

# ILA Bulletin



INTERMEDIATE LAKE ASSOCIATION

February 2023

## New Operator of Dams

On Saturday, January 14th, Intermediate Lake Association members were able to meet and talk with Leslie Meyers, the new Antrim County Operator of Dams, and bid good bye to Mark Stone, as he retired from that position. The Operator of Dams oversees operation of both the Bellaire Dam on the Intermediate River and the Elk Rapids Dam at the mouth of the Chain of Lakes. Leslie brings strong qualifications and much experience to the role and is looking forward to building on the foundation Mark has built during his tenure as Operator of Dams. As we did with Mark, we will be working closely with Leslie, most notably on the continued development and use of the ERCOL Hydrology Model.

No formal presentation was made, just a time of introductions, greetings and networking, with coffee and snacks provided by the association.



Here is (left to right) John Bridenbaugh (ILA Board Member); Dave Christian (President, ILA); Leslie Meyers; Andy Hickman (ILA Board Member) and Mark Stone.

## ILA By-Laws Update

The ILA Board has initiated an update of our association's by-laws. The main objective of this work is to clarify and simplify our by-laws, endeavoring to make them more fit-for-purpose for the association. While there will not be any fundamental changes to the structure or purpose of the association with this update, it is anticipated there will be some minor changes to Board of Director spending limits and the like. All changes to the By-Laws will have to be approved by the membership at the Annual Meeting, so we will keep you updated on this work. Your input is welcome.

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## Lake Level Studies Update

As announced in the December, 2022 ILA Bulletin, Antrim County submitted a proposal to obtain a grant from the State of Michigan to continue development of the Hydrology Model of our Elk Rapids Chain of Lakes (ERCOL). Unfortunately, we did not receive this grant. However, despite this, we are moving forward with this important work. Antrim County approved \$25,000 in 2023 funding for the study (perhaps you saw the article in the Antrim Review reporting this) and several ERCOL lake associations will be financially contributing to this work as well, including our association contributing \$1,000 towards the work.

With this work funded and approved, we are now kicking off the project in cooperation with Leslie Meyers, the Antrim County Operator of Dams and other area lake associations. ILA's Lake Level Committee continues to lead the effort for our association (co-chaired by Dave Christian and Janet Hickman). Included in this work will be an expansion of the model to include the Elk Rapids Dam, thus making the model cover the entire ERCOL watershed, and then using the model to study both the Bellaire Dam and the Elk Rapids Hydroelectric Dam during significant precipitation events (i.e., 100 year and 500 year flood events). This work is scheduled to be complete by the end of June, 2023.

We will keep you updated on this work.

## Membership Survey

Coming soon to an email just for you – we will be sending out an ILA Member Survey! Look for this survey, which will be short, asking just a few questions (we promise!) Please take a moment when it arrives to complete and submit it. We value your opinion! (...and as always, if you have a specific question or inquiry, please contact us directly).

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