

Conservation Commission
Milfoil Committee

For Wed., Oct. 12, 2011 @ 4:00 PM in the Library Program Room
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Chairman Peter Jensen, Karin Nelson, Secretary Ginny Gassman, Al Hoch, Paul Daisy, Susan Connolly

Members Absent: Brian Litkof, Paul Ardito

Others: Bev Nelson, Amy Smagula

The meeting began at 4:00 PM.

Agenda

I. Approval of Minutes:

Paul Daisy moved to accept the minutes of Sept. 28, 2011 as written. The motion was seconded by Karin and unanimously approved by the group.

II. New Business:

None.

III. Continued Business:

- **Five-Year Plan**

The committee discussed with Amy Smagula, Coordinator of the Invasive Species Dept., DES, where and what type of treatments and harvesting she is recommending for 2012.

She recommended more herbicide treatment next year. In Year 1 we treated 330 acres, and in Year 2 we treated 175 acres. Paul D. suggested estimating the number of acres in the high-end for the permitting process. The group believes we should go in with an estimate of 225 treatment acres for the permitting process and Amy agreed.

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Lee's Pond will need to have a separate permit because it is a different water body. The team decided to request 4 acres be treated in the area above and slightly past the barriers that are currently in place. Amy will request the bids for Lee's Pond.

Al handed out a paper that indicated what areas of Moultonborough we can expect to need to treat next year.

The plan is to do one permit to cover two potential treatments in spring and fall.

If an area is a toss-up between DASH and herbicide the committee wants to use herbicide since it is so much more cost effective. This could also make more sense from a rate-of-control perspective given the amount of milfoil that needs to be treated in Moultonborough.

Costs will not go down as the DASH harvesting is added into the mix.

Amy believes that since milfoil has been in Winnepesaukee since the 60's, most available habitat has been infested and other areas that have never had milfoil are less likely to show growth.

Peter reported some observations on milfoil plants. The ones that have been treated look brown around the outside, but when you cut the stem they are green inside and as they grow up they are green on the top. The area where the plants were observed is in its second year of treatment. Amy responded that Moultonborough has extremely mature, persistent, woody milfoil that may require a few hits of herbicide.

Amy has noticed regrowth within spring treatment areas this year in other lakes. It is not a classic resistance developing, but perhaps an anomaly with the type of conditions this year.

Fall treatment should be done as early as possible, but according to Amy fall treatment seems effective.

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Amy reported it is permitted to treat one area with herbicide for three years in a row.

Peter explained the DASH test area we are doing where we are vacuuming up the dead plants. Amy said she is interested in seeing the results of this test, which may take a few years. A 1.5 acre area has been cleared for the test. Al wanted to know if we should use another hand pull day to clear a larger area. The committee decided to use only the original 1.5 acre area, so as not to lose the hand pull day.

Amy said there have been many inter-agency meetings to push to make sure our milfoil control efforts do not have last minute roadblocks during the permitting process. Amy may start to work with Fish & Game, for instance, during Sept/Oct to give them a heads up on plans for the next year. The groups are in the process of creating an inter-agency management plan to deal with issues related to milfoil control.

Fish & Game wants to know about hand pulling and DASH harvesting as well as herbicide treatments because they view milfoil as fish habitat. Fish & Game has sent Amy a list of areas they don't want to see treated in the spring because they are fish habitat areas.

Amy said the divers have not reported to her yet. They are supposed to notify her before they do the work, and also provide end reports. Neither Aqualogics nor AB aquatics have completed the reporting requirements to Amy. The reporting requirements should already be clear to them from the diver certification they attended. Peter suggested that the milfoil committee could remind or ask the dive teams to complete the reports for DES. Karin said so far we have received reports only for the first 15 and 11 days of harvesting from two of the dive teams. Amy will send examples of the reports she expects to receive.

QC reports: The committee has documented that between 11-13 thousand gallons of milfoil have been pulled.

The milfoil committee is using ARCGIS tools. We will look into whether we can share shape files with Amy. We know we can import shape files

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but we are not sure we can export. Amy can also convert tab delimited or comma delimited text files.

DES's underwater surveillance vessel is being field tested. It includes cameras on booms and a flat screen monitor that can work to 18 feet of depth. DES got a grant for this in 2004. This boat would be used out in deeper water while traditional methods would be used closer to shore.

Amy has begun a survey of diver companies to clarify what milfoil is divable and what is pickable.

Amy agrees that we should use our discretion about handpicking vs. DASH.

Amy needs diver input to make decisions on areas that need to be treated with herbicide.

- **Lake Hosts:**

No report.

- **Weed Watchers**

Amy uses a Garmin 430 for surveying: she sees a specific red signature via sonar when there is milfoil.

The word needs to be spread: when people see fragments people should pick them up and dispose of them away from the lake.

Ginny is to do a weed watchers survey as a wrap up for this year. The survey would include:

- Amount of time spent weed watching.
- GPS units? How many have access. How many want access.
- Interest in T-shirts, signs or vests
- Reactions to ARCGIS
- Safety concerns
- Plant identification concerns
 - o How many sent plants to Amy for identification

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- How many took pictures and sent to Amy for identification

- **Tri-Town DASH Initiative**

For next year:

AI would like to make sure that Aqualogic communicates better when they will be working, where they will be coming in and where they will be working. The milfoil committee tells them where they work and they must communicate any changes. We must be able to monitor them and to perform QC and other activities.

IV. Other

The next meeting is Wednesday Nov 2nd, at 4pm in the Moultonborough Library Program Room.

At the next meeting we will discuss our experiences with the various vendors.

Also, AI suggested we might want to get our own survey boat with a sonar unit as well as handheld GPS units for weed watchers to use.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ginny Gassman
Moultonborough Milfoil Committee, Secretary

Peter Jensen
Moultonborough Milfoil Committee, Chair