

Dave M Waters, Cold Brook, NY.
Dave Waters, Hinckley, NY.

Hinckley Gregory P Jarvis Project P-3211-009

I spent most of my youth at my family's camp on Hinckley Lake and I have been living at the lake for the past thirty-five years. Obviously, the nearby communities and use of the lake have evolved enormously over these decades. There has been an influx of camps, homes and boaters of many types enjoying the lake as well. The lake is well-known for its clean water and sandy beaches. Unfortunately, however, Hinckley Lake is often referenced as being the lake with extremely low water levels. I have been asked questions like "Is there any water in the lake this year?" or "How are things at Hinckley Pond?" It's a shame that in spite of efforts by so many residents, agencies and politicians that the situation has only worsened in recent years. Even years with heavy snow pack and high rainfalls result in low water levels during the latter part of summer. I know that many entities have an interest in the lake, but it seems that a viable solution must exist. Also, I realize that alternative energies, such as hydroelectric, should be promoted. However, if the use or over-use of a hydro plant results in very low water levels, it can have a negative impact on many other aspects. One of the hydroelectric companies associated with the water levels of Hinckley Lake states that their ESG principles support "programs that foster environmental responsibility". However, this hydro plant with the present operating diagram will allow water levels so low that boats will easily get dry-docked or even run aground. The lake literally losses its scenic value and looks like a muck hole, nature being violated. The low water levels affect the fish life to the point where they will be flopping around while trapped in small pools of water. How is this considered "Green"? Is the real interest on the other type of green? If the over production of hydro power outweighs the socioeconomic and environmental aspects of the area, green might be compromised by greed. Again, there must be an attainable operating curve that will help manage the lake levels to account for precipitation amounts, snow pack, preservation of fish life as well as the many different needs the lake fulfills in our community. As others have already commented, the sandbars have steadily grown over the years and not only have they been a hazard to boaters, but they have also significantly reduced the volume of the lake. It seems like it would be beneficial to remove these obstacles. Also, possibly dredging some of the shallow areas would increase the capacity of the lake as well. Thank you for any considerations that might help alleviate these problems.

Document Content(s)

68975.TXT.....1-1