

May 12, 2018

TO: Town Board Members, Town of Fort Ann, New York
FM: Joseph F. Loszynski, Park Manager, Lake Hadlock Park District
SUBJ: Monthly Progress Report

MATTERS PENDING FROM PREVIOUS PROGRESS REPORT:

1. The negotiations concerning the hand harvesting proposal submitted by outside contractor, Invasive Dive Solutions, has been concluded without a binding contract between the parties. Negotiations went on for several days with numerous areas of contention. Some demands on the part contractor were very different than what was requested by AIM last year, resulting in a stalemate and little or no flexibility on the part of the contractor to resolve the matter in full satisfaction of consummating a contract for their services, thereby killing any chances to have a contract in place for this season.

This is a significant setback for the program and the integrated lake management plan. The majority of the progress last year working high density Eurasian milfoil fields will very likely be compromised to a point of major re-infestation due to the lack of post management monitoring by divers and the inability to harvest new growth that had not germinated last year or started a growth period late in the season. I have made efforts to secure services from other contractors but it is very unlikely that I will find a contractor that has time in their schedule to work Lake Hadlock, due to the fact that most if not all contractors have contracts in place for this entire season. I will continue to search for an available contractor and will leave this matter OPEN until the next town board meeting. PENDING.

2. The proposed lake owner's manual is currently being worked jointly with LHA and Ms. Beth Gilles of the Lake George/Lake Champlain Planning Board. A draft copy should be ready for my review within 2-3 weeks and it is still hoped that this manual will be ready for dissemination by LHA's Annual Membership Meeting during the first week of July. MATTER IS PENDING.
3. The matter concerning a backup operator for the mechanical harvester is still being evaluated. A few ideas have been explored but nothing concrete has been decided as to the best and most productive manner to address this without having financial consequences that exceed the budget appropriations for this area .MATTER IS PENDING.
4. Ms. Hannah Barber, on-site supervisor for the collection detail, attended the statewide Harmful Algae Bloom(HAB) Seminar on March 20, 2018. She was successful in gleaning very important scientific material that will make us better prepared to identify harmful algae blooms and make an appropriate response to protect the general public. This will be discussed more at length in this report as a result of my attendance at the NYSFOLA conference on May 4, 2018. THIS MATTER IS CLOSED.

NEW BUSINESS SINCE LAST REPORTING PERIOD:

1. The mechanical harvester has been checked thoroughly over the last three weeks and prepped for commissioning and launch on May 22, 2018. Mr. Charles Hillebrandt, Chief Harvester Operator, has methodically checked all vital areas on the machine that keeps this boat running effectively and smoothly during the summer harvesting season. The harvesting schedule had been previously established for this year but due to the development of not having a hand harvesting contractor for this year, some adjustments will now be made to the schedule, with harvesting now being able to start sometime around June 6th, if the vegetation growth warrants it. I will not change my strategy for this year attempting to keep the harvester out of high density milfoil beds due to the dangers of excessive fragmentation and ultimately re-infestation and re-germination of

- dreaded milfoil. If after careful analysis I have no other choice but to mechanical harvest due to the canoping of milfoil, I will do so with an increased fragment collection detail to reduce the amount of surface spread of fragments and submerged fragments that are below the surface in water columns. The percentage decrease of milfoil in our littoral zone over the last two years will only continue if there is an all out effort to reduce milfoil fragmentation on our lake, especially with no hand harvesting in place for this year. MATTER IS PENDING.
2. On May 4th and 5th I attended the largest state conference for lakes in New York, along with several representatives from the lake association, as well as Ms. Hannah Barber from the town work detail. As always, the presenters came from all over the northeast, with numerous scientist from Syracuse University ESF College, SUNY Oneonta, Cornell, Paul Smith College, RPI, Darrin Freshwater Institute, Princeton Hydro, Solitude, APIPP, etc. I focused my attention on storm water management, groundwater seepage, highway ditches in NYS, introduction of salt to NYS water bodies, decommissioning of septic systems, sustaining shorelines, intervention methods to correct the mistakes of the past and so on. As it has been clear to me over the last 3 plus years, the effort in the Town of Fort Ann to improve the quality and ecological balance of Lake Hadlock has been substantial but is only scratching the surface if the management plan fails to recognize the sediment coming into the lake, nutrient loading, counter-productive conditions to foster better reproduction of native plants, breached septic systems and halting the non-prudent behavior of some lake owners who chose to unabated, violate shoreline restrictions of the APA, to the detriment of everyone that has property on Lake Hadlock. Dealing with aquatic invasive plants is only a small part of the management chemistry to put Hadlock on the course of reducing or correcting the mistakes that have occurred over a span of 40 years or more. This reservoir will require stakeholders to take an honest look at the current condition of the lake, develop a long term and broad strategic initiative that at least addresses most, if not all, of the areas identified above and then chart a course that not only ensures this lake is good for recreational purposes but is ecologically sound to withstand changes with environmental conditions in and out of our control. MATTER IS CLOSED. INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY.
 3. Interviews are currently taking place for new candidates for the work detail. Several employees from last year are not returning due to full time employment, relocation and other personal reasons. It is hoped that we have a full slate of employees before the first mechanical harvesting date arrives. MATTER IS PENDING.
 4. On June 2, 2018, the mandatory safety and operational briefing for all work detail employees will be held at the town hall. A full agenda for the meeting has been established, focusing on work safety and the overall objectives of the operational plan for this year. As has been the case with previous years, this meeting has been successful in discussing improvements moving forward, identifying weaknesses and making provisions to either eliminate them or minimizing their impact, building on our perfect "no on-duty injury" record and completely and exhaustively going over our invasive plant challenges, minimizing fragmentation to our best of our ability and a host of other issues that make our team better each year. MATTER IS PENDING.
 5. I am currently working on a notification protocol for suspected harmful algae blooms. This has become necessary due to an increase of blooms in central and western New York and some isolated confirmations in the Adirondack Park. Algae blooms if toxic can kill animals and be harmful to human's respiratory system and skin. Fortunately, over the last two years, algae blooms have been observed and tested on Lake Hadlock but never yielded a toxic result which speaks to a number of reasons why Hadlock normally is not a fertile body of water to incubate these blooms to a point of being harmful and toxic. This obviously doesn't mean it can't happen to Hadlock, therefore it is prudent to have a process in place to deal with suspected algae blooms to the point of determining if they are harmful or not. I hope to have the draft protocol for the town supervisor to review before Memorial Day weekend. MATTER IS PENDING.

END OF REPORT.