

MINUTES
Highland Lake Leadership Team
November 2, 2023 | 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM
Windham Public Works Conference Room
Hybrid Meeting (In-Person and Virtual)

Attending:

- Dennis Brown, Chair and Highland Lake Association President
- Tom Verlee, HLLT Member
- Jeff Dennis (virtual), Maine DEP Watershed Management Unit
- Diann Wood (virtual), HLLT member
- Nancy Lightbody, HLLT member
- Kevin McElearney, HLLT Member and HLA Vice President and Treasurer
- Heather Hunt, Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Alaina Chorman, Maine DEP Watershed Management Unit
- Gretchen Anderson, Town of Windham Environmental & Sustainability Coordinator

Item 1. Welcome/Introductions

Item 2. Public Comment - None

Item 3: Review 05/31/23 Minutes – Motion made by Nancy to approve minutes. Approved unanimously.

Item 4. Committee Updates

Education & Outreach (Nancy)

- Education and Outreach Plan Phase II is in the final draft stages. The plan will be sent to the full HLLT board for final approval.
- Currently updating the ‘Lake-Friendly Living’ Handout to include ‘Watch Your Wake’ and ‘Shoreland Zone’ sections.
- Shoreland Zone BMP videos have been created and will be shared by both Towns & the Lake Association on their websites and social media platforms.

Water Quality (Kevin and Dennis)

- The attached slides were shared regarding the lake’s water quality monitoring for 2023.
 - Lake Water Level was elevated most of the summer (water going over dam the entire year).
 - More rainfall and more nutrients.
 - Potential higher flushing rate with increased rainfall – not confirmed.
 - Alewife Update
 - 2023 Count = 12,000
 - Run numbers peaked in 2018 at 64,000, with 40,000 as an average.
 - DMR has hypothesized that the removal of the Sacarappa Dam has adjusted the run tendencies (the alewives are deciding to move up the Presumpscot rather than ‘turn’ into Mill Brook.)
 - Secchi Depth was relatively flat/average.
 - Common observation that water was ‘tea color’ after rainstorms. Heard anecdotally that other lakes were having similar trends (warmer surface temperatures and similar depth measurements).
 - Wetlands (vegetation decay) potentially flushed out with May storms – Jeff Dennis hypothesized that Highland Lake could have experienced this with wetlands in the lake.
 - Phosphorus History – 2023 numbers were recently received and have not been evaluated.

- Streams look similar (higher levels than in lake). One problem stream – want to bracket sample next year to specifically identify source and provide mitigation strategies.
- First loon chick to survive more than a week since 2016. Parents and chick tagged by BRI.
- No bloom characteristics identified – ½ meter, meter less sechhi depth than normal.

Ordinance Committee (Dennis)

- Committee has decided to refine the nutrient management ordinance, with potential to include the following changes:
 - Create a set of performance standards to be incorporated into existing code rather than a standalone ordinance.
 - Potential limit between 5-10 animal units (au).
 - Outline key requirements in smaller au plans:
 - Divert any upstream drainage from manure storage.
 - Recommendations to keep manure pile covered/secure.
 - Requirement for disposal, removal, or 're-use'.

Watershed Management Committee (Heather)

- *2023 Road Association outreach and private road workshop*
 - *Lake Association interested in private road workshop/road walk for next year. Next steps will be to gauge interest from road associations.*
 - *HLA will send email newsletter and direct outreach to road associations for projects needing assistance/funds.*
- *Municipal rates for private roads*
 - *There is a new Windham Public Works Director – staff will meet to discuss this interest.*
 - *Lake Association is considering establishing a funding pot for road associations, like Watchic Lake.*
- *LD 376*
 - *The original State bill requested \$2 million to assist lake water quality; \$200k passed and will be used by the State to help for alum treatments of lakes that are impaired.*
- *NPS Sites*
 - *Have been discussing known sites that need or seeking assistance to be fixed and most likely avenue for getting those sites addressed.*
 - *Most of the NPS sites need maintenance and won't likely qualify for 319 grant funding.*
- *Committee will be looking to review Watershed Management Plan (WMP) milestones and make decision regarding potential WMP edits in late April/ beginning of May.*

Item 5. Other

- *Discussion regarding Officers/Committee Chairs that will be put on the next agenda for decision.*

Item 6. Adjourn



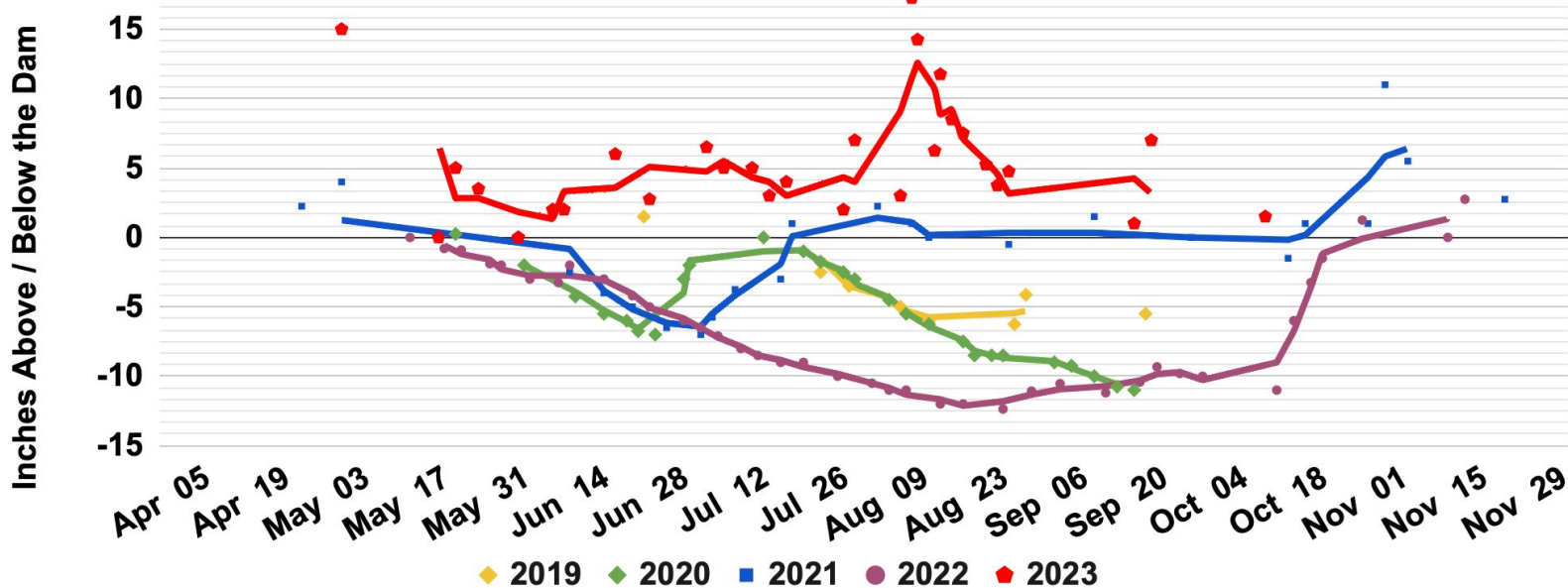
Highland Lake Water Quality Update

HLLT 11/02/2023

Lake Water Level



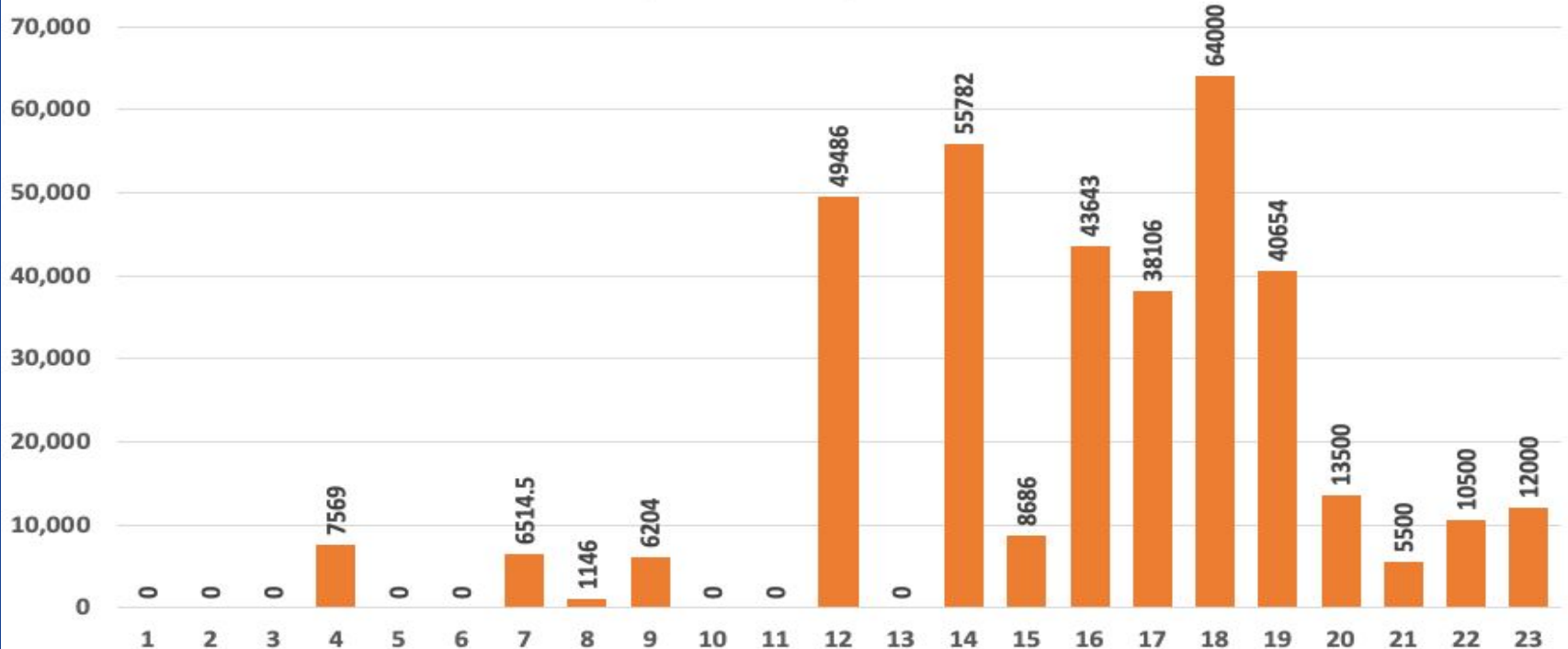
Highland Lake Water Level Trends



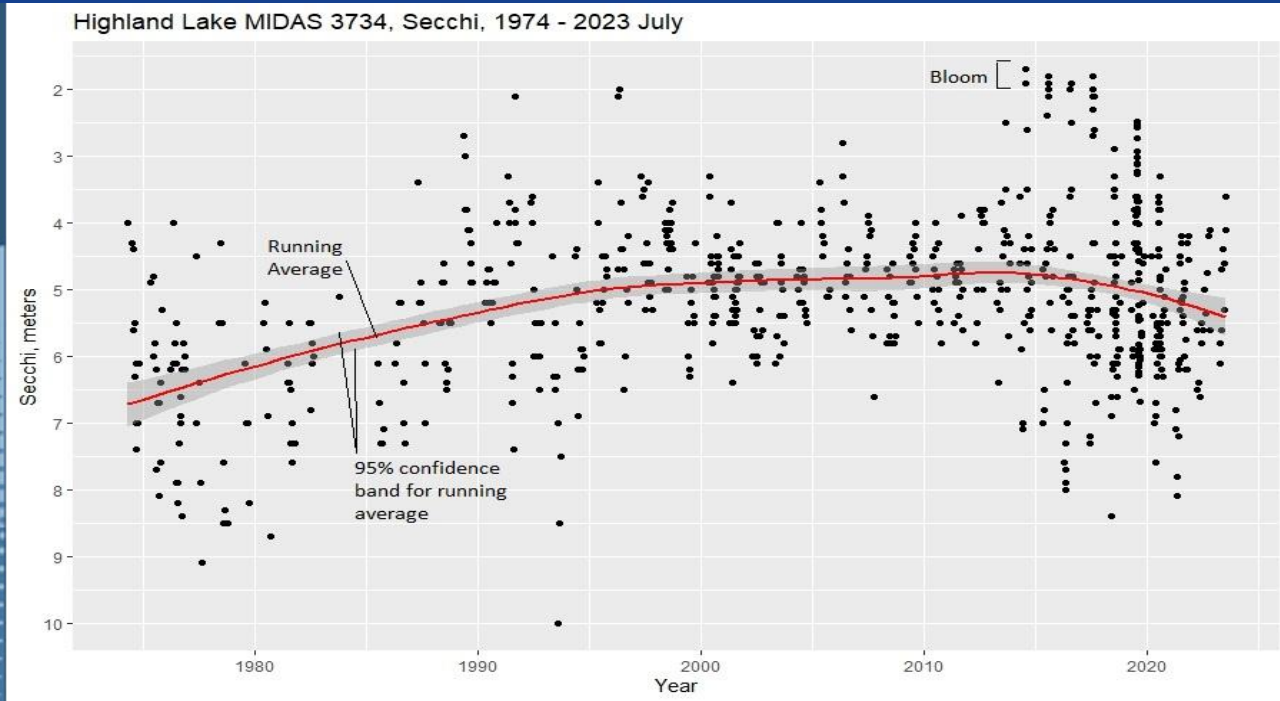
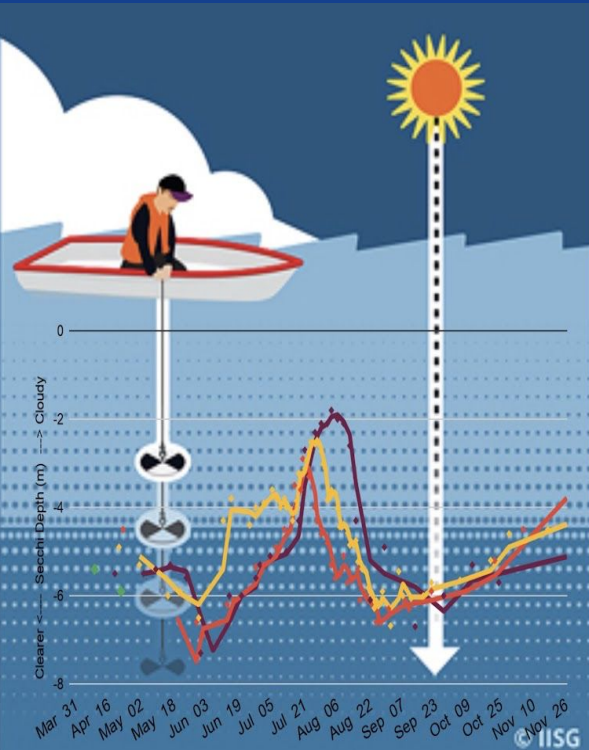
Alewife Update



Alewives Into Highland Lake By Year



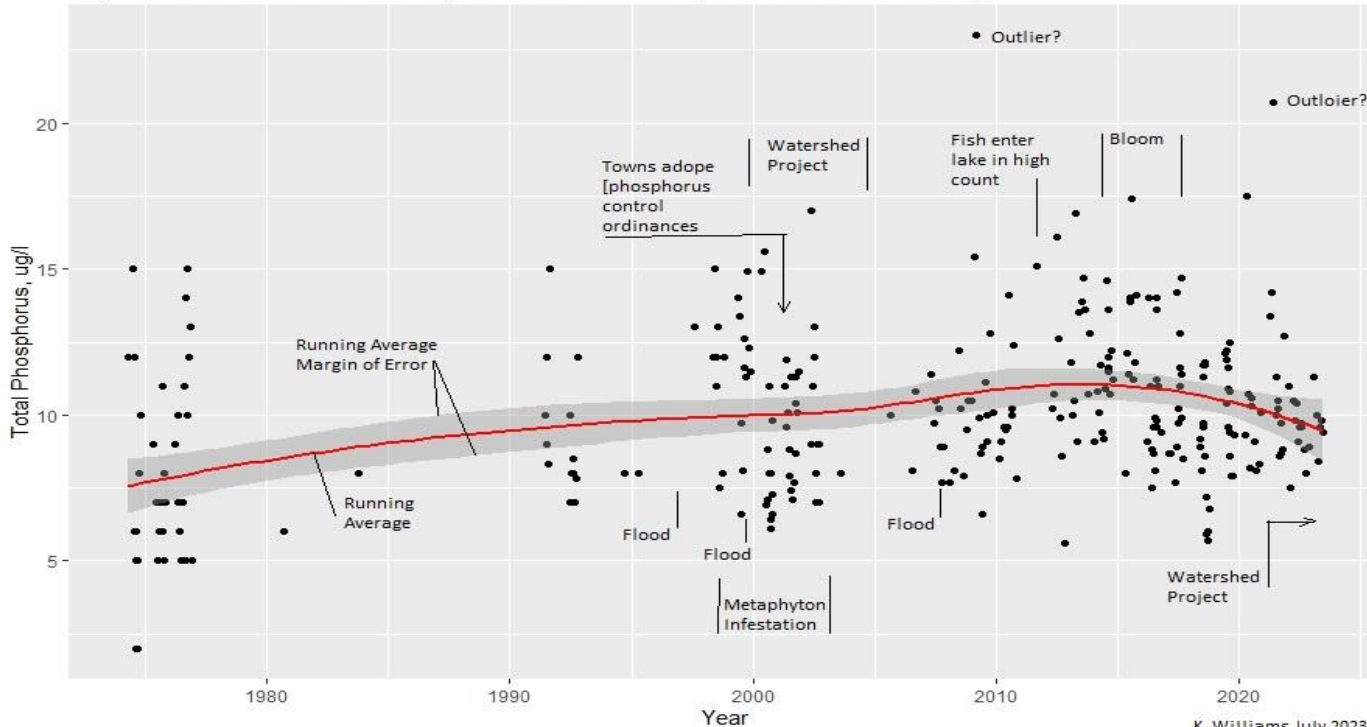
Secchi Measurement: Water Clarity





Phosphorus History

Highland Lake MIDAS 3734, Epilimnion Total Phosphorus, 1974-2023 July



Everyone must continue to do their part mitigating sources of Phosphorus entering our lake

First Loon Chick to survive more than a week since 2016



- Born on July 4th
- First Swim from the nest to the Lake
- Parents and chick tagged by BRI

