemicals are discharged into the lake.

Bilge socks absorb the excess oil and gas, preventing these substances from polluting our water.

You or your marina can install a bilge sock into your engine's compartment at the beginning of the boating season, and remove and dispose of it during the winterization process of your vessel. Bilge socks are inexpensive, costing approximately \$10-15, but are very effective.

Here are more **Clean Boating Tips:**

- Use proper care when fueling your boat - do not top off your tank.
- Do not wash your boat in the lake - only at an approved wash station, or away from the lake. Use nontoxic, and chlorine and phosphate free cleaners.
- Use Pump Out Stations - it is illegal to discharge untreated sewage into the lake.
- Clean, drain, and dry your boat when trailering to help prevent the spread of invasive species from one waterbody to another.

You can feel good that you are doing your part to keep **Winnepesaukee clean.**

THANK YOU FOR BEING A CLEAN BOATER!

A WINNIPESAUKEE DOZEN WAYS TO ♥ THE LAKE

Wash boats and cars away from the lake.

Inspect your boat and trailer for invasive plants and animals.

Never feed the ducks and geese.

Never rake leaves or dump sand into the lake.

Inspect and pump septic systems regularly.

Put a bilge sock in your boat.

Eliminate or reduce the use of household hazardous products.

Stabilize soil with native plants and/or mulch to prevent erosion.

Aid our lake protection efforts – become a member or donate to the LWA.

Use phosphate-free fertilizers and cleaning products.

Keep the natural vegetation and buffer along the shoreline.

Educate your friends & neighbors.

Enjoy the beauty. It's why we live here.

If you would like to receive copies of the Winni Dozen Ways to Love the Lake for your association or neighbors, please contact our office.

Lake Winnepesaukee Association

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Love the Lake!

Upcoming Events:

May 31 - Summer Camps: The White Mountains (and Lakes!) Roots of an Iconic American Experience – Bringing History Alive in an Exhibit Experience

Carriage House, Church Landing at Mill Falls,
Meredith, NH 7-8:30pm

Hosted by: The Lake Winnepesaukee Association
in partnership with NH LAKES

Cost for Thursday evening's talk is \$5 and
registration is required. Visit [www.nhlakes.org/
lakes-congress](http://www.nhlakes.org/lakes-congress).

June 1 - Lakes Congress

Church Landing at Mill Falls, Meredith, NH
8:30am-3:00pm

June 6-7 NH Gives - An online Day of Giving to celebrate nonprofits across New Hampshire!

Aid our lake protection efforts by making
a donation at [https://www.nhgives.org/
organizations/lake-winnepesaukee-association](https://www.nhgives.org/organizations/lake-winnepesaukee-association)

June 9 - Celebrate Moultonborough's Lakes and Ponds

Moultonborough Town Hall, 9am-12pm

Join the LWA, Moultonborough Conservation
Commission, NHDES, and NH LAKES as we
celebrate how lucky we are to live in the Lakes
Region, and learn what we each can do to keep our
lakes and ponds clean.

Topics will include "Protecting Our Watershed"
"Invasive Species: Present and Future", and "Lake
Hosts" making a difference on the lakes

July 21 - Save the Date, 9am-10:30am

The State of Winnepesaukee's Water Quality

Join LWA for a discussion of the State of
Winnepesaukee's water quality. Has it improved or
declined compared to 10, 20 yrs. ago? What is LWA
doing to protect this precious resource? How can
you help?