

Partnership Grant Application Summary (Part A)

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: Partnership Grant

Contact Information: Nancy R. Keet, Secretary, Lake Colby Association, P.O. Box 1199, Saranac Lake, NY 12983, Phone: 518 891-0210, Fax: 208 275-7423, email: nancy@lakecolby.org

Grant request: \$5,000 to continue the project funded in 2002

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: LCA, in partnership with the Town of Harriestown, was pleased and gratified to be the recipient of a \$4,350 Partnership Grant in 2002. The LCA also received a two-year New York State Aid to Localities Grant. These grants plus significant member support allowed the LCA to begin a multi-year effort in August 2002 to control the heretofore rampant spread of Eurasian Milfoil on the Lake.

The 2003 plan involves continued use of benthic barriers and hand harvesting, but this year with emphasis on the remaining plants and new plants rooted as a result of fragmentation and seeding in 2002. These smaller plants will be harvested in late June and early July and if funds permit a survey of growth later in the summer will be followed by topical harvesting to insure minimal Eurasian Milfoil infestation remains going into 2004. Our hope is that by 2004 the Lake can be held in maintenance status with minimal expenditures to restrain the milfoil.

In 2003 the LCA became a registered IRS 501(c)4 and New York 102(a)5 tax exempt organization and thus is applying for continuation of the grant directly. Our cooperative partnerships with the Town of Harriestown and the D.E.C. will continue during the 2003 season.

Deliverable: We believe we are one of only a handful of lakes to be on the path to controlling Eurasian Milfoil. With the 2003 effort we hope to be able to demonstrate that mechanical control measures can work on lakes of less than 300 acres, at reasonable cost. We are documenting this for others on our web site (www.lakecolby.org). The assistance of the LCBP in this effort is greatly appreciated.

Application Questions (Part B)

1. **Need.** The 2003 Lake Colby Milfoil Control Project is an essential second stage to a multi-year project begun in 2002. We began the project with member funds in 2002 because our expert advisors and the 2001 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. Despite this, aggressive efforts in 2002 removed over ten tons of milfoil and killed an additional 4,000 square feet through the use of barriers. The Lake was 80% free of Eurasian Milfoil by the end of September 2002. We believe we are gaining on the infestation and have a chance to bring the milfoil under control with a second year of intensive harvesting and matting.

The full amount of the 202 LCBP grant and half of the New York Aid to Localities grant was expended as planned in 2002 on final surveys, placement of benthic barriers and initial hand harvesting of Eurasian Milfoil. Over ten tons of milfoil were harvested in August and September of 2002 by professional divers from the Paul Smith's Aquatic Institute with the aid of volunteers. With the assistance of the Department of Environmental Conservation (D.E.C.) who supplied boats and volunteers in support of LCA volunteers the benthic mats were installed and moved three times, killing roughly 1200 square feet of dense beds in each application. Roughly 80% of the infested area was hand-harvested (see www.lakecolby.org for detailed maps, activities, and photos of the 2002 project in process). 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. Our action in 2002 put us back in the game. We now believe that we can win. In 2003, again with the help of volunteers, we will (i) place benthic barriers to remaining dense beds, and (ii) continue the Paul Smith Aquatic Institute hand harvesting program with the help of LCA, DEC, and other local volunteers.
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. In our 2002 application we said “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.” We believe we achieved our 2002 goals and now want help to finish the job.

4. **Objectives and tasks.** There are two phases to the 2003 project as there were in 2002. The first is the placement of semi-porous benthic mats secured by steel bars over the densest beds of milfoil. One dense bed remains that was neither picked nor matted in 2002: we simply ran out of time as the weather turned cold and the plants became too spongy to pick. The second phase involves using (licensed and experienced) volunteer and professional divers hand harvest the remaining milfoil. This work will be limited to funds available. Without the LCBP grant we will be able to use the remaining Aid to Localities funds for a holding action, i.e., ten days of hand harvesting and two more barrier placements, but will not be able to survey the results or take corrective action later in the growing season as our treasury will be bare. With the LCBP grant we will survey the entire Lake in late July and will re-engage divers to pick any second-stage growths clean before the plants are large enough to fragment or seed.
5. **Methods.** The methods are those used in 2002 and which have proven effective. 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.
6. **Staffing, etc.** On-shore assembly of additional benthic barriers, boat handling, and some of the placement will be done by D.E.C. and LCA volunteers. The benthic barriers will be moved twice and then removed by the same team. 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.
7. **Tangible products.** We seek to reduce milfoil in Lake Colby to levels that can be controlled by minimal annual effort and expense. Secondly, we are 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)

Expense	LCBP Grant Request	NY Aid to Localities Grant	Non-Federal Matching Contribution	Totals
DIRECT Costs:				
Personnel				
Contract Project Coordinator & staff - barriers	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Contract Dive Coordinator & staff - harvesting	\$4,500.00	\$12,000.00	\$0.00	\$16,500.00
Volunteers (25 man-days @ \$100/day)			\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Supplies/Materials		\$250.00	\$ -	\$250.00
Subtotal: Direct Costs	\$5,000.00	\$12,250.00	\$2,500.00	\$19,750.00
INDIRECT Costs:				
Insurance			\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Subtotal: Indirect Costs	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Project Costs	\$5,000.00	\$12,250.00	\$9,500.00	\$26,750.00

Notes:

1. Contract Project Coordinator (barriers) is Steve LaMere of Adirondack Ecologists who will supervise 3-5 volunteers who will relocate the benthic barriers two or possibly three times during the growing season.
2. Contract Dive Coordinator & staff are under contract with Paul Smiths' Aquatic Institute, the same team employed in 2002. We expect to have additional volunteer divers who will work under the master diver's supervision, as in 2002.
3. In 2002 we spent \$21,889 on the first phase of the project of which \$4,350 was planned to come from the LCBP grant. The direct 2002 expenses include \$12,108 for the Paul Smith's Aquatic Institute (divers), \$7,145 for Adirondack Ecologists (project management and benthic barrier construction), \$948 for paid assistance and materials, \$333 for volunteer expenses, and \$1,000 for insurance. During the course of the project we had three unpaid diver volunteers, and seven LCA member volunteers, five D.E.C. volunteers who invested approximately twenty four man-days in the project.
4. We are still awaiting the 2002 LCBP monies awarded through NEIWPC for 2002. We were forced to borrow funds from our members to cover the grant-related expenses pending eventual reimbursement. This year to avoid this significant problem (our limited membership is financing the project directly and cash flow has become a critical issue for them) we will utilize LCBP funds for the essential project analysis and corrective hand harvesting that occurs later in the season. By applying directly (rather than in tandem with the Town) we hope to make fund recovery simpler. Failure to obtain a grant extension in 2003 will leave this part of the project at risk and could cause us to adjust downward the harvesting expense in June and early July

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 enclose copies of the original project letters of support. Each of these organizations have reaffirmed their support for this effort and can be contacted for references on the status of the project and the need for its continuation.



Office of Community Development

VILLAGE OF SARANAC LAKE, INC.



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- SECTION 8 HOUSING ASSISTANCE
- PLANNING AND ZONING
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- 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.

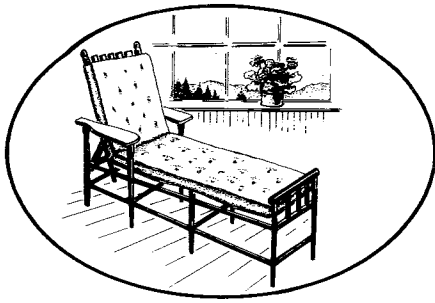
Immediate steps need to be taken to control the growth of this invasive plant. This organization is ready to begin but lacks the necessary financial boost it needs to move forward. Without your assistance I believe this project will, once again, be put on hold, wasting yet another valuable year of control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

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, 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