

Windham Watershed Protection Grant 2018

Final Report for Collins Pond

Applicant Contact Information:

Applicant Name: **Collins Pond Improvement Association (CPIA)**

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11/3/2018

Project Detail:

Since 2007 the Collins Pond Improvement Association has been working to reduce the infestation of invasive milfoil in Collins Pond. The goal is to eradicate this plant from the lake. We continue trying to get it under control to the point where our efforts can be reduced to the annual removal of a small amount of remaining plants. The use of small benthic mats continues in scattered areas where lake front owners have chosen to reduce the amount of plants in swimming areas. The most productive method to mitigate this invasive plant continues to be the Diver Assisted Suction Harvester (DASH) boats. A diver weeds the plants from the bottom of the lake, trying to get the entire root ball removed, and feeds this into a large suction hose. The hose pulls the plants up onto the boat where they are deposited into onion bags. We employ only volunteer crews and divers on the Collins Pond Improvement Association (CPIA) DASH boat.

Starting in 2014 we additionally hired a local company which has greatly increased the volume of plants we are able to remove. The private contractor continues to be New England Milfoil from Brownfield Maine due to our previous experience with this company. Their prices also continue to be very competitive. The New England Milfoil DASH boat uses a slightly different collection technique to loosely collect the plants which are then transferred to a dump trailer.

In past years we were able to transport the plants to the Pearson's Town Farm at St. Joseph's College in Standish for composting. Sometime during this past winter the college made a decision to shut down the farm leaving us and other lake associations with a problem on where to dispose of the plants. New England Milfoil was able to make an arrangement with another Town to accept the plants that they removed. We also eventually found another location to accept our plants. Next year we may plan to compost them with a local property owner. The plants readily break down in the bags within a few months and make great compost. The plastic onion bags are able to be recycled afterwards.

The Maine DEP Plant Control grant program provides most of the funding to support our efforts. Collins Pond Improvement Association's 503(c)3 status has helped up to attract tax deductible contributions. The recent tax law changes may have slowed some donations down but we continue to seek out donations and grants. In addition to the Windham Watershed Protection grant, we received a donation of \$1000 from the Evergreen Federal Credit Union. This was a result of a fundraising raffle to support several local lake associations, Portland Trails and local food pantries.

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

<u>Expenses:</u>	<u>Estimated</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Marine Liability/Officers & Directors insurance	\$2360	\$ 2418.00
DASH Boat costs:		
Onion bags, Boat/Motor maintenance/winterization,		
Gas/Oil/boat supplies (gloves/rakes, etc),	\$2523	\$ 1743.00
New England Milfoil-private contractor (12 days)	\$19200	\$ 15150.00
(New England Milfoil was budgeted for 4 weeks work but we were only able to hire them for 3 weeks due to the amount of grant money and cash contributions received)		

<u>Sources of Income:</u>	<u>Estimated</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Maine D.E.P.-Plant Control Grant	\$ 19010.08	\$ 15995.00
Windham Watershed Protection grant	\$ 1500	\$ 1000.00
Collins Pond Improvement Association	\$ 3252.52	\$ 1315.92
Evergreen Federal Credit Union	\$ 0	\$ 1000.00
Total Project Cost	\$ 23762.60	\$ 19310.92

Value of Volunteer Match

The State of Maine grant program established a dollar value to be used for volunteer hours donated to accomplish our project. Thirteen volunteers worked as boat captains, boat staff, surface support and divers. **The total value of their volunteer labor was calculated at \$2887.55.** The DEP grant program requires a CASH match equaling 20% of the DEP grant. The value of our volunteer labor was allowed to be used in calculating our cash match up until three years ago, but it no longer allowed. We have had to replace this amount with additional fundraising and grant writing. We applied to six grant programs this year and received two grants.

Accomplishments for the 2018 season:

Many of our volunteers are retirees; our crews are aging. It is hard to attract volunteers to do this type of work so it will be necessary to continue to raise money to hire outside contractors to perform most of this work in the future.

The CPIA DASH boat was a little late getting started this season due to a pump problem that was eventually resolved. Both the CPIA crews and New England Milfoil worked in the north end of the lake noted as location #5 on the map. A Google Maps picture is also included showing locations worked by New England Milfoil. They document their work areas using GPS.

We removed the last of our long benthic barriers this season. Despite their effectiveness they are difficult to handle and move with any precision. We continued the use of small, 10' x 10' mats that owners can deploy from their shorelines. Surveys performed several times this summer showed many areas of dense and very tall milfoil plants growing in widely separate areas of the lake. We also see large areas of natural grasses growing, some in areas we

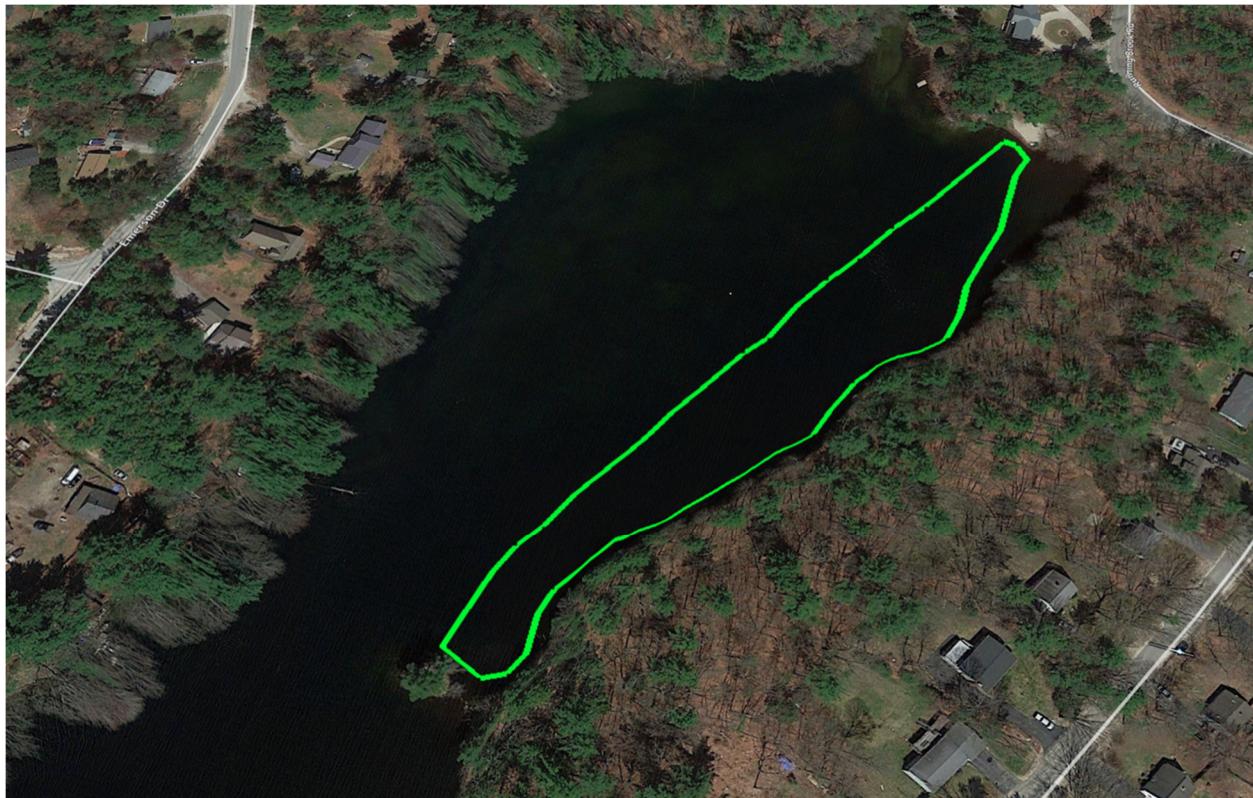
previously worked with the DASH boat. This is encouraging but we still have a lot of milfoil growing in the lake.

The total number of gallons of milfoil plants removed this year was **15312**.

Since 2007 we have removed **84286** gallons of milfoil from Collins Pond.

As previously stated, if this infestation of invasive milfoil is allowed to continue to get out of control it will eventually affect the property values and tax revenue for this area. Additionally the plants will likely continue to wash downstream to the Pleasant and Presumpscot rivers becoming an environmental and financial problem for the Town.

We continue to participate in the Maine Milfoil Summit held annually at the University of Maine Lewiston/Auburn campus where many organizations share ideas and accomplishments. Additionally we participate in discussions organized by Lakes Environmental Association in Bridgton around invasive plant control. Little Sebago Lake Association continues to assist us in obtaining our onion bags at a group buying price and with DASH boat problem solving.



This map was provided to us by New England Milfoil using GPS coordinates to show the areas they worked. GPS is useful when going back the next year to inspect the areas worked. We also mark areas with small buoys to help find work areas.

MIDAS map showing the areas worked in 2018 on the north end of Collins Pond.



Collins Pond

Windham, Cumberland Co. - Delorme Page 5 - 43 acres

MIDAS # 3728

