

**Exotic Aquatic Weeds and Species Committee
Meeting of 21 October 2013, LOB 307, 10:00 AM
Minutes of Proceedings**

Members present: Rep. Ben Lefebvre (Chair), Rep. Dennis Malloy, Sen. Bob Odell, Rep. Rose Marie Rogers; Public Members Bob Reynolds (Clerk) and Tom O'Brien (sitting in for Andrea LaMoreaux)

NHDES Representative: None

Members Absent: Rep. David Kidder (Vice Chair), Rep. Adam Schroadter

Guests present: None

Rep. Lefebvre called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM.

Rep. Malloy moved to approve the minutes, as written, from the August 27 meeting and the "unofficial" September 16 meeting. Rep. Rogers seconded. The motion passed 6-0.

Rep. Lefebvre led a discussion about appointing new members to the EAWS Committee. One appointment would be to fill the vacancy for the public member position previously held by Don Foudriat, and other new appointments to represent various organizations. He mentioned that this would require legislation, and that the deadline for filing new House bills was past. Sen. Odell offered to sponsor a placeholder "new member" Senate bill, which must be filed by Friday, October 25.

A discussion ensued regarding the appropriate role and objectives of the EAWSC Committee. Rep. Lefebvre requested that each member bring specific ideas to the next meeting that the EAWSC should consider to adopt as its role and objectives for the next two years. Depending on the outcome of these discussions, the Committee might include a revision to its charter and mission in the "new member" bill to be sponsored by Sen. Odell.

Various members were tasked to confirm candidate names, availability, and willingness to serve from the following organizations, and are requested to submit this data to Sen. Odell and Mr. Reynolds (committee clerk) by Thursday morning (Oct. 24) for distribution:

- Rep. Lefebvre – Angler groups (e.g., NH Council of Trout Unlimited)
- Rep. Lefebvre – NH River Steward from the Connecticut River Watershed Council

- Rep. Rogers – NH Dept. of Fish and Game Exotic Species POC (e.g., Diane Timmons?) or a F&G Commissioner
- Mr. O'Brien – Angler groups (e.g., Bass Federation; get other suggestions from Fish & Game)
- Mr. O'Brien – NH Rivers Council (e.g., Michele Tremblay)
- Mr. O'Brien – NH Marine Trades Association (e.g., Ryan Crawford)
- Mr. O'Brien – New England Waterworks Association (NH Chapter?).

Mr. Reynolds presented four years of survey data collected by the Ossipee Lake Alliance regarding the amount of money being spent statewide to control milfoil infestations and how that money is raised. From 2009 to 2012, \$2.65 million was spent by towns and lake associations to control 49 of 70 identified milfoil infestations by divers, DASH units, and herbicide treatments. The state (through NH DES) provided 18% of this money, town governments provided 48%, and private donations from individuals and businesses provided 34%. Ossipee Lake Alliance identified \$861,000 that was spent in 2012. Noting that 21 of the 70 known milfoil infestations (30%) are not being actively managed by any town or lake association, it can be projected that \$1.3 million might be needed each year to control all known milfoil infestations statewide. The state contributes \$100-200,000 toward this need, even though the state owns the lakes, rivers, and the land under them.

The economic impact of aquatic invasive species, if this million-dollar annual expenditure fails, is significant. A 2007 Lakes, Rivers, Streams & Pond Partnership study of the impact of deteriorating lake and river water clarity on the NH tourism industry projected a potential annual impact of \$51 million in lost sales, \$18 million in lost state income, and 800 lost jobs. A 2001 UNH study estimated a 10-20% decrease in shorefront property values from invasive plant infestations, causing a significant impact on local property taxes and town budgets.

Ms. Smagula submitted a written report on the NH DES Exotic Species Program, a copy of which is attached.

Mr. O'Brien raised the opportunity of the EAWSC participating in a "milfoil summit" or a "presentation track" on invasive species at the NH Lakes Association's Lakes Congress to be held in June 2014. The Committee will discuss this at the next meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 18 at 10:00 AM in LOB Room 307. Topics for the next meeting will include:

- Status update on the appointment of new members to the EAWSC (Rep. Lefebvre)
- Specific decisions on the role and objectives of the EAWSC during the next two years (All members)
- Status update on HB 292 (Joel Anderson)
- NH DES Exotic Species Program financial and activity reports (Amy Smagula)
- Discussion of hosting an invasive species “track” at the NH Lakes Association’s Lake Congress in June 2014 (Rep. Lefebvre)

Rep. Rogers moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:37 AM. Rep. Malloy seconded. The motion passed 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Reynolds, Clerk

NH DES Exotic Species Activity and Financial Updates for 10/21/13 Exotic Aquatic Weeds and Species Committee Meeting

Prepared by Amy P. Smagula

Exotic Species Program Coordinator

Summer and Fall activities of the NH DES Exotic Species Program:

- Monitored 40+ exotic aquatic plant control projects across the state to check progress and effectiveness of control actions
 - All progressing as expected/anticipated
- Mapped 70+ waterbodies for 2014 control project planning
- Sent out notice of grant availability for control projects for 2014, and received approximately 40 requests for funding for various types of control practices throughout the state
- Prepared maps and bid guidance for roughly ¼ of the groups (so far) seeking to do projects in 2014 (the balance of the maps and bid guidance will be completed this week)
- Coordinated DES dive support at three waterbodies (regular diving at Naticook Lake in Merrimack through the summer, and occasional dives at Long Pond in Danville and Post Pond in Lyme)
- Trained about 15 new Weed Watcher groups
- Identified about 1500 plant specimens sent in to DES for identification
- Tracked 31 control grants from 2013, and two prevention grants
- Updated guidance documents for Prevention and Research Grants for posting on DES website for 2014 grants
- Tracked one new infestation of water chestnut on the Connecticut River
 - Plant identified originally in 2012 by a consultant, more field work in 2013 found a larger patch of growth, volunteers hand removed and continue to monitor
 - Location is just north of Hinsdale
- Partnered with biologists from the New England office of the Environmental Protection Agency to study Asian clam populations in Cobbetts Pond in Windham, Long Pond in Pelham and portions of the Merrimack River. Results will be available in late winter/early spring.

Exotic Species Budget Updates

- Tracked 31 grants for exotic species control actions, now working on obtaining final invoices for payments to close out grants by 12/31/13.
 - 2013 grant requests exceeded \$800,000
 - DES was able to grant approximately \$338,000 (at a 40% match level)

- Worked on grant announcements and processing grant requests for 2014 control actions.
 - Grant requests were due by September 15.
 - Received approximately 40 requests for funding, and we are working on processing those, which includes making recommendations for control actions, providing maps for entities to obtain bids, etc.
 - Bids are due November 15th based on DES provided maps and guidance, and grant awards will be announced by end of November.
 - Too early to tell how much will be requested for grant awards
- Working on determining how much money DES will have available to grant in 2014. This determination will be complete by mid November so that grant award determinations can be made.
 - DES is trying to close out 2013 grants, to determine if there is unspent funds from 2013 that can be carried forward to 2014 to increase the amount of state match available (unspent funds are derived from projects that for some reason or another come in under budget).

Please direct questions to Amy Smagula at Amy.Smagula@des.nh.gov, or 603-271-2248.

2009-2012 Milfoil Funding Survey: Briefing to NH Exotic Aquatic Weeds and Species Committee

Bob Reynolds, Executive Director
Ossipee Lake Alliance
breynolds@ossipeelake.org

Concord, NH
October 21, 2013



Agenda

- The Problem
- Economics of Milfoil Control
- Analysis
- What Can We Do?

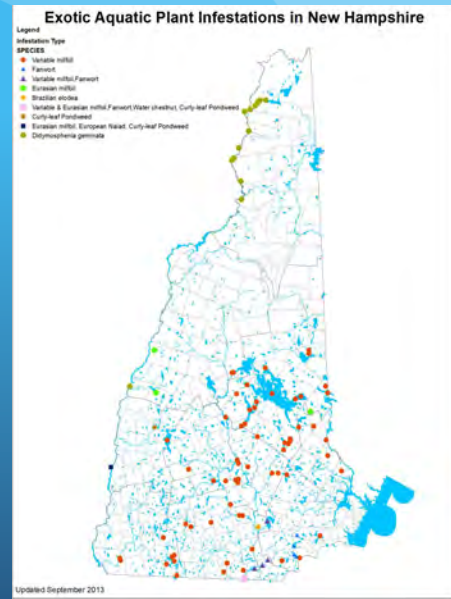


Source: Dennis Raberg, VLMP © 2007



The Problem

- There are 78 NH water bodies infested with invasive species
- 70 are infested with variable milfoil
- 21 of 70 milfoil-infested water bodies are not currently managed by any lake association or municipal government



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The Problem: Invasive Species



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The Problem: So What?

- 2007 study of economic impact of deteriorating water quality in NH lakes and rivers:
 - A perceived decline in water clarity and purity would cause:
 - \$51 million in lost sales,
 - \$18 million in lost state income,
 - 800 lost jobs
- 2001 UNH study:
 - 10-20% decrease in shorefront property values from invasive plant infestations

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Economics: Funding

- The NH DES Exotic Species Program is funded by \$7.50 from each boat registration fee, as follows:
 - \$4.00 for prevention and research grant programs
 - \$3.00 for program administration and control programs
 - \$0.50 for Clean Lakes Program
- **Between 2009 and 2012, DES awarded \$703,000 in prevention grants; \$388,000 in control grants**
- **Between 2009 and 2012, \$2.65 million was spent statewide on milfoil control activities**

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Economics: Expenditures

- How much are we spending on milfoil control in New Hampshire?
- The Ossipee Lake Alliance commissioned studies of annual expenditures statewide from 2009-2012
- Data collected from DES, town records, interviews with town officials and lake contacts, and lake association records

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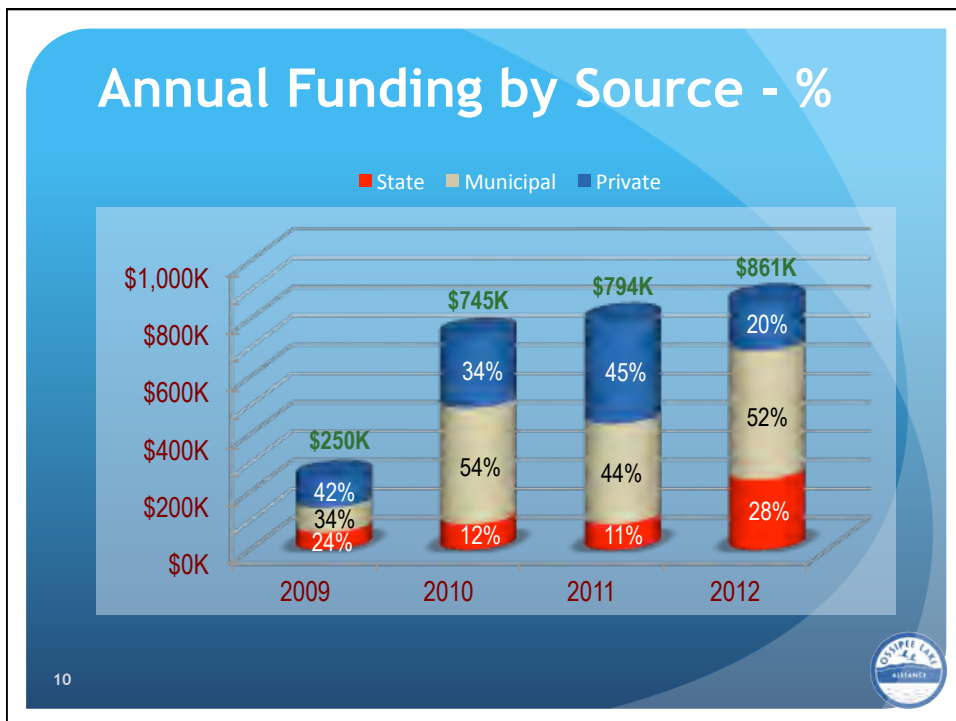
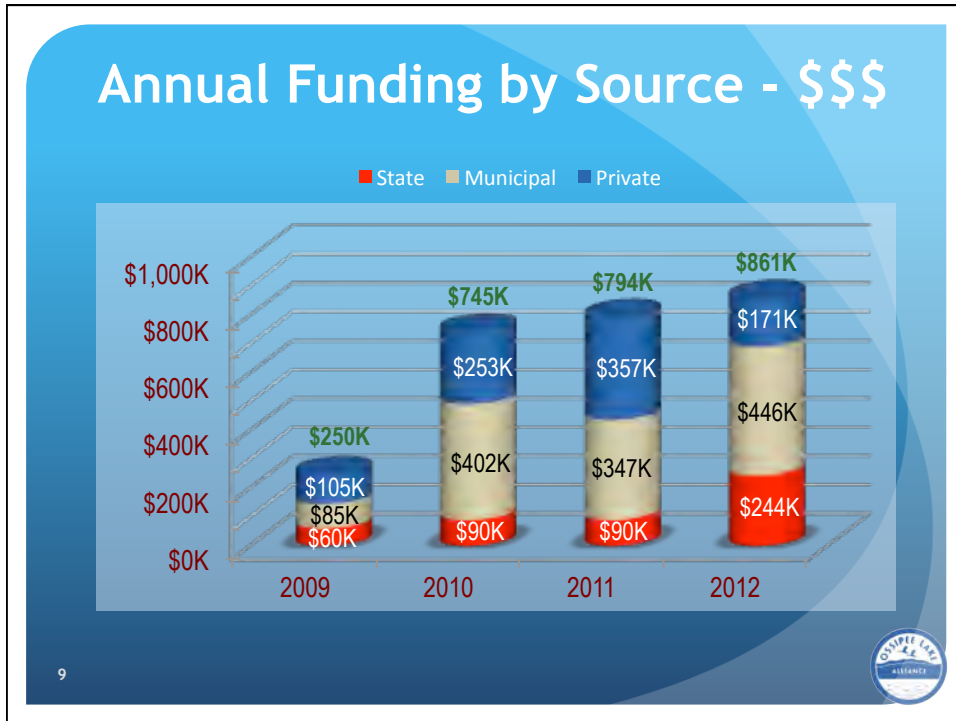
Total Milfoil Control Expenditures



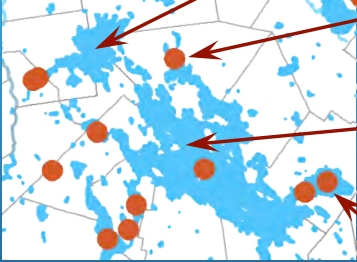
- 21 of the 70 infested water bodies are NOT being controlled (except for 2 by DES and 2 by USACE)

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Economics: What Does This Mean?




Squam Lake:
\$35,000 spent in 2012

Lees Pond:
\$8,180 spent in 2012


Lake Winnepesaukee:
\$391,047 spent in 2012

Lake Wentworth:
\$5,000 spent in 2012

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Economics: What Does This Mean?




Silver Lake:
\$1,500 spent in 2012

Ossipee Lake:
\$39,812 spent in 2012

Squam Lake:
\$35,000 spent in 2012

Lower Suncook Lake:
\$25,447 spent in 2012

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Economics: How Big is the Problem?

- 21 of the 70 (30%) milfoil-infested water bodies are not actively managed by any town or lake association:

Bixby Pond, Epsom
 Brindle Pond, Barnstead
 Cheshire Pond, Jaffrey
 Hopkinton Lake, Hopkinton
 Kimball Pond, Hopkinton
 *Pemigewasset Lake, Meredith
 Powder Mill Pond, Hancock
 Spaulding Pond, Milton
 Turtle Pond, Concord
 Upper Goodwin Pond, Concord
 *Willand Pond, Dover

Ashuelot River, Winchester
 Cochecho River, Rochester
 Connecticut River, Charlestown
 Contoocook River, Jaffrey
 Little Suncook River, Epsom
 Merrimack River, Concord
 *Pemigewasset River, Sanbornton
 *Piscataquog River, Goffstown
 Squam River, Ashland
 Winnepesaukee River, Tilton

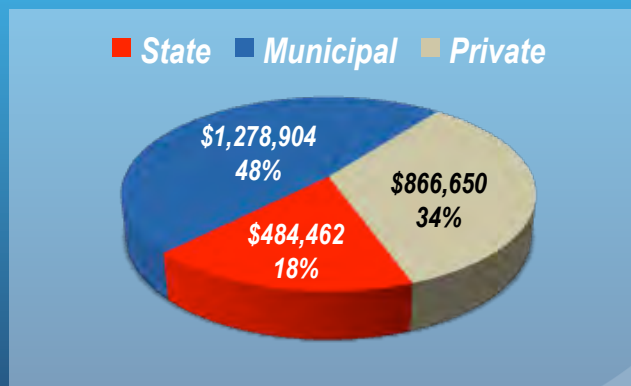
- If we spent \$861,000 to control milfoil in 70% of the infested water bodies, we probably need \$1.3 million to control all 70 infestations

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Economics: Expenditures / Sources

Summary of Milfoil Control Funding Sources \$2,650,027 during 2009-2012



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Analysis: State Funding

- From 2009 to 2012, NHDES funding for control activities:
 - Increased 4-fold in dollars; 2012 increase was a temporary event
 - Helped fund 13 control projects in 2009, 17 in 2010, 22 in 2011, and 28 in 2012
 - Varied between 11% to 28% of total funding for milfoil control
- NHDES has 1 DASH unit and 2 divers available for part-time performance of “rapid response” milfoil control activities



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Analysis: Municipal Funding

- Some town funding is secured by specific warrant articles that must be approved by voters each year; others by general appropriations to Conservation Commissions
- Towns with moderately advanced milfoil control programs will often establish budget line items to fund activities each year
- Towns with more advanced milfoil control programs establish Milfoil Trust Funds and Milfoil Committees to manage and fund milfoil control activities with Board of Selectmen approval
- Municipal funding has increased 5-fold and ranged between 34% and 54% of total funding during 2009-2012



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Analysis: Private Funding

- Dues paid by members of lake and home owners associations
- Special assessments to association members for milfoil control costs
- Partnerships with lake marinas, camps, and other businesses to solicit funds
- A wide variety of private fundraising techniques including yard sales, bake sales, “dive parties”, direct mail and door-to-door solicitation campaigns, charitable gaming nights, kayak raffles, soliciting matching contributions from residents’ employers, etc.
- Private funding has increased 3-fold and ranged from 20% to 45% of total funding during 2009-2012; seems to fluctuate in response to changes in municipal and state funding levels



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What Can We Do?

- The DES Exotic Species Program currently has ~\$160,000 available for milfoil control grants per year
- We need ~\$1.3 million per year to control existing milfoil infestations
- How can we help the State to create a stable fund of \$1 million per year to pay for milfoil (invasives) control activities?



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