

Brant Lake Consolidated & Integrated Strategic Plan

Environment, Objectives, Goals,
Stake Holders & Action Items

April 2014

Objectives:

Create a plan for Brant Lake, Town of Horicon that enables all the organizations involved, with a consolidated strategy, action items and tools to effectively deal with the issues of Water Shed (WSM) and Lake Management (LM) over the next 5 - 10 years

Environment:

Over the past decade the BLA has developed plans and actions that enabled it to deal with the issues and challenges of WSM & LM effectively. The factors that affect WSM and LM have grown in numbers and complexity, exponentially over the last two years and is forecasted to continue in that direction. At the same time Government and Business entities face business and budget issues limiting their ability to participate and increasing the difficulty for Lake Associations Towns and Businesses to compete for the limited resources available.

Stake Holders:

Brant Lake Association, Town of Horicon, Tri-Lakes Business Alliance, ESSLA, Warren County Soil and Water, NYS Lake George Park Commission, Lake Champlain - Lake George Regional Planning Board, Water Quality Committee, SUNY Oneonta, NYS DEC, Federal Government, etc.

Key Components:

What are the critical issues that could affect a comprehensive WSM & LM plan? How are they defined, what is their impact?

Who should the key stake holders be and what are their roles?

What is the most effective approach (organization, stake holders, alliances, management, etc)? Define and describe the key components

What don't we know that we should know? That could affect the most productive development and implementation of a plan?

What a potential short term and long term approaches that will enable the best results?

How do we determine the short term (tactical) and long term (strategic) costs of plan development and implementation? What are the potential sources of funding, Where are they located and, How are they applied for?

Action Items:

1. Reduce the Impacts of Currently Established Aquatic Invasive Species and Prevent the Introduction of Additional Aquatic Invasive Species

a. Continue Milfoil Harvesting Program.

Action Items:

1. - Shoreline resident program to identify hot spots
2. - Provide reconnaissance and management assistance to milfoil harvesting contractors, with Warren County Soil and Water management (SWCD) programs.
3. - Coordinate the Mat moving program
4. - Continue providing funding for milfoil harvesting efforts.

Responsible Party: Brant Lake Association, Town of Horicon, Warren County Soil & Water SWCD

b. Develop a Town of Horicon Boat Launch Management Plan

Action Items:

1. - Examine and evaluate options available to manage the Brant Lake Boat launch that keeps it as a public launch, optimizes its use, ensures Invasive's management objectives are achieved and the residents of TOH are best served
- 2 - Coordinate with NYS DEC to ensure optimal involvement and results
3. - Create a complete management plan the enables implementation

Responsible Party: Town of Horicon, Brant Lake Association

c. Continue Boat Launch Steward Program.

Action Items:

Actively seek candidates for Steward Positions.
Properly train stewards to identify aquatic invasive species on boats, trailers and equipment.
Maintain program at the most level.
Provide funding to Program.

Responsible Party: Town of Horicon, Brant Lake Association

d. Obtain a Boat Wash Station for the Brant Lake Public Boat Launch.

Action Items:

Actively seek funding for the purchase and manning of a boat wash station.
Work with NYS DEC, for the placement of a boat wash station.

Responsible Party: Town of Horicon

- e. *Develop a Lake-Wide Program for the Early Detection of Aquatic Invasive Species.*

Action Items:

Seek assistance from local lake associations who have early detection programs.

Testing for new Invasive's - Spiny Water Flea, Clams, etal.

Coordinate with Milfoil harvesting program contractors and SWCD management programs.

Actively work with all entities involved with Invasive's management, WSM and LM at the Federal, State, County and Local level to ensure relevant focus and programs. Including but not limited to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Adirondack Park Agency (APA), New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), Political Entities (Federal & State Senators and Congress members, County and Township Supervisors & Town Boards), Lake Associations (Adirondack Lake Alliance (ALA), Loon Lake Association (LLA), ESSLA, Schroon Lake Association (SLA), etc.)

Actively seek homeowner participation in Program.

Responsible Party: Brant Lake Association, Warren County Soil & Water SWCD

2. Increase Understanding of the Limnological Dynamics of Brant Lake

- a. *Support the Development of a Lake Management Plan by SUNY Oneonta*

Action Items:

Implement a two (2) part program over three (3) years designed to give increased understanding of Brant Lake and provide a basis for the implementation on a Lake Management Program

Part 1 - 5/15/14 thru 8/14/14 - work with SUNY Oneonta to conduct a Bathymetric study of Brant Lake to define its structure, key elements, composition, geologic foundation/structure, chemical analysis, water flow that would establish a basis for future comparison and the Lake Management work over the following two years.

Part 2 - 1/1/15 thru 12/31/16 - a two (2) year program Support the work of the SUNY Oneonta graduate students assigned to Brant Lake, that would enable them to complete their Doctorial Thesis, a comprehensive Lake Management Plan (LMP) for Brant Lake. The basic objective would be to allow the BLA and the TOH to evaluate and assess the feasibility of the cost/benefit of implementing a LMP for Brant Lake and the possible implementation into a Tri Lakes (BL, LL/FL, SL) integration.

Provide funding to the Program.

Responsible Party: Brant Lake Association, Town Of Horicon

Continue Involvement in NYS ALAP or CSLAP Program Action Items:

Work with the NYS Federation of Lake Associations (NYSFOLA) for sampling, handling, and analysis of Brant Lake water quality data.

Continue the program every 3 – 5 years.

Provide funding to the Program.

Responsible Party: Brant Lake Association

3. Reduce the Impacts of Storm water Runoff Pollution In and Around Brant Lake

a. *Develop a Residential Green Infrastructure and Lake Protection Implementation and Educational Program*

Action Items:

Develop a comprehensive program targeted at WS homeowners that includes concept, training, and implementation programs that enable an active Lake Protection environment.

Educate homeowners on the important of reducing stormwater runoff into the Water Shed and Brant Lake, including information in rain gardens, shoreline buffers, impervious surfaces, rain barrels , use & impact of fertilizer and insecticides.

Begin a rain barrel program around Brant Lake.

Proactively train and seek homeowner participation in the Program.

Responsible Party Brant Lake Association, Lake Champlain – Lake George Regional Planning Board.

b. *Coordinate with Town, County and State Highway Departments to Encourage Improved Highway Operations*

Action Items:

Work with all parties to assess and inventory road conditions and assess maintenance practices.

Work with all parties to secure funding for improvement projects.

Provide educational opportunities for Town, County and State Highway Employees on improved Best Management Practices for Highway Operations.

Responsible Party: Town of Horicon, Warren County, NYS DOT, Lake Champlain – Lake George Regional Planning Board, Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District, Brant Lake Association.

c. *Assess Town of Horicon Zoning Codes for the Inclusion of Stormwater Regulations for New Development and Property Improvements.*

Action Items:

Assess current Warren County Construction Codes and Town of Horicon Zoning Codes.

Assess possibility of improving Town Zoning Codes if necessary.

Responsible Party: Town of Horicon

4. Reduce the Likelihood of Wastewater Impacts In and Around Brant Lake

a. *Assess the Town of Horicon's Regulations to require an engineer level inspection of the septic system upon Transfer or Sale of property and application for building permits for property improvements and land clearing.*

Action Items:

Assess current Town Wastewater Building and Zoning Codes.

Obtain copy of the Town of Chester and Town of Queensbury Codes pertaining to inspection upon Sale or Transfer of property for review.

Assess feasibility of updating Town of Horicon Codes.

Responsible Party: Town of Horicon, Brant Lake Association

- b. *Organize a Septic Pump-out Program for Nearshore Residents.*

Action Items:

Contact local septic haulers to provide a bulk pump-out rate.
Actively seek homeowner participation in the Program. Strive for at least 5 pump-outs per day.
Appoint contact person to organize pump-out schedule with the hauler.

Responsible Party: Brant Lake Association, Warren County Soil and Water

5. Create a Sustainable Funding System to Address Current and Future Needs

- a. *Explore the Creation of a Tax District*

Action Items:

Outreach to local lake associations who have currently established Taxing Districts. These include Glen Lake and Loon Lake.
Obtain County GIS parcel data to identify individual parcels around Brant Lake.
Utilize community outreach to establish parameters for the Taxing District. This includes establishing what parcels are in the District and how much each property will be taxed as well as establishing the purview of the District and how the funds will be expended.
Hold a series of public hearings to obtain public comments.

Responsible Party: Town of Horicon and Brant Lake Association

- b. *Support the Development of Grant Proposals to Fund Efforts in and Around Brant Lake*

Action Items:

Actively seek grant funding opportunities that pertain to the work being done in the Lake and Watershed.

Responsible Party: Lake Champlain – Lake George Regional Planning Board, Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District, Town of Horicon, Brant Lake Association.

6. Engage the Public in the Use of Brant Lake and its Watershed

- a. *Foster the Creation of a Town Beach on Brant Lake*

Action Items:

Establish a committee to designate parameters suitable for the creation of a Brant Lake Town Beach. Parameters can include, but are not limited to, ease of access, parking availability, capacity, water flow, water depth, water level variation, and overall water quality. Outreach to NYS Department of Health on NYS Sanitary Code for bathing beaches.
Utilize County GIS parcel data to identify possible sites along Brant Lake that meet the parameter criteria. Draft correspondence to property owners to gauge interest in creating a Town Beach. The ideal situation would include the gifting of the property to the Town.
Establish funding mechanism for the development of the beach. This could possibly include a NYS Bond Issue.
Release RFP for design and construction of the new beach in compliance with NYS DOH regulations.

Responsible Party: Town of Horicon, Brant Lake Association

7. Coordinate with Local, County, and State Agencies to Facilitate the Implementation of the Brant Lake Associations Strategic Plan

a. Establish Public and Private Partnerships

Action Items:

Appoint a Chairman and committee to identify key partner organizations. Explore/investigate the potential to work with the ALA, Tri Lakes Business Alliance

Investigate and evaluate the possibility to create a Tri Lakes Alliance (Brant Lake, Schroon Lake & Loon/Friends Lake) to promote best practices identification and implementation, Lake Management strategies, and potential economies' of scale

Outreach to entities for involvement in implementing this Plan.

Report back to the Brant Lake Association on the progress of the implementation of the Plan.

Responsible Party: Brant Lake Association

8. Evaluate the Function, Purpose, and Operations of the Brant Lake Association

a. Re-designate Committees to Establish the Most Effective Use of Member Time and Effort

Action Items:

Establish Guidelines and Roles for Directors.

Prioritize Goals and Objectives.

Establish Committee to undertake tasks outlined in this Plan.

Responsible Party: Brant Lake Association

9. Maintain an Effective Fundraising Program for Brant Lake Association Activities

a. Develop a Financial Plan for the Brant Lake Association.

Action Items:

Appoint committee to develop a plan that assesses the funding needs of the organization versus the current and projected funding levels.

Responsible Party: Brant Lake Association

b. Develop an Effective Fundraising Program that Meets the Needs of the Organization.

Action Items:

Assess current activities for effectiveness and re-coordinate if necessary.

Actively seek new opportunities for fund raising activities.

Responsible Party: Brant Lake Association

- c. *Support the Assessment of Roadside Erosion in the Brant Lake Watershed by the Lake Champlain – Lake George Regional Planning Board and the Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District.*

Action Items:

Obtain funding to inventory roadside erosion in the Brant Lake Watershed.

Produce assessment report and provide it to the Town of Horicon, Warren County and NYS DOT.

Responsible Party: Lake Champlain – Lake George Regional Planning Board, Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District.

- d. *Encourage the Continuation of the Mill Pond Beautification Effort*

Action Items:

Continue efforts to repair and upgrade the Upper Mill Pond Dam.

Work with Warren County DPW to fix the bridge for use as a pedestrian/bike path or roadway.

Responsible Party: Town of Horicon, Brant Lake Association