

September 29, 1999

Mr. Sandy Treadwell, Secretary of State
Department of State
Albany, New York

Dear Sandy,

I enjoyed meeting with you Saturday, Sept. 25, at the Essex County Grassroots Brunch. I spoke to you afterwards about the Milfoil problem here on Eagle Lake and you very kindly agreed to review the information.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ABOUT EAGLE LAKE AND THE MILFOIL PROBLEM

Eagle Lake is a 3 1/2 mile long lake in the towns of Ticonderoga and Crown Point in southern Essex County. There is a state boat launch at one end of the lake and a state beach/campground at the other. Several large parcels of land along the shoreline are owned by NYS. Eagle Lake empties into streams which feed into Paradox Lake, then Schroon Lake and eventually into the Hudson River, an unfortunate avenue for milfoil to spread readily.

In recent years Eagle Lake has become increasingly infested with the exotic plant, Eurasian Watermilfoil which is spreading rapidly throughout the lake. Native plants and animals are being crowded out and the recreational utilization of the lake continues to deteriorate. Several small bays are totally inundated with Milfoil making them virtually impassable.

1986-89

- 1) Milfoil identified in Eagle Lake
- 2) APA alerted to concerns about exotic weed growth
- 3) Fresh Water Institute surveyed Eagle Lake and recommended a plan of action

1990-94

- 1) Eagle Lake representatives met with Lake George Assn. to discuss the Milfoil problem and corrective measures available
- 2) Formation of COLAM (Coalition of Lakes Against Milfoil), an umbrella organization of lake associations to coordinate and more effectively lobby APA, DEC and state legislators for ways to solve the milfoil problem in the lakes of NYS
- 3) SONAR approved for use in NYS (it had previously been approved in 46 other states)
- 4) Educational information about milfoil problem collected and distributed.
- 5) Town and county officials alerted to the problem and their support and help solicited.
- 6) ELPOI solicits funds from private foundations to finance SONAR treatment in Eagle lake (56 grant applications sent, 12 received and completed, all denied)

1995-97

1) DEC in conjunction with COLAM asked Eagle Lake and Lake George to participate in a pilot project to demonstrate the effectiveness of SONAR for a whole lake treatment (Eagle Lake) and specific site treatments (Lake George)--both lakes readily agreed

2) A contribution from Sen. Stafford was used for the initial phase of the Pilot Project, (initial surveys, permits, applicator selection, GEIS preparation, etc.

3) A Dept. of State Water Revitalization Grant was received to do preliminary site testing-septic systems, road runoff, etc.

4) Ongoing work by ELPOI members on DEC committees to help the project go forward

1998-99

1) Phase II of the Pilot Project put on hold due to lack of funding

2) Dr. James Sutherland of the DEC who is overseeing the pilot project met with ELPOI Board and expressed optimism that funding would be made available and the project would go forward .

3) He recommended a letterwriting campaign to legislators and DEC Chm Cahill to solicit funding

4) Septic dye testing completed by approx. 90% of homeowners to assure the high water quality of the lake.

TO DATE

1)ELPOI applied to Sen. Stafford for \$109,000 member item to fund the sonar application but was denied with the statement that this is not the correct method to fund this type of project

2) Responses to requests to DEC Chm Cahill and other members of the DEC are that DEC does not have the funds to pay for this type of a project

3)Applications for numerous grants have been denied because they do not cover control of non-native aquatic plants

4) Contact with a lobby group in Wash. DC to secure federal dollars indicated that most of the funding is in the form of matching funds if available

5)We have solicited our membership for pledges and have a commitment for some funds, but most members would rather see our funds applied to follow-up maintenance and post-treatment monitoring

6)We have commitments from SePro(the manufacturer of SONAR) and the applicator Allied Biological to help keep costs contained so that the demonstration project can become a reality.

7) Still NO FUNDING is available

Sandy, we are asking you to use this information and work with us to find a source of the needed funds to put an end to the spread of milfoil in Eagle Lake before it further destroys our lake and the waters we empty into. I am available to answer any questions and provide any other information. Thank you so much for any help you can give us.

Sincerely,

Mary-Lloyd Burroughs, ELPOI Vice President
(518) 585-7277
eaglake@aol.com

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
41 STATE STREET
ALBANY, NY 12231-0001

ALEXANDER F. TREADWELL
SECRETARY OF STATE

October 5, 1999

Ms. Mary-Lloyd Burroughs
ELPOI Vice President
Eagle Lake Properties Owners, Inc.
HCO1 Box 126 Eagle Lake
Ticonderoga, NY 12883

Dear Ms. Burroughs:

Thank you for your September 29 fax concerning the efforts that have been taken by the Eagle Lake Property Owners, Inc. and others to overcome the Milfoil problem on Eagle Lake.

I have asked Charles McCaffrey (518-474-6000) from our Division of Coastal Resources to look into possible funding sources that may be available to correct this problem. Mr. McCaffrey will be contacting you directly.

Again thanks for writing. It was good to see you the other day in Lake Placid.

Sincerely,



Alexander F. Treadwell

AFT:mc

cc: Charlie McCaffrey