

From: Rolf Tiedemann <Rolf.Tiedemann@greece.k12.ny.us>
Reply-To: Rolf.Tiedemann@greece.k12.ny.us
Organization: Greece Central School District
To: Tiedemann Rolf <Rolf.Tiedemann@greece.k12.ny.us>
Date: Mon, Jan 7, 2002, 2:41 PM
Subject: Eagle Lake news re Lake George

Hello Folks,

Happy new year to all. Hope that all of you had safe and enjoyable holiday.

I received several pieces of information about results of the Lake George application for milfoil control with Sonar in the past several days. One piece of information (a press release) is from the the Lake George Association and is included as a Word attachment. A second piece is an article from the ALBANY TIME UNION. A third is an article from the POST STAR. These are pasted in at the end of this letter along with there web links. A fourth piece is a copy of a letter that was sent to me from a good friend that has been very involved in the milfoil control process for many year and is looking for our help. Please take some time to read these pieces as there is some conflicting information between them. The one from the LGA authored by Mary Arthur and the letter are the more accurate pieces and reflect the true nature of the problem. The Board and I have spent many hours listening to the politics and the environmental concerns behind this process are very dismayed by the out come, we are in complete support of the LGA.

I'm asking that you join the Board and I in writing and calling those that are responsible for making this decision and expressing your frustrations. I am providing their names and phone numbers below for this purpose. Please share this letter with the rest of our members that don't have email and ask them to also join us. Each of us has put forth great effort over the past 15 plus years to monitor our lake and seek the most environmentally and cost effective method for milfoil control. We continue to check this on a regular basis and are prepared to adjust if our findings indicate this to be necessary. Those that have voiced their opposition for the Lake George project **did not, have not and are not willing** to become involved in the planning. They are opposed to the project without having regarded the volumes of sound scientific data that has been gathered from all over the country regarding the safe use of Sonar. Sonar **can be and has been** used in many other sites outside the "Blue Line" in NYS. It has been shown to be very effective and environmentally friendly both here in NYS as well as across the country.

I have met and spoken with Dr. Ken Wagner on several occasions over the past

several years and would explicitly trust his judgment with the original proposed methods of milfoil control. The out come of this settlement, while it allows the use of Sonar in a very limited and crippled method in Lake George is not going to do us or others facing a milfoil problem any good. In the crippled application site, Sonar is, as stated, likely to fail due to the low dosage rate in a mixing water body. In the remaining site the application stipulations have priced the control method at such an elevated level that it will never be able to be used at any other site. You could probably hand harvest the milfoil one plant at a time for less money then the restrictive application process that is proposed in the settlement stipulates. The cost for this project started at an estimated \$5,000 per acre cost and is now in the \$62,000 range. If these figures were applied to Eagle Lake it would take a project that is currently estimated in the \$150,000 range and place it in the \$2.5 million range. In addition to this the settlement calls for waiting until all of the results are in from Lake George before any other permits can be considered. The monitoring stipulations for Lake George are for 5 years, this means the soonest that anything on our lake can take place is 2007. By this time the environmental damage that is being done each year by the milfoil might not be reversible. It also gives the plant another 5 years to be spread to other lakes that are currently not affected. The question I have is how long are they/ we going to allow Eagle Lake and the many others that have milfoil to be the breeding ground for this contagious plant. We were involved with the ARC, Adirondack Research Consortium, until July 2001 when for lack of leadership/ interest they fell apart on this topic. It was our hope that, since they had brought the interested parties of the DEC, APA, DOS and lake associations etc. together that these folks might be able to work as a united group. This was not the case with this settlement and as such many concessions were made that will have long lasting negative impacts on our environment.

Again, please take a few minutes, think about how beautiful Eagle Lake is and how much it means to all of us, and jot down a few thoughts about what will happen to our treasured lake if nothing is done to control the spread of milfoil. Remember it will be 2007 at a minimum before we can even think about submitting an application. The Adirondack Park Agency and the DEC had their chance to use sound scientific facts and a united front to move this process forward and they didn't. Let them know your disappointment in this. They have a meeting on January 11, 2002 to vote on the settlement.

APA
Mr. Dick Le Febvre
Adirondack Park Agency
PO Box 99
Raybrook, NY 12977

518 891.4050

DEC
Ms. Erin Crotty
Commissioner
NYS DEC
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-1011
518 402.8540

Governor
can be done on the internet at <http://www.state.ny.us/governor/>

If you need further information on this topic please contact me and I will help to the best of my ability.

Rolf Tiedemann
President
Eagle Lake Property Owners, Inc.

TIMES UNION Article (To read this article on line, go to:)

<http://timesunion.com/ss.asp?s=74050&c=C>

By DINA CAPPIELLO, Staff writer
First published: Thursday, January 3, 2002

A precedent-setting plan to use a chemical weed killer in Lake George this spring was scaled back in a settlement, announced Wednesday, which could delay the use of herbicides elsewhere in the Adirondack Park.

The agreement reduces the project from 36 acres to 5 acres and slashes the concentration of the chemical used to kill the non-native weed Eurasian watermilfoil in one location by more than half. The estimated cost of the project -- \$347,000 -- is not expected to change.

two locations -- Moonlight and Paradise bays in Bolton -- will be

treated under the settlement, which requires monitoring of native plants before and for five years after the chemical's use in the bays and at two untreated sites.

Proponents of Sonar viewed the settlement, scheduled for a vote by the Adirondack Park Agency board on Jan. 11, as a step in the right direction. Lake George would be the first lake in the 6 million-acre park to use chemicals to destroy Eurasian watermilfoil. Residents at up to 38 other lakes, including Eagle Lake and Brant Lake, would like to use it to solve similar infestations.

"It breaks through a barrier. I would expect we would have additional treatments in five years and other lakes would move ahead with their projects," said Michael White, executive director of the Lake George Park Commission, which applied for a permit to use Sonar a year ago. An initial plan to use the chemical, in 1986, failed to get approval because it was not yet registered in New York state.

But the Adirondack Council, which has lobbied against the project because Sonar can also kill native and threatened plant species and would set a precedent in the Adirondack Park, said it would use the agreement as leverage against other projects. "We would strongly argue to the Park Agency that no other permits be issued until we see the result of this experiment," said John Sheehan, a spokesman for the council, one of four parties that agreed to the stipulations negotiated since August when a legislative hearing was postponed for settlement talks.

The two others -- the Lake George Association and Residents Committee to Protect the Adirondacks -- refused to sign the agreement.

The LGA said the project didn't go far enough. While lowering the chemical concentration would better protect nontarget species, it could also jeopardize the effectiveness of the chemical to kill milfoil.

"The whole project as proposed has been compromised to the point where it is barely recognizable," said Mary-Arthur Beebe, executive director of the Lake George Association. "They are trying to convert this into a scientific research study instead of a proposal to kill milfoil."

Since 1985, milfoil has spread to 136 locations in the 28,000-acre lake. Nonchemical techniques, such as pulling it out by hand, mowing it with

an underwater combine and smothering it with plastic sheets, have narrowed the number of milfoil sites to 30 and have cost \$1.5 million.

The only hope for the remaining sites, where milfoil has formed dense beds that tangle swimmers, clog boat engines and cut off sunlight to other plants, is Sonar, proponents have argued.

While Sonar has been used on hundreds of New York's lakes since it was registered for use in 1995, all were full-lake treatments. Lake George would be one of only a few lakes in the country to cordon off sections with water-resistant curtains and apply the chemical.

Article from POST STAR (To read this article on line, go to:)

<http://poststar.net/archives/story.asp?storyid=761>

Sonar to go in Lake George

Plan calls for herbicide to be spread in two bays to control milfoil

By JOHN GEREAU
gereau@poststar.com

Published on 1/3/2002
THE POST-STAR

LAKE GEORGE -- The dueling parties in the issue of whether Sonar should be approved for use in Lake George have reached a compromise, agreeing to a dramatically scaled-back plan that affects just 5 acres and two bays of the 28,000-acre lake.

Lake groups had hoped to apply 2,000 pounds of the chemical fluridone -- better known by the brand name Sonar -- to four milfoil-plagued bays and about 36 acres of the lake.

Under the settlement, lake officials would treat a 4.3-acre area of Paradise Bay and use a less concentrated amount of Sonar in a 0.3-acre area in Moonlight Bay. Eliminated from the revised project are treatment plans for

Sawmill and West Tongue Mountain Bays.

The compromise sets the stage for the first-ever application of an aquatic herbicide in the Adirondack Park -- considered a large concession by environmental groups including the Adirondack Council, which believes chemical pesticides should be used only as a last resort.

The plan will also be the first in the state to use specially designed curtains to contain Sonar to a specified area, rather than a lakewide treatment.

On Wednesday, Adirondack Council spokesman John Sheehan said the environmental group had a number of concerns with the original plan.

Specifically, the watchdog group argued that lake officials hadn't completely exhausted alternative methods of controlling milfoil, such as hand harvesting, mechanical harvesting and using lake-bottom mats.

The council also expressed concern about Sonar's effect on native plant species, some of which are rare and threatened, as well as the chemical's potential effect on drinking water intakes.

"It's our job to protect the Adirondack Park's natural resources and human communities," said Adirondack Council Executive Director Bernard Melewski in a written statement.

"If this is going to be the first use of an aquatic herbicide in an Adirondack lake, we wanted to be sure the project was done right."

The new plan addresses many of the Adirondack Council's concerns, Sheehan said.

Sheehan said neither treatment site abuts developed areas or water intakes, and neither has high concentrations of native or protected plants.

Officials of the Lake George Park Commission, which is heading the Sonar plan, said Wednesday it's important to move forward with a consensus and with a plan that offers the best chance for a

long-term solution to the milfoil problem in Lake George.

"Sure, we would have liked to progress with the original proposal," said Mike White, executive director of the Lake George Park Commission. "But, all things considered, it's good to have a consensus that will allow us to move forward in the spring of 2002."

White said the revised plan includes a sophisticated monitoring program that will chart the milfoil's reaction to the treatments. A long-term management plan will then be compiled to help develop future milfoil management programs.

But not everyone was happy with the compromise.

Peter Bauer, executive director of the Residents Committee to Protect the Adirondacks, said he doesn't believe the test will offer many answers.

"If we're going to take the risk of using Sonar in Lake George, we should at least learn something from it," he said.

"The demonstration project in this permit will not tell us very much."

Bauer said his group would like to see Sonar use weighed side by side against other control methods including hand-harvesting. That comparison, he said, would give meaningful details on the cost-effectiveness, impact on native species and ability to control milfoil of both methods.

And Russ Ferris, who retired to a lakeside home in Bolton's Sawmill Bay five years ago, said he's disappointed to hear that his bay has been removed from the list of locations where Sonar will be applied this spring.

Ferris said he suspects Sawmill Bay was removed from the project because of the amount of boat traffic there.

Lake officials would have had to notch the containment curtains to allow boaters to travel in and out of the treatment zone -- a proposal environmental groups strongly opposed.

But Ferris said Sawmill Bay is heavily infested with milfoil. The invasive plant can tangle on outboard motors and around the legs of swimmers, devalue lakefront property and harm native fish and plant populations.

"I'm disappointed, but I'd guess that once they find out how effective Sonar is, they will expand the number of treatment sites and eventually hit Sawmill Bay," he said.

In fact, Park Commission officials said they are planning to submit applications for Sawmill and West Tongue Mountain bays in the future, but officials declined to say exactly when that might happen.

The compromise was reached in settlement discussions that were part of an adjudicatory hearing that has been going on for the past three months.

Acting on concerns voiced by environmental groups and its own staff, the Adirondack Park Agency voted in July to delay the lake treatment until the full adjudicatory public hearing was held.

The agreement must still be accepted and permits issued by the Adirondack Park Agency. The issue is expected to go before APA commissioners on Jan. 11. The project also will require a permit from the state Department of Environmental Conservation.

Article ID No. 761

LETTER FROM A VERY INTEREST PERSON.

I WANTED TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO VOICE MY CONCERN ABOUT THE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS THAT OCCURRED AT LAKE GEORGE THIS PAST YEAR CONCERNING THE SONAR DEMONSTRATION PROJECT AND WONDERED HOW YOU, AND OTHERS IN THE ASSOCIATION, FELT ABOUT THESE MATTERS.

AS YOU RECALL, I SPENT 5 YEARS WITH THE LAKE GEORGE AND EAGLE LAKE SDPs I FULLY REALIZE THE CONSIDERABLE ENERGY THAT IT TAKES TO BRING EITHER ONE OF THESE PROJECTS TO FRUITION.

MY 'TAKE' ON THE CURRENT SITUATION WITH THE APA PERMIT APPLICATION IS THAT, LEFT UNCHANGED, THE

'BATTLE' HAS BEEN LOST AND TOO MANY CONCESSIONS WERE GIVEN TO THE APA AND, PARTICULARLY, THE ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP OPPOSED TO THE PROJECT.

TREATMENTS IN LAKE GEORGE WITH LIMNO-CURTAINS IS NO VICTORY IN THE 15+ YEAR BATTLE FOR THE USE

OF SONAR TO TREAT EURASIAN WATER MILFOIL. ITS OBVIOUS THAT THE TECHNIQUE WILL WORK, AND THE TEDIOUS CONDITIONS ATTACHED TO THE PROPOSED PERMIT MAKE THE 3 SMALL TREATMENTS INCREDIBLY MORE EXPENSIVE THAN THE ORIGINAL PROPOSAL FOR 5 SITES.

THE REAL PROBLEM IS THAT THE LIMNO-CURTAIN SCENARIO ONLY DEFINES THE POTENTIAL TREATMENT FOR A VERY LIMITED NUMBER OF SITES AT LAKE GEORGE AND PRECLUDES THE SIMILAR WORK PLAN AT THE SITES THAT REQUIRE MORE IMMEDIATE ATTENTION, I.E., THE LARGE, DENSE BEDS THAT INHABIT NUMEROUS SITES AND EXTENSIVE SURFACE AREAS THROUGHOUT THE LAKE'S LITTORAL ZONE.

NONE OF THESE CONDITIONS SHOULD EVER HAVE BEEN AGREED TO BETWEEN THE PARTIES, AND I SINCERELY FEEL THAT THE ONLY REAL OPPONENT TO THE PROJECT WOULD HAVE BEEN 'CUT TO RIBBONS' HAD THE PROCESS GONE TO A HEARING.

SO NOW, LAKE GEORGE IS LEFT WITH A PROJECT THAT MAY, OR MAY NOT, START IN 2002, AND REGARDLESS OF THE START TIME, THE PERMIT CONDITIONS IMPLY THAT NO OTHER PERMITS FOR SIMILAR TREATMENTS IN THE PARK WILL BE CONSIDERED (APPROVED) PENDING THE OUTCOME OF THE LAKE GEORGE SDP.

HOW MUCH TIME WILL THIS TAKE, AND WHAT THEN? IF THE TREATMENTS WITH LIMNO-CURTAINS WORK, WILL ANOTHER MULTI-YEAR BATTLE AND EVENTUAL NEGOTIATION ENSUE BEFORE 'SPOT APPLICATIONS' SANS LIMNO-CURTAIN ARE ALLOWED IN LAKE GEORGE?

AND, PROBABLY MOST IMPORTANT IN THIS WHOLE MESS THAT CONTINUES TO DEVELOP..... WHAT IS THE POINT OF HOLDING OTHER LAKES IN THE PARK WITH EW PROBLEMS HOSTAGE TO THE LAKE GEORGE SITUATION?

IF I WAS A MEMBER OF ANY LAKE ASSOCIATION WITHIN THE PARK, I WOULD BE 'MAD AS HELL' AT THE POTENTIAL PERMIT CONDITIONS THAT DEFINE THE LAKE GEORGE PROJECT.

QUITE HONESTLY, I AM GLAD THAT I AM NO LONGER INVOLVED WITH THE LAKE GEORGE SDP. I THINK WHAT HAS HAPPENED IS DISGRACEFUL, NOT TO MENTION, IT IS AN INSULT TO THE SCIENTISTS AND SCIENCE THAT HAS BEEN CONDUCTED AT LAKE GEORGE FOR MANY DECADES.

THE DAY THAT THE LAKE GEORGE PERMIT IS APPROVED, IF LEFT UNCHANGED FROM ITS PRESENT

CONDITION, WILL BE A 'DIRTY' DAY FOR WATER QUALITY WITHIN THE ADIRONDACK PARK.

END