

AWWA, PLA and the Province Lake Watershed Management Plan

Summer 2018

The “Province Lake Watershed Management Plan” was presented to the PLA community in July 2014. The Plan outlines the goals for water quality and the action items needed to meet those goals. The Action Plan, developed by PLA, AWWA, FBE, NHDES and stakeholders recommends **S**pecific, **M**easureable, **A**chievable, **R**ealistic and **T**imely actions within six major categories: septic systems, shoreline development, municipal ordinances, roads, recreation/boating and water quality monitoring.

AWWA was awarded three NHDES Watershed Assistance grants to develop the plan and implement some of the recommendations. As part of the Watershed Planning grant AWWA coordinated both watershed and septic surveys to identify areas around the lake that could be contributing pollution to the lake.

AWWA has coordinated the following NHDES grant funded tasks as of July 2018:

- **Septic Systems**

- All homeowners within the shoreland zone (250' of the lake) were asked to complete a septic survey. The results were used to identify those who might be in need of an upgrade.
- Properties identified as highest risk were offered a free septic inspection. Of those whose inspection indicated a need for a septic upgrade, five homeowners have taken advantage of the grant funded cost-share program to replace their systems. There is still funding available for three additional upgrades.



- **Shoreline Development**

- The AWWA Youth Conservation Corps has installed 106 erosion control landscape features on 29 properties reducing the pollution reaching the lake by an estimated 86 tons of sediment and 72 pounds of phosphorus each year.
- This summer the AWWA YCC will be installing an additional 300' of vegetated buffer along the NH section of the beach.
- AWWA's program managers have delivered 60 free technical assistance visits with site specific recommendations. Amy Arsenault is available to meet with any interesting property owners to offer healthy lake recommendations.
- Grant funds supported installation of stormwater management controls on the two highest priority residential properties reducing the pollutant load by an estimated 49 pounds of phosphorus per year.



- **Municipal ordinances**

- AWWA has an ongoing mission to ensure that the towns of Wakefield, Effingham and Acton understand, and are committed to, the concept that water quality in the lakes is inextricably tied to a stable economy through property taxes, tourism dollars and healthy ecosystems. Your voices are important in this discussion so please feel free to contact AWWA or PLA with any concerns.

- **Roads**

- AWWA and PLA partnered with the UNH Stormwater Center, the towns of Wakefield and Effingham and a private road association to remedy chronic road drainage issues with an eye to illustrating cost effective solutions to common stormwater management problems. It is our hope that future routine maintenance will include attention to how the drainage affects the lake.
- The conversation about the impact of Route 153 to Province Lake is ongoing between the PLA, landowners, NHDES, MaineDEP and the Departments of Transportation in both states. No solution has been identified but the dialogue is ongoing.



- **Recreation/Boating**

- Grant funds are allocated to further study the impact boat traffic has on water quality. In addition, AWWA produced a flyer about boating safety for distribution through the PLA.

- **Water Quality Monitoring**

- PLA volunteers, the UNH Lakes Lay Monitoring Program and the NHDES have established a rigorous, consistent and comprehensive monitoring program that provides a clear window for understanding the trends and characteristics of the lake's water.
- Grant funds are supporting the PLA effort to learn how the lake's sediments are affecting the phosphorus levels in the lake. This project will help determine next steps in addressing the lake's challenges.



All of the tasks related to the grants involve a level of outreach and education. Several printed materials have been produced including the "Clean Water and You" booklet that is distributed to all new property owners. AWWA coordinated the first Route 153 Beach Clean-up and the PLA has repeated it each year since. A BioBlitz on the Province Lake Golf Course introduced dozens of people to the wonders of looking closely at the natural world where they identified over 200 species of flora and fauna. Both AWWA and PLA websites offer timely and interesting information

about lake water quality and how people can make a positive difference.

The Province Lake community and all its partners are fully committed to doing everything in their power to bring Province Lake back to health and preserve the wonderful way of life generations of Province Lake families have enjoyed.



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