

Messer Pond Annual Meeting- 2016
Board Reports

2015-2016 Wrap-up:

The Watershed Plan was completed by Gabe Bolin the beginning of this year and was submitted and approved by the NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) in March. Since the Plan meets NHDES guidelines, the acceptance of the Plan allows us to access technical and financial support from NHDES as well as other non-profit Environmental groups.

With the completion of the Plan, the grants that the MPPA received were closed. The Association received \$6,500 over the last year from the NHDES and the State Conservation Committee (SCC Moose Plate) to offset the cost of developing the Watershed Implementation Plan.

Members also donated their time to assist on some of the tasks to complete the Watershed Plan (such as water sampling). These volunteer hours helped to cover about \$2,000 of development expenses.

We have met with the Town Planner (Lucy St John) to review some of the regulation changes that the Plan calls out. We met with the New London Planning Board on June 28th and presented an overview of this effort as well as eight proposals as possible zoning amendments for their committee to consider.

We have also met with the Town Administrator (Kim Hallquist) and the DPW Director (Richard Lee) and reviewed some of the structural improvements recommended by the Plan. We are in the process of writing up a grant proposal to address the nutrient loading on County Road, to align with some scheduled work that the DPW is planning in that area.

Also at the meeting, Richard Lee confirmed that he would be replacing the Bog Road culvert and restoring lost material at the boat launch, likely in late September.

2016-2017 Plans/Goals:

The focus for this year will be to initiate a manageable number of the recommendations from the Watershed Implementation Plan. To that end, the Board decided to engage Gabe Bolin's services to help with that process. The initial agreement is for between 10 – 12 hours of consulting. This will include supporting our efforts with the town and on grant work.

The initial list of recommendations that are being considered are:

Expand our water sampling in the watershed. We have asked Gabe to formulate the expansion of our water sampling to start acquiring the data targeted at monitoring the effectiveness and impact on Messer Pond of the implemented BMP's. In addition, there were several questions posed to us by DES and DOT that our current sampling suite does not cover.

Continuing to work with the Planning Board on the zoning proposals recommended by the Watershed Plan.

Expand our outreach efforts to members of the watershed. We have met with the LSPA and informally with PLPA to pull together a group of local lake associations. We hope to be able to present information on the Watershed Plan and get support for our recommendations. In

particular, we are looking to form a group that will approach the DOT with a request to implement alternate deicing agents on the stretches of I-89 that impact lakes and ponds in our area.

If the preproposal for the County Road grant is accepted, the MPPA will complete the full application, working with the town on its implementation.

Finally, as we enter the implementation phase of this effort to address the nutrient loading in the pond, we will need to maintain our efforts on our current watershed initiatives; like lake hosting, weed watching and culvert clean out. These efforts demonstrate our Association's commitment to maintaining the health of the pond and its watershed.

Membership:

As of the end of last year, there were 60 families in the association, representing 131 individuals. As of writing of this report, about 20 families have paid dues for this year.

A membership list is now available on the MPPA website. It can be accessed via www.messerpond.org/MembersOnly/Members. The information is password protected. The username/password are case sensitive and are MesserPonder/PondProtection#1 .

Financial Report:

As of July 20, 2016, the association had net assets of slightly over \$23,847. The association incurred approximately \$16,000 in expenses developing the Watershed Implementation Plan. As of the end of June, 2016, the association has received \$129.87 from the Amazon Smile program, representing almost \$26,000 in purchases (details about this program are found on the MPPA website). The P&L and Balance sheets are attached.

Ongoing watershed initiatives:

Weed Watching —Donna Doyle (Point Person) - Upon recommendations from the Department of Environmental Services (DES) the weed watch season for 2016 started earlier in May and will continue thru September. With an early ice out this year plant life had a head start over other years. This extends the weed watch season by one month. To date, a few sample pictures have been sent in to Amy at DES and she has confirmed the plants/film or slime observed are not risky and are normal for our type of water body. Please continue to raise questions when you see something that is not familiar or take a photo if you can. You can send any pictures to me at our home email address: doyle.iyd@gmail.com or to John's Messer Pond email address ([johndoyle@messerpond.org](mailto: johndoyle@messerpond.org)) and also directly to Amy at DES ([amy.smagula@des.nh.gov](mailto: amy.smagula@des.nh.gov)) if you prefer.

In addition to taking over the Lake Host program, Sue Showalter is also a weed watcher this year covering the section at the far end on Bog Road.

I attended the VLAP session that was held on Saturday - May 21st in Concord where the focus was on cyanobacteria and how to identify it. I also brought back some current weed identification material.

Volunteers this year are: Terry Bingham, Nancy Stetson, Gordon Bingham, Pat Harris, Sue Shock, Jeff Troxell, John Doyle, Donna Doyle, Donna Weaver, and Carly Weaver.

Thank you for keeping your eyes open as you boat around the pond.

Lake Hosting —Through July 18:

- Total inspections ~ 135
- 3 aquatic species found
- 2 sent in to NH DES (2 native bladderwort)
- 1 not sent in to NH DES (leech)
- Boaters signing in when no host ~ approximately 40
- Paid Hosts have logged 209 hours
- Volunteers have logged 98 hours (this includes hosting, admin. and travel)

Logging volunteer hours is especially important to this program going forward and remaining eligible and appearing viable. In order to receive an additional award in the amount of \$300 from NH Lakes we need to provide at least 290% total local match (cash equivalent value of volunteer labor plus out-of-pocket volunteer expenses, plus the previous year's carry-over unexpended locally contributed funds, plus the \$3,500 from Town of New London). For 2015 our total local match percent of NH Lakes grant ask amount of \$1,000 was 736%. Certainly when stating our case for \$3,500 from the Town of New London volunteer hours are critical.

The number of boat inspections and self-sign-ins are also important in order to receive funding from both of the aforementioned sources. To request \$1,000 from NH Lakes we have to inspect 0-500 boats.

We have fewer volunteers this year. Our very valuable volunteers are: Terri Bingham (covering 2 different shifts ~ 1 of which is an EARLY shift beginning at 6 AM), Pat Harris, Barb and Jeff Troxell, Donna and John Doyle, Nancy Stetson, Dick Showalter and Sue Showalter (Point Person and Lake Host). We are the first line of defense against aquatic invasive species. Certainly the entire MPPA membership thanks us!

It's not too late to contact me regarding becoming a Lake Host! Please consider playing a role in keeping Messer Pond free of invasive aquatic animals and plants.

More paid Lake Host hours were added this year; a shift Thursdays 11-3 and Fridays 8 AM – 7 PM. We have paid Host coverage as usual weekends and Holidays.

NH House Bill 1589 – the “Clean & Drain” bill was signed by Governor Maggie Hassan, it will become effective January 1, 2017. This summer is an opportunity for Lake Hosts to educate boaters about the new law: It will be important to always remove ALL debris, including plant material (native or invasive) off their boat, trailer and gear. Next summer it will be illegal for boaters to transport/travel with ANY aquatic plants (native or invasive!) They may be fined for doing so.

Next year it will also be illegal for boaters to transport their boats on roadways without the drain plugs removed. They may be fined if the drain plugs are not removed.

Boaters will need to pull their boats out of the water body to an area off of the inclined ramp and remove all drain plugs so that the draining water does not drain into the lake or nearby streams.

Water Sampling — Last season marked the 20th year of water sampling on Messer Pond. For well over half of that time John Harris has been responsible for gathering this incredibly important source of data. Aside from alerting us early on in regards to potential water quality issues, this data was important to the

Watershed Planning effort. The information was used to calibrate portions of the model and was used to develop the target for nutrient mitigation goals.

This data will also be used to monitor and evaluate changes to the watershed. Thank you John for your many years of dedication to this effort.

We also had our bi-annual visit from the state Biologist last season. The purpose of these visits is to check in on sample gathering procedures, perform a survey of the area, and an opportunity to us ask questions.

The current lake report can be downloaded from the following link:

http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/vlap/annual_reports/2015/documents/messer-newlondon.pdf

Finally, Ethan Simon has been researching ways that we can expand our water sampling coverage without relying on samples needing to be analyzed by a lab. While the lab technique is very accurate it is also very expensive. Ethan proposed using a conductivity test to identify areas that are experiencing loading from runoff and require additional investigation. We experimented with this procedure last fall on Brown and Nutter Brooks, taking over 60 measurements between the pond and I-89 in a few hours. This promising test is a quick, reliable and inexpensive.

Spring Clean-up —Volunteers removed two large trailer loads of sand, trash and debris from the culverts, catch basins and roadsides around the pond. This effort contributes to maintaining the water quality in the pond. By removing the material, we prevent it from being transported into the pond by the runoff from heavy rain storms.

The Annual Spring Culvert Cleanup was held on May 14th. Scott Ellison organized the effort on Saturday and coordinated with the town DPW to dispose of the material. The clean-up finished in just under three hours and this was due in large part to the generosity of JP Paquette and Curt Hineline who offered the use of a trailer and front loader to pick up and dump the debris and sand.

We would like to recognize all the other volunteers who gave of their time to help: Dick and Glenda Cavallero, Bob Brown, Rody Denise, Donna Doyle, Susan Ellison and daughters, Molly and Maggie, Dave and Betty Hackman, John Harris, Mark Koch, Sue Shock and her son Jack, Dick Showalter, Nancy and Bruce Stetson, Barbara and Jeff Troxell, Janie Webster.

Keeping New London Presentable —Volunteers again donated their time to pick up trash and debris from the portions of County, Forest Acres and Bog Roads that are within the Messer Pond watershed. Removing this material eliminates the possibility that it could find its way into the pond during a heavy rain storm in the summer.

Jeff Troxell again volunteered to coordinate our association's participation in the Town-wide program. We would like to recognize all the neighborhood families and individuals who are giving of their time to make New London and the roads around Messer Pond Presentable: Kelletts, Showalters, Janie Webster, Anne Wustrow, Cavallaros, Sue Shock, Bingham's, Aseltines, Stetsons, Browns, Bowies, Bobrowichs, Constables, Weavers, Denises, Harris's and Troxells.

Septic Maintenance — A properly operating system will filter nutrients before they can enter the watershed. As the Watershed Plan indicates, septic systems around the pond account for about 13% of

the nutrient loading into the pond. Inspecting and pumping your septic system every 2 — 3 years is key to maintaining its performance.

Nancy Stetson again coordinated the Septic Maintenance program. She negotiated a discount on the service. Five families signed up for this program.

Educational/community outreach:

We presented the work that has been done on the Watershed-based Implementation Plan at the October meeting of the New London Garden Club. The event was attended by over 50 members. The presentation was well received and generated many questions about the effort. One of the outcomes was the realization that most folks that live in New London live in the watershed of some water body and everyone has an effect on water quality.

Social Activity:

Fall Luncheon — Jeff and Barbara Troxell generously opened their home and hosted this gathering last October. Jeff and Barbara have offered to host a gathering again this coming fall. Thank you Jeff and Barbara for your generosity and hospitality.

Holiday Wine & Cheese — John and Pat Harris were kind enough to host this event last December. Thank you John and Pat for a wonderful evening enjoyed by many neighbors. Please contact John Doyle if you would be interested in hosting this year's gathering.

Wildlife report:

Wood Dick Boxes - We are continuing to work with Elkins F&G Club to maintain the wood duck boxes that were installed several years ago. The plan had been for the club to clean and prepare the boxes last winter. Warm temperatures, thin ice and scheduling prevented this from occurring. Hoping that next winter is more normal, the club will try again. See the Elkins F&G web site for more information: http://www.elkinsfishandgame.com/elkins_duck_box.html

Loon Census - Organized by Derek Hunt, and in cooperation with the Loon Preservation Committee, a loon census was again held on the pond on 7/16/2016. While available for viewing many evenings and mornings during the summer, the loons always seem to be a bit shy and are reluctant to be counted on the day of the event.

Pet Owners - And finally, a friendly reminder to all the pet owners, please pick up after your pets while walking and be respectful of your neighbor's property. Everything can find its way to the pond during a storm.

MPPA
Balance Sheet
As of July 20, 2016

	<u>Jul 20, 16</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Amazon Smile	129.87
MPPA Checking	<u>23,717.33</u>
Total Checking/Savings	<u>23,847.20</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>23,847.20</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>23,847.20</u></u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
3000 - Opening Bal Equity	5,720.75
3900 - Retained Earnings	16,640.48
Net Income	<u>1,485.97</u>
Total Equity	<u>23,847.20</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>23,847.20</u></u>

MPPA
Watershed Management - Lifetime
 Through July 20, 2016

	<u>Jan 1, '13 - Jul 20, 16</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Grants	
Moose Plate Grant	2,900.00
State of NH Grant	3,600.00
Total Grants	<u>6,500.00</u>
Membership Income	
Donations	11,510.00
Total Membership Income	<u>11,510.00</u>
Non-Membership Income	<u>1,140.00</u>
Total Income	<u>19,150.00</u>
Gross Profit	19,150.00
Expense	
Program Services	
Watershed Management	
Consultants	16,253.21
Total Watershed Management	<u>16,253.21</u>
Total Program Services	<u>16,253.21</u>
Total Expense	<u>16,253.21</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>2,896.79</u>
Net Income	<u><u>2,896.79</u></u>

MPPA
Profit & Loss
 January 1 through July 20, 2016

	Jan 1 - Jul 20, 16
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Bank Interest	1.07
Events Income	200.00
Fund Raising Income	50.24
Grants	
State of NH Grant	2,000.00
Total Grants	2,000.00
Membership Income	
Donations	200.00
Dues	500.00
Total Membership Income	700.00
Non-Membership Income	3,500.00
Total Income	6,451.31
Gross Profit	6,451.31
Expense	
Management & General	
Dues & Donations	
ASLPT	100.00
Lake Sunapee Protective Assoc.	100.00
Loon Preservation Committee	50.00
NH Lakes Association	500.00
Total Dues & Donations	750.00
Fees	
Government	75.00
PayPal	4.34
Total Fees	79.34
Miscellaneous	0.00
Total Management & General	829.34
Program Services	
Lake Hoisting	3,200.00
Water Testing	266.00

MPPA
Profit & Loss
January 1 through July 20, 2016

	<u>Jan 1 - Jul 20, 16</u>
Watershed Management Consultants	<u>670.00</u>
Total Watershed Management	<u>670.00</u>
Total Program Services	<u>4,136.00</u>
Total Expense	<u>4,965.34</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>1,485.97</u>
Net Income	<u><u>1,485.97</u></u>