

**Minutes (DRAFT)**  
**Bolton Lakes Watershed Conservation Alliance (BLWCA) Meeting**

Tuesday, June 3, 2014  
7:00 PM

North Central Conservation District  
24 Hyde Avenue  
Vernon, CT 06066

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**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 PM by Rod Parlee (Bolton CC & CT Assoc. of Conservation and Inland Wetland Commissions-CACIWC). Others attending were: Dorothy Mickiewicz (Tolland CC), Tom Ouellette (Vernon CC), David Forest, Richard Jewell, Karl Prewo and Peter Van Dine (Friends of Bolton Lakes), Kim Welch (Bolton Lakes Commissioner), Ray Hardy (Bolton Wildlife Advocacy), and invited guests Dr. George Knoecklein (Northeast Aquatic Research LLC) and Dr. Ashley Helton (UCONN Dept. of Natural Resources and the Environment).

**2. Public Comment**

None.

**3. Approval of May 6, 2014 Draft Minutes**

The minutes of May 6, 2014 were approved by unanimous vote.

**4. Dr. George Knoecklein, invited Guest – Bolton Lakes: current status, future directions**

Dr. Knoecklein discussed the Connecticut Federation of Lakes (CFL). CFL provides a forum for sharing of information; its mission and goals are the protection and improvement of lakes and watersheds. He listed several lake associations and organizations that may serve as models for Bolton Lakes.

Knoecklein listed as the three primary threats to lakes, nutrient enrichment, non-native infestations and sediment deposition. Priority actions should include removal of invasive species, and prevention of toxic algae. The most problematic aquatic invasives, in decreasing order of concern, are: hydrilla, fanwort, Eurasian milfoil, variable-leaved milfoil, curly-leaved pondweed, and water chestnut. Prewo reported that insects have been found feeding on variable-leaved milfoil in Middle Bolton Lake – additional analysis is being conducted.

Knoecklein explained that water quality data collected by Friends of Bolton Lakes volunteers will be added to a database he is developing under contract with the Town of Vernon. He will do a watershed loading evaluation based on documented inputs to the lakes, including storm drains, streams and septic discharges. Inflows to Upper Bolton Lake will be determined by monitoring conditions at the Hatch Hill Road culvert. He commented that once conditions in Lower Bolton Lake are stabilized, volunteers can perform all necessary monitoring.

He believes the sewer project will reduce high nutrient levels. He reported that water clarity is presently reduced, which is atypical for April and May. Helton asked about use of road salt in the watershed and noted that salt may increase phosphates, increasing algae and reducing clarity.

5. **Dr. Ashley Helton, Invited Guest – Watershed research and outreach**  
Dr. Helton is an Asst. Prof. with the UCONN Dept. of Natural Resources and the Environment, Center for Environmental Sciences and Engineering. She described her research in watershed hydrology, and in determination of how human interactions affect aquatic ecosystems. She noted that her graduate student may be interested in investigating these relationships in the Bolton Lakes watershed.
6. **Bolton Lakes Watershed ERT Report – Discussion**  
Discussion deferred to next meeting.
7. **EPA Webcast – Harmful Algal Blooms**  
No discussion.
8. **Follow-up to Previous Meeting Discussions**
  - Land Protection – Mickiewicz reported that response from Joshua's Trust remains pending.
  - Lake Management/Drawdown – Forrest reported that attendees at a May 5, 2014 meeting agreed that Bolton and Vernon will each submit a request to CT DEEP for a 30-inch drawdown. Staff gauges will be installed in Middle and Lower Bolton Lakes for volunteers to monitor water levels during drawdowns. Discussion was held regarding measures for also monitoring water levels in Upper Bolton Lake.
  - Water Sampling Program – Prewo reported that initial water sampling training has been conducted and will be expanded to include additional volunteers.
  - Other Issues – No discussion.
9. **New Business**  
None
10. **Next Meeting Date and Topic(s) of Discussion**  
July 1, 2014, 7:00 PM. Discussion of ERT Report.
11. **Adjourn**  
The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:30 PM.

Minutes prepared and submitted by Tom Ouellette.