

Eagle Lake Properties Owners, Inc.



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February 15, 2000

Commissioner John Cahill
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
50 Wolf Road
Albany, New York 12233-1010

Dear Commissioner Cahill,

We are encouraged by the recent news that the State is moving to attack Eurasian Milfoil on Lake George. We are told that the Lake George Property Owners Association has found the funds for their pilot project allowing them to start soon. Along with this good news came a statement that the State is taking the position that it cannot be a co-applicant for the DEC and APA permits due to the fact that the funds are from a private source. We also were told that Eagle Lake is to be left out of the application process because it does not currently have the funds for the pilot project.

This news is of deep concern to our Lake Association, ELPOI. Our understanding was that we would be co-applicants with Lake George which freed our association to seek funding from the various government agencies, and private sources who have interest in controlling non-native, invasive aquatic plants. To that end, we encourage you and the DEC to work with our elected State and Federal officials to develop an evasive aquatic plant management program that is properly funded. Surely it is in the best interest of the DEC to do so. We further request that you continue to include Eagle Lake with Lake George in the application process so that this process can be as streamlined as possible.

As you must know, Eagle Lake has been under study for the past thirteen years by members of the DEC. In the mean time, the Milfoil continues to spread. It now is invading the lake spillway where beavers are using it in their dam building "projects". Smart move on their part, but this increases the probability that the plant will spread to Paradox and Schroon Lakes, both of which are down stream from Eagle Lake.

Ken Wagner of ENSR, writing in Eagle Lake's SEIS report, likened Milfoil to a communicable disease which we know how to prevent, but choose not to. Hopefully, this is not the case for NYS and the agencies of its elected officials who are charged with protecting its parks and waters.

I am attaching information regarding meetings on non-native aquatic plant control in Washington, DC that may be of interest to you or to someone on your staff. We certainly hope that you can make the office of the NYS DEC the leader in the fight against Milfoil and other invasive aquatic plants

Sincerely,

Rolf Tiedemann
President, ELPOI
358 Electric Ave.
Rochester, NY 14613-1004
716.647.2514
rtiedema@greece.k12.ny.us