

PPCSLA Annual Gathering 2026

MINUTES

July 11, 2026 – 11 am – Carrie Ricker School

31 Attendees – 8 new memberships!

The meeting was brought to order at 11:00 am.

Greg Anderson, President of the PPCSLA Steering Committee, welcomed everyone to our Annual Gathering held in the cafeteria at Carrie Ricker School in Litchfield. After a brief overview of the meeting agenda, he introduced the first of three speakers from our partner organizations.

Wendy Dennis, Staff Limnologist, Cobbossee Watershed District (CWD)

- The question came up of what is a limnologist? Greg explained that a limnologist is comparable to an oceanographer except that they study freshwater biological, chemical, and physical conditions.
- Wendy explained the origin of the CWD, and the scope of work that the CWD carries out in our watershed. This work includes water quality and water levels monitoring, service to the towns on development proposals that will impact the shoreland zone, responding shoreland zoning violations, performing some aquatic invasive species monitoring, and developing management plans to protect water quality on the lakes and streams in the Cobbossee watershed.
- Wendy went on to discuss the CWD's current updating of the Pleasant Pond Management Plan, particularly the camp road survey and assessment of road/culvert conditions; runoff can carry phosphorus into the lake causing a decline in water quality. She asked for residents to volunteer to be the contact person for their road. Camp road surveys will resume this fall after the monitoring season is completed.

The second speaker was Daniel Griffin, the new Executive Director of the Watershed Friends (formerly the Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed)

- Daniel spoke for few minutes about the mission and scope of work of the Watershed Friends (WF), highlighting their two new watercraft that facilitate having two full aquatic invasive species (AIS) survey teams active everyday – one on Cobbossee Lake, and the other, the “roaming” team, working wherever needed elsewhere in the watershed.
- He also highlighted the partnership between the WF and the various lake associations in the fight against AIS. WF have the expertise to identify, locate and

the mitigate AIS infestations. They also provide a staff of Courtesy Boat Inspectors (CBI) who work Fri-Sat-Sun at our Thorofare Road boat ramps. As a lake association, we pay for a share of these activities in conjunction with funds from the state DEP and local municipalities.

- Daniel then asked folks to just ask him questions and we had a nice discussion of several related topics, many seeking to clarify how WF differed from the CWD, CLA, etc.

The third speaker was **Alison Cooney**, Executive Director of the Lake Stewards of Maine (LSM)

- Alison spoke about the origin, mission, and scope of work of the LSM which include aggregating and verifying water quality and AIS data from many local sources and submitting it to the state. LSM also provides certification training for citizen scientists - volunteer lake monitors, AIS surveyors, and AIS identification.
- She mentioned that LSM is in talks about merging with Maine Lakes - a sister organization which carries out most of the same activities elsewhere in the state.
- She strongly encouraged our members to get involved as volunteers.

State of the PPCSLA

Greg Anderson started the business meeting by updating the membership on the state of the association. (Note, Greg's notes went AWOL just before he spoke and he had to rely on his boomer memory to hit almost of his talking points.)

1. Almost a year ago we met and heard that we needed to incorporate as an association to meet the financial obligations to Watershed Friends to control aquatic invasive species in the stream and pond.
 - a. I asked for volunteers to help form a steering committee to tackle that process and people stepped up.
 - b. Tim Burr, Carolyn Bulliner, Patsy Dickinson, Avery Kamila, Nate Marshall, Martin Naas, Mary Parker, Sarah Thacher, Beth Whalon, Pat Sirois, Mark Blythe, and myself, Greg Anderson constituted the first steering committee.
 - c. Greg asked the membership to thank all of the Steering Committee members who have worked diligently over the past year to get us here today.
2. **MEMBERSHIP STATUS:** In April, we launched our first membership campaign as a nonprofit by both direct mailing and email.
 - a. Our membership as of the start of the meeting stands at 67 individuals, households, and business sponsors. We had 8 new members sign up today!

- b. Our goal for the this year is to reach 100 members. Our long term goal is to have at least 200 steady members year over year.
- c. Please help us by talking to your neighbors and urging them to join.

3. FINANCIAL STATUS:

- a. We are halfway through our fiscal year and we have raised just under \$12,000 as of July 10, 2026.
- b. We recently sent a check for just under \$10,000 to Watershed Friends to pay for aquatic invasive species services – CBI, Survey, and removal. We will be billed for the balance due, another \$5000, later in the summer.
- c. Our bank account balance as of 7-13-26 will be **\$1,783.61**. Our pending reimbursements are **\$1,253.62** leaving us a net balance of **\$520.09**
- d. Our total projected AIS costs for this year are just shy of \$15,000, so we have a way to go yet.

4. VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The association needs members who can volunteer for a variety of tasks. Sign up sheets at the sign in table.

- a. Courtesy Boat Inspectors (CBI) training by WF
- b. AIS plant surveyors – training by WF and LSM
- c. Adopt a shoreline - learn to recognize invasives and be responsible for a stretch of shoreline to monitor – training by WF
- d. Association committees; events, fundraising, etc.

Please see any of the soon to be elected board members to learn more about these opportunities

5. Website and Facebook Group

- a. Hope you have used our website – lots of information
- b. Liana Brent volunteered (with enthusiasm!) to take over administration of the Facebook group. Look for changes in the coming days!

6. NEW MILLS DAM and THOROFARE BOAT LAUNCH UPDATE

- a. Necessary work on the dam (replacement of timber uprights that hold the gate boards) in October will require the pond and stream to be lowered by 3 feet from full pond about a month earlier than the normal fall drawdown. The work is targeted for the first week of October
- b. At the same time, Litchfield Public works will be rebuilding the Thorofare boat launch while we have low water; should be a complete renewal of the ramps and shoulders. (The membership heartily cheered this news)
- c. **The specific timing is not known yet, but it will impact your decision making about when to pull your boats and maybe your docks for the winter.**
- d. **How will we keep you informed?** We will reach out via our PPCSLA website, Facebook group, email, mail, public notices in town offices and grocery stores. **When in doubt, check the website/facebook first, then call us if you have questions.**

7. Board Election

- A new Board of Directors was elected following the rules of our bylaws. Because Greg Anderson was standing for election, Paul Whalon volunteered to run the election as a disinterested party.
- The new board was elected unanimously and members include: Greg Anderson, Carolyn Bulliner, Tim Burr, Kristi Kenney, Nate Marshall, John Meagher, Marty Naas, Mary Parker, Sarah Thacher, and Beth Whalon.
- After the meeting, Peter Johnson volunteered to fill the one vacancy on the board and was appointed by Greg Anderson to a one year term. He will stand for formal election at the Annual Gathering in 2027.

Special Steering Committee gift to Greg Anderson- On behalf of the SC, Carolyn Bulliner presented Greg with a gift certificate to Bistro Milliard in Hallowell, in recognition of his tireless work to get the PPCSLA up and running (make no mistake, he is tired, but very grateful and looking forward to nice meal with his wife, Patsy!).

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm and attendees were invited to stay for the potluck lunch.

During the lunch we held a raffle for members only, giving away a unique Cobbossee Watershed jigsaw puzzle, two covered appetizer trays, a beautiful picture book of Maine Lakes, and a PPCSLA mug. A 50/50 raffle was won by Liana Brent and raised \$47 for the PPCSLA.