

2025 CLIC Annual General Meeting Minutes
As Recorded By Frank Bolton, Secretary, CLIC

On August 9th, CLIC, the Chiputneticook Lakes International Conservancy, held its annual meeting at the Danforth Town Hall with over 40 people in attendance. President Kathy Conley, who had baked four or five dozen pastries of various kinds for the attendees, welcomed everyone. She led off the meeting by reporting on the success of several of CLIC's recent undertakings, including its Annual Hot Dog roast. It had been held on Half Moon Island in East Grand Lake two weeks prior. During the meeting she introduced the elected officers and committee chairs who, in turn, gave reports of varying lengths.

Marie Ormerod, one of several officers who are Canadian citizens with camps on the eastern, Canadian side of the lake, gave a thorough report on what CLIC has done since the last annual meeting. She began by saying the organization had had a very busy year "building up the youth in our community, building up the fish stock in our lakes, building picnic tables and websites and feeding our community hot dogs and fries on a beautiful sunny day." She also said that throughout it all, CLIC had been watching the progress of the Forest City Dam, hoping the transfer of the license from Woodland Pulp to SCIWC (the St. Croix International Waterway Commission) would occur this fall. She also hoped that the transfer would result in water levels in the lake system would be governed by wildlife and environmental concerns and then, by recreational interests. All camp owners have been alarmed at the low water level this summer, despite the heavy spring rainfall.

She also announced that CLIC has established a new website. Marie and her husband Dan have worked on it all year. www.chiplakes.com is the address and Dan and Marie are open to comments and suggestions.

After reports from the officers, including a financial report (provided at the reorganization meeting), the chairs spoke to their areas of concern. David Townsend reported for the fisheries committee. Questions from the attendees were answered by David and by Kevin Dunham of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW) who was in attendance. Kevin provided the number of salmon stocked and monitored in East Grand over the past few years and how MDIFW determines the number to stock. They had been stocking 6,500 but reduced the number to 6,300 hundred in recent years after determining that the random 2 year old salmon that are reported on are healthier when fewer were stocked. He also explained the Tag and Track program wherein a number of lake trout of different sizes are tagged and their patterns tracked by devices attached to small buoys which are submerged in East Grand Lake.

John Johnson, outgoing chair of the water quality committee, explained that volunteers use Secchi dishes to test water clarity and also keep an eye out for the invasive zebra mussels. He said water clarity remains good and there is no evidence of zebra clams in East Grand Lake. He reported that Woodson Lord is stepping up to take on the role of coordinator of water quality for CLIC.

David Townsend also spoke about the Forest City Dam concerns. A law professor for 35 years, his expertise was and continues to be in law and regulatory policy and almost everything about the Forest City Dam is about law and regulatory policy. He feels confident that the FERC board will approve change to the license this coming fall. All the work has been done by the staff. While the Peskotomuhkati Nation wants a modern fishway on the American side as a precondition of surrendering the license, at the staff review and recommendation level, the staffers said that such a precondition would be contrary to current surrender policy. The commissioners have not yet considered this issue.

The action regarding the existing license for the Forest City Dam is that it will be surrendered back to FERC. The Waterway Commission will own and control its operations as an unlicensed dam if FERC does allow for this change. The license itself is not being transferred.

CLIC plans a fisheries dinner – all are welcome, fisherman or not – at the Houlton Country Club on 9/11 at 5:30. CLIC also welcomes new members and is in need of volunteers to fill three positions: a treasurer, a Sunshine Club volunteer who welcomes new members, and a chair for the Water Quality committee.