



TOWN OF HARRIETSTOWN

FRANKLIN COUNTY, NEW YORK
30 MAIN STREET
SARANAC LAKE, NEW YORK 12983

(518) 891-1470
(518) 891-4500
FAX (518) 891-6265

SUPERVISOR
LARRY L. MILLER

COUNCILMEN
BARRY S. DEFURIA
WAYNE VOUDREN
RONALD B. KEOUGH
WENDELL D. NAEGELE, II

TOWN CLERK AND RECEIVER OF TAXES
PATRICIA A. GILLMETT

SUPERINTENDENT OF HIGHWAYS
CRAIG DONALDSON

March 27, 2002

Bill Howland
Program Manager
Lake Champlain Basin Program
54 West Shore Road
Grand Isle, VT 05458

Dear Mr. Howland:

The Town of Harrietstown is pleased to submit the enclosed grant application from the Town in partnership with the Lake Colby Association. If approved, the Town will administer the program and disperse the project funds in accordance with the LCBP requirements.

Waterfront revitalization is a priority for the Town and for the Village of Saranac Lake and aquatic nuisance control has been specifically identified as a key need to maintain and improve our local water resources. Lake Colby is an important regional resource, housing the local public beach, our Town's LaTour Park, the local Adirondack Medical Facility, and the State's Environmental Educational Education Camp.

We urge your consideration of our grant request.

Sincerely,

Larry Miller
Supervisor

Partnership Grant Application Summary (Part A)

- Project Name:** Eurasian Watermilfoil (*myriophyllum spicatum*) control on Lake Colby
- Applicant:** Town of Harrietstown in partnership with the Lake Colby Association (see www.lcbp.org/watersheds/lcolby.htm)
- Project category:** Partnership Grant
- Contact Information:** Ernest E. Keet, President, Lake Colby Association, P.O. Box 1199, Saranac Lake, NY 12983, Phone: 518 891-0972, Fax: 208 275-7423, email: LCA@VATLANTIC.COM
- Grant request:** \$5,000
- Organization purpose:** The Town of Harrietstown is the governmental body with jurisdiction over Lake Colby. The Lake Colby Association (LCA) is a volunteer organization dedicated to water quality and quality of life issues on Lake Colby, a unique spring-fed body of water that serves as home to the State Environmental Education Camp, the LaTour (Town of Harrietstown) Park, the Village of Saranac Lake beach, a State boat launch, the Adirondack Medical Center, and eight private residences. Despite this incredible range of public use and access, the Lake is over 70% forever wild. The LCA will provide the volunteers and operational support for the project. The Town of Harrietstown will administer the funds and oversee their use.
- Project Summary:** 2002 may be the last year when conventional means can control Eurasian milfoil in the Lake. The infestation was identified in a CSLAP study of 1999 and again in 2000. In 2001 the LCA applied for a Partnership Grant to map the milfoil and to produce a control plan. Despite the failure of this grant application, the LCA members commissioned Adirondack Ecologists Inc. (AEI) to study the extent of the problem and provide a plan. AEI determined that the Lake was nearing a critical phase but that with quick action four large milfoil beds could be controlled by benthic barriers and that the rest of the Lake would require hand harvesting, at a total three-year program cost of approximately \$50,000. For 2002 with funding from the Town, the Association, and hopefully the LCBP at least the benthic barrier project will be started. Permits for this project and for hand-harvesting have been applied for.
- Deliverable:** If the project proceeds we expect to wipe out enough of the weed and thus buy enough time for the secondary (hand harvesting) program to give Lake Colby a chance to survive as the key local resource it has been.

Application Questions (Part B)

1. **Need.** The 2002 Lake Colby Milfoil Control Project is desperately needed because if the milfoil spread is not stopped now our experts advise that conventional control means may soon no longer be an option. This dire forecast was supported by recent physical evidence of eutrophication of the lake due to biomass degradation. In late 2001 the Lake experienced a bloom of blue-green (Aphanizomenon) algae. While the 2002 project is only a start, it will kill off a vast portion of the densest infestation and buy time for continued control. In addition, the 2002 project will let the experts train volunteers in hand harvesting techniques so that in the future costs can be dramatically reduced.
2. **How our project addresses this need.** Aquatic nuisance control is a priority of the *Opportunities for Action* listed by the LCBP and is also a priority in the Village of Saranac Lake's Waterfront Revitalization master plan (available at <http://www.soundgrowth.org/LWRP.pdf>) At Lake Colby, and for the LCA it is more than a priority; it is a struggle for the life or death of the Lake. If we can stop and reverse the spread of the milfoil we can save the Lake. All of the expert advice we can get says if we act now we have a real chance. We have time, but very little. Partnership Grants are proposed to support community partnerships, like the LCA's partnership with the Town of Harrietstown. If the grant is approved with the help of volunteers, we can (i) place benthic barriers on the densest beds, and (ii) train volunteers to begin the process of hand harvesting the remaining milfoil. Between the barriers and the harvesting accomplished during the training process significant biomass will be removed or destroyed.
3. **Reasons for project.** Lake Colby is a very special body of water due to its housing of state Environmental Education Camp, Town (LaTour) park, and Village of Saranac Lake beach facilities (as well as the Adirondack Medical Center), and its easy access for quiet enjoyment by the general public. It is also special because it is ideally sized for immediate control by conventional means and has no inlets to re-infect it, i.e., it a battle we can win. However, Lake Colby is far from unique in its problem with milfoil. Many, many lakes in the Adirondacks (in fact in 48 out of 50 states) are facing milfoil infestations. We believe that the right long-term solution is coordination of research and control efforts across and between the states and the federal government most likely resulting in natural biological control mechanisms. The LCA has been actively pursuing such a solution with the USDA, Army Corps of Engineers, and others and will continue to press for coordinated research and action. Other lakes in the LCBP program have requested (and some have received) funding for control of milfoil, and we monitor these closely (e.g., the Lincoln Pond project). However, as noted above, for Lake Colby time is of the essence and we must slow the milfoil spread now. We have no choice other than immediate action, even if it simply gives us the opportunity to continue the battle next year, hopefully with much improved odds and a much lower cost.
4. **Objectives and tasks.** There are two phases to the 2002 project. The first is the placement of semi-porous benthic mats secured by steel bars over the densest beds of milfoil. Two have been mapped and marked with buoys for this purpose.

- Fortunately, there are almost no native species in these two areas that would be killed with the Eurasian Milfoil. Placement of the mats involves on-shore assembly and then careful subsurface positioning by SCUBA divers. The second phase involves training volunteer (but licensed and experienced) divers to work with Adirondack Ecologists in the hand harvesting of milfoil. This work will be limited to funds available but will have as a highest priority the transfer of knowledge as to how to (i) identify non-native (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) milfoil versus the native *Myriophyllum sibiricum* plants, and (ii) remove the plants without creating plant fragments (which can form new plants).
5. **Methods.** Most of the preparatory work has been done. All of the necessary permitting is in the works and should be complete shortly. The LCA members have agreed to self-assess themselves for their costs of the project as shown in the budget.
 6. **Staffing, etc.** To the extent possible, the on-shore assembly, boat handling, and some of the placement will be done by volunteers under the direction of Adirondack Ecologists. At the end of the season these barriers will be removed by the same team. Given the specialized nature of the project we have more potential volunteer labor than we can use. One of our members, Adirondack Medical Center, who is the largest employer in the area, has offered to solicit specialist volunteers (e.g., licensed divers) from their 300+ employee population. To the extent possible all non-specialist work will be done by volunteers, including LCA members. Steve LaMere of Adirondack Ecologists will coordinate all of the efforts of his own staff and of the volunteers.

- The LCA has been working on this since 1999, completely with volunteer labor and funds. The CSLAP study was and is supported by local residents. The 2001 mapping of the milfoil was completed with volunteer labor from the NY Department of Environmental Conservation and paid (by the LCA) expert advice from Steve LaMere of Adirondack Ecologists Inc. Permitting for the 2002 project, materials acquisition planning, and coordination have also been paid for completely by the LCA members. We are ready to proceed, funding being our only remaining challenge. The broader community benefits by (i) preserving the only guarded public beach in NY north of Lake Placid, (ii) preventing milfoil from destroying the waters surrounding the NY Environmental Education facility on the Lake, (iii) preserving the extraordinary fishing and limited HP fishing access boat launch, (iv) keeping a local gem that is used for picnicking, canoeing, sailing, swimming, and fishing free from eutrophication.
7. **Tangible products.** Dramatic reduction in milfoil in Lake Colby and hence its ability to self-propagate as rapidly in the future is our goal. However, creation of a trained corps of volunteers who can both monitor progress and harvest milfoil in future seasons is a strong secondary benefit. In the end, protection of the Lake as a public resource is the single most important reason for proceeding.

Budget

Expense	LCBP Grant Request	Non- Federal Matching Contribution	Totals
DIRECT Costs:			
Personnel			
Contract Project Coordinator & staff - barrier project ¹	\$2,250.00	\$2,250.00	\$ 4,500.00
Contract Project Coordinator & staff - harvesting and training ²	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$ 3,000.00
Volunteers (25 man-days @ \$100/day)		\$2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
Supplies/Materials			
Rebar for mats	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 500.00
Equipment			
Boat rental	\$ -	\$ 400.00 ³	\$ 400.00
SCUBA equipment for volunteers	\$1,000.00	\$1,300.00	\$ 2,300.00
Food and supplies for volunteers		\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00
Subtotal: Direct Costs	\$5,000.00	\$8,800.00	\$13,800.00
INDIRECT Costs:			
Insurance		\$ 700.00 ⁴	\$ 700.00
Subtotal: Indirect Costs	\$ -	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00
Total Project Costs	\$5,000.00	\$9,500.00	\$14,500.00

¹ As proposed by Adirondack Ecologists Inc. in a reduced-price proposal requiring maximum volunteer participation

² As in note 1 above

³ We may be able to get this via a donation

⁴ Rough estimate. To be determined by bids now underway



Office of Community Development

VILLAGE OF SARANAC LAKE, INC.



- CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS
- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- SECTION 8 HOUSING ASSISTANCE
- PLANNING AND ZONING
- HOUSING REHABILITATION
- BUILDING PERMITS AND CODE ENFORCEMENT

March 27, 2002

Colleen Hickey
Lake Champlain Basin Association
54 West Shore Road
Grand Isle, VT 05458

RE: 2002 LCBP Partnership Application
Town of Harrietstown/Lake Colby Association

Dear Mrs. Hickey,

This letter represents support from both the Village of Saranac Lake and the River Corridor Commission for the milfoil control program planned for Lake Colby in July 2002. The Lake Colby Association took an active role in identifying the environmental needs of the lake and developing a plan for improving it.

The problem of milfoil was identified in a recently released Village of Saranac Lake Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) document completed in cooperation with the New York State Department of State, Coastal Division and partnered with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. The increase in its spread in both Lake Colby and Lake Flower are of great concerns to local residents, not only for the environment impact but also to the potential economic loss to the recreation industry these waters support.

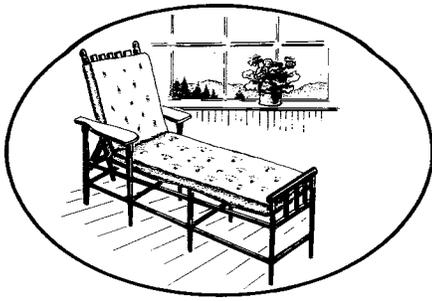
Immediate steps need to be taken to control the growth of this invasive plant. This organization is ready to begin but lacks the necessary financial boost it needs to move forward. Without your assistance I believe this project will, once again, be put on hold, wasting yet another valuable year of control efforts.

We applaud the tenacity of this community group and hope that you will look favorably on their application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deborah McDonnell".

Deborah McDonnell
Director



HISTORIC SARANAC LAKE

Pioneer Health Resort

March 28, 2002

Bill Howland
Program Manager
Lake Champlain Basin Program
54 West Shore Road
Grand Isle, VT 05458

Dear Mr. Howland,

Historic Saranac Lake is pleased to express our full support for the Eurasian Watermilfoil control project planned for Lake Colby starting in July 2002.

Lake Colby is a valuable local resource, used by residents and tourists alike, with community facilities that include a Town-owned park, a Village-owned public beach, and two New York State facilities: a boat launch and the State Environmental Education Camp. Lake Colby is also important in the cultural life of the Saranac Lake community.

Historic Saranac Lake, an historic preservation organization, has a special interest in this lake and this project, since the State Environmental Education Camp is held at Camp Colby, formerly Camp Intermission. Camp Intermission was the vacation and "cure" home of William Morris, the actors' agent whose firm is still well-known in show business. William Morris was himself a tuberculosis patient who came to the area for his health and became an important benefactor to the community of Saranac Lake. HSL nominated Camp Intermission to the State and National Registers of Historic Places, on which it was listed in 1992. A copy of the listing is attached for your information.

It is urgent that milfoil infestations in Lake Colby be brought under control this year, while conventional means can still control it. We strongly urge the Lake Champlain Basin Program to look favorably on the Lake Colby Association's grant application.

Sincerely,

Mary B. Hotaling
Executive Director



MARY AGNES PELLETIERI
Executive Director

Saranac Lake Area
Chamber of Commerce

30 Main Street
Saranac Lake, NY 12983
518.891.1990
800.347.1992
info@saranaclake.com
www.saranaclake.com

March 26, 2002

Bill Howland, Manager
Lake Champlain Basin Program
Crown Point Office
RR 1 Box 220
Crown Point, NY 12928

Dear Mr. Howland:

The Saranac Lake Area Chamber of Commerce supports the milfoil control program for Lake Colby. We urge the Lake Champlain Basin Program to look favorably on the grant application of the Lake Colby Association.

Lake Colby is a community resource for Saranac Lake. It serves as the village beach for area youth, a boat launch site and is enjoyed by hundreds. The milfoil problem is significant and precious time is passing. Do not delay the project further; support the program for implementation in July 2002.

Thank you,

Mary Agnes Pelletieri
Executive Director



Adirondack Medical Center

at Saranac Lake
 P.O. Box 471, Lake Colby Dr.
 Saranac Lake, NY 12983
 Tel: 518-891-4141
 Fax: 518-891-1193

www.amccares.org

at Lake Placid
 P.O. Box 790, Church Street
 Lake Placid, NY 12946
 Tel: 518-523-3311
 Fax: 518-523-3420

March 25, 2002

Bill Howland
 Program Manager
 Lake Champlain Basin Grant Program
 54 West Shore Road
 Grand Isle, VT 05458

Dear Mr. Howland;

It has come to my attention that the Lake Colby Association is submitting a grant to fund a Milfoil Control Program. Adirondack Medical Center currently owns lake front property on Lake Colby and is located directly across the road from the lake. Lake Colby is a constant source of joy and enlightenment to our patients who are on the path to recovery. In fact, one of the major goals of Adirondack Medical Center's \$18 million construction program, which has occurred over the past three years, is to locate patient rooms on the lakeside of the hospital so that our patients can enjoy the beautiful scenery and heal in a peaceful setting.

Lake Colby is a precious resource, not only to this hospital but also to the entire community. Adirondack Medical Center is in full support of the aims of Milfoil Control Program planned for Lake Colby starting in July 2002 and would strongly urge the Lake Champlain Basin Program to look favorably on the grant application of the Lake Colby Association. The problem is significant and any support that you can provide would be greatly appreciated. The completion of this effort will involve many stakeholders and the participation of the Lake Champlain Basin Program would be appreciated.

Thank you for your consideration of this grant application.

Very truly yours,

Chandler M. Ralph
 President/C.E.O.

Joann Sandone Reed
 Chair, Board of Trustees

Lake Placid
Sports Medicine
 Church Street
 Lake Placid, NY 12946
 518-523-3311

Adirondack
Dental Service
 Church Street
 Lake Placid, NY 12946
 518-523-1122

Placid Memorial
Health Center
 Church Street
 Lake Placid, NY 12946
 518-523-1717

Mountain
Health Center
 P.O. Box 205
 Keene, NY 12942
 518-576-9771

Tupper Lake
Health Center
 55 Church Street
 Tupper Lake, NY 12986
 518-359-7000

Wilmington
Health Center
 P.O. Box 579
 Wilmington, NY 12997
 518-946-7080