

October 5, 2017

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

MATTERS PENDING FROM LAST PROGRESS REPORT:

1. The mechanical harvester program was concluded on September 12th. It was an extremely successful this year. The work detail did a superb job with controlling the growth of native plants, as well as invasive plants to some degree. The program enabled recreational users of the lake to use it literally unimpeded. The program contributed to minimizing the volume of bio mass of invasive plants that were targeted to be hand harvested by AIM, thereby reducing labor cost to harvest mature Eurasian milfoil plants. The machine itself operated so well this year. That can entirely be attributed to the very aggressive maintenance program over the last two years. We don't expect any change next year as to the efficiency of this machine. The harvester cut a total of 25 days this year. Again, there were many more days budgeted but due to the improved condition of the lake it wasn't necessary or justified to use these additional funds. The volume of vegetative bio-mass cut this year was down considerably due to fewer days of harvesting and considerably less vegetative mass to cut. The total weight harvested and collected was 26,940 pounds, which was about 1/3 of what was harvested last year. The harvester was pulled from the lake on September 20th without incident and is now stored at Northern Trucking for additional maintenance this winter. The pontoon boats have been pulled, winterized and properly stored at an off-site location. There will be no further reporting of the program until things gear up for next season.
PENDING INACTIVE.
2. During this last reporting period, the hand harvesters worked for a total of eight days. The focus was to finish their work on the southwest end of the lake and do line swim checks of their previous work and remove anything that was missed or has germinated since they last worked in these particular areas. During the two week period of their work, they hand harvested thousands of plants which weighed 9,825 pounds and consisted of 393 bags of milfoil. The total weight of milfoil plants harvested for 2017 is 19,500 pounds, with 780 bags of milfoil picked, thereby eradicating these plants from future re-germination due to fragmentation and natural de-composition. It is my opinion that hand harvesting was a tremendous success this year, yielding outcomes that will be ever more evident next year when the growing season starts for Eurasian milfoil. Never in the history of the lake, have we had this degree of success with hand harvesting and only time will tell what effect it has had on the overall ecology of the lake and the benefits we will reap with our native plant

- population. During the winter I will have at least one operational meeting with Thomas Thomson, the owner of AIM, to determine the best course of action for next year. Due to my research and benchmarking with other contemporaries in this business, I am better prepared to strategically chart a course of action, in conjunction with AIM, in order to maximize outcomes and ensure that the money that is being spent on this discipline is yielding results that exceed industry standards. No further information will be reported over the winter months in this area and reporting will resume early spring once I have a better idea as to the road map going forward. PENDING INACTIVE.
3. As reported in previous progress reports, there is a significant need to get a shoreline development plan in place that ensures no future illegal development by lake owners. We will never get to the point of having a sustainable shoreline unless something bold and effective is done by the town board regarding the manner in which building on the shoreline is managed and overseen. The APA cannot effectively handle the monitoring of the lake as it concerns shoreline development. First, they do not have an adequate investigative arm to do it and they look to local oversight and management to ensure things are done properly. They feel our vested interest in the lake should take precedent over individual interest. History has shown poor choices by lake owners does not yield environmentally safe outcomes and creates destruction of the natural shoreline that is irreversible. I look forward to constructive conversation on this subject matter and arriving at a consensus as to the management model going forward. We MUST shut the door on individuals that can't comply with shoreline restrictions and laws governing this particular aspect of lake management. MATTER IS PENDING.
 4. A town board representative and lake manager from Caroga Lake visited our lake on September 12th. They observed the operation of the mechanical harvester and the methodology used to collect fragments missed by the harvester during operations. Many questions were asked regarding the pros and cons of using a mechanical harvester on a lake that has invasive plants and it was agreed that we will continue to exchange best practices as both programs move forward next year. An invitation was offered to observe their suction harvesting program which will occur as early in the spring as their schedule permits. It was a very productive encounter and their lake managers follow-up truly indicated how important it is to share management practices because most always something is returned that can assist us mapping out our future. MATTER IS CLOSED.

NEWBUSINESS SINCE LAST REPORTING PERIOD:

1. A management meeting was held with Charles Hillebrandt, chief operator of the harvester and Hannah Barber, on-site supervisor that oversees the daily operation of the collection personnel. The purpose of this meeting was to exchange ideas on the strengths and weaknesses of the program and how can we improve going forward with minimizing fragmentation of invasive plants, increasing our efficiency with systemically cutting back native vegetation and not overdoing it due to the fish habitat and, better dealing with vegetative growth in hard to get areas and so on. I am so proud of these two individuals and

- their commitment and dedication with improving the overall condition of Lake Hadlock.. I am so fortunate as a manager to have these two outstanding people to assist me moving forward with executing a management plan that I think will make Hadlock one of the best lakes in the Adirondack Park. Many thanks to them for an outstanding season. CLOSED.
2. During this reporting period, I personally met with Thomas Thomson, owner of Aquatic Invasive Management. We discussed the results of my verification check conducted several weeks earlier. I presented my concerns regarding how we interface his discipline with the mechanical harvester program. This will continue to be researched and decision made before next season as to whether this practice will continue. I am certain that Mr. Thomson knows firsthand my expectations of his work and the performance I think is necessary in order to justify the use of hand harvesting and bring the level of control and spot eradication to acceptable levels. It was a very productive meeting and we both look forward to a season next year that produces results that is more quantified and measureable as to impact we are having with preventing the extension of milfoil and to a much larger degree, minimizing the potential for unacceptable levels of fragmentation. MATTER IS CLOSED.
 3. The budget for the lake management project was prepared and submitted. The crux of the entire budget is to increase hand harvesting, dedicate the use of the mechanical harvester to mostly native plant beds, improve on collection efforts and become more scientific with the management of the program through the use of technology and the recommendations of others who are pretty much winning the battle with invasive plants. The budget covers everything that I think is necessary in order to effectively execute the plan consistent with the expectations of lake owners, the town board members and the application of sound management and scientific reasoning. Your support will be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

END OF REPORT.