

**TOWN OF WINDHAM
WATERSHED PROTECTION FUND
2014 GRANT APPLICATION**



Eligible Projects: Grant funds can only be used for the protection or restoration of water bodies located in whole, or in part, within the Town of Windham. Preference will be shown toward non-profit organizations that are based in Windham. Preference will also be shown toward projects that will promote the sharing of equipment, knowledge, and other resources with other non-profit groups in the Town of Windham.

Application Deadline: The grant application deadline is March 24, 2014. All applications must be hand-delivered to the Windham Town Manager's Office by that date. Incomplete applications will not be accepted. Applicants will be notified of incomplete applications within five days of their receipt at the Town Manager's Office.

Grant Award and Disbursement: The Windham Town Council will complete their review of the applications and select grant recipients by April 22, 2014. All applicants will be notified by mail of the Council's decision. Projects that have been awarded a grant will receive the funds by May 20, 2014. The Town reserves the right to grant all, or any part, of the total amount requested.

Deliverables: Grant recipients will be required to submit a Final Report upon completion of all project activities. The Final Report shall include an accounting of all income and expenses presented in the same format as the original budget spreadsheet, a list of accomplishments, digital photographs, and the name of the organization responsible for maintaining any equipment or infrastructure associated with the project.

Applicant Contact Information:

Applicant Name: Collins Pond Improvement Association (CPIA)

Contact Person: Rodger Patterson

Address: 92 Emerson Drive

City: Windham

State: Maine

Zip Code: 04062

Phone: 207-892-7308

Fax: (None)

E-mail: rodgerpatt@aol.com

Qualifications and Experience:

In 500 words, or less, present a brief summary of applicant qualifications to carry out the project. Summarize relevant experience and financial, administrative, and technical qualifications of the organization. Summarize relevant experience of the person that will manage the project. (Attach more pages, if necessary.)

Our group of volunteers organized by CPIA has been working since 2007 to control an extensive infestation of invasive Hybrid Milfoil in our small lake, Collins Pond. Surveys have shown the presence of this plant in most all areas of the lake. The only areas where it is not consistently found are in the deepest places, usually at depths greater than 12 feet, in the center of the lake.

Most of the volunteers have attended training sessions offered by the VLMP (Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program) in DASH operation and benthic barrier construction and placement. We have also spent time with our partners from Little Sebago Lake Association observing their DASH work and their benthic barrier placement and removal. All of our divers have Open Water dive certifications.

Additionally we have successfully obtained grants from the Maine DEP administered by Lakes Environmental Association in Bridgton since 2007. These grants require documentation during and after each summer work period. DEP staff periodically visit our lake and view the infestation and work progress. The last visit was during the summer of 2013.

I am the contact person and manager of the effort and have worked with this group since the beginning of this project. I am also one of the certified divers. Additionally I was a member of the Board of Directors for many years and currently am the Treasurer of CPIA.

Project Description:

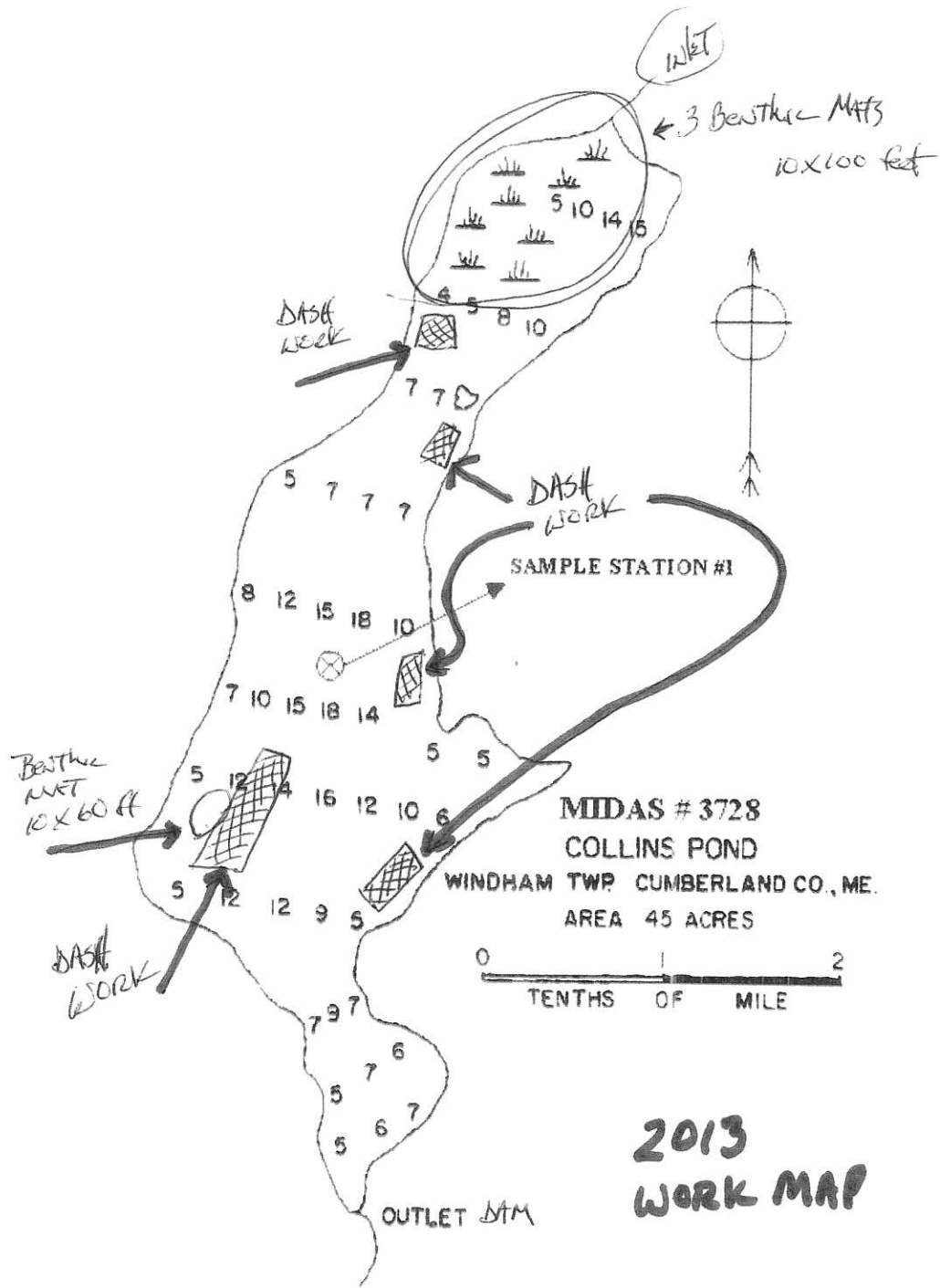
Starting in 2007 we began using benthic barriers which are large weighted tarps to cover and smother small areas of infestation. During the past four years we have used a DASH (Diver Assisted Suction Harvester) boat in addition to the benthic barriers. The DASH boat is a 24' long pontoon boat that was stripped down first. A 23HP pump/compressor was purchased and installed. A fiberglass trough was constructed and also installed. The DASH boat method uses a diver supplied with air through a long hose, called a hookah, from the boat. The diver uproots the plant by its root ball and feeds it into the large opening of a suction hose. The pump/compressor that supplies the diver with air to breathe also draws water through the large hose that the diver is holding. The plant is sucked up through the hose and into a large fiberglass trough on the boat. There the water flows through one of four openings and falls in a mesh bag. As the bags become filled they are replaced with empty bags. Since 2010 we have removed almost 1100 bags of milfoil. The bags are eventually moved to the Pearson's Town Farm at St. Joseph's College in Standish. There the plants are composted and used to support the organic farming projects there.

Project Name: Collins Pond Invasive Milfoil Mitigation using DASH and Benthic Barriers

Water Body Name: Collins Pond

In 500 words, or less, describe the proposed project (problem/solution). Attach maps and sketches, if appropriate.

We will use a combination of Benthic Barriers and a Diver Assisted Suction Harvester boat to gradually reduce the infestation of invasive Hybrid Milfoil in Collins Pond. This is an effort that will take many years to accomplish. The attached map shows our work areas:



Project Benefits:

In 500 words, or less, describe the project benefits. Who and/or what will directly benefit from the project and how will it benefit the citizens of Windham? What are the consequences of not completing the project?

Where other lakes with similar DASH boats use paid crews costing tens of thousands of dollars each year, our efforts have always used only a volunteer staff. The DASH boat components were purchased with grant money but the boat was designed and constructed by our own volunteers with help from the Little Sebago Lake Association (LSLA). We have partnered with LSLA over these years to make group purchases of supplies. Also we have shared our experiences and gained knowledge from other lake associations at meetings such as the Maine Milfoil Initiative and the Maine Milfoil Summit. This is an effort that will continue for many years as it will take this long to try and get the infestation under control.

Left uncontrolled, milfoil infestations have been shown to reduce lakeside property values as the lake is degraded. Milfoil can cause reduction in native plant diversity, reduce dissolved oxygen levels which can lead to reduced numbers of fish and encourage the growth of algae. The plants also can grow to the surface of the lake where the dense mats interfere with swimming and boating activities.

Project Schedule and Cost:

Planned Duration: Start Date: June 2014 End Date: **September 2014**

Total Cost of the Project \$ **3822**

Amount Requested from the Windham Watershed Protection Fund \$ **1500**

Matching Funds: Cash: \$ **2322** Services: \$ **3600**

Who will provide the matching funds/services?

Matching funds will be through a DEP Plant Control Grant to be applied for this month and also CPIA funds. Additionally the value of our volunteer match is listed under services. This is a standard calculation stipulated by the Maine DEP based on volunteer hours worked.

Will there be any other sources of funding? No. We are a small lake association and have found that these grants are the most efficient use of our time when raising money. We devote most of our time to actually working on the mitigation efforts, not raising money.

Please attach a project budget spreadsheet including all income and expenses including material, equipment, labor, and indirect costs (e.g., insurance).

Collins Pond Improvement Association-2014 Milfoil Project

Estimated Expenses:

Insurance	
Marine Liability/Officers & Directors insurance	\$2097
DASH Boat costs:	
Onion bags	\$ 125
Boat maintenance & storage-after the work season	\$ 500
Gas/Oil/boat supplies (gloves/rakes, etc)	\$ 600
Diving supplies-replacement weight belts/wet suit items worn out.	\$ 500
Total	\$3822

Sources of Income:

D.E.P.-Plant Control Grant (application period later this month)	\$2322
Windham Watershed Protection grant	\$1500

There are no labor costs as the work crews are all volunteers and consist of property owners, renters and other interested volunteers living on Collins Pond. The value of this "in-kind" volunteer labor last year was \$3584.08 using hourly rates provided on the Maine DEP Plant Control grant application.

Sustainability:

In 500 words, or less, describe how the project will be funded in future years, if applicable. What are the anticipated annual costs? Have sources of funding been set aside for maintaining/continuing the project?

Collins Pond Improvement Association is a voluntary organization whose purpose is to maintain this small lake. Member's donations are used in our milfoil mitigation efforts, maintenance of the small dam and any project that helps to improve the lake's water quality. As with the many other Maine lakes and rivers fighting this invasive plant infestation, we expect this effort to continue for years and probably never reach an ending. Research may find a better solution in the future, but currently these techniques are the best available to control these infestations. Grant funding will always be a primary source of funding to support this effort. There is a bill going through the legislature this session to increase the boat registration fee by \$5. This additional money is intended to be used solely to support the grant programs operated by the Maine DEP in preventing further infestations and controlling the current ones.

Resource Sharing:

In 500 words, or less, describe if equipment, knowledge, or other resources that would be acquired in association with this project can be shared with other non-profit groups in Windham. Will there be partnerships formed as a result of this project? List all the groups that could potentially benefit from this project.

We continue to attend the Maine Milfoil Summit held annually at U. Maine Lewiston's campus. This brings together all of the organizations in the state working on invasive species issues. An alphabet of organization names attend and present the results of their

efforts. This year featured a message from Senator Snow applauding the work of all of our various organizations. Additionally State Representative McClellan from Raymond spoke on LD 1626 which is the bill that supports additional money from boat registrations to support the DEP grant program.

We continue to work with LEA in Bridgton and also partner with Little Sebago Lake Association in group purchases of supplies.