

NYS Federation of
Lakes Association
May 5-6, 2023
Conference

Journey To A Lake Management Plan

DJ Wilson



Piseco Lake
Association

Piseco Lake



Piseco Lake Physical Characteristics

- Lake Area 2,862 acres of Class A water
- Watershed area 38,023 acres with 2% developed
- Shoreline 21.3 miles
- Lake mean depth 58 feet/maximum depth 124 feet



Piseco Fish & Game Club

- Discuss Community Activities
- Share Fishing & Hunting Experiences
- Annual Clam Bake
- In 1995, Members Identified Lake Environmental Concerns
 - Established 5 member Lake Committee



Lake Environmental Concerns

- Acid Rain
- Invasive plant/animal species
- Nutrient levels
- Recreational use
- Water level/spillway management
- In 1995, Members Identified Lake Fish habitat risks



Lake Environmental Concerns

- Large increase in lake emergent plant growth – *Juncus militaris*



Lake Environmental Concerns

- Water level/spillway management



Community Actions – Lake Monitoring

- PF&G Initiated monitoring in 1996
- Followed CSLAP/NYSFOLA guidelines
- Results did not indicate water quality concerns



Community Actions – Lake Water Level/Spillway Management

- Lawsuit to remove spillway to lower lake level
- Majority of residents against lawsuit
- Piseco Lake Associations (PLA) formed to counteract lawsuit
- PF&G becomes PLA in 2011
- Lawsuit defeated 2014



Community Actions – PLA

The Piseco Lake Association is an all-volunteer, community-based organization whose purpose is to **preserve, protect, and enhance** the quality of Piseco Lake, its tributaries and watersheds, for the enjoyment of our community now, and for generations to come. Our mission is to support the interests of the lake's users, thereby promoting the welfare of the community of Piseco, New York, through fundraising, stewardship, research and public advocacy.



Community Actions – PLA Committees

- Environmental Affairs (Aquatic & Terrestrial)
- Fish & Game
- Communications
- Membership



Community Actions

- Volunteers to conduct surveys for aquatic invasive plants (AIP)
- Participate in AIP APIPP training
- Utilize Town/County (Soil & Water)/State (NYSDEC) agencies
- Contact with College/University staff
- PLA members



Community Actions

- Develop a contract for a Lake Management Plan Document 2019
 - SUNY Oneonta – Concerns & Resolution
 - Document delivered 2022
 - 76 Pages



PLA Accomplishments

- Assisted NYSDEC with annual lake trout stocking activities
- Sponsored annual July 4th fireworks display
- Provided 2 scholarships for students to attend NYSDEC Camp Colby
- Distributed an annual Community Calendar of local events and activities
- Wrote a \$325K grant for a boat decon station at NYSDEC Campgrounds



PLA Accomplishments

- Participate in NYSDOT Adopt-A-Highway Program
- Assisted Hamilton County Soil & Water with beetles for Purple Loosestrife control
- Utica University conducted a Lake water quality/bacterial survey 2022



PLA Accomplishments

- Agreement with NYSDEC to maintain Foxey Brown Ski Trail and build a washed-out footbridge on the trail



PLA Accomplishments

- Construct Shelter building at Foxey Brown Trailhead



PLA Accomplishments

- Identification Guide for the Wetland and Aquatic Plants of Piseco Lake – David L. Moore, Ph.D. (Utica University)

