

**Minutes of Lincoln Pond Advisory Committee
Monday January 22, 2001
Cornell Cooperative Extension Building Westport NY**

Attending:

Bill Schoch, Mike Denunzio, Holly Crosson, Bob Johnson, Dick Jarvis, Dan Spada, Barry Gruessner, John Bennett, Scott Kishbaugh, and Anita Deming

Welcome and Introductions:

Discussion of Boat Washing Stations to control the spread of Exotic Aquatics –

Anita explained that she had investigated building boat washing station at Lincoln Pond and found very little support. DEC believes that since it is voluntary, it would not work.

Bill said that concerns had been expressed that a CI station would pollute and a hot water station could burn a child and therefore DEC did not want the liability.

Holly said that VT believed it was too expensive and would not pay for it.

Discussions of Milfoil control projects in the two state

Herbicide treatments were variable, probably due to high rainfall this spring. The idea of using curtains around small infestations instead of treating a whole lake was discussed.

Holly said that VT had success in one small lake, and they are curious to see if milfoil comes back in 2001.

Update of Project Status to date

Anita explained that the APA and DEC permits were obtained and all lakeshore landowners were notified of the project. There was no opposition.

Bob came to the Lincoln Pond Association annual meeting and explained the project to a packed Town Hall (45 people). The discussion of the weed management district was less well received. The group at the meeting were concerned about several things:

- No specifics on what the money would be used for
- Would prefer a one time assessment over annual assessments
- Would prefer a voluntary donation to a mandatory district and would work to help get their neighbors to participate.
- Only 5 families would be able to vote the district and the group felt that this would be unfair. There are only 5 families that are registered voters in Elizabethtown.
- Definitely want to figure a way for the State to participate in any control effort such as the per foot of frontage method of assessment.

The survey showed that the milfoil beds had expanded by 15% from 1997. Some of them had moved or disappeared and some had been added. We need to add some shoreline data to the maps in the future.

Discussion of Acentria augmentation

The biomass survey was about the same in each of the sample sites. There was an increase in % DM that was *Utricularia* in 2000 from 1999.

Bob said that the moths that were released basically disappeared within the first four weeks and by the next observation period. There was an unexplained increase in weevils in the release area. It could be that they found the lush food source and decimated it before the moths could or the moths could have died from shock or something else. He is proposing to release another 20,000. Ten would be in one of the two original release sites and ten could be in site B.

Possible reasons for the failed augmentation:

- Moths were too small at release
- Food source was eaten by weevils
- Moths were put in too late
- Water was too cold or the transport process shocked them
- They were placed too low to the plants

APA felt that we learned what does not work and we should concentrate on what more we need to learn. The weather (cold and rain), method of introduction, and weevil infestation could have contributed to failure.

Scott wants to continue with Lincoln Pond as there is no interest in chemicals or mechanical harvesting to complicate the results.

Mike believes that there is no down side to another release except money and time of the researchers. This not a new project, and we should not give up with one try. Concern that there is not enough money to continue. Where could we get more?

Bill said that in fish any one year can not determine results of a study. There is too much variability in nature. We need to continue.

Barry said that exotic aquatic species control is one of the top 3 priorities for the Basin Program and they would like to see the project continue.

Decisions:

Add more moths at EE and a GG site that will be developed in Site B. Keep FF the same to follow any of the 2nd generation that may have persisted from the 2000 release. The EE and FF sites will be monitored in 2001 to evaluate any 2001 moth and weevil interactions and effects of herbivory from all herbivores.

Release older/larger moths (3rd and 4th instar) and try for an earlier time (mid May).

Consider similar infested mesh bags system of introducing moth caterpillar as was used at Dryden Lake.

Consider other introduction techniques this winter such as taking caterpillars out of the retreats and sprinkling them into the milfoil bed.

Barry recommended more intensive monitoring early on such as the next day and weekly for the first month. Maybe we could get volunteer tip samplers to help take the samples and send them to CU for analysis.

Actions:

Bob will write up APA report and raise some more moths.

Dick will check to see if we need to provide any more information to the APA.

Anita will write a follow up press release on the project. Anita will submit the final 2000 report and revise the 2001 contract to add these changes.

Everyone will look for possible funding assistance to help defray the costs of raising more moths.