Lakes Association

Brittany O'Mara & Corinne Halliday
Representatives

EAST HADDAM LAKES ASSOCIATION 2024-25 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET REQUEST

East Haddam's Three Lakes are: Bashan Lake-273 acres, Lake Hayward-174 acres and Moodus Reservoir-486 acres. Each Lake has a CT. State Boat Launch

The lake communities of Bashan Lake, Lake Hayward, and Moodus Reservoir represent nearly 20% of the Town's Real Estate Grand List. This is largely due to the significant additional property taxation of about $1,200,000 levied on them via higher valuation factors. It is in the Town's financial interest to support this important tax revenue source by contributing funds to the substantial private financial expenditures made by the lake communities to protect, preserve and remediate issues facing the lakes. The health and recreational value of the lakes drive property values and resulting increased tax revenues. Sought after lake life helps make East Haddam a desirable and attractive town.

The current threats to the economic value of the three lakes and the properties surrounding them are varied. They consist of invasive aquatic species, excessive algae blooms, storm water runoff and erosion and pollution from poorly functioning septic systems, excessive fertilization, pesticides and detergents. Each lake has a Ct. State boat launch which makes the control of invasive aquatic weeds more challenging and expensive to control. In addition, the issues of over-development and out-of-character development are facing each lake community.

Consistent with prior years, the rationale for the 2024-25 budget request is based on the 1999 Economic Study conducted by the University of Connecticut and Ct Department of Environment and Energy Protection (funded by the U.S. EPA's Clean Lakes Program) entitled "How Much is a Lake Worth To You"...If water quality issues are ignored, tax revenues from lake properties will decrease in direct relation to the deterioratingwater quality of the lakes:and if water quality drops to the point where it is unsafe to swim and/or each fish caught in the lakes, lake property values will drop in the range of 36-43%. What does this mean for East Haddam? This could correlate to a tax revenue loss in the range of $1.650,000 to $1,9200,000 or 6.2% to 7.2% of tax revenues.

The three Lakes Associations' budget request is made to help with many projects currently in action and for the future to prevent the decline of the quality of our three lakes. These include professional services for herbicide applications, mechanical weed treatment operations, in water testing to measure bacteria levels and other physical, chemical and biological lake parameters necessary to determine further actions required. New emphasis has been placed on the harmful algae blooms (HABS) which are a concern as our climate changes. Monitoring these factors requires professional guidance and laboratory services. In addition to this monitoring, we need to keep our public educated on these topics, risks and prevention methods. This is done with newsletters, e-mails, websites, and in-person presentations. Major products also include state required dam repair and the creation of a bio-detention basin.

Expenditures by Expense Type

Name	Account ID	FY2022 Actual	FY2023 Actual	FY2024 Budgeted	FY2025 Budgeted	FY2024 Budgeted vs. FY2025 Budgeted (% Change)	FY 23-24 Approved Budget vs. FY 24-25 Budget ($ Change)
Expense Objects							
OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	10545130-53400	$14,743		$0	$0	0%	$0
OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	10545130-53400-77301		$5,931		$0	N/A	$0
OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	10545130-53400-77302		$8,330		$0	N/A	$0
OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	10545130-53400-77303		$5,711		$0	N/A	$0

Name	Account ID	FY2022 Actual	FY2023 Actual	FY2024 Budgeted	FY2025 Budgeted	FY2024 Budgeted vs. FY2025 Budgeted (% Change)	FY 23-24 Approved Budget vs. FY 24-25 Budget ($ Change)
BASHAN LAKE	10545130-77301			$13,258	$11,912	-10.2%	-$1,346
Lake Restoration	*10545130-77301*	*$0*	*$0*	*$7,750*	*$6,083*	*-21.5%*	*$6,083*
Public Education	*10545130-77301*	*$0*	*$0*	*$150*	*$150*	*0%*	*$150*
Aquatic Plant Monitoring	*10545130-77301*	*$0*	*$0*	*$3,950*	*$4,187*	*6%*	*$4,187*
Water Drawdown	*10545130-77301*	*$0*	*$0*	*$1,408*	*$1,493*	*6%*	*$1,493*
LAKE HAYWARD	10545130-77302			$15,950	$15,500	-2.8%	-$450
Invasive Weed Control Treatment	*10545130-77302*	*$0*	*$0*	*$7,000*	*$6,500*	*-7.1%*	*$6,500*
Water Quality Testing and Monitoring	*10545130-77302*	*$0*	*$0*	*$5,250*	*$5,000*	*-4.8%*	*$5,000*
Public Education	*10545130-77302*	*$0*	*$0*	*$250*	*$250*	*0%*	*$250*
Misc. Adjustment	*10545130-77302*	*$0*	*$0*	*$2,750*	*$2,750*	*0%*	*$2,750*
Watershed Stream Sampling	*10545130-77302*	*$0*	*$0*	*$700*	*$1,000*	*42.9%*	*$1,000*
MOODUS RESERVOIR	10545130-77303			$11,500	$6,500	-43.5%	-$5,000
Lake Restoration	*10545130-77303*	*$0*	*$0*	*$11,250*	*$6,250*	*-44.4%*	*$6,250*
Public Education	*10545130-77303*	*$0*	*$0*	*$250*	*$250*	*0%*	*$250*
Total Expense Objects:		**$14,743**	**$19,973**	**$40,708**	**$33,912**	**-16.7%**	**-$6,796**