Silver Lake Association Information Meeting Minutes

Hosted by EOS Eco-Energy Inc. at Open Sky Co-op

At 6 pm on May 21st, 2026

A small but keen group of community members interested in forming a Silver Lake Association met to learn about how a lake association could benefit our community.

Action Items

1) EOS to assemble an Interim Working Group/Committee of 3 to 4 community volunteers and schedule first meeting in early June.
2) EOS to prepare and distribute Water Rangers test kits to 2 to 3 community volunteers interested in Silver Lake water quality data collection.

Presentation Summary

About EOS

EOS is a charitable environmental organization based in Sackville that's rooted in community-led organizing to build a renewable future for Tantramar. Past and current projects include renewable energy and energy efficiency promotion, adaptation planning, green spaces design and planting, watershed monitoring and much more.

- In 2017, supported by the New Brunswick Environmental Trust Fund, EOS established the Chignecto Watersheds Advisory Committee and a long-term water monitoring program with an aim to providing a reliable source of information on local watershed health. EOS has monitored over 40 different field sites since the program began and now monitors 12 core sites each season.
- EOS also does community/youth outreach and education on why water quality data is important and how to collect it.
- In 2025 EOS received three-year funding from The Canada Water Agency of the Government of Canada EcoAction funding program to support freshwater shoreline remediation work, rain garden planting, hosting educational workshops on

watershed health and management, and to ***support the development of a community-led Silver Lake Association.***

What is a Lake Association and what does it do?

- A group of individuals invested in the **health of the lake**, with the primary concern being the water.
- ***Not*** a policing or enforcement agency.
- Focus is on **education** to promote environmental stewardship and best management practices.
- Lake associations can monitor water levels, promote the identification of native plants and wildlife habitat, promote water safety, and patrol invasive species.
- They can organize an annual lake clean-up, maintain a website & social media pages, host an AGM, write newsletters, provide new residents a welcome package, gather and share a comprehensive history of the lake and the surrounding community.

How do they monitor water quality?

- Lake associations are dependent on citizen-science volunteers for water quality monitoring.
- Equipment can be borrowed (EOS EcoEnergy) or purchased through grants or fundraising.
- Measurements taken in the field ("insitu") can include temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, conductivity, salinity and sechi disk depth etc. and are relatively simple to collect (i.e. YSI multiparameter Meter or Water Rangers test kits).
- Temperature Data Loggers can also be used – they are small sensors deployed in the field to obtain continuous data on water temperature.
- Detailed chemistry, metals and bacteria data can be obtained by samples collected for lab analysis. Certified lab testing is costly and grant funding is typically required for this kind of analysis. Partnerships with non-certified analytical labs at MtA are a possibility to be explored.

Invasive Species Patrol Programs

- **New Brunswick Invasive Species Council** an excellent resource for starting up an invasive species patrol program.
- They are a non-profit organization dedicated to collaborative efforts with NGOs, government, industry, and recreational stakeholders to address invasive species in New Brunswick.
- Offer many online educational resources and funding may be available for installation of educational signage (i.e. Clean-Drain-Dry/Don't let it Loose).

Examples

Zebra and Quagga Mussels - two similar species reproduce rapidly and in extremely high numbers. They can attach themselves to any solid surface (ex: boats, docks, rocks, etc.) in groups of up to 700,000 individuals/m^2, where they filter the water in large quantities:

- drastically alter food webs and water chemistry
- compete with native species for space and resources
- impact infrastructure like water in-take pipes and power plants
- recently found in the Madawaska River (northern New Brunswick)

Eurasian watermilfoil - a plant with severe impacts on aquatic ecosystems when it is introduced to a new area. It can establish itself very rapidly and form large, dense mats of floating vegetation that:

- shade out native aquatic plants
- reduce oxygen in the water, impacting fish and other species
- limit recreation, boating, and fishing opportunities in local waterbodies

Cyanobacteria (Blue-Green Algae)

- a natural part of our environment
- found in many ponds, lakes, rivers and wetlands in New Brunswick
- Province of NB is interested in Cyanobacteria because blooms have the potential to create toxins that can harm fish, pets and people
- Discussed importance of reporting blooms (see below for GNB contact information)

Why should we form a Lake Association?

1) Water quality and quantity face many threats:
    - Extreme weather and rain events due to climate change
    - Algal growth and/or cyanobacteria blooms
    - Nutrient loading
    - Invasive species
    - Development pressures
    - Wildlife concerns (i.e. waterfowl, beavers)

2) Limited Provincial Government oversight/resources. Reliant on lake associations and watershed groups to do their own monitoring. This is also why citizen science has become so important.

3) To provide the lake with a united, informed voice to communicate issues with government agencies.

Who has jurisdiction over Silver Lake?

Province of New Brunswick

- freshwater fish populations (Department of Natural Resources) and
- water (Department of Environment and Local Government)

Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada

- freshwater fish habitat

Transport Canada

- vessels

Examples of other regional lake associations

See “Resources” list below for links to other regional lake associations for examples of vision and mission statements, bylaws, project ideas etc.

How can EOS help?

EOS can serve as an umbrella organization for the Silver Lake Watershed Association community group:

- Coordinate and participate in meetings of the Interim Working Group
- Provide resources/contacts from our environmental networks
- Provide website space
- Water quality monitoring support (i.e. training, equipment loans etc.)

Member Expectations

Interim Working Group

- Meet monthly to kick-start group administration
- Relay information to general membership via monthly or quarterly newsletters/emails

General Membership

- Volunteer to help with monthly water quality monitoring
- Share knowledge and expertise with the Interim Working Group
- Attendance at annual group meetings

Getting Started – Group Discussion

EOS Eco-Energy to assemble an Interim Working Group (~3 to 4 volunteers) to help get the association off the ground. This small committee will aim to meet monthly and report back to larger group via email updates.

Suggestions for year one:

- Start up a community Facebook page to share news about the lake, post lost and found items etc.
- Review other regional lake association missions and strategies.
- Assemble web resources/content for posting on EOS Eco-Energy's website.
- Investigate potential funding for Clean/Dry/Drain signage for the public boat launch (New Brunswick Invasive Species Council).
- Improve accessibility of existing Silver Lake water quality data:
    - reach out to Municipality of Tantramar for access to archival Silver Lake data;
    - reach out to community members with existing data records;
    - EOS to assist in digitizing and posting data publicly to DataStream.
- Begin collecting new Silver Lake water quality data using Water Rangers test kits maintained and loaned out by EOS:
    - Aim for data to be collected at least once per month and posted at intervals.
    - Several local open water swimmers have already offered to assist in water testing.
    - Consider also reaching out to local Scout organization to see if leaders/youth members might be interested in learning about water testing

Resources

EOS Eco-Energy Inc.

https://eosecoenergy.com/en/

New Brunswick Invasive Species Council (NBISC)

https://www.nbinvasives.ca/our-work

Lake George Habitat Preservation New Brunswick

https://www.lakegeorgehpi.ca/home

Oathill Lake Conservation Society

http://www.oathilllake.ca

The Davidson Lake Association

https://davidsonlake.ca

Harvey Lake Association

https://www.facebook.com/HarveyLakeAssociation

SWEPS Shubenacadie Watershed Environmental Protection Society

https://www.sweps.org

Atlantic DataStream

https://atlanticdatastream.ca

Water Rangers

https://waterrangers.com

Government of New Brunswick, Cyanobacteria (info and reporting)

https://www.gnb.ca/en/topic/laws-safety/health-environment-advisories/cyanobacteria.html#4