



The Lake George Watershed Coalition

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Dennis Dickinson

Kevin B. Geraghty

Randall Douglas

Bruce Young

Walter Young

To: Clinton Freeman, Legislative Contact, Joint Legislative Committee

From: David J. Decker, P.E., Program Manager

David J. Decker

Date: January 26, 2016

Re: Joint Legislative Budget Hearing – Local Government

The Lake George Watershed Coalition represents 9 local communities in three counties, (Warren, Washington and Essex). We are pleased to present the attachment documents to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee on Local Governments to evidence the critical need for resources to address the importance of upgrading local infrastructure to protect and preserve one of the State's most important and economically impactful natural resources...Lake George.

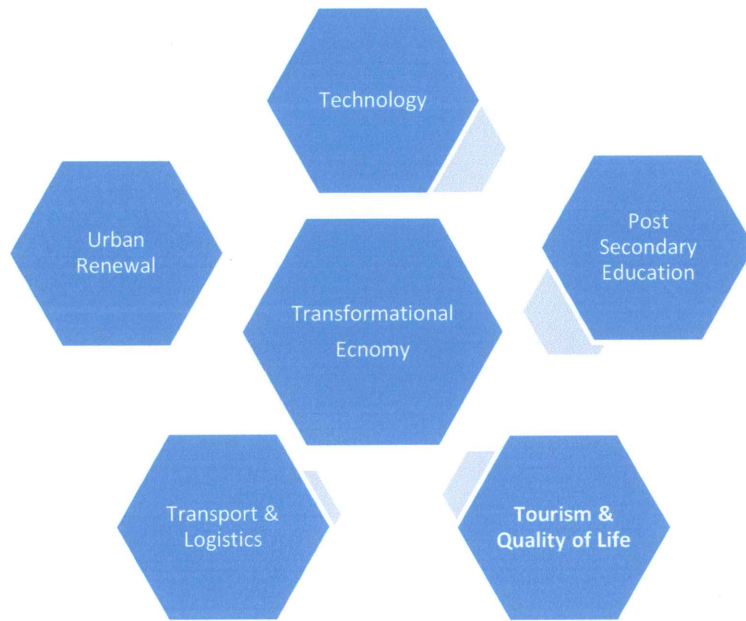
We hope this and other testimony will convey to the Joint Committee the critical nature of protecting these and other natural treasures of the State.

If there are questions, or for additional information, please call me at 461-2200.

Visit our website at: www.lakegeorge2000.org

Tourism & Quality of Life

***A Critical Component of the Region's Plan for a
Transformational Economy***



“A stronger tourism industry in New York means more jobs and economic activity in local communities. That’s why growing this critically important industry has been a priority of this administration”...**Governor Mario Cuomo, July 2,**

Sustainable environments vs tourism....or.....What price for investment, (or lack thereof)?

July 2, 2015, Albany, NY:

On this date, Governor Cuomo announced *“the total economic impact of New York State’s tourism industry in 2014 reached an all-time high of \$100.1 billion. Historic investments in the tourism industry have generated job growth and an increase in visitors to New York, making it the most visited state by overseas travelers for the 14th year in a row”*. The Governor also highlighted the 2015 summer ad campaign featuring vacation destinations and attractions from all regions of the state.

“A stronger tourism industry in New York means more jobs and more economic activity in local communities. That’s why growing this critically important industry has been a top priority of this administration – an effort that, as this new data demonstrates, has been effective,” Governor Cuomo said. *“I encourage New Yorkers and visitors alike to join the ever growing number of people who are vacationing in this state and seeing for themselves all that the Empire State has to offer.”*

With this recognition by the Governor that indeed, tourism is a major industry in New York, and as the recorded headlines in the 2013 Report by Tourism Economics indicate:

- ✓ *Travel & tourism is a substantial and growing component of the NYS Economy*
- ✓ *New York traveler spending grew 3.5% in 2013 to \$59.2 Billion*
- ✓ *726,731 jobs were sustained by tourism in 2013 with a total income of \$30B*
- ✓ *1 in 12 of all NYS employment is sustained by tourism, either directly or indirectly*
- ✓ *Tourism is now the 4th largest employer in NYS on the basis of direct employment...leapfrogging finance and insurance in 2013.*

What then...can be transformational about investments made in support of tourism?

Rather...the question should be...what will be the ***transformational effect*** if we **DO NOT** invest in supporting those resources that form the foundation for tourism?

Enter the case for protecting and preserving the largest single “tourism anchor” in all of upstate: ***Lake George***.

Warren County represents 43% of the region’s tourism sales with \$536M in direct tourism spending.

Now....the challenge: Over thirty years of scientific analysis has confirmed the fact that the lake is at a “tipping point” with the ongoing deposition of nutrients finding their way into the lake. One of the most succinct, graphical depictions of this reality can be recognized by viewing a short video that can be found at:

<https://youtu.be/Zrzf6vhzCyw>

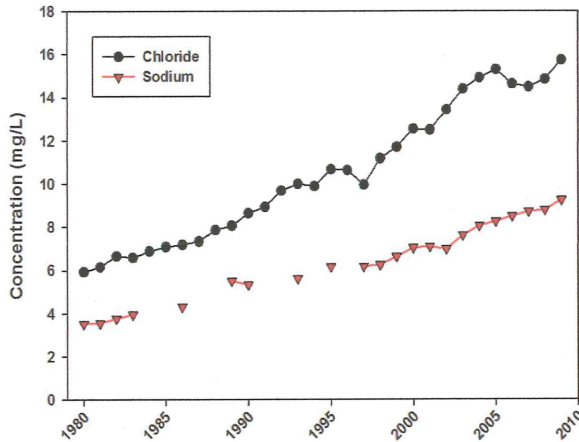
Additional depictions of empirical data round out the picture....

The lake is at a tipping point...this is not a call that the “sky is falling”....rather, it is a positive recognition that established scientists and the greater LG community have definitively recognized the challenges...and have plotted a path forward. With support from the URI we can “pick the low hanging fruit” and clearly spend an ounce on prevention versus the pounds we would need to commit to a cure” ...clearly, the latter is not a path prudent stewards of this treasure should consider.

No "crying wolf" here...just a look at the facts and data collected over the last 40 years

Lake George water quality is at a "tipping point"

The "Lake" is speaking volumes to those that will listen



1968 - 1975

- RENNELAER FRESH WATER INSTITUTE (RFWI) DISCOVERS GROUND WATER SEEPAGE FROM THE WWTP ENTERING WEST BROOK
- RFWI DOCUMENTS HIGH NITRATE AND HIGH CHLORIDE IN WWTP SEEPAGE

Average Chloride Concentrations across 8 Deep Monitoring Stations - 30 years of data

Water Quality Monitoring History

NITRATE-NITROGEN

- 63 LBS/DAY
- 22,959 LBS/YEAR
- 918,340 LBS (459 TONS) IN 40 YEARS

CHLORIDE

- 729 LBS/DAY
- 266,092 LBS/YEAR
- 10,643,695 LBS (5,322 TONS) IN 40 YEARS



Healthy lake bottom



LG Bays are becoming with laden with algae



Healthy native plant growth



Native plants covered in algae displaying
an overabundance of nutrients

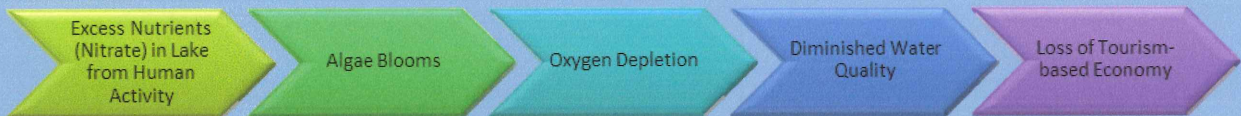
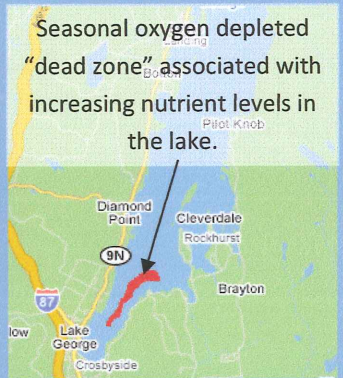
Queen of American Lakes In Peril

Lake George, a pristine lake nestled in the Adirondack mountains, has been inspiring artists, poets, politicians, and tourists with its crystal clear waters and towering mountains for over 200 years. The water is so clean and clear it has earned a Class AA Special designation. The tourism associated with the lake powers a nearly **\$1 billion economic engine** that is vital to the Capital Region. The lake, and the economy linked to it, are in peril as nutrient discharges are compromised lake quality.

15 Tons of Nitrate/Year Discharged from Village Treatment Plant

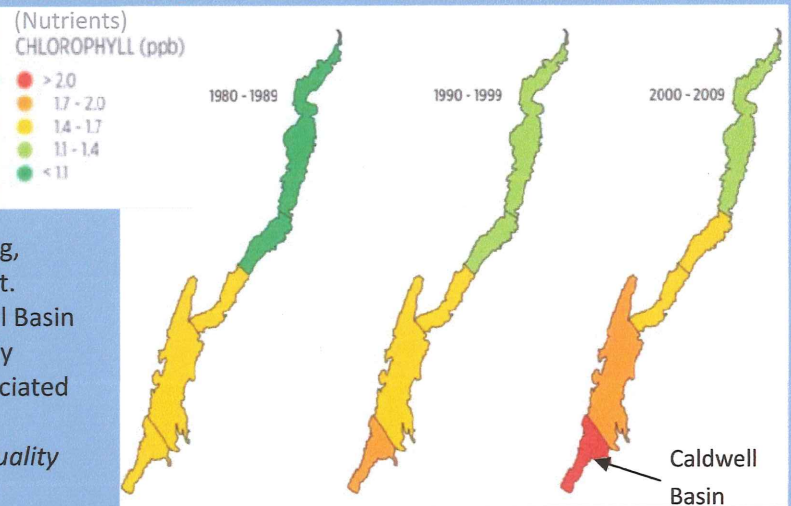
3 Tons of Nitrate/Year from Residential & Package Treatment Systems

"Nitrates are probably the single, biggest influence on the water quality in the West Brook watershed, and the treatment plant is the single largest source of nitrates." – C. Navitsky, Lake George Waterkeeper



With its relatively small water volume, shallow basin depth, and highly populated upland area, Caldwell Basin at the southern end of the lake is the most vulnerable part of the lake and receives a

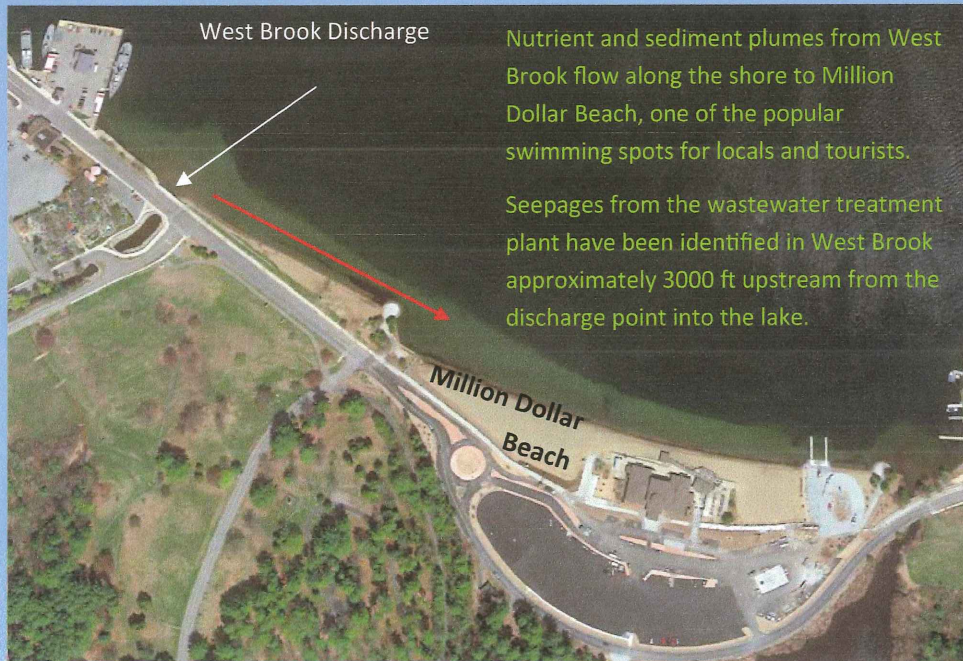
disproportionally high share of the lake's salt and nutrient loading, including effluent seepages from the wastewater treatment plant. Increasing chlorophyll concentrations, particularly in the Caldwell Basin reflect, among other factors, the higher nutrient load (particularly phosphorus and nitrate) and reduction in lake water quality associated with the population density at the southern end of the lake ~ paraphrased from *The State of the Lake: Thirty Years of Water Quality Monitoring on Lake George, August 2014.*



West Brook Discharge

Nutrient and sediment plumes from West Brook flow along the shore to Million Dollar Beach, one of the popular swimming spots for locals and tourists.

Seepages from the wastewater treatment plant have been identified in West Brook approximately 3000 ft upstream from the discharge point into the lake.



Treatment Plant Project to Protect Lake George

Funding & Annual User Rates (per EDU)

Current User Rate (per EDU)	\$442.44 + \$38,000/day fines
No Funding Assistance (Market Rate Loan)	\$1,135.62
Moderate Funding Package (\$2M Grant, 0% Loan)	\$892.24
Goal Funding Package (\$7.5M)	\$793.63

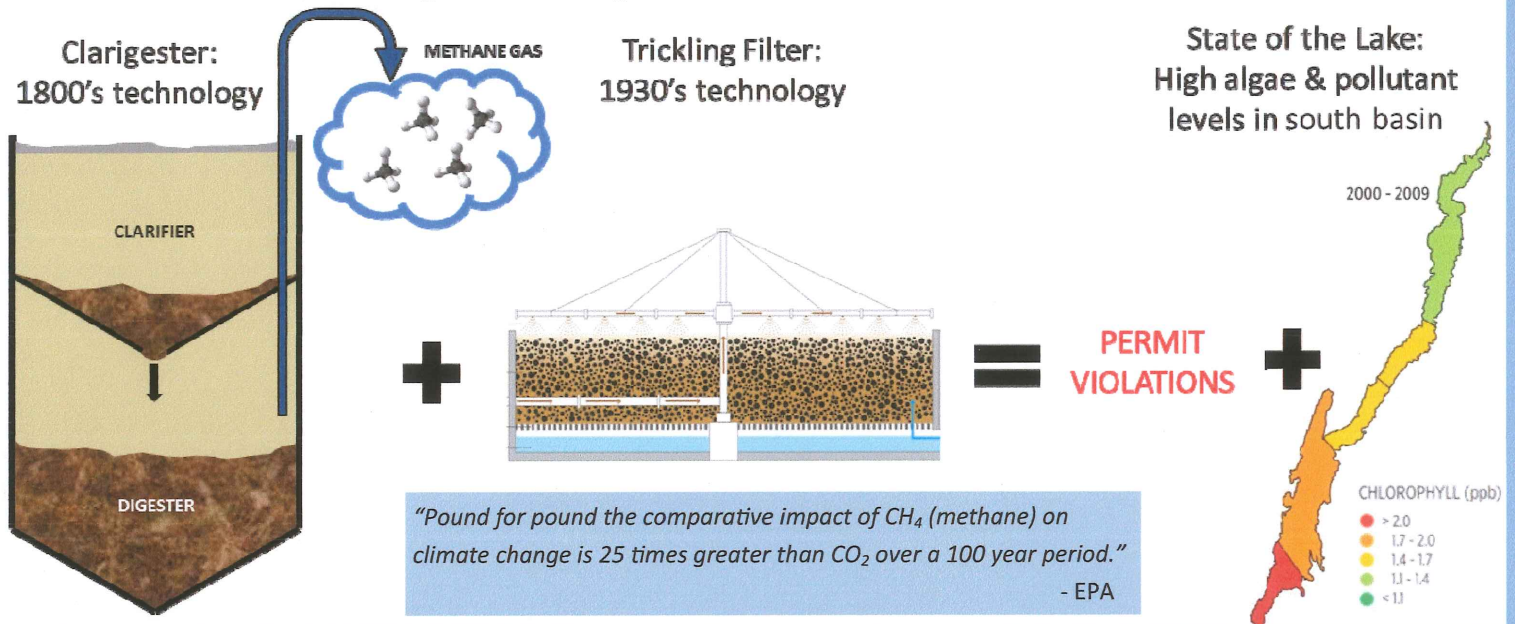
"Our lake is important to the economy of the state of New York, and we're going to do our best to protect it, but it will be extremely difficult for us to live within the 2 percent tax cap unless we get a considerable amount of funding and creative financing," (Village of Lake George Mayor) Blais said earlier this month. - PostStar 4/13/15

Village of Lake George Wastewater Treatment Plant

Issues & Environmental Impacts

The Village of Lake George Wastewater Treatment Plant accepts wastewater from the Village and Town of Lake George. In line with the Village's philosophy of responsibility and sustainability, the treatment plant also accepts septic tank septage from the Lake George Basin Area. A history of piecemeal upgrades and aging infrastructure has resulted in the current situation, a dysfunctional treatment system in violation of its permit, and with direct environmental consequences. To preserve the pristine water quality of Lake George, the treatment plant has always discharged treated wastewater effluent to infiltration basins where it percolates into the ground and recharges the water table. However, with a short connection between the groundwater and the lake, the current conditions put the future of the treatment plant and the lake in jeopardy.

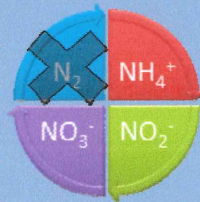
Lake George Existing Wastewater Treatment Process



Treatment & the Economy The wastewater treatment plant combines natural biological processes with an artificially created "ideal" environment to treat the high volumes and concentrations of wastewater produced in an urban setting. The treatment plant's capacity is limited by the infiltration bed assimilation rate. High effluent quality leads to faster infiltration rates. The current poor effluent quality leads to bed blinding, slow infiltration, and seepages of nutrients into Lake George. **In its current state the wastewater treatment plant is a limiting factor for growth within the Village and surrounding areas, and it is negatively impacting the economic engine of the region, Lake George.** Upgrades are needed to improve treatment efficiency and efficacy.

Nutrient Removal

The current treatment process is not capable of completing the nitrogen cycle, resulting in high nitrate levels in the treated effluent. These nutrients are discharged into the aquifer and then re-appear in West Brook, where the infiltrated water re-surfaces, to flow directly into Lake George. Excess nutrients lead to algae blooms, increased growth of aquatic plants, fluctuating and low dissolved oxygen saturation levels, fish kills, and an overall decline in lake water quality from accelerated eutrophication.



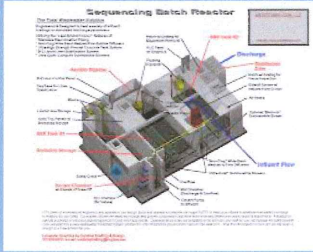
Bacteria

The current treatment system does not provide disinfection. When paired with known seepages of infiltrated effluent into West Brook, the result is fecal coliform discharges into West Brook and Lake George. Elevated fecal coliform counts were found in over 20% of samples collected from West Brook from 1975 to 1993. More current sampling results are being compiled. These test results indicate that impaired surface waters are in primary contact with Class AA drinking waters.

"Lake George is without comparison, the most beautiful water I ever saw; formed by a contour of mountains into a basin... finely interspersed with islands, its water limpid as crystal, and the mountain sides covered with rich groves... down to the water-edge: here and there precipices of rock to checker the scene and save it from monotony." - Thomas Jefferson, 1791

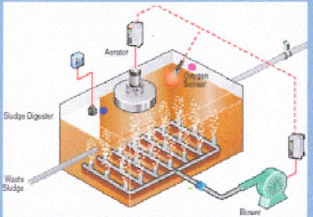
Lake George is the economic livelihood of the communities on and around the lake, but an uphill battle is being fought to maintain the lake's water quality and ecology. The wastewater treatment plant is using technology installed in the 1930's to protect the lake from nutrient loading and permit limits 85 years later. Now the Village is facing a project in excess of \$15 million to upgrade the plant to current treatment levels and technology.

Village of Lake George Wastewater Treatment Plant Solutions



Replace the treatment system with a new treatment process that will be able to accomplish enhanced nutrient removal and bring the plant into the 21st century.

Cost: \$10 million



Separate the septic tank truck receiving and treatment process from the main treatment process to prevent treatment interruptions, optimize treatment of both waste streams, and ensure only fully treated effluent is discharged onto the infiltration beds.

Cost: \$4.6 million



Continue rehabilitating the infiltration beds, leveraging recycled glass as an available media replacement that can be processed to the specifications required to achieve efficient and effective infiltration.

Cost: \$3 million



Install screening and grit removal to improve treatment, produce a higher quality compost, and enhance the existing intermunicipal compost program.

Cost: \$2.3 million



Implement effluent use and re-use opportunities. For example, the existing irrigation system at Evergreen Cemetery adjacent to the treatment plant could be converted to use treatment plant effluent. Utilizing treatment plant effluent for irrigation would reduce the volume of water discharging to the beds during the high flow summer months when they are the most taxed, and would conserve potable water.

Cost: \$0.5 million



Install green stormwater treatment systems such as infiltration basins and rain gardens at the treatment plant to retain and treat stormwater on-site, and prevent it from impacting the infiltration beds.

Cost: \$0.25 million

The Village of Lake George wastewater treatment system is the epitome of a “Cleaner, Greener Community Initiative,” but in its current state it does not live up to the phrase. Significant upgrades, including those discussed above, are necessary in order to address permit violations, prevent discharge of nutrients and bacteria into the lake, and ensure that the infiltration beds will be operable into the future. These proposed improvements will transform the wastewater treatment plant from a failing system into a showpiece of sustainability for the region, the state, and the country.

Table 6.1
Village of Lake George
Evaluation and Treatment Plant Upgrade Initiative
Cost Estimate: Alternative 1 - Retrofit of Existing

Preliminary Treatment		
Preliminary Treatment Subtotal		\$ 2,608,711.29
Primary-Secondary Treatment		
Contract	Description	Cost
Contract C	Structural Concrete (Anoxic/contact basin and Control Building)	\$ 3,470,948.15
Contract C	Site work (Existing Retrofit and Control Building)	\$ 417,044.44
Contract C	WWTP Site Accessory Structures	\$ 88,757.08
Contract C	New Control Building, Building Construction and finishes	\$ 810,000.00
	Subtotal	\$ 4,786,749.67
Contract W	Retrofit of Existing Process	\$ 4,096,384.10
Contract W	Process Equipment and Installation: Site Pump Station	\$ 109,808
Contract W	Process Equipment and Installation: Emergency Power	\$ 161,700
Contract W	Process Equipment and Installation: Tertiary Treatment	\$ 48,015
Contract W	Process Equipment and Installation: Treatment Plant Instrumentation	\$ 44,101
	Subtotal	\$ 4,460,007.88
Contract P	New Control Building, Plumbing	\$ 108,000.00
Contract H	New Control Building, Heating	\$ 350,000.00
Contract E	New Control Building, Electrical	\$ 624,000.00
Primary-Secondary Treatment Subtotal		\$ 10,328,758
Solids Handling (Sludge Digestion and Rehabilitation of Existing Dewatering)		
Solids Handling Subtotal		\$ 2,330,509.65
Total Construction Cost		\$ 15,267,978.49
Engineering Services, Construction Observation, Legal and Bonding Fees @ 12%		\$ 1,832,157
Project Contingencies @ 10%		\$ 1,710,014
Total Cost of Treatment Alternative		\$ 18,810,149

Table 6.2
Village of Lake George
Evaluation and Treatment Plant Upgrade Initiative
Cost Estimate: Alternative 2 - Sequencing Batch Reactor

Preliminary Treatment		
Preliminary Treatment Subtotal		\$ 2,608,711.29
Primary-Secondary Treatment		
Contract	Description	Cost
Contract C	Structural Concrete (SBR and Control Building)	\$ 3,018,562.96
Contract C	Site work (SBR and Control Building)	\$ 563,888.89
Contract C	WWTP Site Accessory Structures	\$ 88,757.08
Contract C	New Control Building, Building Construction and finishes	\$ 810,000.00
	Subtotal	\$ 4,481,208.93
Contract W	Process Equipment and installation: Sequencing Batch Reactor	\$ 2,160,884.10
Contract W	Process Equipment and Installation: Site Pump Station	\$ 109,808
Contract W	Process Equipment and Installation: Emergency Power	\$ 161,700
Contract W	Process Equipment and Installation: Tertiary Treatment	\$ 48,015
Contract W	Process Equipment and Installation: Treatment Plant Instrumentation	\$ 44,101
	Subtotal	\$ 2,524,507.88
Contract P	New Control Building, Plumbing	\$ 108,000.00
Contract H	New Control Building, Heating	\$ 378,000.00
Contract E	New Control Building, Electrical	\$ 351,000.00
Primary-Secondary Treatment Subtotal		\$ 7,842,716.81
Solids Handling (Sludge Digestion and Rehabilitation of Existing Dewatering)		
Solids Handling Subtotal		\$ 2,330,509.65
Total Construction Cost		\$ 12,781,938
Engineering Services, Construction Observation, Legal and Bonding Fees @ 12%		\$ 1,533,833
Project Contingencies @ 10%		\$ 1,431,577
Total Cost of Treatment Alternative		\$ 15,747,347

Table 6.3
Village of Lake George
Evaluation and Treatment Plant Upgrade Initiative
Cost Estimate: Alternative 3 - Membrane Bio Reactor

Preliminary Treatment		
Preliminary Treatment Subtotal		\$ 2,608,711.29
Primary-Secondary Treatment		
Contract	Description	Cost
Contract C	Structural Concrete (MBR and Control Building)	\$ 1,136,422.22
Contract C	Site work (MBR and Control Building)	\$ 417,044.44
Contract C	WWTP Site Accessory Structures	\$ 88,757.08
Contract C	New Control Building, Building Construction and finishes	\$ 2,880,000.00
	Subtotal	\$ 4,522,223.75
Contract W	MBR System	\$ 5,622,440.60
Contract W	Process Equipment and Installation: Site Pump Station	\$ 109,808
Contract W	Process Equipment and Installation: Emergency Power	\$ 194,040
Contract W	Process Equipment and Installation: Tertiary Treatment	\$ 48,015
Contract W	Process Equipment and Installation: Treatment Plant Instrumentation	\$ 44,101
	Subtotal	\$ 6,018,404.38
Contract P	New Control Building, Plumbing	\$ 192,000.00
Contract H	New Control Building, Heating	\$ 350,000.00
Contract E	New Control Building, Electrical	\$ 624,000.00
Primary-Secondary Subtotal		\$ 11,706,628
Solids Handling (Sludge Digestion and Rehabilitation of Existing Dewatering)		
Solids Handling Subtotal		\$ 2,330,509.65
Total Construction Cost		\$ 16,645,849.06
Engineering Services, Construction Observation, Legal and Bonding Fees @ 12%		\$ 1,997,502
Project Contingencies @ 10%		\$ 1,864,335
Total Cost of Treatment Alternative		\$ 20,507,686

Table 7.1
Village of Lake George
Evaluation and Treatment Plant Upgrade Initiative
Cost Estimate: Project Cost Estimate

Preliminary Treatment		
Contract	Description	Cost
Contract C	Structural Concrete for Building (Preliminary Treatment)	\$ 437,066.67
Contract C	Site Work (Preliminary Treatment)	\$ 58,972.22
Contract C	Preliminary Treatment Building, Building Construction and finishes	\$ 450,000.00
	Subtotal	\$ 946,038.89
Contract W	Preliminary Treatment	\$ 1,197,672.40
	Subtotal	\$ 1,197,672.40
Contract P	New Control Building, Plumbing	\$ 60,000.00
Contract H	New Control Building, Heating	\$ 210,000.00
Contract E	New Control Building, Electrical	\$ 195,000.00
	Preliminary Treatment Subtotal	\$ 2,608,711.29
Primary-Secondary Treatment		
	Primary-Secondary Treatment Subtotal	\$ 7,842,716.81
Solids Handling (Sludge Digestion and Rehabilitation of Existing Dewatering)		
Contract C	Structural Concrete (Digester)	\$ 743,600.00
Contract C	Site work (Solids Handling)	\$ 251,316.67
Contract C	WWTP Site Accessory Structures	\$ 88,757.08
	Subtotal	\$ 1,083,673.75
Contract W	Process Equipment and installation: Solids Handling	\$ 1,137,028.40
Contract W	Process Equipment and Installation: Site Pump Station	\$ 109,808
	Subtotal	\$ 1,246,835.90
	Solids Handling Subtotal	\$ 2,330,509.65
	Total Construction Cost	\$ 12,781,938
	Engineering Services, Construction Observation, Legal and Bonding Fees @ 12%	\$ 1,533,833
	Project Contingencies @ 10%	\$ 1,431,577
	Total Cost of Treatment Alternative	\$ 15,747,347

Other Costs Estimated but not included:

Lower Bed Piping	\$ 357,979.02
Storm water management (potential green infrastructure alternatives)	\$ 264,210.55
Demolition of existing structures	\$ 286,949.80
Additional site piping (Alternative water re-use)	\$ 452,053.61
Sand bed rehabilitation (incentives for recycled glass)	\$ 750,396.77

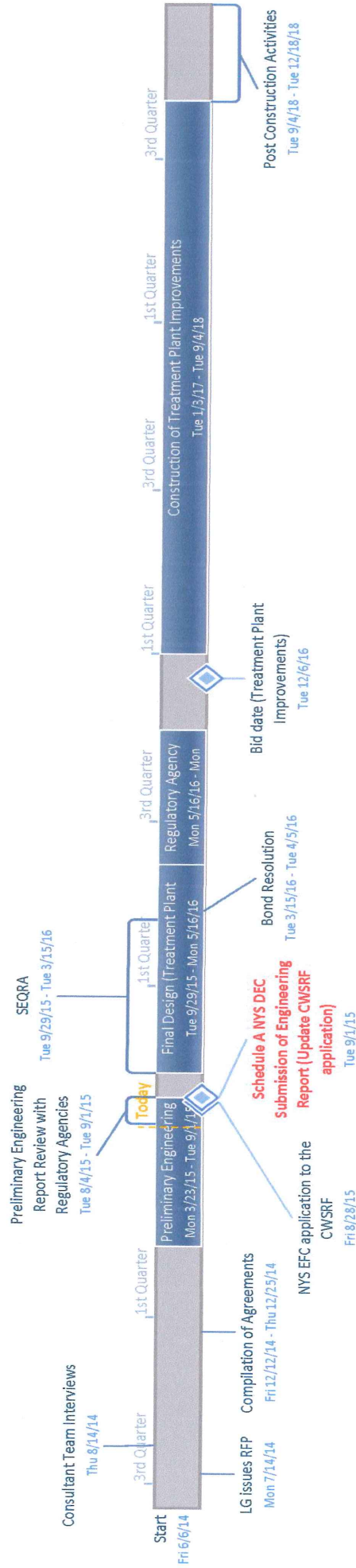
Table 7.2
Village of Lake George
Evaluation and Treatment Plant Upgrade Initiative
Cost Estimate: Proposed Operations and Maintenance

<u>Operations Maintenance Items</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Cost Per</u> <u>Unit</u>	<u>Annual</u> <u>Cost</u> <u>(Time</u> <u>Factor)</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
Preliminary Treatment Costs					
Mechanical Bar Screen	BHP	1.6	\$ 0.25	2,190	\$ 657.00
Grit System Paddle Drive	BHP	0.75	\$ 0.25	8,760	\$ 1,231.88
Grit Pumping	BHP	7.5	\$ 0.25	2,190	\$ 3,079.69
Building Heat	MO	12	\$ 120.00	1	\$ 1,440.00
Building Electrical	KWH/HR	0.4	\$ 0.25	8,760	\$ 876.00
Grit Disposal Costs	Ton	35.0	\$ 55.00	1	\$ 1,925.00
Screenings Disposal Costs	Ton	48.0	\$ 55.00	1	\$ 2,640.00
				Annual Costs	\$ 11,849.56
Alternate #2 - Sequencing Batch Reactor					
Blower Power Consumption, (SBR)	BHP	75	\$ 0.25	8,760	\$ 123,187.50
SBR Power Consumption, Decanter	BHP	3.4	\$ 0.25	2,190	\$ 1,396.13
Waste Sludge Pump	BHP	2.4	\$ 0.25	730	\$ 328.50
Return Sludge Pump	BHP	2.4	\$ 0.25	8,760	\$ 3,942.00
Basin Mixer	BHP	15	\$ 0.25	4,380	\$ 12,318.75
Aeration Valves	BHP	0.25	\$ 0.25	730	\$ 34.22
Building Heat	MO	12	\$ 120.00	1	\$ 1,440.00
Building Electrical	KWH/HR	0.4	\$ 0.25	8,760	\$ 876.00
				Annual Costs	\$ 143,523.09
Other Operational Costs					
Existing Budget (Estimated carried over)					\$ 417,600.00
Capital Reserve	LS	1	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000.00
Phosphorus Removal					
Chemical Addition for Phosphorus Removal	GALS	330	\$ 3.00	12	\$ 11,880.00
Chemical Metering Pump Operation	BHP	1/10	\$ 0.20	1,460	\$ 29.20
Blower Power Consumption, (Holding Tank)	BHP	50	\$ 0.25	6,570	\$ 61,593.75
Belt Press Operation	BHP	7 1/2	\$ 0.20	1,560	\$ 2,340.00
Polymer	per 50 gal	1	\$ 650.00	12	\$ 7,800.00
Potential Sludge Disposal (Factored Annually)	Ton/month	106.0	\$ 43.00	12	\$ 54,696.00
Sludge Trucking Sludge to Franklin County MSWF	Ton/month	106.0	\$ 5.00	12	\$ 6,360.00
Building Heat	MO	12	\$ 240.00	1	\$ 2,880.00
Building Electrical	KWH/HR	1.2	\$ 0.25	8,760	\$ 2,628.00
				Annual Costs	\$ 569,807
Total Expected O&M costs					\$ 725,179.61

Figure 7.2

Village of Lake George
 Evaluation and Treatment Plant Upgrade Initiative Project
 Implementation Schedule

Project Time Line: As of July 30th 2015



ELIZABETH O'C. LITTLE
SENATOR, 45TH DISTRICT

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THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK

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RULES

June 11, 2014

Mr. Kenneth Adams, President & CEO
Empire State Development Corporation
Capital Region Economic Development Council
Hedley Park Place
433 River Street, Suite 1003
Troy, New York 12180

Re: Letter of Support: Lake George Watershed Management Plan - Priority Projects

Dear Mr. Adams,

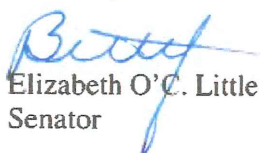
I am pleased to support the Application for Funding Assistance being made on behalf of the 20-plus members of the Lake George Watershed Coalition (LGWC) to support so many of the stated goals of the Capital District Regional Economic Development Council's Strategic Plan. Lake George is one of our Region's premier tourism anchors that bring visitors from around the world. The efforts of the regional community to protect and preserve this valuable natural asset are indeed critical to the economy of upstate.

Since 2001 and the formation of the LGWC scientists and engineers have been documenting the declining water quality in all reaches of the lake. The continuing rise of nutrient levels are directly attributable to improperly operated and/or poorly designed onsite septic disposal systems as a major source of non-point source pollution entering the lake.

The Coalition's *Plan for the Future of Lake George*, adopted in 2001 clearly highlights the priority actions that are necessary to protect and preserve this natural treasure for future generations. The lake serves as a primary drinking water source for tens of thousands of residents. Likewise, the Lake serves as the primary economic center piece for the tourism industry of the entire upstate and Adirondack region.

The Coalition's programs to mitigate sources of pollution, prevent invasive species and protect valuable natural resources will directly contribute to the economic vitality of the region. I am proud to support these efforts and I hope they will be given favorable consideration for funding.

Sincerely,


Elizabeth O'C. Little
Senator

EOL/sjl





DANIEL G. STEC
Assemblyman 114th District

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
Environmental Conservation Committee

COMMITTEES

Banks
Local Governments
Social Services
Tourism, Parks, Arts & Sports Development

July 14, 2015

Mayor Robert Blais
Village of Lake George
26 Old Post Road, P.O. Box 791
Lake George, New York 12845

Dear Mayor Blais:

I would like to express my strong support for the Village of Lake George's initiative to secure funding through Empire State Development (ESO) and the Upstate Regional Initiative (URI) competition.

If secured, these grants will be used towards the construction of a new Wastewater Treatment Plant. Currently, the Village of Lake George Wastewater Treatment Plant accepts wastewater from the Village and Town of Lake George along with septic tank septage from the Lake George Basin Area. Over the years of piecemeal upgrades and aging infrastructure, the Village of Lake George is presently under a Consent Order from NYS Department of Environmental Conservation to upgrade the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Protecting the waters of Lake George is essential to maintaining its beauty and ensuring the economic livelihood for the entire region.

I fully support your efforts to obtain these vital funds for this much needed upgrade to protect one of the most treasured lakes in New York State.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "D. G. Stec".

Daniel G. Stec
Assemblyman, 114th District
Essex, Saratoga, Warren and Washington Counties



July 27, 2015

Co-Chairs Mr. James J. Barba and Dr. Robert J. Jones
Capital Region Economic Development Council
Hedley Park Place, 433 River Street – Suite 1003
Troy, NY 12180

Dear Mr. Barba and Dr. Jones,

Economic Development Corporation, Warren County (EDC) is pleased to support the Application for Funding Assistance being made on behalf of the 20-plus members of the Lake George Watershed Coalition (LGWC) to support the Lake George Watershed Management Plan. The application aligns with many of the stated goals of the Capital District Regional Economic Development Council's Strategic Plan in particular, "Celebrate and Optimizing Our Surroundings" and "Showcase Our Beauty". The plan clearly recognizes that Lake George is one of our region's premier tourism anchors that bring visitors from around the world. The efforts of the regional community to protect and preserve this valuable natural asset are indeed critical to the economy of the Adirondacks which is heavily reliant on tourism.

For many years, and more recently, through the latest available technology scientists and engineers have documented and confirmed the declining water quality in all reaches of the lake. The continuing rise of nutrient levels and corresponding rise of observed algal blooms are directly attributable to improperly operated and/or poorly designed onsite septic disposal systems, as a major source of non-point source pollution entering the lake. The lake serves as a primary drinking water source for tens of thousands of year round residents, second home owners and seasonal visitors. The Coalition's *Plan for the Future of Lake George* highlights the priority actions that are necessary to protect and preserve this natural treasure for future generations.

Lake George is a perfect example and a model of how proactive lake environmental protection is also pro-economic development. I urge the LGWC's application be considered for funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Bartholomew".

Edward M. Bartholomew, President
EDC Warren County



Lake George Chamber We Know Tourism!

July 20, 2015

Robert M. Blais, Mayor
Village of Lake George
PO Box 791
Lake George, NY 12845

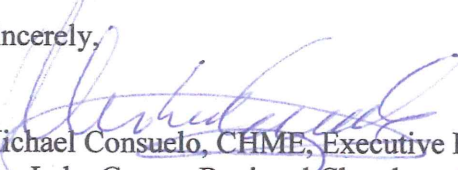
Dear Mayor Blais:

While the mission of the Lake George Regional Chamber of Commerce & CVB, Inc is to advocate growth and development for its 370 plus members, we also play a significant role in the growth of year round tourism by continuously marketing and promoting our beautiful lake....which, by the way, was recently voted as the number one lake in the U.S. by Oyster.com (a destination review website).

Promoting the lake is one thing! However, the protection of the lake is equally, if not more important, to sustain tourism and to drive our regional economy for years to come. Therefore, it is with a great deal of sincerity that we, at the LGRCC&CVB, submit this letter of support for your application to Empire State Development (ESO)) for funding of a new Wastewater Treatment Plant. It is our understanding that the current plant was built in 1930 and with it being some 85 years in operation, we believe a new and complete replacement of the treatment system with an up-to-date treatment process will accomplish enhanced nutrient removal and prevent discharge of such nutrients and bacteria into the lake and bring such an outdated plant into the 21st century.

We at the Chamber salute your efforts in putting forth this much needed request and we will continue to offer our support as you strive to take the necessary steps of simply upgrading the current Plant to the creation of a brand new facility.

Sincerely,



Michael Consuelo, CHME, Executive Director and,
The Lake George Regional Chamber of Commerce & CVB
Board of Directors and its current Membership

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Lake George, NY 12845

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