

Conservation Commission
Milfoil Committee

For Wednesday, March 6, 2013 @ 11:00 AM in the Ernest Davis Room at the Town Hall

Meeting Minutes

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

Members Absent: Sue Connolly, Brian Litkoff, Bev Nelson

Others Present: Amy Smagula (DES), Marc Bellaud (Aquatic Control Technology)

The meeting began at 11:00 AM.

I. Special Meeting Agenda

This is a special meeting of the Moultonborough Milfoil Committee with Amy Smagula of the Department of Environmental Services and Marc Bellaud of Aquatic Control Technology, called for the purposes of planning the 2013 milfoil control effort.

Peter stated the purpose of the meeting which is for the committee to have a good understanding of the areas in Moultonborough to be treated as well as a good understanding of how they will be treated.

Bridle Shiners

Al Hoch provided the committee with a map from the prior year that indicated where the Dept. of Fish & Game believes there will be bridle shiners spawning in the spring. We will not be able to do a spring herbicide treatment in these areas.

Paul D. said in some of the bridle shiner areas there is minimal development, and it might be possible from a "community" perspective to treat in July. However, having an additional treatment is costly due to additional travel, etc.

Areas which are restricted due to bridle shiners can be treated after July 15th. Paul D. asked if there is any real advantage in doing a treatment in July vs. September. Marc said there is not much difference because plants are usually still very active and healthy in September.

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The committee agreed to take July off the table for treatment for areas not conflicting with the annual Steamboat rally. There are good results in September. Marc suggested that we treat anything away from the Steamboat site in early September. The Steamboat organizers have already been in contact with Amy about the 2013 meet. The steamboat meet is in the primetime of September treatment, and means the Lee Mills area will need to be done separately from the rest of the areas of the fall treatment.

Amy has worked with Fish & Game and worked their concerns in to the long term plan.

Treatment Considerations

Marc Bellaud discussed how the bottom type dictates the type of treatment. Where there is a flocculent (mucky) bottom, treating with 2,4-d may not be as effective, because the herbicide works through the plant and the Navigate (2,4-d) may release too slowly in the clay-based carrier. The other herbicide options, Sculpin and Renovate MAX G, will release faster and could work better in this type of bottom.

Peter asked Al to provide Amy and Marc with the spreadsheet that includes the dive logs and descriptions of the bottom from last year. The spreadsheet is sorted by area and may be helpful for the planning.

Amy is interested in the rock pile areas where the treatment boundaries were extended last year and how that affected the milfoil control there.

Amy and Marc said the spread potential of very deep patches of milfoil is lower than the shallower area as the deeper areas are not as susceptible to water flow caused by wind and/or boat traffic, except if boats have anchored over the beds, which could drag the milfoil up. The plants could still fragment, but not as much as when there are waves and wind working on the plants close to the surface. The wind drives most of the mixing, and according to Marc, in water 4-5 ft deep there is not much mixing. Marc suggested if we are getting to the point of trying to effectively manage an area, we should consider the "potential to spread." This might mean we could put treating the deep areas at lower priority than shallower areas.

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Also, treatment of very deep plants is more expensive than treatment of shallower plants.

At Salmon Meadow Cove there is a person who runs his bubbler year round as a muck reducer, this may spread the milfoil in the area and could also have a negative effect on how the herbicide works.

Herbicides

There was a discussion of herbicides that will be used this year.

- **Navigate:** This is a 2,4-D ester. The core of engineers did a study for DES and this was found to be the most effective on milfoil, but testing cannot mimic all the environmental effects of the big lake and it is worthwhile trying the Sculpin in some situations.
- **Sculpin:** This is a 2,4-D amine in pellets. Sculpin has been used on Winnisquam. The concentration of the herbicide will flash on the plant within 24 hours which will have a higher concentration immediately post treatment in the water. Better for areas where water flow prevents the Navigate product from ever reaching a critical saturation level around the milfoil plant.
- **Renovate max G:** This is a combination of 2,4-D and triclopyr. According to Marc and Amy, a few projects have been done in NH on milfoil with better efficacy than Navigate.

Marc believes it is worth trying the two new herbicides at the same concentration to see how they perform and then the next step may be to increase the concentration. Peter said we are hoping that, in the areas where the water flow dilutes the chemicals, the Sculpin will be effective.

Renovate Max G is recommended for Lee's Pond. Because of the restrictions for irrigation (needs to be below 1 part per billion) it can only be used in the fall.

Triclopyr is an herbicide which mimics a plant hormone and causes cell elongation but prevents cell division. After treatment, the plant stems stretch out and then die. Triclopyr targets a different hormone than 2,4-D.

Triclopyr has been registered with the EPA since the late 90s or early 2000s. It has been used in trials and studied for 15 years before that. Regulators seem comfortable with the use of triclopyr, but the label language is more stringent than 2,4-d. Experience with the chemical in NH has been favorable.

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June Treatment:

Amy handed out a map that includes GPS coordinates where milfoil was found plus historical areas where milfoil has been found in prior years. It does not reflect the September 2012 treatment. The June treatment will be planned using the bridle shiner map plus Amy's map. Al's findings will be used as background information along with field data to create the final treatment map.

Paul D. and Peter discussed the level-2 density areas that we want to consider treating using herbicide instead of hand pulling for cost reasons and for lake bottom reasons. Originally Amy was drawing a line for herbicide vs. hand pulling based on observed densities of the plant. Amy will begin to adjust treatment types factoring in the bottom conditions.

Amy will come up in early/mid May to survey and come back with a recommendation for where we should treat. For June we will use Sculpin.

Treatment Permit

In July for Lee's Pond and Lee Mills, DES will ask for MAX G as well as MAX G for the fall treatment on Winnepesaukee. They will do one permit for all applications (2 or 3 different dates) this year for Winnepesaukee. The treatment has to be date specific within 14 days. If we ask to do something in July at Lee's Mills, we have to ask for it and then there could be a back-up that says we'll treat in September if abutters do not agree to the irrigation restrictions. Marc said we'd make sure that the date in September will not conflict with the steamboat rally. The steamboat area could be treated on Sept 17-18 at the earliest.

The permitting process is being worked on now. The timing doesn't appear to be an issue this year according to Marc and Amy. They are better able to anticipate what will be approved by the different departments. Amy sent a list of all her projects to Fish and Game and the NH Natural Heritage Bureau, and she is addressing their concerns.

Weather becomes a concern if the treatment times are 2 week windows and things get pushed back by various factors. Marc speculated that we might be able to put extra contingency dates in the permit.

In summary, the treatment plans are:

- June - All areas minus bridle shiner restricted areas
- July - Lee Mills and Lee's Pond
- Sept - All areas minus Lee Mills
- Late Sept - Lee Mills if not in July.

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Irrigation Restrictions

There is no restriction on grass irrigation for any of the chemicals, although there is with ornamental plants (broadleaf plants). The potential for July treatment at Lee Mills could be a problem, but depending on the ornamentals present we could get a release to irrigate perhaps in 2-3 weeks. If there is an issue with the irrigation restriction, the Sculpin could be used instead of MAX G.

Marc has worked with the water testing lab and they are now guaranteeing us three-day turn around this year. So we should know after use of the Navigate or Sculpin within 18 days of the treatment. The labels now state that the irrigation can be done after 21 days. So it may be possible to state definitively that abutters can use the water for irrigation after 21 days. Marc will check this with Bob Wolff of the NH Dept of Agriculture. If we cannot state this, than the committee agreed that we might as well wait until the Sept date for treatment. If the 21 days is an option, it would probably be worth contacting the Lee Mill's abutters to get a reaction to a possible July treatment.

Peter asked Amy if we could test after one week. Amy said we could but she was not sure the test results would be acceptable to the pesticide dept. Paul D. asked why we need to wait for two weeks after treatment before doing the water test. Marc replied that this is dictated by the pesticide dept and is based on the product and the site. If the town tested independently, it is not likely that it would be used as a basis to allow irrigation because the department would likely ask for more frequent, multiple site testing to ensure the herbicide levels did not trend up after time.

Abutter Mailings

Addresses for the abutters mailings that may be lacking are around Black Cat Island and places that have not be treated in the recent past according to Marc.

Marc will let Ginny and Bev know what parts of the mailings we could contribute to with volunteers in order to lower the costs.

Other Topics

Marc suggested we look into the CI Biobase lake management tool (they have a system that uses a Lowrance GPS depth finder) where you subscribe to a service that records your tracks, processes the data in the cloud and gives you the biodensity of plants in the track. This is an online service. This could be used as a tool. You don't know what the species is, but it will tell you the density of plants. Peter was concerned that if the data was published about heavy plant density that property values might be affected.

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Peter asked if there were any lesson Moultonborough could learn from the Wolfeboro Back Bay where they are experiencing an aggressive resurgence of heavy density milfoil infestation and are going to have to use herbicide treatment. This comes after many years of believing they had the weed under control. Marc and Amy think that some big patches could not be gotten by hand picking and it got out of control. They also believe their weed watchers may have missed areas. Perhaps they had more than they were aware of. There was herbicide opposition. Back Bay is very shallow in areas and difficult to hand pick.

II. Other

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 21, 2013 at 9:30 am in the Life Safety Building Training Room.

III. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ginny Gassman
Moultonborough Milfoil Committee, Secretary

Peter Jensen
Moultonborough Milfoil Committee, Chairman