

Lake Representatives Forum

Calumet Conference Center
April 28, 2007



Agenda

Alliance background

Lake representatives concept

State of the lake survey results

Presentations

Break

Group planning

Summary and wrap-up



Ossipee Lake Alliance

Mission

- Preserve and protect Ossipee Lake and its bays, rivers, and surrounding land as a unique environmental, recreational and economic asset

Method

- Form a lake-wide community of interest for research, planning, education and advocacy on environmental, quality of recreation, and land use issues



Alliance structure

All-volunteer organization

Staff

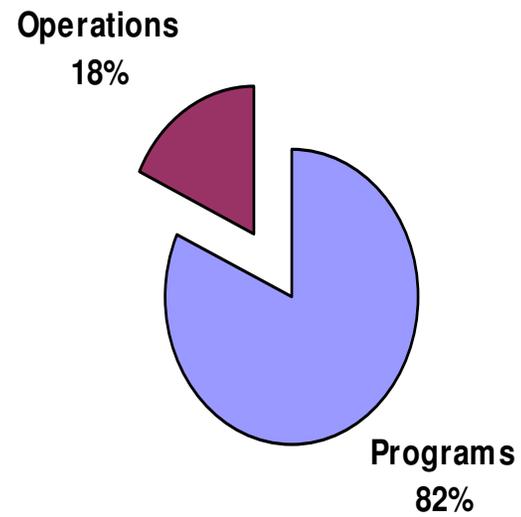
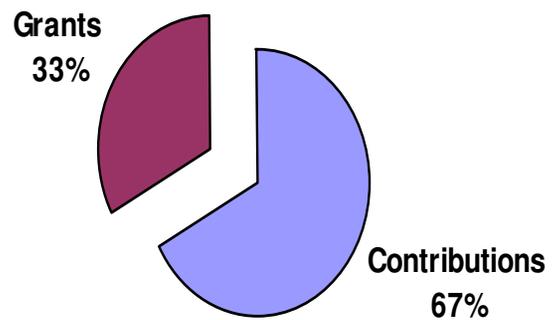
- David Smith, Executive Director
- Susan Marks, Development and Program Director
- Open, Program Coordinator

Board of Directors

- Howard Bouve (Freedom)
- Perry Fine (Ossipee)
- Barre Hellquist (Freedom)
- Bob McDonald (Ossipee)
- Smith and Marks



Funding and expenses



Primary programs

Milfoil prevention

Milfoil control

Information and education

- Tales of Ossipee Lake
- Ossipee Lake Report
- Ossipee Lake News

Water quality monitoring

Lake history project

Other ad hoc projects



Lake Representatives

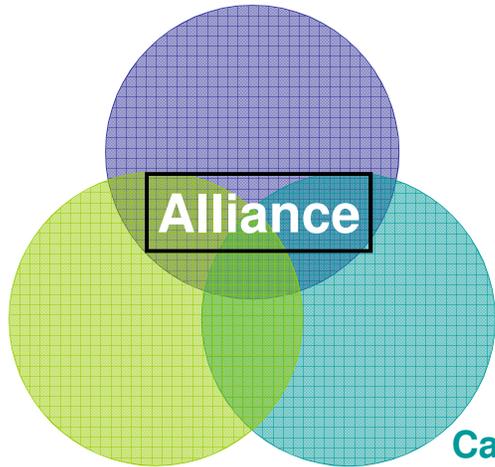
Volunteers who represent their lake association, neighborhood or business

- Meet annually
- Recommend and develop programs
- Rally neighborhood support
- Engage the public and elected officials



How it works

Lake Associations



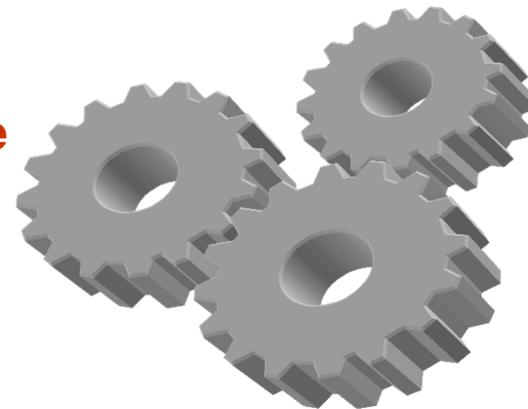
Businesses

Camps & Non-Profits

Towns

State

Lake



2007 State of the Lake Survey

Find out what people are thinking

Expand or contract programs

Look for cross-organization opportunities

Create actionable data

Find more volunteers



Survey method

Awareness

- Newsletter insert
 - 1,800 copies mailed
 - Lake and river HHs + elected officials
- Online version
- Press coverage

Response

- 208 respondents
 - 80% lake property owners
 - About half completed the survey online



Survey issues

#	Issues As Listed On Survey
1	Permanent state funding for milfoil prevention and control
2	Improved boating safety, including more Marine Patrol
3	Better communication with local elected officials
4	Permanent protection for Ossipee Lake Natural Area
5	Studies on crowded boating conditions, including rafting
6	Protection of wildlife, including eagles and loons
7	Preservation of open space
8	Shoreline protection and restoration
9	Management of the lake's water level
10	Enforcement of environmental and zoning laws



Respondents by area

Big Lake	34%
Broad Bay	23%
Leavitt Bay	8%
Berry Bay	7%
Channels	5%
Danforth Pond	6%
Other	7%
Not on the lake	10%



Extremely Important

Issue	Extremely Important
Permanent state funding for milfoil prevention and control	63%
Permanent protection for Ossipee Lake Natural Area	54%
Protection of wildlife, including eagles and loons	51%
Preservation of open space	42%
Enforcement of environmental and zoning laws	40%
Management of the lake's water level	39%
Shoreline protection and restoration	39%
Studies on crowded boating conditions, including rafting	23%
Improved boating safety, including more Marine Patrol officers	21%
Better communication with local elected officials	15%



Extremely + Very Important

Issue	Extremely Important	Very Important	Combined	Rank As Issue
Permanent state funding for milfoil prevention and control	63%	20%	83%	1
Permanent protection for Ossipee Lake Natural Area	54%	24%	78%	2
Management of the lake's water level	39%	33%	73%	3 (T)
Protection of wildlife, including eagles and loons	51%	22%	73%	3 (T)
Preservation of open space	42%	25%	67%	4 (T)
Enforcement of environmental and zoning laws	40%	26%	67%	4 (T)
Shoreline protection and restoration	39%	25%	64%	5
Studies on crowded boating conditions, including rafting	23%	20%	42%	6
Improved boating safety, including more Marine Patrol officers	21%	22%	42%	7
Better communication with local elected officials	15%	23%	38%	8



Extremely Important by location

	Berry Bay	Big Lake	Broad Bay	Leavitt Bay	Danforth Pond	The Channels	All Others
Milfoil		1	1	1	1		1
Natural Area	2	2	2	3	3(T)	1(T)	3
Wildlife	1	3	3	2(T)	3(T)	1(T)	
Open Space					2		
Zoning & Envir. Laws							
Water Level				2(T)			2
Shoreline Protection							
Crowding + Rafting							
Boat Safety							
Local Officials							

#1 issue

#2 issue

#3 issue



Extremely + Very by location

	Berry Bay	Big Lake	Broad Bay	Leavitt Bay	Danforth Pond	The Channels	All Others
Milfoil		1	1(T)	1	1	1(T)	1(T)
Natural Area	2(T)	2		2	2	3	
Wildlife	1(T)						
Open Space	1(T)				3	2(T)	
Zoning/Env. Laws	2(T)		2			2(T)	
Water Level		3	1(T)	3			1(T)
Shoreline Protection			3				2
Crowding + Rafting						1(T)	
Boat Safety							3
Local Officials							

#1 issue

#2 issue

#3 issue



Written comments

43% of the respondents wrote comments

- The environment
- Boating
- Government and taxes



On the environment

- Why is DRED not doing anything about protecting Long Sands? It's a disgrace.
- We have enjoyed Ossipee Lake for over 60 years and have witnessed the decline in the water quality which started around 1970. Hope we can take measures to reverse this trend for future generations.
- Quicker action and harsher penalties for those who choose to ignore environmental and zoning laws.



On boating

- Too many power boats for the size of the lake. It seems every property has a boat these days. I remember when there were no boats or docks on the spindle. Now I see houses with multiple boats.
- The lake is at risk of becoming a free zone for unsocial, offensive and dangerous behavior.
- Limit the size of boats on lake.
- Address the problems of jet skis on lake - noise, dangerous operation, pollution.



On government

- A long-term vision is required to ensure that growth is managed before we lose special habitat and the rural character that adds to our quality of the lake.
- Towns must stop granting exceptions to the zoning laws.
- Keeping milfoil and pollution in check benefits everyone but it seems visitors get to take their enjoyment from the lake without the same stewardship burden imposed on property owners.
- I am not a year-round resident, but as a waterfront owner I am so frustrated by "taxation without representation"!



On associations

- I feel that knowing your neighbors keeps the lake area safer and provides avenues for helping others.
- I would like to see more participation in the homeowner associations and more communication between the various associations.
- I am interested in meeting times and locations. I would like to attend forums whenever possible.



On the Alliance

Praise

- I am so glad that your organization exists. In the 53 years I have summered on the lake, I have seen so many changes and not all have been good. I hope your efforts will result in improvements especially for the environment.

Criticism

- I hope your true purpose is not to close the lake off. Protection is great, but allow people to enjoy themselves. I worry about your group.

Damning With Faint Praise

- The Tales of Ossipee Lake series in 2003 was good.



Other views

Confused

- You keep the river too high.
- You and your group may not like us weekenders but... if it wasn't for us paying taxes 365 days of the year even though we are there for about 90 days a year, your towns would go broke.

Live Free or Die

- Being left alone to enjoy what I own.



Conclusions

The response rate shows concern with the future of the lake

The primary concerns are for the physical environment

Issues are starting to be seen as more than 'local'

Resolution of key issues will require state involvement



The key issues

- **Permanent state funding for milfoil prevention and control**
- **Permanent protection for Ossipee Lake Natural Area**
- **Protection of wildlife, including eagles and loons**
- **Management of the lake's water level**

