

# Elosta Monthly Membership Meeting

Tuesday October 16, 2007

## Minutes

(Also available at [www.elosta.org](http://www.elosta.org))

- President Charlie Ames called the eighth and last monthly meeting of the 2007 summer season to order at 7:05 PM in the meeting room at DEC's Altmar Fish Hatchery. Twenty six members/guests were present. Mac MacKenzie acted in his capacity as Secretary.
- Charlie motioned to accept the minutes of the September 19, 2007 meeting as they appeared in the last Newsletter. His motion was seconded by G. Bresadola and unanimously carried.
- Charlie noted that Treasurer Tom Lott was surf boarding in North Carolina for two weeks and that his report was not available for reading. It is our understanding that a wind sufficient for the sport has blown for a total of two hours since he was there.
- Doug Fuegel explained that he had been following up on the proposed Nestle Bottling Plant in Orwell. He has had some difficulty getting answers from the various people contacted and had very few answers to the future of the proposal. It appears that other environmental groups like Trout Unlimited have shown an interest and will be getting involved.

In general, concerns have been expressed over the withdrawal of 1.5 mgd and the draw down effect of the water table on cold water seepage to streams like Orwell and Trout Brooks. At this time it appears that the Federation of Sportsmen has assumed a passive attitude with the understanding that Nestle will permit access for hunting to their lands.

Dan Bishop noted that the proposal has the potential for serious environmental impacts and suggested that we encourage as many groups as possible, who have an interest, to become actively involved. Mac MacKenzie has also been following these events on ELOSTA's website at [www.elosta.org/What\\_can-we-say.html](http://www.elosta.org/What_can-we-say.html)
- Doug Fuegel also gave his opinion regarding the development of the ongoing **Lake Ontario – St. Lawrence River Regulation Plan.** The plan was prepared over the past several years at a cost of \$20 million by the International Joint Commission. Now it has been learned that the Commission has extended the consultation period to allow more time for government, Native American and public input. The finalization and announcement of a new draft order for regulating the outflows of Lake Ontario was scheduled for September 17, 2007. However, the process goes on without a decision and Doug questioned the use of the \$20 million. Additional teleconference meetings were held on September 18, 2007.
- Dan Bishop and Andy Grulich noted that Redfield Reservoir was so low that there was insufficient water to maintain the required base flow in the Salmon River. DEC had to delay the egg taking process until September 17th (tomorrow). Currently the race is full of fish. Three million Chinook and 1.5 million Coho eggs will be taken. All the eggs will be disinfected with Iodine during the hardening process in the spawning house before they get into the hatchery.

Temporary regulations limiting fishing in fly fishing only streams had to be continued- also because of low flow.

They also noted there isn't much new news on avian botulism or VHS. Suspected birds or fish should be brought to the attention of DEC. Dan recommended that the specimens be kept cool on ice if possible and passed along to the Lab as quickly as possible. Non frozen fish can be tested for numerous diseases – frozen fish can only be tested for VHS.

There also appeared to be a higher incidence of lamprey wounds on non lake trout species this past season. This is not necessarily an indication that there are more lamprey in the system? It is an indication that there are fewer lake trout – the preferred target species.

- Andy mentioned the remodeling changes to the lobby and some other improvements around the hatchery. It seems that the State is required to pay the hydro operator (Brookfield Power) a certain sum of money for the water that they provide (pipe) specifically for hatchery use. These monies are retained by Brookfield in a Salmon River Enhancement Fund until a need is identified. Then it is paid back to DEC.

The regional drought conditions are also affecting the hatchery's well water supply. Yields are currently half of those available during a normal year. The problem is currently being studied for long range options.

The Department of Transportation assisted in the construction of a new mud free access road across hatchery property to the fish disposal area. DOT trucks provided the asphalt material (millings) removed from roads prior to paving and delivered it to the site. It simply had to be rolled down.

Andy explained that the fish carcasses are mixed and covered with wood chips. There is no odor and the process produces high quality compost.

- Charlie noted that this was the last meeting of the year and wished everyone well over the winter and holiday season. Our next meeting will be the State of the Lake Meeting chaired by DEC sometime in March 2008. The actual date and meeting site will be posted on the website and in the Post Standard. His motion to adjourn at 9:05PM was seconded and carried. *Mac MacKenzie*