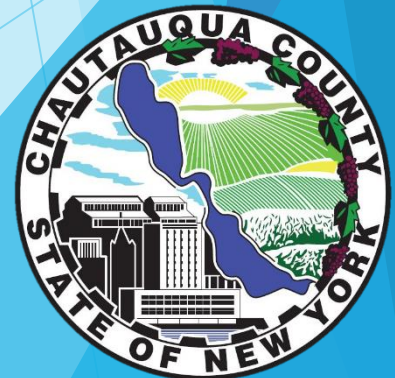


Welcome

April 12, 2023

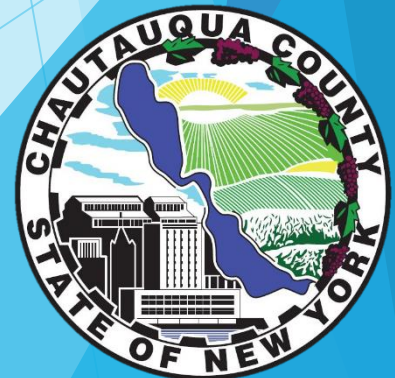
Boat User Fee

Informational Meeting



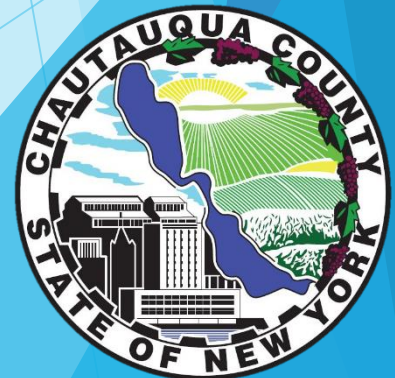
Why are we here?

- ▶ To start the conversation about the implementation of a boat user fee.
- ▶ Discuss the need for sustainable funding to support Chautauqua Lake and our other bodies of water.
- ▶ Discuss establishment of boat user fee committee.



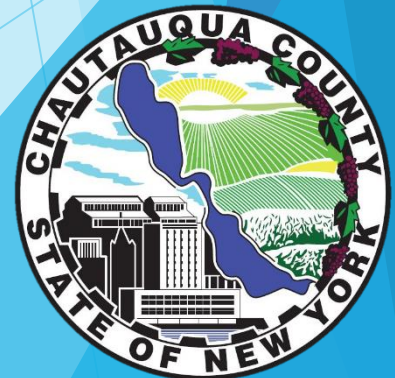
Backstory:

- ▶ Local foundations and non-for-profit organizations have been a major supporter of lake maintenance efforts.
 - Purchased equipment
 - Support operational costs
- ▶ Chautauqua Lake Watershed Management Alliance was established to bring stakeholders together in a collaborative fashion.
- ▶ Alliance Board Membership:
 - 9 Members
 - 4 Stakeholders
 - 5 Elected Officials:
 - 3 Local Municipality Elected Officials
 - 1 County Legislator
 - County Executive



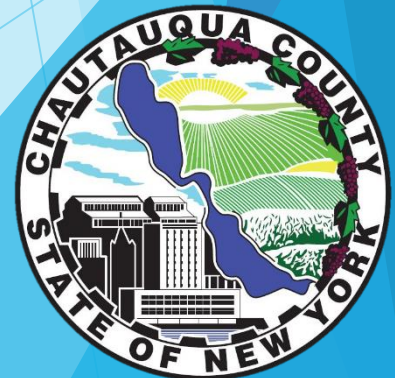
Chautauqua Lake & Watershed Management Alliance:

- ▶ Alliance is Responsible for:
 - Centralizing organization
 - Allocation of funding from foundations, grants, and donations
 - Oversee financial management and equipment
- ▶ Recent Projects:
 - CLA harvesting
 - Mobitrac project
 - Public Private Partnership - Chautauqua Harbor Hotel - shoreline and near shore clean up
 - Working with DEC - herbicide usage
- ▶ Need to identify a revenue source going forward to allow foundations to support lake management and also focus on other philanthropic work.



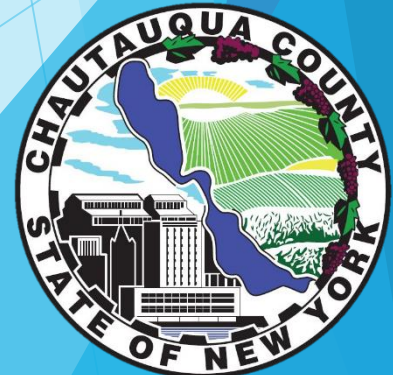
Work towards financial stability:

- ▶ For 2023 total funding requests for lakes and waterways is \$2,953,296 only \$234,000 available funding from 2% occupancy tax
- ▶ Until 1956 New York State would return boat registration fees back to the counties, that is no longer the case.
- ▶ Occupancy Tax - 2% dedicated to lakes and waterways.
 - Proposed occupancy tax increase of 3% intended to go to lakes and waterways.
- ▶ Current New York State funding requests:
 - \$2 million Jefferson Project
 - \$2 million lake maintenance fund
 - \$15.6 million sustainable funding through 2026
 - Environmental Protection Fund - For 2022-23 and 2023-24 the EPF included “line items” for the Chautauqua Lake Association (\$150,000) and the Chautauqua Lake Partnership (\$95,000) in the Water Quality Improvement Program category.
- ▶ Establishment of powered watercraft/boat user fee.
 - Would operate similar to our local snowmobile industry to maintain trails.
 - Instead of being managed by the State it would be managed by the County.
 - Would only be used for lake/waterway projects.



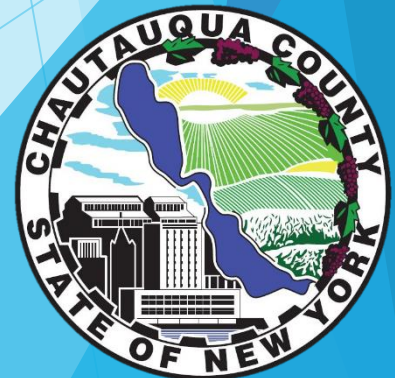
Five year occupancy tax collections:

Actual Amount - Reporting Row Labels	Column Labels Calendar 2018	Calendar 2019	Calendar 2020	Calendar 2021	Calendar 2022
January	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
February	(384.04)	1,356.64	814.00	0.00	120.10
March	17,496.13	34,110.41	11,377.95	3,905.57	16,273.50
April	218,324.93	223,825.23	95,542.21	270,219.97	324,090.15
May	21,051.75	13,155.96	55,974.10	6,331.71	27,995.47
June	5,918.19	7,644.61	5,693.06	3,612.19	7,361.26
July	304,705.43	274,461.74	145,200.82	364,020.28	414,267.35
August	44,032.29	69,327.90	18,686.01	7,285.32	10,869.38
September	61,222.85	41,993.69	11,252.31	36,346.98	56,129.38
October	588,684.21	663,728.35	326,054.02	740,452.01	794,052.46
November	19,871.88	24,759.27	20,378.98	20,361.24	8,400.47
December	461,408.26	504,812.09	389,998.34	511,566.36	576,874.01
Grand Total	1,742,331.88	1,859,175.89	1,080,971.80	1,964,101.63	2,236,433.53



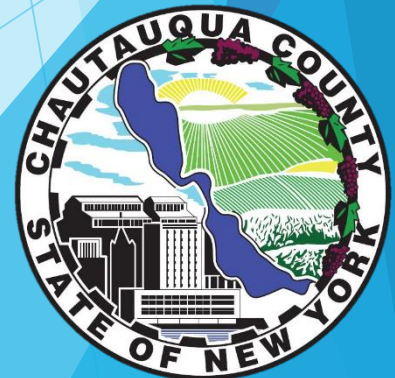
Summary 2% occupancy tax program:

- ▶ 2% occupancy tax reserve:
 - 2020 - \$264,704 (2% OT grant program suspended due to COVID19 reducing OT revenues.)
 - 2021 - \$472,652 (Higher than expected OT revenues post 2020 decline)
 - 2023 - \$916,017 (ARPA \$400,000 2% bolster, funded 14 highest ranked projects that were paused in 2020-2021)
- ▶ In 2023 20% of 2% occupancy tax program is allocated to Findley Lake, Cassadaga Lake, and Bear Lake
- ▶ Recent efforts:
 - \$141,703 conveyor and Mobitrac for the South Basin.
 - \$125,000 from the 2% OT Reserve provides additional lake maintenance funding for the Alliance's priority projects.
 - \$1,004,300 of ARPA funding to purchase lake maintenance equipment.
 - \$75,000 North Harmony's proposal for Lake Beautification-Shoreline Cleanup one-year pilot program.



Additional lake maintenance projects in the works:

- ▶ Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Project.
 - Require Federal Support
 - Met with Senator Schumer and Congressman Langworthy
- ▶ United States Army Corps of Engineers Pittsburgh District
 - Headwaters of Mississippi River
 - Competitive application with other lakes applying
 - Would require 50/50 split in project cost



Thank you for attending:

- ▶ Any questions pertaining to the powered watercraft/boat user fee?
 - Other questions/issues/discussions will be tabled for later review and answers.
- ▶ If you have further questions please email my office for me to review and respond to.
 - Phone: 716-753-4211
 - Email: CHQLake@chqgov.com

