

**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: Little Sebago Lake Association

Contact Person: Pam Wilkinson

Address: PO Box 912

City: Windham State: Maine Zip Code: 04062

Phone 207-428-3732 Fax 207-657-7051

E-mail: pwilkinson@littlesebagolake.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.

The Milfoil Militia Committee of Little Sebago Lake Association has been extracting milfoil for over 12 years. Originally the basins of Windham and Gray had very dense beds of variable milfoil. Milfoil was discovered in early 2000 and the State was notified. After two years the association with the engineering expertise of one of the board members developed what is known today as the suction dredge AKA HIPPO (Hydraulic Invasive Plant Processing Operation) or DASH (Diver Assisted Suction Harvester). We passed on our technology to others who morphed it into other boats with varying types of extraction. The LSL Milfoil Committee also developed procedures and reports that have also been revised by the State for tracking and reporting purposes. Our efforts to substantiate the operations over the past few years include fund raising, generous donations from the lake members, reaching out to adjacent towns, State DEP support and initiatives for grants from federal funding working with Saint Joseph's College and other entities. Over the past 12 years we have elevated our effectiveness and efficiency with our operations. Our fleet management and maintenance is managed with a committee who maintains the fleet and fields all calls should issues arise. These are volunteer positions, unpaid. The operation has a director who oversees the daily activity, record keeping, scheduling, payroll and personnel. This job is also volunteer and unpaid. Recently due to the operations moving to Windham it was necessary to hire a part time person to supervise the daily operations as crews go out in the morning, provide gas and supplies and monitor situations that occur on a daily basis; this person also generously a lot of his time. We also have a part time person who schedules the crews for the two HIPPO's. The volunteers and paid crew are trained through the VLMP, Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program and attend various seminars throughout the year.

Project Description:

Project Name: Little Sebago Lake Variable Milfoil Project

Water Body Name: Little Sebago Lake

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

See Attached: Project Description

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?

The lake is to be used by all people in the State of Maine, lot owners surrounding the lake, those who live outside the land surrounding the lake and those outside the State of Maine. Of course those who are lot owners around the lake draw an immediate benefit of use and protection for decline in property values. One has only to Google other lakes affected in Maine and what reduction in property values are given, thus reduction in tax revenue for the towns. This has an effect on all those who live in the town. If the property values are reduced around the lake then those living internally will be paying more. If the lake becomes clogged and we are not able to swim, boat, fish and relax around the lake then we lose the residual income that area businesses and rental properties enjoy. We as people lose the benefits we all enjoy around the lake and the ecosystem of the lake is compromised. If we do not give annual support and continue to work to reduce the fragment growth and root growth in the lake there is supporting evidence in other states to show the harmful effects to all.

Project Schedule and Cost:

Planned Duration: Start Date: July 1, 2014 End Date: Oct 1, 2014

Total Cost of the Project \$60152.00

Amount Requested from the Windham Watershed Protection Fund \$ 10,000.00

Matching Funds: Cash: \$20000.00 Services: 826 volunteer hrs @\$16.84 =\$13,910.00

Who will provide the matching funds/services?

Little Sebago Lake Association, Board of Directors, committees and Lot owners

Will there be any other sources of funding?

Town of Gray \$8000.00, State of Maine DEP \$6000.00, membership donations which vary

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

SEE ATTACHED BUDGET INFORMATION

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?

Our track record shows that we have had members of the lake association support our efforts over and above the \$25.00 dues requested. Money donated over the \$25.00 dues can be considered tax deductible due to our 501.c.3 status. We rely on the generosity of the surrounding towns to support us with their budget each year to protect the resource of all tax payers. The state continues to provide some funding. We will continue to educate and inform all about our efforts to maintain the quality of the lake. As you know so well we cannot rely on any one thing to sustain our efforts but we appreciate your reviewing our budget request to assist us and avoid going into the reserves that should be targeted for emergencies; i.e. the cost to repair or replace the dam should it become compromised or any other issue arise that needs immediate attention. As long as our fleet is maintained and donations continue the volunteers will continue to make sure this operation lasts. Our 14 years so far has not wavered.

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 love to share any information making sure others avoid our learning curve. As stated earlier we shared the technology for the suction dredges, the protocols and all experiences that could be refined for each request. Groups who have benefited are Collins Pond in Windham, Lakes Environmental Assoc in Naples, VLMP-Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program, State of Maine DEP and all affected lakes who are now using a variation of the HIPPO technology. We submit our information which is shared at various group meetings and summits throughout the year. Should there be other interested parties we are more than willing to assist.
- Students from various colleges contact us to do there thesis and we provide information to them. Students from area colleges as well have site visit at our operations with question and answer periods.

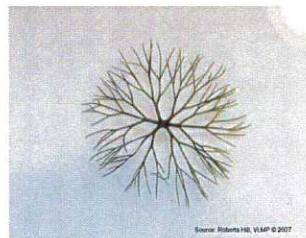
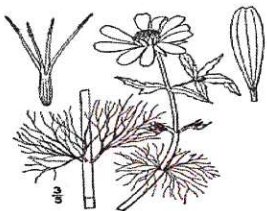
Project Description

2014 Milfoil Report – Pam Wilkinson. Milfoil Militia Director

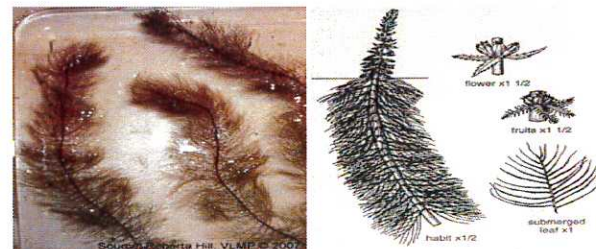
Our usual pattern is to identify the upcoming year's needs as the season ends and make plans throughout the winter. In April we order parts needed for fleet upgrades, May the work is performed and the fleet (HIPPOS) are summerized, June air tests are done for the divers, surveys are done to prioritize areas and develop a plan, July operations begin through to end of September when the HIPPOS are taken out for winterization and storage.

In 2013 year "management mode" comes to reality. As totals fluxuate from place to place we are constantly analyzing the whys. The table below reveals the Upper Basin in Gray is still in a "management and grooming" state with Twin Brooks showing a decline and still the numbers were higher this year due to increased milfoil found in the upper narrows. This is an area that we did not concentrate on as heavily the previous year and it just proves that you cannot let your guard down. The Upper Basin's bag count was approximately 101 while the Upper Narrow area's count was approx. 238 bags. Mumford Cove and Beaver Coves showed a slight increase as well. Our main focus is the Lower Basin in Windham; both HIPPOS spent most of the summer the Windham end of the lake collecting 761 bags of milfoil. As you can see from the table below, by the end of the year with all feeling comfortable about working all the milfoil beds the count is actually down a bit. Vigilance needs to be maintained in Windham as we hope to see the beds diminish in size. Management will always be needed. We re-visited sites around Bean Island. We will continue to monitor these areas. Benthic barriers have been removed from all coves. We had several reports from residents on the lake asking for us to review their area for vegetation that they felt was milfoil. The areas that had milfoil we responded and some areas actually had natural vegetation. The water marigold is a native plant that looks like milfoil; even to the point of having the characteristic of a reddish stem. It takes a trained eye to know the difference and we encourage all to become familiar with the differences. Please keep in mind natural vegetation discourages the milfoil from taking root and natural vegetation is also part of the ecosystem that provides food for fish, water fowl and various other microorganisms that make up our lake.

The difference the water marigold looks like this:



Variable milfoil looks like this:



We are thankful for those who reported. The operation of two HIPPO's this year was whittled down to a few good men who were willing to work more hours; thus making the operation easier to manage and the consistency of knowing where to go the next day was enhanced.

In August we hosted a site visit welcoming John McPhedran, Invasive Aquatic Species Program, Maine DEP. Leo Shanahan, our supervisor, escorted him to various milfoil beds to inspect the results of the extractions. He pleased to see that there was lots of native species on the bed of the lake.

We ended the year with a gathering of the crew and committee to discuss what worked and what improvements are needed for next year. Our fleet is tired and needs overhauling to make sure our program runs effectively and efficiently. We had several down times and increased costs of running the program due to tired motors. The milfoil committee will be working hard this winter to make sure all are running at full potential by spring. Thanks to all of them for their dedication and to the volunteers, our angels of the lake, who made this year productive. It is with all your efforts that others are able to enjoy our precious lake now and for years to come.

Little Sebago Lake yearly comparison of milfoil bags removed-associated costs

	Upper Basin- Gray	Twin Brooks Gray	Beaver Cove- Gray	Mumford Cove Gray	Lower Basin- Windham	Bean Island	Bag Totals	Amount Spent	Volunteer Time	Total
2007	271	55	91	133	710		1260	67,296.36	9,255.00	76,551.36
2008	215	62	63	97	1332		1769	55,651.90	9,260.00	64,911.90
2009	390	58	9	296	967		1720	51,580.26	13,786.00	65,366.26
2010	241	54	2	47	1491		1835	67,265.60	17,046.42	84,312.02
2011	182	17	7	16	500		722	48,350.18	12,466.32	60,816.50
2012	86	50	10	13	954	3	1116	46,253.82	13,300.68	59,554.50
2013	314.5	25.75	49	33.5	760.75	3	1186.5	45,507.84	13,909.84	57984.00
Total	1699.5	321.75	231	635.5	6714.75	6	9608.5	381,905.96	89,024.96	470,930.22

Each bag equals approx. 20 pounds dry weight. 2013 approximately 12 tons removed; to date approx. 96 tons removed.

2014 LSLA Proposed Milfoil Expenses	2013 Revenue Received		2014 Projected Costs
Membership Dues	16925.00		
Grant Revenue	8099.00		
Donations	31683.00		
Fundraising	8633.00		
Coordinator/Captains			11000.00
Divers/Survey			16000.00
Surface Support/Scheduler			8200.00
Insurance-Boat Liability			1800.00
Workman Comp			3980.00
Employer payroll taxes			2700.00
Payroll Fees			1138.00
DEP Permit/ registration			134.00
Education			800.00
Supplies/Gas			2100.00
Maintenance			4000.00
Outside Labor			300.00
Storage			1000.00
New Motor			7000.00
	65340.00		
TOTAL EXPENSES YTD			\$ 60152.00

We have two suction dredges (HIPPOS) which need extensive overhauls to avoid costly delays as we had last summer with motors and cables not functioning properly. They have been used for over twelve years and are tired. These are working boats which were donated and used to begin with. We are trying to purchase a new motor similar to the Mercy we have so components are similar and easier to repair. We need a new motor and this is why we are asking for \$10000.00 this year to assist in the purchase of the new motor and overhaul of both HIPPOS.