

## Chautauqua Lake, A Great Lake Seeking a Greater Future Bemus Bay Property Owners (BBPO)

- **Problem: unacceptable Chautauqua Lake water quality in Bemus Bay**
  - Accumulation of weeds and algae near shore and on the shoreline
  - Rotten weeds form a near shore and shoreline foul-smelling “sludge”/a stench



- “Sludge” facilitates growth of blue-green algae with cyanobacteria/toxins
  - Unhealthy and life-threatening situation for humans, pets and other animals
  - Wading, swimming, kayaking, fishing, entertainment, etc are impossible
  - Already having a negative impact on tourism/business and property values
- **Goal: eliminate floating, near shore and shoreline weeds and sludge**
- **Solution: local government leadership with property owner action**
  - County, Town of Ellery and Village of Bemus Point leadership and expertise
  - Bemus Bay Property Owners (BBPO) group objectives, assistance and support

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- **Weed cutting, the only method used since 2002, isn't doing the job**
  - In a 2014 survey of lake residents: 83% said the lake was deteriorating and only 8% favored weed cutting for weed management (18% favored herbicides)
  - At least 10% of the weeds cut (1.4M lbs in 2016) aren't recovered and end up floating on the lake, near shore, on shorelines and/or on the lake bottom
  - Weed cutting-related damages to property owners are not mitigated
- BBPO (40 and growing) committed to completion of 5 objectives for 2017
  - **Complete the County's MMS** with property owner input and participation
  - Gain **state and local government support** for BBPO efforts
  - Get the **Chautauqua Lake Association (CLA) to upgrade its operations**: (1) transparency in prioritization, (2) mitigation of negative impacts, and, (3) seriously consider other management methods including use of herbicides
  - Secure a **NYS DEC permit for herbicide** application and apply herbicides
  - Secure a **US ACOE permit for dredging** of weeds and sludge and dredge



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### Town of Ellery and Village of Bemus Leadership

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- Significant Bemus Bay shoreline property values are being threatened
  - Shoreline land assessed at \$2800/shoreline ft (x 11,035 ft of shoreline=\$31 M)
  - Home/building improvements and non-lakeside land assessments additional
  - Town- and school district-billed taxes as well as sales and bed taxes at risk
  - Recent sales show lakeside assessments 15-20% in excess of sale prices
  - Bemus Bay improvement in the interest of County, Town and Village
- BBPO seeking significant Town and Village roles meeting its objectives
  - Provide an Ellery Town Council member as point contact for BBPO
  - Be the “applicants” for Bemus Bay herbicide and dredging permits
    - Participate in BBPO/Ellery/Ellicott Town Clerk meeting the week of January 16
      - +Plan Town of Ellicott herbicide (2002-3) and dredging applications (recent) as models
    - Participate in NYS DEC pre-application meeting the week of January 23
      - +Facilitate interactions with NYS DEC and US ACOE through permit approval
- Leverage Town and Village influence/funding to get upgrade of CLA operations
- 2017 Bemus Bay success would likely be imitated by of Chautauqua towns and villages and support **Chautauqua Lake, A Great Lake Seeking a Greater Future**