

**Exotic Aquatic Weeds and Species Committee
Meeting of 09 April 2012, LOB 308, 10:30 AM
Minutes of Proceedings**

Members present: Rep. Chris Christensen (Chair), Rep. Mike Kappler;
Public Members Bob Reynolds (Clerk) and Ken Warren

NHDES Representative Amy Smagula

Members Excused: Rep. Dick Drisko, Rep. Laurie Pettengill, Rep. David
Russell (Vice Chair), Sen. Jeb Bradley, and Public Member
Don Foudriat

Guests present: Tom O'Brien (NH Lakes Association), Larry Sunderland
(Deering, NH Audobon), and Robert Wolff (Division of Pesticide
Control, NH Dept. of Agriculture, Markets, & Food)

Chairman Christensen called the meeting to order at 10:35 AM. Members
and guests introduced themselves.

Minutes of the February 13 meeting were discussed, and a revision was
made to correct the date of the NH LAKES Lakes Congress to June 22.
Rep. Kappler moved that the minutes be approved as amended. Mr.
Warren seconded. The motion passed 4-0-0.

Regarding the status of pending legislation, Chairman Christensen stated
that HB 1529, prohibiting the introduction of fluoride and aquatic herbicides
into water bodies used as sources of drinking water, was voted to be
inexpedient to legislate by the Resources, Recreation, and Development
Committee, and the full House supported that position on March 7.

Ms. Smagula stated that the Memorandum of Agreement has been signed
and executed between DES and the Departments of Agriculture, Fish and
Game, and Resources and Economic Development. It outlines each
agency's responsibilities and the areas of agreement between the four
agencies (e.g., that invasive species should be managed and not
perpetuated in the State, that habitats should be protected, and that the
focus will be on long-term integrated management plans), describes what
activities each agency will perform in this process, and includes
improvements in the herbicide permitting process). Rep. Christensen
inquired about the various deadlines for deliverables specified in the MOA,
and asked if effectiveness and compliance with the MOA would be

reviewed periodically. Ms. Smagula mentioned that all of the agencies have specific deadlines for submittal of various reports, information, etc. and that the MOA would be reviewed by the agencies on an annual basis – the first review is scheduled for the end of July 2012. Mr. O'Brien added that public involvement in the evaluation of the effectiveness of the MOA could be very valuable. Ms. Smagula responded that several members of the public were involved in the development of the MOA, and would also be included in the annual assessment of its effectiveness.

The Committee reviewed preliminary plans for the NH Exotic Species Forum at the New England Chapter of the North American Lake Management Society (NEC NALMS) meeting on June 8, 2012 at UNH in Durham. Rep. Christensen reiterated that this would take the place of the next EAWS Committee meeting (originally scheduled on June 11), thus it will be open to the public without charge. Therefore, registration for this workshop will be free. Mr. O'Brien stressed that two-way communication during this Forum would be very valuable to all parties. Mr. Reynolds will write an overview abstract of the Forum and submit it to Ms. Smagula by Friday, April 13.

Ms. Smagula presented the Financial and Activity Report for the DES Exotic Species Program (a copy is attached to these minutes). Since the last Committee meeting, she has processed two Prevention Grant applications and contracts and one Research Contract application and contract. She has also completed 30 Long Term Management Plan Updates, finalized the inter-agency MOA and obtained signatures from agency heads, prepared a second draft of the new Long-Term Management Plan template for inter-agency review, and finished the first draft of the Exotic Species Program Report. There was no new information on the program budget since the last meeting.

Mr. Warren, a member of the Board of the New Hampshire Lakes Association, mentioned that they have received a lot of applications from people volunteering for the Lake Host program. Mr. O'Brien, NH LAKES President, added that they have added four new Lake Host groups to the Lake Host program, now covering 70 locations across the state. NH LAKES employs approximately 250 people part-time during the summer, making it one of the significant employers in New Hampshire! Numerous comments were made about how several boat launch sites are missed by the Lake Host program, such as on rivers and at commercial marinas and

private HOA launch ramps. Mr. O'Brien agreed, saying that NH LAKES was evaluating how to expand the program to address these sites. He also proposed trying to involve the various angling (fishing) organizations in the exotic aquatic species programs. Mr. Sunderland strongly supported the importance of getting angler groups involved in milfoil prevention efforts.

Robert Wolff, who manages the herbicide permit application program for the NH Dept. of Agriculture, commented that the implementation of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit process has become more complicated due to recent changes. This is important because pesticides are classified as pollutants under this permit system, and aquatic application of pesticides (e.g., for mosquito control or invasive species control) must have a NPDES permit. One new aspect of this is that above certain pesticide levels, towns must sign a Notice of Intent (notification that they intend to apply a pesticide to a water body) as part of the permit application process. There is considerable misunderstanding about what this new requirement means, and several towns have been reluctant to sign the Notice of Intent. This has recently delayed the granting of some pesticide application permits for invasive species control.

Regarding future scheduling of meetings, Rep. Christensen noted that the next EAWS Committee meeting is scheduled on June 8, 2012 in conjunction with the NEC NALMS Annual Conference at UNH in Durham. The next meeting is scheduled on August 13. Rep. Christensen requested ideas for a field trip for this meeting. Several suggestions were made, and Rep. Christensen will coordinate with Mr. O'Brien to arrange a field trip to view DASH units and a Lake Host program operation.

** Members are asked to contact Rep. Christensen by April 27 to convey their interest in, and availability to attend, a field trip during the week of August 13.

Rep. Kappler moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:43 AM. Mr. Warren seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Reynolds, Clerk

Attachment: DES Exotic Species Program Reports

Post Script: Additional Committee Activities

June 8, 2012: The EAWS Committee sponsored an Exotic Species Forum at the 2012 Annual Meeting of the New England Chapter of the North American Lake Management Society (NEC NALMS). Presentations were made by Rep. Christensen, Mr. Reynolds, Andrea LaMoreaux (NH Lakes Association), Ken Marschner (Wolfeboro Milfoil Committee), and Marc Bellaud (Aquatic Control Technology, Inc.). Audience members included representatives from CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, and VT.

August 14, 2012: EAWS Committee members were taken on a tour of a Diver Assisted Suction Harvester (DASH) unit in operation harvesting milfoil from Back Bay in Wolfeboro. Cliff Cabral, owner of New England Milfoil, Inc., piloted an inflatable tour boat and explained the design, operation, and performance of the DASH unit. Ken Marschner, Chairman of the Wolfeboro Milfoil Committee, oversees the contracted services removing milfoil from five water bodies near Wolfeboro and provided additional information on performance metrics of milfoil harvesting.

Exotic Species Program Updates for 4/9/12 Meeting

Since the last meeting the Exotic Species Program:

- Processed:
 - Two Prevention Grant applications and contracts and one Research Grant application and contract
 - 15 Long Term Management Plan Updates (for a total of 30)
- Prepared a 2nd draft of the Long-Term Management Plan template for inter-agency review, based on comments from the first draft review.
- Finished first draft of the Exotic Species Program report, going through internal review at this time.
- Finalized inter-agency MOA and obtained signatures from each agency head.
- Preparing for busy summer field season which picks up in early May.

Exotic Species Budget Updates

- Long Pond, Danville grant match concerns