

**TOWN OF WINDHAM
WATERSHED PROTECTION FUND
2017 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 February 10, 2017. All applications must be 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 March 14, 2017. All applicants will be notified by mail of the Council's decision. Projects that have been awarded a grant will receive the funds by April 11, 2017. 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___ME_____ Zip Code_04062_____

Phone_207-428-3732_____ Fax_____

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. (Attach more pages, if necessary.)

The Milfoil Militia Committee of Little Sebago Lake Association has been extracting milfoil for over 14 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). In 2005 our dredge was completed. 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 15 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. Fielding the calls are an unpaid position but the repair are done by a professional with billable hours. 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 assists in schedules the crews for the two HIPPO's and helps with record keeping. 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 Program_____

Water Body Name__Little Sebago Lake_____

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

Maps attached.

We will continue to survey the existing beds, monitor and remove the invasive variable milfoil as necessary. Some areas may require benthic barriers to be applied after removal. We are gaining success but cannot stop monitoring and removing the smaller plants that are more difficult to find and without removal will recreate the dense beds we have worked so hard to destroy.

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?

Over a 11 year period approx. 120 tons of milfoil has been removed.

Progress: In 2014 approximately 1 ton of milfoil was removed, in 2015 approx half of a ton.
See attached Variable Milfoil Removal Grid

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: Middle June 17 End Date: End September 17____

Total Cost of the Project \$__55347.00_____

Amount Requested from the Windham Watershed Protection Fund \$__8000.00__

Matching Funds: Cash: \$__33,347.00_____ Services: \$__10761.55__

Who will provide the matching funds/services? Little Sebago Lake Association

Will there be any other sources of funding? Yes.

Town of Gray \$8000.00

DEP \$6000.00

Please attach a project budget spreadsheet that is in the submission for the DEP Grant funds; includes all income and expenses including material, equipment, labor, and indirect costs (e.g., insurance). We have substantial costs this year due to the need to replace the decking on both boats. This means removing the troughs and pumps and replacing the decks. OSHA has required us to have diver communications which cost over \$3000.00 for each boat. The vegetative survey will cost around \$8000.00.

Budget Breakdown is included in the DEP Grant Submittal

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?

Please review our costs in the DEP Grant Application for 2017.

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 16 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 their thesis and we provide information to them. Students from area colleges as well have site visit at our operations with question and answer periods.

We have worked with an intern from the University of New England who wishes to work for the State of Maine. He was in contact with and worked with Maine Natural Resources doing mapping with their pilot program. We also have worked with area students who request our assistance with projects