

ELOSTA Monthly Membership Meeting Minutes
Wednesday October 21, 2009
(Also available at www.elosta.org)

President Charlie Ames called the eighth and last monthly meeting of the 2009 summer season to order at 7:10 PM on October 21 in the meeting room at DEC's Altmar Fish Hatchery. This combined meeting with DEC Staff is primarily dedicated to the discussion of current and future hatchery programs. Only 18 members/guests attended the meeting. However, we were later advised that the front door was locked and several people had left. Mac MacKenzie acted in his capacity as Secretary.

Charlie motioned that the minutes of the September 16th meeting at Gander Mountain be accepted as they appeared in the Newsletter. His motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

Tom Lott gave a detailed summary of payments and account transfers as they appeared in his Financial Report for the period September 17 to October 21, 2009. Checks, totaling \$992.44 were written for G.L.F.C. dues, Conservation Council, Post Office box fee, Encompass Printing, and Newsletter editing.

A deposit in the amount of \$271.00 was obtained from dues and the sale of shirts and hats. The Net Pen Account remained at \$2971.17 through the period. Elosta's checking and savings accounts currently total \$16,552.24 including the Net Pen fund. Copies of Tom's Report were provided to the officers and board members present.

A motion to accept the report as presented was seconded and carried.

President Ames turned the meeting over to DEC's Altmar Fish Hatchery Manager Andy Gruelich. Andy opened his discussion with good news. The river was literally full of fish this season and the target levels of 1.8 million Coho eggs and 3.3 million Chinook eggs have been met. According to Andy "there were too many fish ... they have shut the gates and hope the leftovers drift out."

One of the big questions is – what did DEC do with the 7000 fish they processed this fall? Andy explained that the spent fish are composted on site, away from river drainage, with a cover of wood chips. Organic reduction to a desirable product is complete without odor. However, the amount of woodchips required is not available from one vendor and it is difficult to obtain timely approvals for multiple expenditures of this type pursuant to State purchasing processes.

Andy reported that hatchery staff has been shy one person for the last two years and a replacement at this time is questionable. Jerry Loughnot noted that he had made several weekend visits to the hatchery and there was no-one around to answer questions concerning DEC's operations. In view of Staff's priorities and long hours at this time of the year Jerry suggested that knowledgeable volunteers, perhaps from ELOSTA, could perform this task.

Several members expressed concern regarding the widespread publication of "**Lake Ontario Sportfishing: Trends, Analysis, and Outlook**" by Cornell University's Human Dimensions Research Unit (HDRU) in their Department of Natural Resources. In general the document uses questionable correlations and variables to substantiate a bleak outlook regarding long term management policies, fishing potential, angler effort, and, among others, the impact of invasive species. Andy pointed out that Cornell's conclusions were based on their research. DEC's sole contribution to the effort was the publicly available creel census.

Andy concluded with a brief summary of various maintenance highlights that occurred throughout the season. Pumps were in need of repair or replacement, several well source

capacities were activated or upgraded, an electric fish transfer pump was installed, and the hatchery has a new truck.

President Ames returned the meeting to new business from the floor. Jerry Lounnot took the opportunity to express his concern regarding ELOSTA's future. He reminded those present of the need for new officers to replace those who are, or intend, to step down. He pointed out that the demise of ELOSTA would result in the loss of a significant informational bridge between on-the-water anglers, other stakeholders, and DEC. Dan Bishop acknowledged that the general discussions were useful to him. Jerry suggested, as options, fewer Newsletters and monthly meetings. These items will be on the agenda at ELOSTA's board meeting in November.

Dan Bishop, in response to a very redundant question from the floor, reported that nothing new has taken place regarding the purchase of the Sandy Pond access property.

Doug Fuegel suggested that ELOSTA respond to DEC's proposed regulation changes by the end of the public comment period on 2 November. Specifically, He wants justification for DEC's decision to omit Jefferson County from the proposed 50 fish perch limit applicable to all the other lake side counties. DEC has given no substantive basis for this omission. After a somewhat heated discussion, the motion to respond to the public comment notice was seconded and carried.

President Ames conducted the annual October election of officers. Charlie Ames, Doug Fuegel, and Tom Lott, after nomination from the floor, will continue as President, Vice President, and Treasurer respectively. No interest was shown in the Secretaries position vacated by Mac MacKenzie. Mac will continue with his involvement as Captain of the website and membership database.

Mac MacKenzie was asked to provide a summary of ELOSTA's membership origin. Acknowledged.

President Ames thanked all those who attended and the meeting was adjourned. Our next meeting will be in March 2010 with DEC at a place to be designated. Have a great holiday season . *Mac MacKenzie*