

Town of New Durham
Milfoil and Invasive Aquatic Weeds Committee (MIAWC)
Public Meeting Minutes-April 16, 2008

The Chairman of the MIAWC called a meeting to order on Wednesday April 16, 2008 at 6:30PM in the New Durham Town Offices , located at 4 Main Street.

Present: Art Hoover, Chairman

Fred Quimby, acting secretary

Cynthia Quimby

Leeann Beals

Absent with Apologies:

Wayne Glidden

Susan Hoover

Alan McQuison

Micheal and Michelle Downes

Invited Guests:

Amy Smagula, Exotic Species Program Coordinator, NH-DES

Marc Bellaud, Senior Biologist, Aquatic Control Technology, Inc

Mark Fuller, ND Road Agent

Others in Attendance:

Cathy Orlowicz

Francis Brady

Dave Russell (Club Pond)

Chet Kania (Club Pond)

Tom Goss (Marchs Pond)

Don Holm (Shaws Pond)

(I) Administrative

Call to order: Art Hoover , chairman, convened the meeting at 6:35 PM at the Town Hall.

Minutes of the March 26,2008 Meeting: Cynthia Quimby motioned to approve the minutes of March 26, 2008 and Fred Quimby seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

(II) Unofficial boat launch sites on the Merrymeeting River:

Art Hoover explained that there is an official boat launch site below the hatchery on Merrymeeting Lake Road giving boats access to the river and providing space for parking trucks and trailers off the road. This site has appropriate signage alerting boaters to the hazards of milfoil infestation. There are also two unofficial areas along MMLR where boats are launched. One area is at the end of the guardrail across the road from the Nixon residence. Another area is next to the bridge where MMLR crosses the river. Only the latter site provides off road parking. In order to prevent soil erosion and control the spread of milfoil, the MIAWC asks Road Agent Mark Fuller how a guard rail could be extended at both sites to prevent boat launching. Mark indicated that Mark Merrill of Gilford is the State representative in charge of guardrails on State roads and he should be contacted. Mark also thought that adding Jersey barriers to these areas could be done more expeditiously. The MIAWC also feels that these two areas should be posted alerting boaters of the presence of milfoil and the location of the official boat launch site.

(III) Completing Inspection of Milfoil at Other New Durham Water Bodies:

Amy Smagula has agreed to provide training for the MIAWC members at 5:30PM Tuesday May 20, 2008. The remaining water bodies in New Durham should be surveyed by committee members and helpers in July and August, 2008. The DES will conduct a survey of the Marsh Pond (above Jones Pond) this summer and will confirm the presence of any other suspect areas based on the committee's inspection. Art Hoover has spoken to the leadership of the area Boy Scouts to see if they are interested in helping the

committee this summer.

(IV) Weed Divers Program:

Registration for the May 10, 2008 weed divers training program closes on May 7. Leeann Beals will contact her husband and brother about attending this training session. The MIAWC will fund the course for each diver at \$149. Per person. The course consist of a 5-hour class followed by a 1 day dive session.

(V) Treatment of Milfoil in Jones Pond this summer:

Art Hoover explained that the Merrymeeting River from the Hatchery to the Downing Pond dam was inspected by committee members this past summer. Milfoil was documented from the Jones Pond dam to the hatchery with the highest concentrations in Jones Pond. The NH DES conducted GPS mapping of the Jones Pond infestation in the Fall of 2007 in preparation for treatment. At the request of the MIAWC the water in Jones Pond was drawn down in the late Fall to expose milfoil plants in November and early December to freezing temperatures. There is some evidence that freezing the roots of milfoil may kill the plant. The plan now is to treat the area of heaviest infestation this summer while inspecting all remaining water bodies (Merrymeeting Lake was inspected and found free of milfoil last year). Following treatment this summer we will request a draw down again for the late Fall in 2008 to inspect for remaining milfoil and freeze any remaining plants. Also over the next 6 months (due 9-15-08) the MIAWC will prepare a 5 year plan for milfoil treatment and control to be submitted to NH-DES and the Department of Agriculture(DOA) for the treatment of milfoil inn 2009. State funds will be available for the 2009 treatment.

Marc Bellaud talked to the committee about alternative approaches for the treatment of Jones Pond in 2008. Plan A is to treat milfoil in its aquatic phase with the chemical 2,4-D. This can be done by only drawing down the water 1 foot and than closing off the flow to create a reservoir effect. We need to have the chemical pellets exposed to the plant roots for several days (4-5) to be effective. The problem with this method is that in rivers it is more difficult to control the exposure of the pellets to the roots due to water flow and when rivers have deep silt, as Merrymeeting River does, the roots may grow down 1.5 feet making the chemical treatment much less effective.

Plan B is to convert the milfoil in Jones Pond into the emergent form and treat the plant with the chemical DMA which is applied directly to the plant as a spray. This requires drawing down the water 2-3 feet or more for about 30 days which forces the plant to develop into the emergent form and become susceptible to DMA treatment. Problems associated with this plan include rain washing the DMA away before it can be effective, guaranteeing that the plant enters into the emergent susceptible form, and excessive plant mass which reduces effectiveness of the treatment. After drawing down the water, if the silt bakes quickly it will hinder the plant transformation. The 30 day water draw down in summer may also pose problems for individuals and the NH-Fish and Game department. Amy suggests the committee meet and discuss this plan with F&G as soon as possible to get their input.

Amy Smagula and Marc Bellaud discussed time of treatment . To apply 2,4-D the plant must actively translocate the herbicide into the roots. This takes place in the late Spring and early summer and fall but it does not happen in the middle of summer July 15- August 15. In the Fall the plant goes through auto fragmentation and puts out new roots, during this time translocation is very good. Autofragmentation is induced by daylight and begins about August 15 of each year. So plan A can be implemented up until mid July and after August 15.

Marc Bellaud thought we could conduct treatment in a 10 acre area of Jones Pond for \$9500.

Ed Neister commented on the treatment of milfoil in the Suncook River. While pelleted 2,4-D appears to be the more effective milfoil plant killer it may not be as good in river systems where current disperses the pellets. If, on examination this Spring, we find that the freezing from 2007 killed most of the milfoil plants in the river banks, treatment with DMA may not be warranted. Ed recommends filing both plans with the DES and DOA. He also recommends that treatment not be attempted after Labor Day. Ed presented a two draw down approach where plants exposed go into the emergent form and are treated with DMA. A second 1 foot drop will permit the treatment of freshly exposed plants to compare their treatment with the emergent form, while the plants remaining in the water column are treated with 2,4-D. This overcomes the problem associated with deep silt. Finally Ed illustrated how we could evaluate DMA application effectiveness as part of Plan A. When the water is drawn down 1 foot in Jones Pond the milfoil

in front of the Jarvis property will be exposed and go into the emergent form. This section could be treated with DMA.

Amy Smagula and Marc Bellaud provided the timelines for the MIAWC. The two plans must be part of an application for treatment submitted to DES and DOA by May 15, 2008 if we expect to treat by August 15. The Dam Bureau requires 30 day notification before a draw down. And we need a two week public notice before treatment begins. In order to complete the application for DOA we will need to identify all the abutters to the treated area and the location of wells within 50 feet of the treatment area. If there are individuals drawing water from the river within 1200 feet of the treatment area they must be identified.

(VI) Other Business:

Tom Goss reminded the MIAWC that Chalk and Marchs Ponds will be dramatically drawn down for the entire summer for new dam construction. If there is milfoil present in either Pond this would be a perfect time to apply DMA.

(VII) Meeting Action Plan:

A. Art will contact Mark Merrill concerning extending the guardrail at the two unofficial boat launching sites.

B. Amy Smagula and Marc Bellaud will begin preparing the application for DOA which includes Plan A and Plan B treatment in 2008. Plan A may be necessary if the freezing experiment conducted in 2007 worked. Art Hoover will inquire about well locations of abutters.

C. Ed Neister and Amy Smagula will inquire about the possibility of erecting a fragment barrier at the south end of Jones Pond to prevent contamination below the dam.

D. The MIAWC will request a Fall 2008 draw down of Jones Pond to repeat the freezing of plants.

E. Fred Quimby will contact Jeff Decker at NH-F&G to attend the next meeting. Although the 2008 treatment application must be sent to DOA before the next meeting we should get F&G input and amend the application as necessary.

F. Amy Smagula will provide a 1 hour training session on milfoil for all committee members on Tuesday May 20 at 5:30PM at the New Durham Town Hall, this will be followed by a meeting of the MIAWC at 6:30PM at the Public Library..

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45PM