

Thursday, February 24, 2022

Dear Members of the Monterey Selectboard,

The Monterey Transfer Station Committee had our first meeting today, and given the urgency of the matter, we wished to convey to you the results of our discussion concerning staffing at the Transfer Station. The committee members, including myself (Susan Cooper), Ilene Marcus, Ken Bassler and Dave Gilmore, unanimously felt that the community would be best served by continuing to staff the Transfer Station with two part time employees, although we recognize that this may be difficult to achieve.

We understand that the current labor shortage may make finding quality employees challenging. We recommend that the committee, in cooperation with the Town Administrator and the Director of Operations, embark on a robust recruitment and advertising effort over the next two to three weeks. It is our hope that by crafting appealing advertisements and posting them more broadly and through varied channels, we may find suitable candidates. To that end, we recommend that we post two jobs, each for up to 18 hours/week, with a wage of \$20/hr. We plan to finalize job postings, as well as an advertising and dissemination plan at our meeting next Friday, March 4th at 11 am. We will strive to keep advertising costs low.

We are aware that this wage is very close to the wages of a number of salaried town employees, and that this may cause some friction. However, given the current regional labor shortage, we feel that a lower wage is unlikely to attract quality workers who might stay at the job for any substantial duration. We hope that the salaried employees will recognize the value of the benefits package they receive, which hourly workers do not. Moreover, we respectfully suggest that the Select Board and Finance Committee examine the hourly wages of all the town employees, due to our concern that some of those wages may no longer be competitive in the current labor market.

The committee acknowledges that this recruitment effort may not be successful. To that end, we have begun to strategize how the operation of the transfer station may be modified should it be necessary to change the staffing plan. All of us are committed to coming up with constructive solutions for how the town might maintain a high level of customer service at the Transfer Station should we need to reduce the staff to a single full-time employee.

We also suggest that given the recent enthusiastic support for the Swap Shop, the Select Board consider establishing a permanent "Swap Shop Committee" whose purview would be to oversee organizing volunteers to maintain and possibly staff the Swap Shop. This would help to ensure that we can continue to offer this valuable service that community members so love.

We will continue to keep you informed of our progress and welcome any feedback, sincerely,
Susan Cooper
Member, Monterey Transfer Committee

Monterey Town Administrator

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2022 1:59 PM
To: admin@montereyma.gov
Subject: Fwd: Public Records Request-Donald Coburn on Terry Walker
Attachments: Redacted Document.pdf

This is to advise you and the Select Board that in her very recent application for a job in Peru Terry Walker omitted from her resume any reference to Chester, Hinsdale and Egremont, all towns in which she had serious problems. As previously noted, she followed the same failure to disclose relevant information to the Monterey Select Board when she applied for a job here.

These are serious matters bearing on the question of whether her services should be retained.

Don

-----Original Message-----

From: Town Administrator <townadmin@townofperuma.com>
To: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Cc: pre@sec.state.ma.us <pre@sec.state.ma.us>; Peru townclerk@townofperuma.com <townclerk@townofperuma.com>
Sent: Wed, Feb 23, 2022 11:21 am
Subject: Public Records Request-Donald Coburn

Mr. Coburn,

Please find attached the document related to your Public Records Request dated December 28, 2021.

Thank you,

Jim Welch
Town Administrator
Town of Peru
(413) 655-8312

Tolland, MA 01034

Work Experience:

TOWN OF MONTEREY
Town Clerk
Grant Writer

Monterey, MA
July 2016 to present

TOWN OF BLANDFORD
Water Dept Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Liaison
Highway Dept./Board of Selectmen Secretary
Grant Writer
Emergency Management Secretary
ZBA Secretary

Blandford, MA
Mar. 2011 to June 28, 2013
Retired

TOWN OF MIDDLEFIELD
Town Accountant
Admin. Assistant
Grant Writer
Emergency Management Secretary
Highway Dept. Secretary

Middlefield, MA
Sept. 2006 to May 2011

TOWN OF NEW MARLBOROUGH

New Marlborough, MA
Feb 2000-June 2006

- Accounts Payable/Accounts Receivable
- Payroll processing checks / withholdings
- Highway Dept. Secretary
- Planning and ZBA Secretary
- Tax Titles Redemptions
- Prepared Expenditure reports
- Town Treasurer/Accounting Officer
- Grant Administrator Awarded \$625,000
- Assisted in Town Clerk Office
- Emergency Management Secretary

TOWN OF TOLLAND
Town Treasurer / Accounting Officer
Town Clerk
Police Depart. Secretary (Grant Writing)

Tolland, MA
1997-2001

TOWN OF TOLLAND
Town Treasurer Assistant
Accounting
Payroll

Tolland, MA
1981-1986

MAINE FORESTRY DEPARTMENT
Radio and Telephone Operator
Communications between fire towers/
Airplane pilots and Patrolman
Office work-weather reports
Liaison with, Fire Wardens and Game Wardens

Augusta, Maine
Daaquam, Quebec
1970-1976

Education

Fort Kent Community High School

Fort Kent, Maine-1966-1970

- Diploma with business honors and special recognition awards for typing and shorthand.
- Received highest available business award given to the entire student body.
- Workshops in Whole Language Approach to Reading
- Classes on Early Childhood Development
- UMASS-Accounting, Business and Town Treasurer Classes
- Member of the Northeast Treasurer's Association and represented the State of Massachusetts
- OSHA certified
- Emergency Management, Police and Fire Department training
- Classes on Early Childhood Development
- Seminars on Autism and behavioral problems
- Berkshire Community College-Grant Writing Certificate (awarded \$5,347,259.00 in federal and state grants).

Monterey Town Administrator

From: dscoburn via Monterey Community <monterey-community@googlegroups.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2022 9:18 AM
To: monterey-community@googlegroups.com
Cc: montereynews9@gmail.com
Subject: [Monterey-Community] Fwd: Determination SPR22-0260
Attachments: spr220260.pdf; spr220260.pdf

At last night's Select Board meeting, Selectman John Weingold continued the attack he started when first sworn into office; namely, to remove Melissa Noe, our Town Administrator, from her job. In the past two years he's been relentless, often publicly calling Melissa's competence in question and moving for her dismissal.

About a half year ago, Weingold managed at least initially to persuade Selectman Makuc to suspend Melissa from her job pending an investigation. Acting improperly and without notice to Melissa, Weingold and Makuc decided in a non-public executive session to have the the Chief of Police deliver a notice of suspension at Melissa's home. The terms of that dismissal were voted on the morning after they'd voted for the suspension. Since that morning's meeting was done in town hall without any notice to the public, the document of suspension violated the Open Meeting Law. The meeting was also held without notice to Selectman Weisz and thus without his presence.

The people of Monterey reacted with anger and alarm. Within a day, a Select Board meeting was called. It was attended by an extremely large number of townspeople. After they expressed their dismay in no uncertain terms for well over an hour, Selectman Makuc saw the light of reason and reversed his vote to suspend. I thank Justin Makuc for that vote.

In the meeting before last night's Select Board meeting, acting without notice to anyone, and certainly with the matter not having been listed on the agenda, Mr. Weingold suddenly moved without any discernible grounds for Melissa to be fired. There was no second and so his motion died.

With that background, I return to last night. On the agenda at Weingold's request was the subject of the security of employee records. More specifically, Weingold began by accusing Melissa of improperly responding to a public records request for the resume submitted by Terry Walker when she applied for a job our town government. Since the request was mine, I asked for permission to respond.

I noted that recently I had made the same request to the Town of Peru. The request was denied. I appealed to the State supervisor and obtained a written decision granting me access to that resume, which was submitted just a short while ago by Terry Walker to Peru in support of her job application. The affirmance by the state of the public's right to that kind of record is attached above. I also pointed out to the Select Board that courts around the country had reached the same result in reported appellate opinions.

Mr. Weingold might have chosen to respond by extending an apology to Melissa for his patently wrongful charge. Well that didn't happen. A few minutes later, Weingold left the meeting when he didn't get his way on a motion on another subject.

Soon the Select Board will receive the report of the investigator. The Select Board will then have to decide who to believe and what action to take. Considering Weingold's demonstrated bias against the Town Administrator, he owes it to the town to recuse himself from any further involvement in this matter.

This email would be incomplete without an explanation of the information obtained from the resumes submitted by Terry Walker. In both she purports to lists her prior employments. In both, she omitted three towns, Chester, Hinsdale, and Egremont, and in all three of those towns her employment ended in acrimony. In each of those towns she made charges similar to those she is now maintaining in Monterey. When Steve and Justin consider how they should respond to the investigator's report, they ought to take into account Ms. Walker's failure to be candid when applying for a job. Would the prior Select Board have hired her if it had known that she spent four years suing Chester for dismissing her, only to then voluntarily dismiss her complaint. They should also ask themselves whether ignoring the deception practiced by Ms. Walker to get the job as clerk will send quite the wrong message to all of us. And if that's correct, then what action should be taken? In well run towns and companies isn't that kind of conduct grounds for dismissal? The answer, of course, is yes.

Don Coburn

-----Original Message-----

From: Peru townclerk@townofperuma.com <townclerk@townofperuma.com>
To: Town Administrator <townadmin@townofperuma.com>; Bruce Cullett <BCullett@townofperuma.com>;
~~dscoburn@aol.com~~; Select Men <selectman@townofperuma.com>
Cc: Peru townclerk@townofperuma.com <townclerk@townofperuma.com>
Sent: Thu, Feb 17, 2022 11:08 am
Subject: Fw: Determination SPR22-0260

Hello,

The determination was made to give Mr. Coburn the Public records that he is seeking , please see the attached letter

I do not have records in my possession, you can either e-mail them to me or email them directly to Mr. Donald Coburn at : dscoburn@aol.com and CC me on the e-mail for my records please.

Kim Leach
Peru Town Clerk

Mailing Address:

Town of Peru
Town Clerk
3 East Main Road
Suite 102
Peru MA 01235

Website : townofperuma.com

Phone # 413-655-8312 Ext. #102 Fax #413- 655-2759

E-mail : townclerk@townofperuma.com



From: Price, John (SEC) <john.price@state.ma.us>

Sent: Thursday, February 17, 2022 10:45 AM

To: ~~dscoburn@aol.com~~; Peru townclerk@townofperuma.com <townclerk@townofperuma.com>

Cc: SEC-DL-PREWEB <SEC-DL-PREWEB@sec.state.ma.us>

Subject: Determination SPR22-0260

Hello,

Please be aware, the Supervisor of Records has issued a determination relating to appeals in which you were involved.

This determination is attached and available online at: <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/AppealsWeb/AppealsStatus.aspx>.

If you have any questions, please contact the Public Records Division at 617-727-2832 or pre@sec.state.ma.us.

Thank you,

John Price

Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth

Public Records Division

One Ashburton Place, Room 1719

Boston, MA 02108

617-727-2832

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You received this email because you are subscribed to the google group Monterey Community. Anyone posting to this list is solely responsible for the information contained in the posts.

You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "Monterey Community" group.

To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to monterey-community+unsubscribe@googlegroups.com.

To view this discussion on the web visit <https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/monterey-community/1494347448.1392619.1645712300954%40mail.yahoo.com>.



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Public Records Division

Rebecca S. Murray
Supervisor of Records

February 17, 2022
SPR22/0260

Kim Leach
Town Clerk
Town of Peru
3 East Main Road, Suite 102
Peru, MA 01235

Dear Ms. Leach:

I have received the petition of Donald S. Coburn appealing the response of the Town of Peru (Town) to a request for public records. G. L. c. 66, § 10A; see also 950 C.M.R. 32.08(1). On December 28, 2021, Mr. Coburn requested “any resume and job application submitted by [a named individual] when she applied for the job of Temporary Administrative Assistant.” The Town responded on January 11, 2022, citing Exemption (c) of the Public Records Law for withholding responsive records. Unsatisfied with the Town’s response, Mr. Coburn appealed, and this case was opened as a result.

The Public Records Law

The Public Records Law strongly favors disclosure by creating a presumption that all governmental records are public records. G. L. c. 66, § 10A(d); 950 C.M.R. 32.03(4). “Public records” is broadly defined to include all documentary materials or data, regardless of physical form or characteristics, made or received by any officer or employee of any agency or municipality of the Commonwealth, unless falling within a statutory exemption. G. L. c. 4, § 7(26).

It is the burden of the records custodian to demonstrate the application of an exemption in order to withhold a requested record. G. L. c. 66, § 10(b)(iv); 950 C.M.R. 32.06(3); see also *Dist. Att’y for the Norfolk Dist. v. Flatley*, 419 Mass. 507, 511 (1995) (custodian has the burden of establishing the applicability of an exemption). To meet the specificity requirement a custodian must not only cite an exemption, but must also state why the exemption applies to the withheld or redacted portion of the responsive record.

If there are any fees associated with a response, a written good faith estimate must be provided. G. L. c. 66, § 10(b)(viii); see also 950 C.M.R. 32.07(2). Once fees are paid, a records

custodian must provide the responsive records.

The Town's Response

In its January 11, January 25, and February 2, 2022 responses, the Town states that it “must deny [Mr. Coburn’s] request pursuant to Exemption C of the Massachusetts Public Records Law.”

Exemption (c)

Exemption (c) applies to:

personnel and medical files or information and any other materials or data relating to a specifically named individual, the disclosure of which may constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy; provided, however, that this subclause shall not apply to records related to a law enforcement misconduct investigation

G. L. c. 4, § 7(26)(c).

Analysis under Exemption (c) is subjective in nature and requires a balancing of the public’s right to know against the relevant privacy interests at stake. Torres v. Att’y Gen., 391 Mass. 1, 9 (1984); Att’y Gen. v. Assistant Comm’r of Real Property Dep’t., 380 Mass. 623, 625 (1980). Therefore, determinations must be made on a case by case basis.

This exemption does not protect all data relating to specifically named individuals. Rather, there are factors to consider when assessing the weight of the privacy interest at stake: (1) whether disclosure would result in personal embarrassment to an individual of normal sensibilities; (2) whether the materials sought contain intimate details of a highly personal nature; and (3) whether the same information is available from other sources. See People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) v. Dep’t of Agric. Res., 477 Mass. 280, 292 (2017).

When analyzing a privacy claim, there is a balancing test which provides that where the public interest in obtaining the requested information substantially outweighs the seriousness of any invasion of privacy, the private interest in preventing disclosure must yield. PETA, 477 Mass. at 291. The public has a recognized interest in knowing whether public servants are carrying out their duties in a law abiding and efficient manner. Id. at 292.

Under Exemption (c), the Town claims that “the disclosure of personnel information [Mr. Coburn] requested regarding a specifically named individual may constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, and therefore is statutorily exempted.”

Although information such as a personal phone number and personal email address may be redacted pursuant to Exemption (c), based on the Town’s response, it is unclear how a resume and job application in their entirety constitute intimate details of a highly personal nature, nor how disclosure would result in personal embarrassment to an individual of normal sensibilities.

Kim Leach
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February 17, 2022

SPR22/0260

Also, the Town did not provide additional information with respect to the balancing test which examines whether the public interest in obtaining the requested information outweighs the seriousness of any invasion of privacy. See PETA, 477 Mass. at 292.

As a result, I find that the Town did not satisfy its burden in withholding these records in their entirety pursuant to Exemption (c).

Conclusion

Accordingly, the Town is ordered to provide Mr. Coburn with a response to his request, provided in a manner consistent with this order, the Public Records Law, and its Regulations within ten business days. A copy of any such response must be provided to this office. It is preferable to send an electronic copy of the response to this office at pre@sec.state.ma.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rebecca Murray".

Rebecca S. Murray
Supervisor of Records

cc: Donald S. Coburn



12 Leach Hollow Road, Sherman, CT 06784
203-885-2318 | www.newenglandaquatic.com

October 8, 2021

Friends of Lake Garfield
70 Tyringham Road
Monterey, MA 01245

Subject: Lake Garfield

To whom it may concern,

It was our pleasure to complete our fifth season of work combatting the Eurasian Milfoil in Lake Garfield this fall. As we have spent hundreds of hours both on, and under, the lake we have become intimately familiar with the nature of the ongoing infestation by the invasive plant species as well as the progress that is being made. We are all aware that combatting Milfoil in this capacity is a slow and long term effort to get ahead of the problem. We are seeing very positive and encouraging results including reduced density and in some areas repopulation of native species. That being said, there is still a significant amount of Milfoil growing in the lake. After 5 seasons of work we thought it appropriate to review the operations and offer additional tools that we have that may work to the advantage of our combined efforts to meaningfully diminish this infestation.

As our company has grown we have incorporated new services that may be useful in conjunction with the Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting that we have been using. Before next season we plan to have a small aquatic weed harvester that will have the capability to cut weeds at a depth of 5.5 feet. One of the things that causes D.A.S.H. work to take so long is the sheer volume of plant matter that must be put into the suction hose and bagged up. There are some areas where we are in 14 feet of water and removing 13' tall milfoil plants. This means that the

diver will pull the plant by the root and place it into the suction hose then has to wait for that entire plant to be pulled into the hose. This isn't by itself a long process, but if we can reduce that plant from 13' down to 8' by cutting it first then a few seconds can be gained in the process. Over tens of thousands of plants this will add up to time saved handling material that can be spent pulling additional plants and root systems. This equipment can also be used in areas where the native pondweed species have grown so dense that it causes problems for boating and swimming in the lake. These areas it may not make sense economically to have them pulled by divers but cutting them down may be advantageous to private homeowners so that they can better enjoy their lake access.

We are also in the process of becoming licensed to apply herbicides which we will be prepared to do by next year. We are taking on this service so that we can provide this solution to those customers where D.A.S.H. is simply not an option. I mention this option only to make you aware that it is a tool in the box if needed as we look to the future. It is worth mentioning that in some cases what can work is a tempered, conservative approach that might be to utilize an herbicide to knock down heavy, dense areas of infestation and then utilize D.A.S.H. to remove the smaller patches around the lake. This would avoid a large herbicide treatment around the entire lake while also providing options for Suction Harvesting to those smaller patches that should be addressed before they become bigger more problematic areas.

These additional services provide some options to be used in conjunction with the Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting to help facilitate the effectiveness of the removal efforts. The overall effort that has been made over the past 5 seasons has made a difference in the density and root systems of the plants in the lake. We look forward to continuing to work for Lake Garfield and truly appreciate the opportunity to be involved with protecting the health of such a special place.

Sincerely,

Matthew Vogt
Owner/President



12 Leach Hollow Road, Sherman, CT 06784
203-885-2318 | www.newenglandaquatic.com

October 8, 2021

Lake Garfield Fall 2021 Report

On September 27, 2021 New England Aquatic Services, LLC commenced the first phase of Lake Garfield's 2021-2022 Milfoil Removal Project. The focus of this phase of the project was to remove Eurasian Milfoil from the large growth area just outside of the neck into the big bowl and around the shoreline of the Big Bowl where sporadic patches are found. Two harvesting boats were used simultaneously in order to increase efficiency. The Fall project consisted of 106.5 total hours of work. The first 35 hours were provided by the Friends of Lake Garfield while the other 71.5 hours were provided by the Town of Monterey. The remaining 35.5 hours provided by the Town of Monterey will be used during the Spring of 2022.

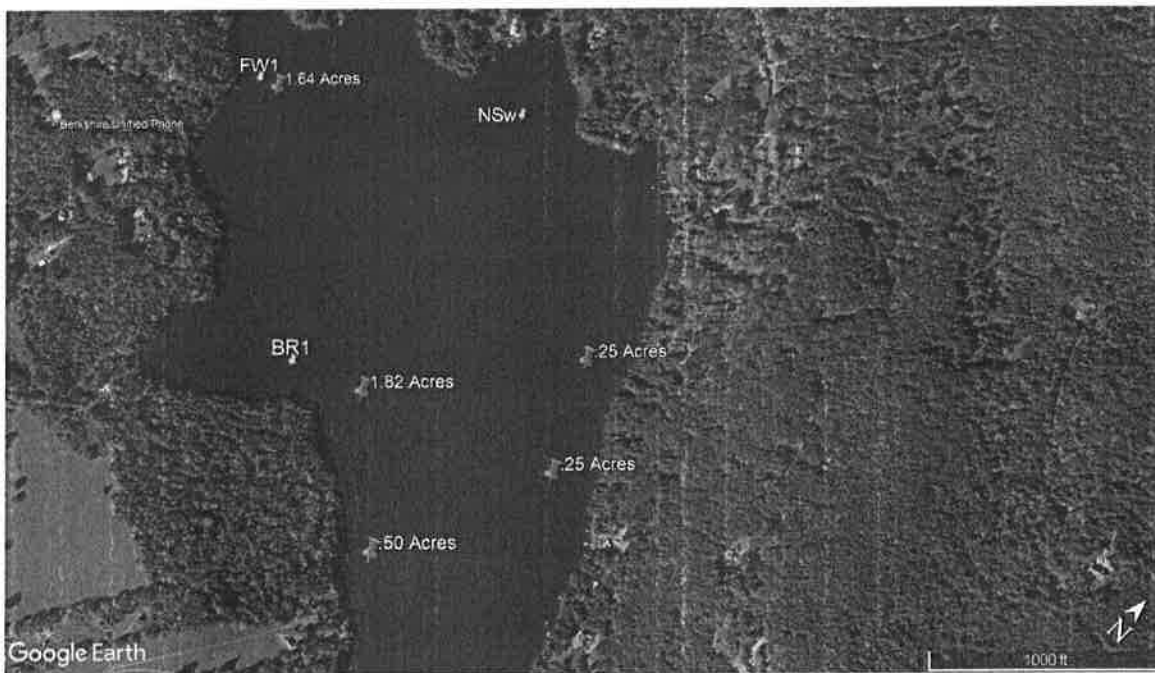
During this project the density of the Milfoil was found to be considerably reduced in areas where the work had been performed extensively in the past. In total approximately 4.45 acres of area were cleared, and a total of 541 bags of Milfoil were removed equating to 1082 5-gallon buckets. For the second year in a row we have been encouraged to see areas where Milfoil was growing densely in past years have begun to be repopulated by native pondweed species.

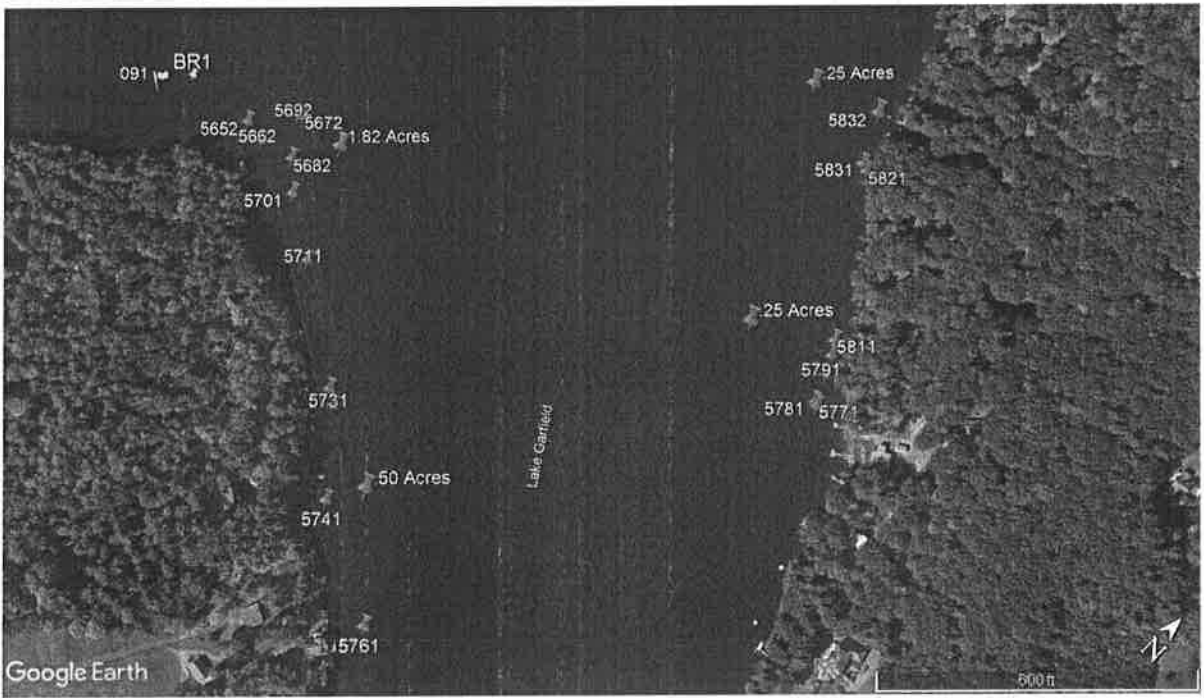
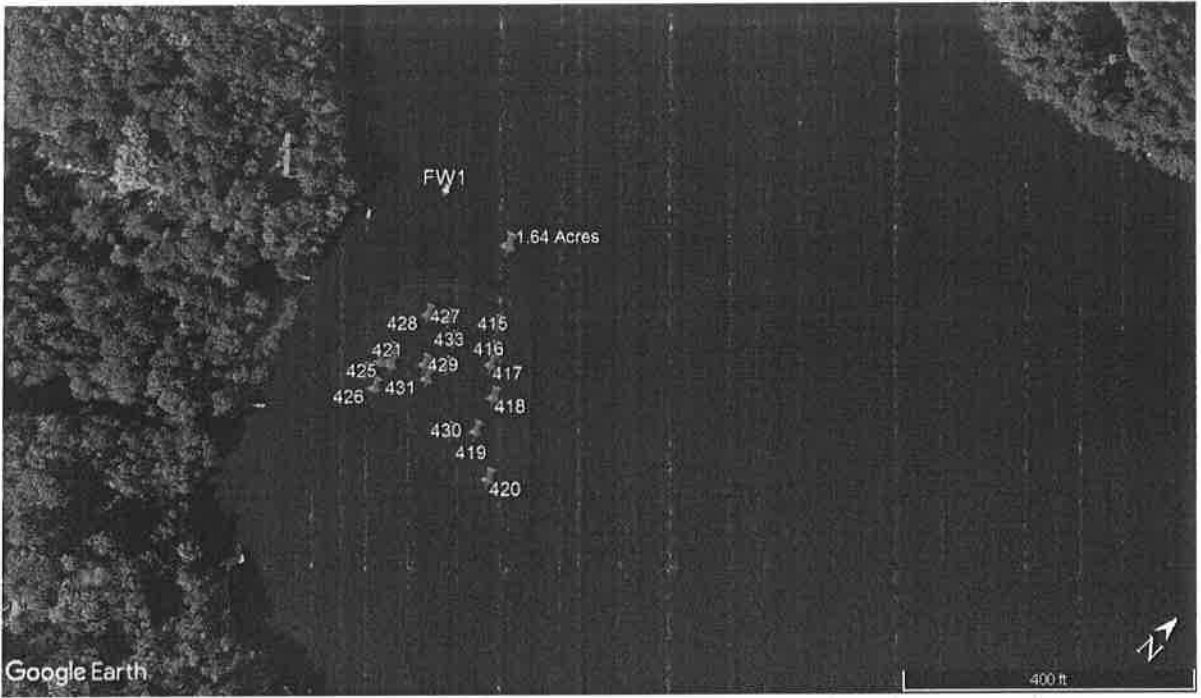
The method used for removal was Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting. The equipment used allows for 2 divers to work simultaneously to remove the plants by the roots and send them to the surface via 4" suction hoses where the material collects in mesh bags so that it can be removed offsite.

The points shown on the attached maps are the locations where the boat was initially stopped. The area around the boat is then cleared and the boat is moved over and anchored again to repeat the process. The suction hoses reach 40 feet from the boat.

The project was begun by putting Boat 1 into the large patch which is found as you enter the big bowl from the neck. Boat 1 spent the duration of the project in this location as it is the most heavily infested area. Boat 2 moved around the shore of the Big Bowl south of the area where Boat 1 concentrated its efforts. Some patches of Milfoil had migrated further south than had previously been found so a considerable amount of time was spent hunting these patches and removing them to prevent them from becoming larger and more dense areas in the future. The goal for the springtime will be to address some heavy growth along the northern edge of the Big Bowl in an area that there was not time to address this fall.

The theory behind the project is that while we won't immediately eliminate Milfoil from these areas, over time the density will reduce as we consistently pull the plants out each year. So far, the results are in line with our theoretical goal and we are seeing greater success with each project.





Water Resource Services Inc.
144 Crane Hill Road
Wilbraham, MA 01095
kjwagner@charter.net
413-219-8071



October 22, 2021

Dr. Michael Germain
Via email at Michael.Germain@baystatehealth.org

Dear Dr. Germain:

I am writing to report the results of the October 7, 2021, Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) survey. You were out with me, so this is not new news, but I wanted to put our results in the context of past and ongoing monitoring and control work. I have reported on the status and progression of EWM in past reports. Here I will simply indicate the general lack of change in EWM locations from May 2019 to May 2020 to May 2021 (Figure 1). To be sure, the substantial effort put into hand harvesting, with the aid of suction apparatus, has thinned the EWM in places and minimized growths in a few locations, but the overall pattern of EWM occurrence remained roughly the same through 3 years of spring surveys. Recovery between harvesting sessions is apparent and expansion has occurred in some areas.

EWM growth in Lake Garfield is largely depth limited. The drawdown minimizes growths in <6 feet of water, although isolated stems and even a few patches have been noted by late summer in many years. But extensive and persistent growth in shallower water is prevented by the drawdown. Growth in deeper water is light limited, with very few EWM plants observed at >15 feet and most found in the 8- to 12-foot depth range. This does bracket where EWM is likely to be found within Lake Garfield but that is still a substantial area with great potential to compromise habitat and interfere with recreation.

The October 7, 2021, survey covered the large (southern) bowl of the lake and while not exhaustive, represents the most thorough survey of that area in recent years. It was conducted just days after the conclusion of the 2021 harvesting program, which I understand occurred over two separate periods, spring and fall, and cost roughly \$50,000. At least \$30,000 has been spent on hand harvesting in each of the previous four years.

EWM distribution (Figure 2) is mapped by GPS point on an aerial view of the large bowl on which the depth contours in 5-foot intervals have been laid out. It is difficult to get the contours for water depth accurately sited by rectifying the old bathymetric map with the lake outline, but the depth contours are approximately correct. Each point is a location where EWM was found and the details of approximate numbers of plants at each point are contained in Table 1. However, for ease of visual assessment, points with <100 plants are shown as smaller blue circles (with the adjacent GPS point corresponding to the listing in Table 1), while points with 100-500 plants are shown as slightly larger green circles, and points with >500 plants are shown as the largest circles, in yellow. The estimation of EWM abundance was approximate, but the results are fairly obvious and disappointing.

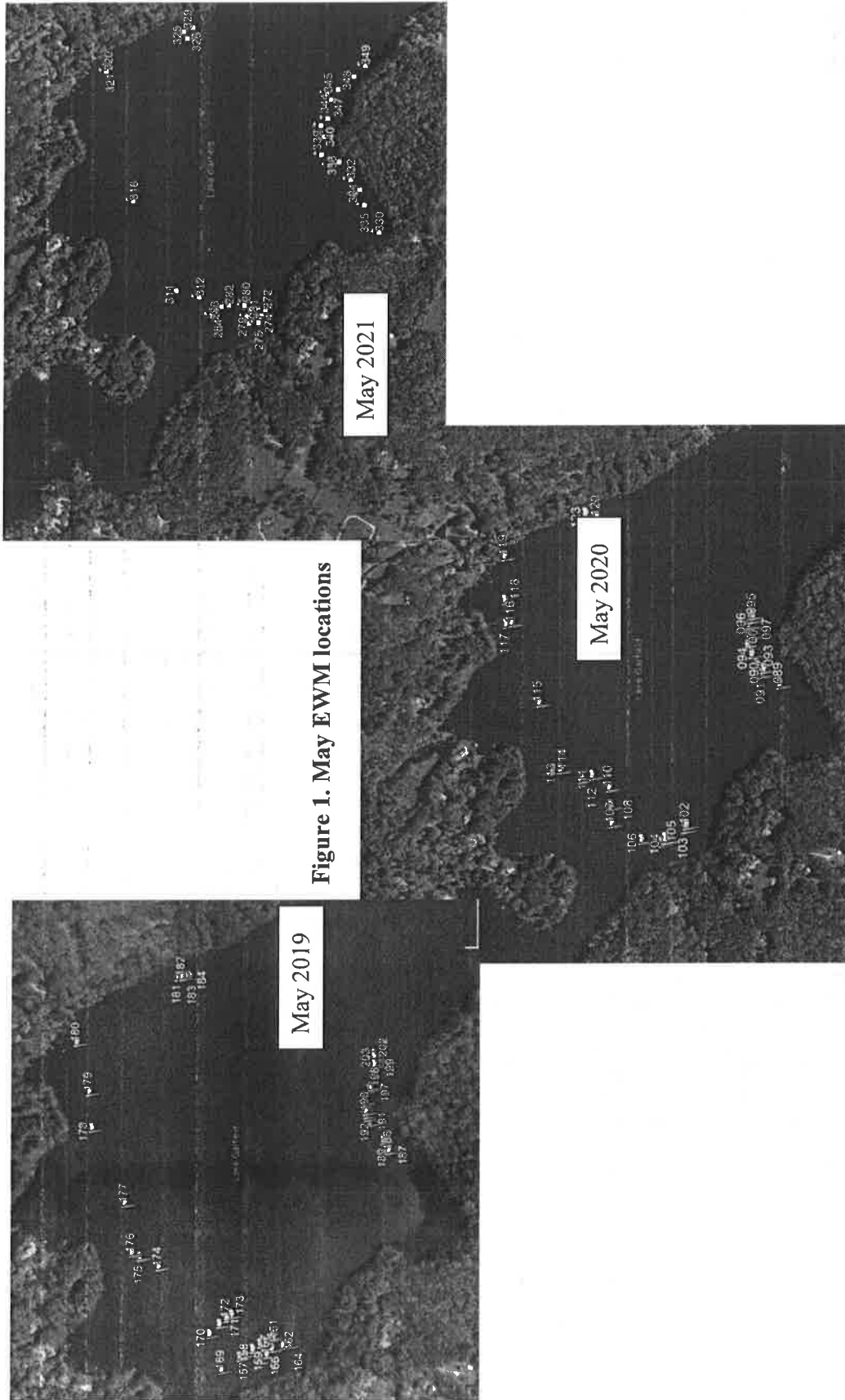


Figure 1. May EWM locations



Figure 2. Distribution of EWM in Lake Garfield on October 7, 2021

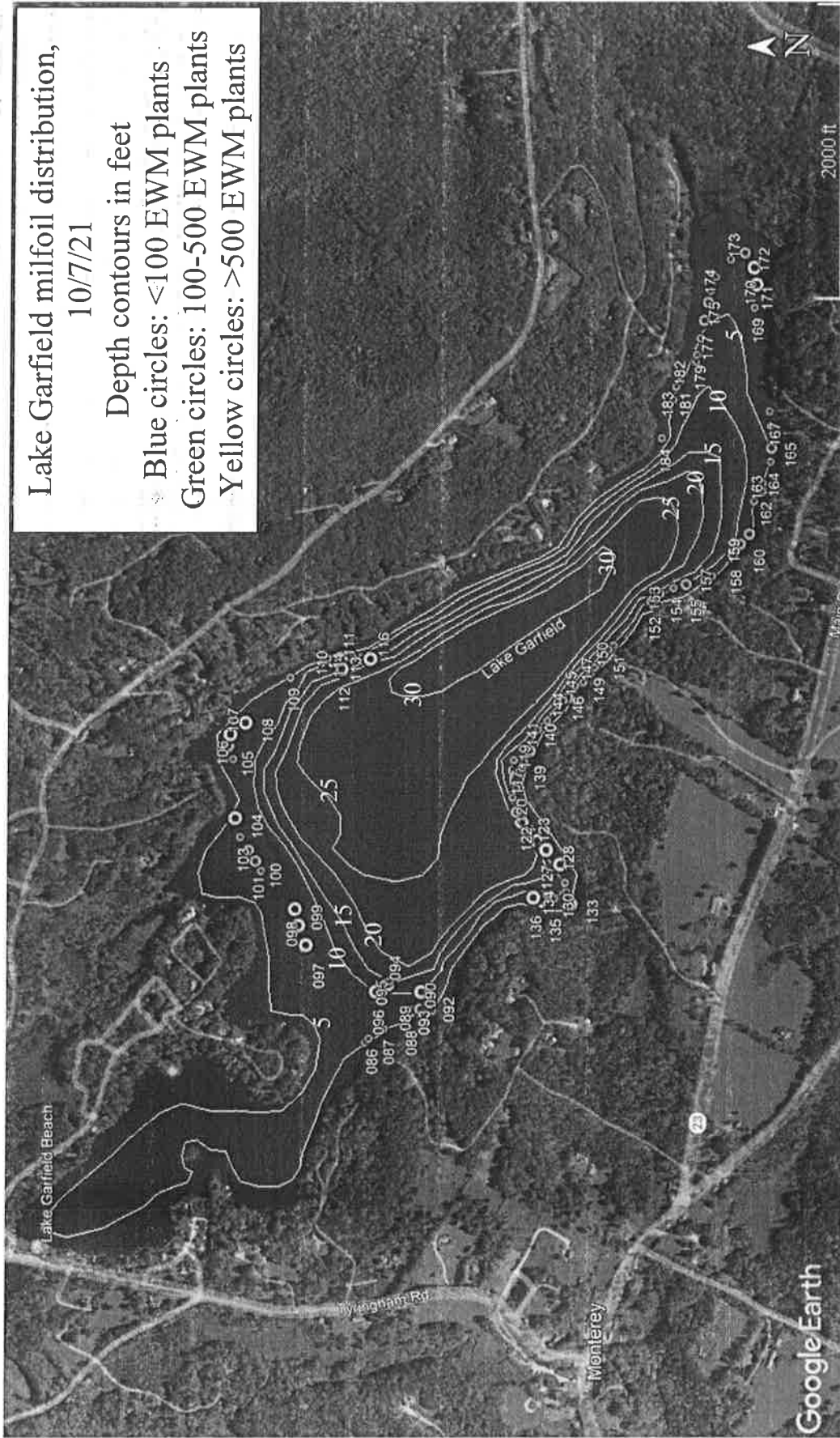




Table 1. Lake Garfield milfoil tally from October 7, 2021

GPS point	# of EWM	Size		GPS point	# of EWM	Size
85	5	M		139	100	L
86	5	M		140	10	L
87	2	L		141	100	L
88	100	L		142	5	L
89	100	L		143	50	L
90	100	L		144	10	L
91	2	L		145	100	L
92	100	L		146	50	L
93	500	L		147	50	L
94	50	L		148	50	L
95	500	L		149	50	L
96	500	L		150	20	L
97	500	L		151	20	L
98	500	L		152	100	L
99	500	L		153	50	L
100	20	L		154	50	L
101	100	L		155	100	L
102	100	L		156	10	L
103	50	M		157	50	L
104	500	L		158, 159	100	L
105	50	M		160	100	L
106	100	M		161	10	L
107	500	M		162	50	L
108	500	L		163	10	L
109	50	M		164	50	L
110	50	M		165	100	L
111-116	1000	L		166	1	L
117	5	L		167	20	M
118	10	L		168	50	L
119	2	M		169	20	M
120	1	L		170	500	M
121	5	L		171	500	M
122	100	L		172	100	M
123-125	1000	L		173	20	M
126, 127	100	L		174	50	M
128, 129	1000	L		175	50	M
130	1	L		176	100	M
131	10	L		177	100	M
132	50	L		178	1	M
133	1000	L		179	1	M
134	50	L		180	1	M
135, 136	1000	L		181	1	M
137	5	L		182	1	M
138	10	L		183	5	L
				184	5	L



While we knew that EWM had extended southward within the lake, I was not aware of the full extent of this expansion. The presence of a few patches in <6 feet of water suggests that some EWM is either surviving the drawdown and getting a head start on growth each year or fragments are arriving in shallow water in substantial quantity each spring. I do not expect that to result in expansive growths in shallow areas, but the constant influx of EWM from deeper water is troubling. Our inability to gain control over those deeper growths after 5 years of effort suggests that more, and likely different, effort is needed.

Most of the EWM was large plants, with a minority of medium sized stems and virtually no small stems. We did not look carefully at a lot of the lake bottom, but the preponderance of large stems suggests a full season of growth. Where plants were less dense and/or smaller, these areas appeared to be where the divers had worked the most. Still, even in recent work areas, EWM was not absent (Figure 3). The hand harvesting clearly has had a localized impact, but that impact appears temporary and EWM is expanding in Lake Garfield.

At the expense incurred, the hand harvesting program is not resulting in elimination of EWM and reduced effort in successive years. From the October 2021 survey there is as much EWM to be harvested now as at any time in the last 5 years. With some expansive patches, it is possible that the milfoil weevil or some other invertebrate milfoil consumer will grow in population size and cause another crash, but the hand harvesting is not resulting in reduced EWM abundance compared to that assessed when the program began.

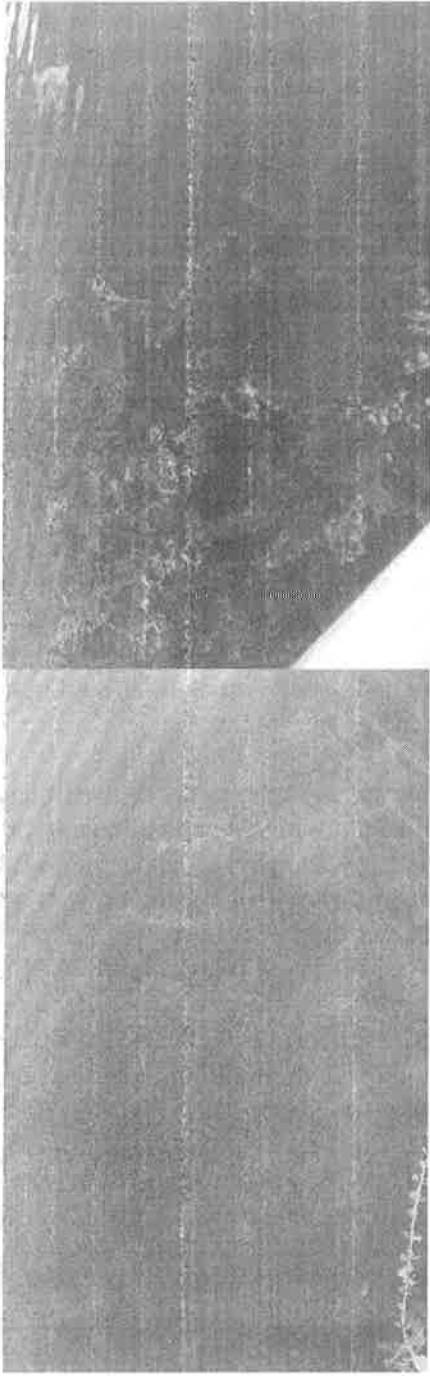
As I and others with experience in EWM control have stated in the past, the use of herbicides is the most effective way to get EWM under control, then allowing a hand harvesting program to keep it under control. The stance of the Town of Monterey against herbicide use in Lake Garfield, despite such use in other lakes in the region and even within Monterey, is not logical and is costing both the Town and the Friends of Lake Garfield a lot of money for very little return.

There is a new herbicide for milfoil control, tradename Procellacor, which is now approved for use in Massachusetts. Reports of excellent milfoil control with minimal impact to non-target species are very encouraging. If the Town of Monterey can get past its opposition to herbicide use in Lake Garfield, the NHESP should be approached for approval of this new herbicide in this lake. Recall that NHESP did not want to use fluridone due to perceived threat to protected plant species, but this new herbicide apparently poses no such threat.

If a manual control program is to continue without the aid of herbicides, I suggest that it include application of benthic barriers. While somewhat cumbersome to lay down and later move, the effort is no more difficult than what divers have been doing in recent years and the results, at least in the areas to which the barrier is applied, will be superior. Most milfoil can be killed in a month, allowing the barrier to be moved to another location, often just a few feet away. I have been using Lake Bottom Blanket with considerable success in recent years, and several private

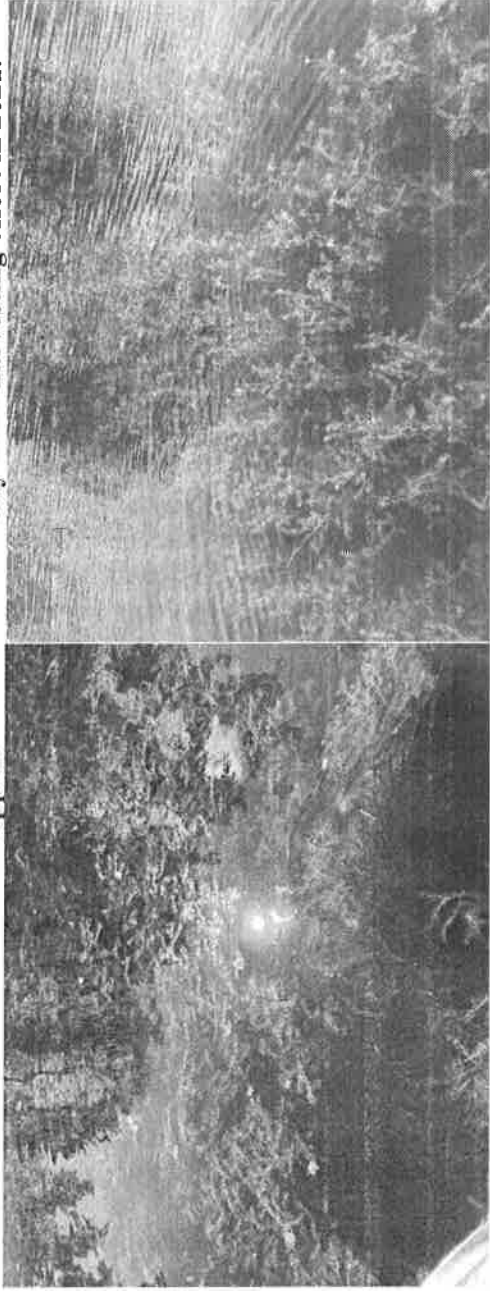


Figure 3. Range of milfoil density observed in Lake Garfield on October 7, 2021.



Above: Hand harvested areas showing fewer milfoil plants and (at right) a mix of native plants.

Below: Two areas that do not appear to have received any hand harvesting effort in 2021.





residences around Lake Garfield have been using this same material. At a width of 10 feet and a length of 50 to 100 feet, it can cover a substantial area of dense EWM and limit the need for harvesting, freeing up labor time to focus on more scattered growths. The cost is not minor, but the material lasts for years so it is not expensive on a protracted use basis. No more than about an acre would be likely to be used at one time, considering cost and deployment manpower, but that could make a difference in Lake Garfield.

Contact me with any questions.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which reads 'Kenneth J. Wagner'. The signature is written in a cursive style.

Kenneth J. Wagner, Ph.D., CLM
Water Resources Manager, WRS Inc.