



DEC Grant Resources

EXAMPLE SCOPE OF WORK

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

Looking forward to the 2016 season, the Mountain Lake Association (MLA), in partnership with the Town of Red Clover, is expecting a successful milfoil treatment season with the inclusion of a robust herbicide treatment to complement our existing program.

The 2019 season was a challenge. We fielded a crew of 25 people on four harvesters plus a dedicated hand harvesting team on our skiff, working five ten-hour days a week. We also used bottom barrier, and multiple isolation zones in an attempt to keep up with the abundant growth. In addition to our paid staff, we had a strong volunteer team working one to three times a week to hand pick and clean up frags. Even with this effort, we were unable to keep up with the milfoil growth.

This 2020 season, with herbicide permit approval, we will be using a combination of targeted herbicide treatments in conjunction with the aforementioned methods. This will allow us to reduce our operations to three harvesters and eleven paid crewmembers. This approach will free up the harvesting teams from the large dense forests to attack the more dangerous new growth that is expanding around the lakes.

We will begin the season in early May preparing the boats and docks for the upcoming season. Conditions permitting (weather and plant growth) by mid-May, we can begin training the crew and hand picking. Considering the extended warm fall of 2019, we are concerned about what the early surveys will reveal. The crew will be fully trained and plan to start work by June 1st. Because of the freedom afforded by the herbicide treatments, our weekly planning will concentrate on areas of new growth, and hopefully gain control of the situation. Our approach will be altered as conditions demand but will consider all approved techniques including any new approved methods.

The herbicide plan calls for the application of Renovate in late May/early June pending survey results. Aquatic Control Technology (ACT) is the applicator. Application will be limited to our heavy growth areas. Their application window is short. It must begin after a significant amount of biomass appears, but before the summer human activity begins. This will require strong coordination and communication with the DEC and public (adjoining property owners). The plan will be for the MLA sub-committee to be in communications with both ACT & DEC to ensure all requirements are met.

The milfoil crew will be paid between \$11 and \$20 per hour depending on experience and certifications. Last year we implemented a ten-hour workday, hoping that it would improve efficiency. We ran into problems having divers in the water for that long. This year we will revert to an eight-hour workday. With the eight-hour day, and harvesters working in less dense areas,



we should be able to avoid the cost of a dedicated crewmember and skiff from having to offload milfoil mid-day as we did last year.

The successful greeter program of 2015-2019 will be continued at the Red Clover State Launch thanks to a grant from the Lake Champlain Basin Program. This year, we will expand the program from the previous four-day week to a seven-day week. They will search for and remove milfoil if found, but will primarily watch for and guard against other invasive species such as Zebra Mussels, Variable Water Milfoil, Water Chestnuts and others not currently found in our lakes. Greeters will also inspect boats upon egress from the lakes, watching to prevent milfoil from spreading to other water bodies.

We will continue to use our volunteer as the educational outreach liaison. We feel this has helped our program. His duties will continue to include creating and distributing educational materials on invasive species and water quality. This year he will be in charge of disseminating information about our new herbicide program.

This year, the Information Technology Committee has developed a brand new website for the MLA. It is much easier to use and will include a two-way reporting system for infestation reporting. We hope to reach a much wider audience to improve communication. This is going to be a great improvement in monitoring and adapting our operations to manage the milfoil.

Local Involvement and Contributions

The MLA has worked to preserve the lakes for over 75 years. The members have worked consistently to protect the water quality and shorelines of both lakes. With the new ordinance regarding shoreline vegetation, the MLA will provide education concerning proper shoreline management practices as part of our educational outreach.

Task Timeline

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Submit Grant Application | February 03, 2016 |
| Hire Milfoil Staff | March-April 2016 |
| Prepare Boats and Docks | May 2016 |
| Train Milfoil Crew | May 2016 |
| Start Placing Bottom Barriers in State Permitted Areas | May 2016 |
| Begin Milfoil Hand Pulling | May 2016 |
| Hire and Train Greeter Staff | May 2016 |



| | |
|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Perform Herbicide Survey | May 2016 |
| Begin Suction Harvesting Program | June 2016 |
| Begin Herbicide Treatment | June 2016 |
| Begin Greeter Program | June 2016 |
| Review Progress and Modify Work Activities as Needed | June-September 2016 |
| Complete Mid-Season Report | July 2016 |
| Conduct Aquatic Plant Survey | August 2016 |
| End of Season Milfoil Survey | September 2016 |
| End of Season Boat/Dock Storage | September 2016 |
| Complete Final Report | December 2016 |

Shoreline Watch Network

The Shoreline Watch Network is a group of local lake residents, all volunteer, who act as watchers/monitors. They monitor certain areas, usually near their residence, for milfoil growth. They also educate their neighbors about milfoil. Our new GPS mapping system will allow them to report the growth directly through our new website.

Importance of Our Lakes

Mountain Lake is home to more than 450 families from all over. It is of huge economic importance to the surrounding communities. Thousands of visitors as well as homeowners visit the lakes during the season. The three summer camps attract over a thousand people every year. Thousands come to Mountain Lake State Park every week. A nationally known marathon is run four times a season, which attracts runners from all over. All this is only possible because our lakes are known to have excellent water quality and are relatively free of invasive milfoil. Without this, all the economic activity will be at risk.

Infestation Locations

Three maps follow showing areas of milfoil growth on our lakes. The areas shown in blue will be the herbicide treatment areas. The areas shown in green will be growth that we are aware of and will be treated with suction harvesting or hand picking. The areas shown in red are new infestations discovered in the 2019 season and will be treated the same way.