

Eagle Lake Property Owners, Inc. July 26, 2006 Meeting with Senator Betty Little

In Attendance: Senator Betty Little, Sharon Henderson (Senator's Aid), Rolf Tiedemann (ELPOI), Brian Houseal (Executive Director of the Adirondack Council), Ron Montesi (DEC Liaison to APA), Bill Schock (Region 5 DEC Fisheries), Bob Dedrick (Town of Ti Supervisor), Lloyd Burroughs (ELPOI), Rin Fraize (ELPOI), Jere Paddack (ELPOI), Jim Shultz (ELPOI), Diane Tiedemann (ELPOI)

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss how to proceed in dealing with the infestation of Aquatic Eurasian Water Milfoil in Eagle Lake since ELPOI was denied its grant for funding through the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's 2006 Milfoil Eradication grant.

Rolf Tiedemann stated that the current methods of removal such as hand harvesting and matting yield limited lasting results, since some of the existing patches are up to six-tenths to an acre in size. It was suggested to him by those involved in the project, that ELPOI should continue to pursue a permit to use the herbicide SONAR in our lake. It was noted at this point by Rin Fraize that ELPOI is only assisting the Towns of Ticonderoga and Crown Point to get them to address the Milfoil problems we have. It is not ELPOI that is going out saying we should put an herbicide in the lake, but giving the towns the lead on the project. ELPOI and the Towns are limited in their budgets to combat this problem, and thus need outside assistance through available grants. ELPOI does receive donations, but not anywhere in the amounts needed. Also, International Paper has been helping our lake by providing matting materials. Senator Little's office informed ELPOI that the reason the grant was denied, was because the DEC did not believe we could get a permit to use an herbicide in the lake. Of the eleven applications submitted, nine of them were approved. In a study of a local lake that had used SONAR, much of the vegetation, not just milfoil, was killed and the fish population was not doing well. It is most likely that SONAR will never be permitted in New York State again. Another herbicide shows promise of being better than SONAR. It was suggested that Eagle Lake could be a pilot project for this alternate herbicide when it is approved. The Senator said that we should pursue two grants for next year and with the cooperation of the towns, perhaps in even getting some matching money that would be required. It was recommended that we should resubmit the grant application, based on our readiness to move forward, and submit a permit request for

limited herbicide treatment at the same time. It was suggested that the in-kind services are a good thing to include in the grant under available matching funds. More grant money will be available next year, but what we apply for will be dependant upon our matching funds.

Rin Fraize was concerned about the curtains ability to contain an herbicide, if it was applied to the lake. Rolf Tiedemann stated that a used curtain was available for \$5,000, new costs more than \$10,000.

It was stated that our boat launch does not have a boat washing station, which complicates the problem of keeping milfoil from moving to other lakes. They are effective if you can get boaters to be responsible and use them. Most do not unless they are supervised. Education is a big part of prevention. Perhaps more expressive signage would help.

At this point in the meeting, Rolf Tiedemann played an underwater video of one of Eagle Lake's large milfoil patches. Noted was the fact that it nearly impossible to hand-harvest and mat such thick growths without first using an herbicide. SONAR was attractive because of its relative cost compared to introducing mass quantities of moths or carp, SONAR has been rumored to be a carcinogenic recently.

It is still not clear whether the DEC considers the bottom of Eagle Lake to be in the forest preserve or State owned in another category. If forest preserve, then application of any chemical treatment will require additional approvals. Both the Senator and DEC representatives strongly suggested that ELPOI apply separately for chemical treatment to limited areas, because this action is not contingent upon having the other permits. The DEC, at that time, would determine if forest preserve includes Eagle Lake bottom.

Therefore ELPOI encouraged to submit two applications, one for just hand-harvesting / matting and another for use of an herbicide, but not SONAR. An application for approval of the second herbicide should accompany the 2nd grant application. Rolf noted it costs between \$6,000 and \$10,000 for the application process of SONAR.

A discussion followed in which it was suggested that the DEC become more proactive in the fight against Milfoil. A small team of DEC agents could confirm existence of Milfoil and direct efforts to eradicate it in lakes and ponds through out Region 5 or the State. Use of local funds and resident/town personnel should be required.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM to allow the Senator to get to her next meeting.