

Lake Garfield Working Group (LGWG) Meeting Minutes
April 27, 2023

Members in Attendance: Kyle Pierce, Richard Jaffe, Steve Synder, Greg Carnese. Guests: Hillary Kenyon (Lake Scientist), Shannon Poulin (Cyanobacteria Researcher) Dennis Lynch

(1) Having a quorum, the LGWG April monthly meeting was called to order at 7:08 pm and the minutes for the previous monthly meeting in March were moved and seconded.

(2) The Annual Town meeting was discussed in relation to the approval of an Article on the Warrant for further funding of Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH) in Lake Garfield for the control of Eurasian watermilfoil (Milfoil). The Article for \$50,000 in the next fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2023 was approved by the voters. The Article was mentioned as a prelude to a budget line item in 2024.

(3) Lake Scientist Hillary Kenyon reported that her summary report of her work in Lake Garfield was prepared and she requested comments from LGWG members. Hillary further indicated that 2022 Summary Report was being used for the preparation of a Notice of Intent being prepared for permitting work yet to be accomplished in the lake during 2023. The summary report is a series of maps indicating the presence of Eurasian watermilfoil and a recently identified the invasive Curley Leaf Pondweed which grows early from March to July with a resurgence again in the fall period. Hillary further indicated that the occurrence of Curley Leaf Pondweed was small in amount which may suggest a recent find of the aquatic plant in two locations near the "Big Bowl" portion of Lake Garfield at the Point Road peninsula. Hillary suggested that since the weed occurs in deeper waters it may not have been found in previous shallow water sampling studies. Hillary agreed to research past studies to help determine if the weed was previously observed in the lake.

It was also suggested by Hillary that DASH operations should prioritize looking for Curley Leaf Pondweed in the work to control Eurasian watermilfoil. Further discussion centered around the need to provide MA DEP an explanation of the specific sampling techniques to be used to locate rare and endangered species. In addition, prior to using additional methods such as benthic barriers and herbicides to control invasive plants in Lake Garfield, approvals must be obtained from the DEP and Natural Heritage offices. A note was made that herbicides were not favored as a control method by many residents. Due to their past experience, it was suggested that New England Aquatics was capable of properly deploying benthic barriers. Further discussion focused on the timing of the DASH permit termination period which was thought to be imminent. Finally, Hillary requested review of the DASH Notice of Intent (NOI) as soon as possible. Hillary also asked if she could attend the Conservation Commission meeting remotely when the NOI is submitted.

4) Shannon reported that the summer sampling program is being developed with an effort to kept the sampling locations and dates consistent with the 2022 program. Shannon intends to collect samples twice a month during June and July and once during September. Phosphorus sampling is being planned in June and the end of September. Shannon is continuing to work on a QAPP sampling plan for the DEP. It was also stated that the dissolved oxygen sampling equipment needed new membranes and that the equipment being used is very similar to the YSI Pro 20 water column sampling device. It was also mentioned that the State cyanobacteria guidelines have not been exceeded but were taken in a limited number of locations and cyanobacteria occurrences are affected by wind direction changes and the rise and fall of the microorganisms in the water column.

A discussion took place concerning the need to notify the appropriate beach closing authorities, the Monterey Board of Health and the Monterey Parks Commission, as well as the various community organizations around the lake. Educating lake residents is important as they may be helpful to identify cyanobacteria and notifying the aforementioned authorities. Hillary suggested rewriting a Connecticut based article to help Massachusetts communities. Educational information including pictures of cyanobacteria accumulations being placed in the Monterey News and on the town website was considered important.

5) A grants update was presented by Dennis on behalf of Courtney Morehouse at the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission. Two points were mentioned, namely, that final design of mitigating measures to reduce phosphorus loading in Lake Garfield was proceeding and that the consulting firm of Comprehensive Environmental Inc. was retained by the town to assist with the final design effort. Also, a Hupi Road site visit was being planned and the LGWG would be notified in advance.

6) Kyle informed the LGWG that the State was preparing to close and repair the ramp at Lake Buel during June.

There being no further items of interest, the meeting was adjourned at 7:58 pm and next meeting was scheduled to be posted for remote attendance on May 18, 2023 at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted, Dennis Lynch