

Part A
Annual Priority Grant Application Summary

Project Name: Continuation of the multi-year Eurasian Watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) control project on Lake Colby.

Applicant: Lake Colby Association (see www.lakecolby.org and www.lcbp.org/watersheds/lcolby.htm). Fed ID 75-3074896; DLN: 102016009; APA Permit 2002-71

Project category: Annual Priority Grant

Contact Information: Ernest E. "Lee" Keet, Treasurer, Lake Colby Association, P.O. Box 1199, Saranac Lake, NY 12983, Phone: 518 261-6608, Fax: 208 275-7423, email: Lee@lakecolby.org

Eligibility: 2006 LCBP grant, Project Code L-2006-031, NEIWPC Job Code: 0981-003-001 was completed in accord with the contract. The LCA is a registered IRS 501(c) and New York 102(a)5 tax exempt organization. Our cooperative partnerships with the Town of Harriestown and the D.E.C. will continue during the 2007 season.

Grant request: \$7,000

Organization purpose: The Lake Colby Association (LCA) is a volunteer not-for-profit organization dedicated to water quality and quality of life issues on Lake Colby.

Project Summary: Since the project's inception in 2002, the LCA and its partners have made major progress in reducing the impact of Eurasian Watermilfoil on Lake Colby, a key demonstration project for the Adirondacks and beyond. Despite a major grow-back due to extraordinarily fertile conditions in 2006, the 2006 project eliminated nearly all remaining multi-stemmed plants and many more single-stemmed clusters from the Lake. As noted in our 2006 workplan, we were then and still are seeking steady maintenance state by the end of 2007.

The 2007 project plan involves one more multiple-pass harvesting of the Lake by our sub-contractor, the Adirondack Watershed Institute, and the setting of 30 new and 42 existing benthic barriers on especially fertile areas of the lake which have been dominated by Eurasian Watermilfoil. As in 2006, we will use a "Hookah" (sometimes called SNUBA) air supply to three or more divers working as a team, making no less than two complete sweeps of the Lake.

Deliverable: The three complete sweeps of the Lake in 2006 dramatically reduced the milfoil population (over 1,500 bags of milfoil were removed), each pass resulting in less milfoil than the previous one. We plan an identical attack in 2007, starting earlier in the season, and expect that by the end of the third sweep we will have similar results to those achieved in Upper Saranac Lake using this same approach, i.e., virtually no plants to pick. Thus, by the end of this next (and hopefully last heroic) season we anticipate having extirpated enough of the milfoil that non-heroic maintenance efforts (one week per season of containment picking of any regrowth) will suffice into the future.

Application Questions (Part B)

1. **Need.** We began the project with member funds in 2002 after our expert advisors (Adirondack Ecologists and the Adirondack Watershed Institute) and the 2001 CSLAP survey told us that if the milfoil spread was not stopped immediately conventional control means would no longer be an option. This dire forecast proved optimistic – the Lake had been nearly taken over by Eurasian Milfoil when our 2002 harvesting program began. Over the next three years we attempted to control the milfoil through single-pass hand harvesting and some benthic matting. By the end of 2005 we knew that single-pass harvesting was less than fully effective, as seeds and fragments quickly repopulated picked and previously matted areas. Upper Saranac Lake, a lake with nearly 600 shoreowners, using a program that was initially modeled on Lake Colby's, raised \$1.5 million in private funds and used that money to demonstrate that multiple pickings in a single season would actually eliminate milfoil from managed areas. They further demonstrated that the use of surface compressors for support of divers increased productivity several fold. In 2006, despite limited private resources, we adopted both of these techniques, thanks in part to the LCBP and NYSDEC grants we received to supplement our member funds and funds provided by our local government partners. Benthic barriers have also played a significant role in attacking the dense beds and in controlling re-growth. With the assistance volunteers and loaned resources, the existing 12 benthic mats and 30 new mats were installed in 2006. We will move these 42 mats once in 2007 and install and additional 30 20' x 20' mats to suppress re-growth in susceptible areas. Finishing this project is critical to the future of the Lake.
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, to which the LCA was a contributor. 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. We have spent five years fighting this incredible plant and are almost there. We need to finish the task and expect to do so this coming season.
3. **Reasons for project.** Lake Colby is a very special body of water: it is home to the State Environmental Education Camp, Harrietstown Latour park, and Village of Saranac Lake beach facilities (as well as the Adirondack Medical Center), and provides 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 is a battle we can win. However, Lake Colby also has an ideal ecology for milfoil propagation, and when we started nearly every bay in this small lake had been colonized. As a pioneer in the efforts to control milfoil by mechanical means we have made many mistakes as we have learned what works and what does not. Among our discoveries are (i) that milfoil seeds are vital the season after they are dropped, even if matted during the prior year, but do not survive through many seasons, so matting seeded plants is a mistake, (ii) two or more complete pickings in a season can fully reclaim an area, and (iii) picking immediately after ice-out is best because milfoil will start to grow under the ice and is a predominant and easily found plant in the early spring. We are sharing these results with others, through meetings with other lake associations and through our website (www.lakecolby.org) The LCA has also been actively pursuing a natural control solution with the USDA, Army Corps of Engineers, and others (most recently Paul Smith's Watershed Institute who are conducting scientific studies of plant germination) and will continue to press for coordinated research and action. Knowing that we are close, we want help to finish the job.

4. **Why we are doing the project.** We are a much-watched pioneer in the effort to control Eurasian Watermilfoil without the use of chemicals or non-native pathogens. A majority of our shoreowners still use the lake for drinking water. The model for our project has been posted on our web site (www.lakecolby.org) and has served as a model for other, even much larger projects. Unlike some lakes with greater resources, Lake Colby has only 1,200 feet of private shoreline and seven private shoreowners on a lake with over 17,000 feet of total shoreline (most of which is forever wild). The presence of so many public-use facilities on the lake has raised the priority for this project, thus inducing a high level participation from the Town, NYSDEC, and volunteers.
5. **Objectives and tasks.** The highest priority for 2007 is to make three complete sweeps of the Lake in three one-week efforts spread over two months. We anticipate dramatically reduced harvests in each successive sweep, as in 2006, and hope for a trivial take in the third and last sweep. Volunteers will also place 42 semi-porous benthic mats secured by steel bars over the fertile areas of the Lake where re-growth is most probable. As in the past, 2007 will involve using licensed and experienced volunteer and professional divers to hand harvest the remaining milfoil and set the benthic barriers. This work will be limited to funds available, but if fully funded we believe 2007 will be the year we achieve success. We consider success to be the permanent elimination of all major beds and multi-stemmed plants, with maintenance-level removal of single stemmed plants sufficient to maintain a steady but minimal plant population. Our 2006 need is for a total of roughly \$23,000 in cash plus significant in-kind contributions. The requested \$7,000 LCBP grant will bring our expected support funds from non-members to \$14,000 and we anticipate raising the balance through a supplemental NYSDEC grant plus additional member assessments.
6. **Methods.** The methods are those used in the past but with more efficient application (multiple pickings using the highly efficient surface air supply system). We will engage the same volunteer corps from the community, the D.E.C., and the LCA members. All permits (Town, County, APA) were obtained for a multi-year project beginning in 2002 and ending in 2007, which we believe will be adequate, no permits being required for maintenance level harvesting.
7. **Staffing, etc.** On-shore re-assembly of benthic barriers if required, boat handling, and some of the placement will be done by volunteers. The benthic barriers will be moved by the same team. To the extent possible all non-specialist work will be done by volunteers, including LCA members. All of the hand harvesting will be sub-contracted to the Paul Smith's Watershed Institute team who now know the lake well and who have considerable expertise in milfoil control.
8. **Tangible products.** We seek to reduce milfoil in Lake Colby to levels that can be controlled by minimal annual effort and expense starting in 2008. We expect to achieve this if we receive all of the necessary funding and support we are seeking. We are also creating a trained corps of volunteers who can both monitor progress and harvest milfoil in future seasons. In the end, protection of the Lake as a public resource is the single most important reason for continuing this project.

Budget (Part C)

Project Expense 2007	Benthic Barrier and Hand Harvesting Project				
DIRECT Costs:	Hours	Rate	LCBP Grant Funding	Grantee Funds	Total
<i>Contractual Services</i>			\$ 7,000	\$ 14,000	\$ 21,000
<i>Supplies/Materials</i>	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
<i>Equipment</i>	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<i>Travel & support</i>			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Subtotal: Direct Costs			\$ 7,000	\$ 15,500	\$ 22,500
INDIRECT Costs:	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 900	\$ 900
Total Project Costs			\$ 7,000	\$ 16,400	\$ 23,400

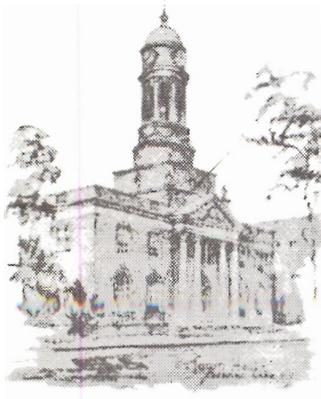
Notes:

1. Contract Dive Coordinator & staff are under contract with Paul Smiths' Adirondack Watershed Institute, the same team employed in 2002-6. We expect to have additional volunteer divers who will work under the master diver's supervision, as in past years.
2. Indirect costs include 50 hours of volunteer work at a deemed cost of \$10/hour to remove and reinstall the benthic barriers twice and 40 hours of volunteer labor to surface assist the Paul Smith's dive team, also at \$10/hour.

Letters of Support (Part D)

As this is a multi-year project that has already received LCBP support and which continues to be a community-wide effort, we have each year provided letters of support from all of our major community support and governmental organizations, including the Town of Harrietstown, the NY Department of Environmental Conservation, Village of Saranac Lake, River Corridor Commission, Historic Saranac Lake, Paul Smith's College, Adirondack Medical Center, and the Department of Environmental Conservation.

We enclose new endorsement letters from our partners (the Town of Harrietstown and the Village of Saranac Lake) and from the limit of three of these many supporters: the Adirondack Medical Center, Paul Smith's, and the Historic Saranac Lake. Each of these organizations can be contacted for references on the status of the project and the need for its continuation.



TOWN OF HARRIETSTOWN

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TOWN CLERK AND RECEIVER OF TAXES
PATRICIA A. GILLMETT

SUPERINTENDENT OF HIGHWAYS
CRAIG DONALDSON

September 22, 2006

William G. Howland
Program Manager
Lake Champlain Basin Program
PO Box 204
54 West Shore Road
Grand Isle, Vermont 05458

Dear Mr. Howland;

The Town of Harrietstown is pleased to support the enclosed grant application from the Lake Colby Association.

The Town of Harrietstown has been a long-term partner and supporter of the milfoil control efforts on Lake Colby. The Town of Harrietstown whole heartedly supports the Lake Colby Association's request for continued financial support from the LCBP.

We appreciate your continued consideration of the grant applications for maintaining and improving our local water resources.

Very truly yours,

Larry L. Miller, Supervisor
Town of Harrietstown
LLM/pg



Office of Community Development

VILLAGE OF SARANAC LAKE



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

August 28, 2006

William G. Howland, Program Manager
Lake Champlain Basin Program
54 West Shore Road
P.O. Box 204
Grand Isle, Vermont 05458

RE: 2006 LCBP Partnership Application
Town of Harrietstown/Lake Colby Association

Dear Mr. Howland,

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 2007.

The Lake Colby Association's Eurasian Water Milfoil Control Project is essential to the Village of Saranac Lake. The local public beach is located on this water body and is an invaluable public and natural resource whose preservation is a high priority.

The milfoil problem is identified in the Village of Saranac Lake Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) document approved in October 2003 by the New York State Department of State, Coastal Division in partnership 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.

We thank the Lake Champlain Basis for past support of this project and encourage you to assist them again in with their eradication efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Deborah McDonnell".

Deborah McDonnell
Director



Pioneer Health Resort

HISTORIC SARANAC LAKE

September 6, 2006

William G. Howland
Program Manager
Lake Champlain Basin Program
P.O. Box 204
54 West Shore Road
Grand Isle, VT 05458

Dear Mr. Howland,

Historic Saranac Lake is very appreciative of the support for control of Eurasian milfoil in Lake Colby, which the Lake Champlain Basin Program has provided in the past, during which great progress was made. We understand that the Lake Colby Association is again applying to you for a Partnership Grant to continue their program in 2007.

Lake Colby is a valuable local recreational resource for us here -- residents and visitors 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, Camp Colby. Without the work of the Lake Colby Association, this small body of water would become nearly unusable for swimming and boating, important activities for children at the state environmental education camp. Lake Colby is also important in the cultural life of the Saranac Lake community. We have a special interest in this lake and in Camp Colby, formerly Camp Intermission, the vacation and "cure" home of William Morris, the actors' agent whose firm is still well-known in show business. 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. Historic Saranac Lake nominated Camp Intermission to the State and National Registers of Historic Places, on which it was listed in 1992.

The diligent efforts of the Lake Colby Association have our full support. It is urgent that their good work be continued. We strongly urge the Lake Champlain Basin Program to fund this application for assistance.

Sincerely,

Mary B. Hotaling
Executive Director

cc: Lake Colby Assn.



Adirondack Medical Center

at Saranac Lake

2233 State Route 86, P.O. Box 471
Saranac Lake, NY 12983
Tel: 518-891-4141
Fax: 518-891-1193

www.amccares.org

at Lake Placid

29 Church Street, P.O. Box 790
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August 28, 2006

William Howland
Program Manager
Lake Champlain Basin Program
P.O. Box 204
54 West Shore Road
Grand Isle, VT 05458

Dear Mr. Howland;

First of all, thank you so much for your past support of the Lake Colby Association's Eurasian Watermilfoil Control Project. Adirondack Medical Center is a member of the Lake Colby Association and has been a strong supporter of the milfoil control project. After five years of effort, this project has greatly reduced multi-stemmed Eurasian Watermilfoil plants in the lake. An ongoing effort will support the goal of eradication of this plant from our beautiful Lake Colby.

The Adirondack Medical Center strongly supports the Lake Colby Association's Lake Champlain Basin Program grant application and encourages you to assist us, once again, in saving Lake Colby.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

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

CMR/mb

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

**Adirondack
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29 Church Street
Lake Placid, NY 12946
518-523-1122

**Placid Memorial
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29 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



Paul Smith's College
THE COLLEGE OF THE ADIRONDACKS

August 28, 2006

Mr. Bill Howland
Program Manager
Lake Champlain Basin Program
P.O. Box 204
54 West Shore Road
Grand Isle, VT 05458

Dear Mr. Howland,

This letter is written in support of the grant application submitted to the Lake Champlain Basin Program by the Lake Colby Association (LCA) for controlling Eurasian watermilfoil in Lake Colby.

The Adirondack Watershed Institute of Paul Smith's College has been an active participant in the Lake Colby Association's Eurasian watermilfoil control project since 2002. After five years of effort we believe that the expansion of the Eurasian watermilfoil population has been slowed and successful control is within sight. With your support we hope to achieve this goal in 2007.

The success of the LCA milfoil control project not only hinges on continuation of the partnerships the LCA has forged for in-kind and volunteer work, but also on the continued financial support of the LCBP. As such, the Adirondack Watershed Institute strongly supports the Lake Colby Association's LCBP grant application. We encourage you to assist us and them in this critical project.

Sincerely,

Daniel L. Kelting
Executive Director
Adirondack Watershed Institute

