



# Lewis County Water Quality Coordinating Committee

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## Lewis County

Cornell Cooperative Extension

Economic Development and Planning

Highway Department

Soil & Water Conservation District

## Federal

Natural Resources Conservation Service

## New York State

Department of Environmental Conservation

Department of Health

Department of Transportation

Soil & Water Conservation Committee

Tug Hill Commission

## Lake Associations

Brantingham Lake Community Assoc.

Lake Bonaparte Conservation Club

## Private Citizens

Dear Shoreline Resident:

The Lewis County Water Quality Coordinating Committee (LCWQCC), an ad hoc, **non-regulatory** committee, has been assigned the task of developing a strategy for the management of nonpoint sources of pollution by the County Legislature. Nonpoint sources of pollution can be defined as sources of pollution that cannot be traced back to a specific origin or pipe and can originate from construction, agriculture, pet wastes, fertilizers, chemicals from urban runoff, salt from de-icing, and septic waste water.

As part of a larger effort to assess the potential impacts to the quality of our lakes, the LCWQCC is sending each shoreline property owner in the watershed an **anonymous** survey. We ask that this survey be completed by one member of each household. This information will help us better understand the state of shoreline septic systems in the county and the impact these systems may be having on the quality of our surface waters. Because these issues are sometimes sensitive, this will be an **anonymous** survey. You only need to fill out the questions that are asked below and you do not need to include your name or address unless you would like to. We encourage you to be honest in your responses, as these will assist us in better understanding the threats to water quality, how to protect it and enable communities to access funding opportunities. Remember, as water quality declines, shoreline property values and recreational values of the lake will decline as well.

If you have any questions, or would like to include your name and address, please include this information in the indicated location. Please return this survey in the self addressed stamped envelope. You can also contact me at 376-6122 or [nbillhardt@lewiscountyny.org](mailto:nbillhardt@lewiscountyny.org).

Thank you for participating!

Sincerely,

Nichelle Billhardt  
Chair, Lewis County Water Quality Coordinating Committee

District Manager, Lewis County Soil & Water Conservation District



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1. Name of water body

2. Is your property used year round or seasonally? (Please Check)  
 Year Round       Seasonally

3. If you are a seasonal resident, how many months out of the year do you spend in your lake home?

4. On average, how many individuals reside at your shoreline home?

5. Where does your drinking water come from? (Please Check)

Public System     Private Well     Shared Well     Other (please specify)

6. How far away is the closest drainage ditch (as the crow flies)? (Please Check)

Less than 100 ft.       101-300 ft       Greater than 300 ft

7. Do you have a water softener?  YES     NO

|                          | Do you have one?<br>(check yes or no) |                             | Does this waste go to the Septic System?<br>(check yes, no or unsure) |                             |                                 |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Washing Machine</b>   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes          | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes  | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure |
| <b>Dishwasher</b>        | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes          | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes  | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure |
| <b>Garbage Disposal</b>  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes          | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes  | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure |
| <b>Hot tub or Spa</b>    | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes          | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes  | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure |
| <b>Shower or Bathtub</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes          | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes  | <input type="checkbox"/> No | <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure |

9. Please rate the relative condition of your septic system? (Please Check)

Good       Moderate       Poor       Unsure

10. Do you know approximately where your septic system is located?  YES     NO

11. Is there parking or driving over any part of your septic system?  YES     NO     Unsure

12. Approximately how old is your septic system? (Please Check)

0-5 years     6-10 years     11-20 years     More than 20 years     Unsure



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13. Have you noticed any of the following conditions related to your septic system? *(Please Check All That Apply)*

- Wetness in yard (unrelated to rain)
- Slow Drainage of your plumbing home
- Well water test shows positive for fecal coliform bacteria
- Wet or spongy places in the yard that have a sewage odor
- Areas or lines in your yard greener or have taller grass
- Septic Discharge
- Sewage back-ups into

14. When was the last time your septic system was repaired or pumped?   
What was the cost?   
How often do you have it pumped?

15. What is the approximate distance from your septic system to the shoreline?

16. What is the approximate distance from your septic system to the nearest well?

17. What capacity or size is your septic system tank (in gallons)?

18. Are there other non-point sources of pollution that you are concerned with in your area?

19. If you would like to learn more about shoreline impacts on water quality please check the format would you prefer it in?  Pamphlet  Public Presentation  Internet   
Other

**Voluntary Only!** *If you would like to receive results of this survey or learn more about shoreline impacts on water quality, please provide the following information:*

Name  Address   
  
Phone Number  Email



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Additional Comments:

*Thank you for participating and helping to protect water quality in Lewis County!*