

2006-06-03

Hello All,

A few thoughts before this weekend Board meeting,

I will be attending as Sue indicated in her last letter. Hopefully she can share an agenda with us prior to the meeting. I would like to have added to this dialog about the "ANR" Adopt a Natural Resource program. I have lots of other information items to share. Todd and Tonya have worked up a first round draft of the "plan" for harvesting. Michael and I will be adding additional fine detail to it this week and will have a copy for review at the meeting. The questioner form the insurance company for use to receive a quote still needs to be completed. Please bring a copy with you so that this can be addressed.

I spoke with Todd late last week and he indicated that International Paper had made a decision about our Grant application. He has been notified that we have received an award valued at several hundred dollars. This is less then our original request but per his conversations with-in IP it was due to limited funds in IP's grant budget not merits of the application. Todd has indicated that Donna Wadworth, IP Communications Director, would like to present us with the check this coming weekend. She would like a photo op with someone for the grant checks reception. I would be nice if all of us could be involved in this. Will folks be available prior to the board meeting for this or can we make it the first item on the agenda for the meeting? Let me know ASAP as Todd indicated that I, as one of the contacts on the grant application, need to contact Donna this week to set up details. I will be bringing Todd as well as Lou over to the meeting on Sat. morning and could bring over Donna for a picture off of Sues dock if this works for all. If not please advise otherwise.

The Mill completed there 2 week maintenance shut down early last week and I got a call from Donna Wadworth that a mill wire was available for the matting portion of our project. I worked out pick-up details and Michael and I picked up approximately 5,000square ft of it last Friday morning. The product is a dense nylon wire mesh that water works it way through. The pieces are approximately 18' X 25' wide. This is the best type of material for what we want to use it for. The mill felt is also a heavy matt type material but retains water when it comes time to remove the material from the lake. This makes handling difficult. We have some of this from last summers donation, and will use as appropriate. It also does not allow gasses from decomposition to pass through, as the wire will. I placed a small strip of the wire in the lake off of our boathouse to see how it reacts in the water. It took a moment or so to sink but with only a little extra weight stayed put on the bottom. If used we will need to add additional weight to push down the biomass that we are trying to cover. It takes 3 – 4 people to easily move a section of the wire, as it is bulky and heavy. Todd indicated to me that we might be able to obtain additional pieces of this if we need to this summer. Curt Stile from Upper Saranac indicated that they are leaving their mats on the bottom for 90 plus days, many over winter to assure that anything under them is dead. They also felt that when removed to early that the ground was a fertile bed for any new fragments that were in the area.

Leaving them in position for a longer period allow for more through hand removal of surrounding milfoil with less chance for isolated reintroduction. A thank you letter needs to be sent to IP for this donation. Cost of this wire when new is approximately \$120,000 value to us as in-kind services/donations to the eradication grant is about \$2,000. Ours was on the paper machine for less then 2 weeks when it was cut off for a “defect reason” typically they last around 3-4 months.

A conversation with another grant applicant a week or so ago indicated that they believed that the funds for the NYS eradication grant funding maybe being held up for state budgetary negotiations. Seems that the Gov. still wants something’s added to this year’s budget and may be holding/using these funds as leverage. Other then this I’ve heard nothing. I will be checking again before the meeting to have the most up to date information.

I received the attached document from Senator Alesi last week and found the information useful. I request some extra copies from the Senator office for hand out at the annual meeting. The senator’s office supplied a similar hand out to us a few years back and it was included with our annual newsletter.

I remain committed to this project and look to see all of us working together to get the required pieces in place so that it can become a successful venture. As Tim Ladue, Upper Saranac project manager put it “this is new ground and WE are writing the rules as we go.”

Till Saturday,
Rolf Tiedemann