VERMONT
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

DEC Grant Resources

EXAMPLE SCOPE OF WORK

Please note that dates, names of people, municipalities, organizations, and lakes have been changed.

The Town of Red Clover in conjunction with the Mountain Lake Association (MLA) intends to continue to keep Mountain Lake free from invasive species through our Invasive Species Prevention Program. As one of the first lakes to implement a Boat Greeter and Lake monitoring program, we're entering our 20th year with the continued objectives of preserving and protecting the natural beauty and high water quality of Mountain Lake.

The Mountain Lake fishing access occupies a highly visible and much used location in the northeast corner of Mountain Lake in the Town of Red Clover. There is a high level of recreational use at this lake including fishing, boating, and swimming. With low nutrient loads and high oxygen content, Mountain Lake is considered an oligotrophic lake with a cold-water fishery, which includes Lake Trout and Lake Salmon. One can also find nesting pairs of loons as well as bald eagles at our beautiful and pristine location.

Our Aquatic Nuisance Prevention program is the focus of much local interest and appreciation for the continued prevention of all aquatic nuisance species.

Our program targets all aquatic nuisance species, particularly Eurasian Milfoil, as it is the invasive species most commonly occurring in surrounding water bodies. Additional emphasis is being placed on the prevention of aquatic animal species such as the Spiny Water Flea and Zebra Mussels.

The program consists of having trained Boat Greeters present at the state fishing access and inspecting all boats entering the lake. Personnel will be present at the fishing access from 6 AM to 6 PM every day from Memorial Day (May 25, 2020) until the last day of October, 2020 (weather permitting). At the recommendation of personnel from previous years, the Saturday hours will go until 7 PM. Because it is the first year using a boat wash station, additional personnel hours are anticipated during peak traffic times.

In addition, we will use volunteer field monitors to check the entire shoreline at least twice a year for milfoil and other invasive aquatic species. Two newsletters will be published during the year to educate property owners and local residents. We will strive to increase our membership and fundraising efforts, which will allow us to continue funding the program. At this point, the MLA membership is approximately 70% of the lake population.

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Investigation into the siting and use of a power washing station (Station) was performed during the 2019 season. The grant program manager met with interested members of the Mountain Lake Association to educate people regarding the potential necessity of a Station, describe the aspects (both physical and organizational) of the addition, and discuss any issues and comments. Because of the potential efficacy for the continued prevention of aquatic animal vectors, the addition of a Station was strongly supported.

In collaboration with VTDEC and MLA personnel, the northeast portion of the fishing access was determined to be an appropriate location. Discussion with VTDEC fishing access personnel has be ongoing and the yearly permit submission will include specifications for this unit. In conversation with other VTDEC personnel, it was determined that additional permits were not going to be necessary for the operation of the boat wash station.

A permit from the Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Fish and Wildlife, will be obtained, which will allow us to have the two small portable structures at the fishing access for the purpose of shelter, storage of the boat wash equipment and educational materials.

There has been extensive communication with VTDEC personnel in the development of the specifications for the Station, as well as when and how the Station should be used. We are planning to use the Station in instances when a boater has been in an at-risk water body (one that has been determined to have an invasive aquatic animal presence). The hull of the boat as well as any live wells and bilges will be addressed through the boat wash process. This process will be an evolving one, where we will rely on the expertise of VTDEC personnel to guide our operating procedures. We do anticipate that a Standard Operating Procedure or Checklist will be developed during the course of the season. This product would be available to any other program that would like to use it.

Because of the continued presence of the Spiny Water Flea and Zebra Mussel in Lake Champlain, and the discovery of the Starry Stonewort in nearby Lake Memphremagog, the training and inspection processes will continue to be more rigorous.

Additional and ongoing educational efforts are summarized in the following:

- Continue to support lake shore owners with Lake Wise certification
- Publicize MWA′s Blueberry Buffer Program and Lake Shore Ecology workshops in MLA ′s newsletter and at MLA ′s annual Meeting
- Arrange for additional participants from Mountain Lake in the NSC/OCNRCD program, which is a cost sharing native plant program.

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- Publicize at meetings, on web site and in the newsletters two new invasive species, Spiny Water Flea and Starry Stonewort
- Established a lake leader for Better Back Roads grants for private roads around the lake; leader (John Smith) applied for and received one grant for work at the East Lake Road and West Lake Road intersection
- Established a lake leader for Septic Issues at Mountain Lake (Jane Baker) who has planned a Water Quality Social for next June. Program will include presentations on Lake Wise and Septic issues.
- Provided major assistance to the Town of Red Clover in their submission of an Intervenor document to Vermont's PSB regarding an application for a 100-unit industrial solar project on Mountain road just north of Red Clover Brook and its main tributary. It is MLA ′s position that this project, if built, will negatively impact Mountain Lake by causing increased runoff into the brook and lake as well as affecting the fishery by raising water temperature in the brook.