From: ANR - WSMD Lakes
To: Jensen, Kimberly

Subject: FW: Treatment of Eurasian Milfoil
Date: Thursday, November 9, 2023 6:47:25 PM
Attachments: Eurasain Milfoil Letter to VT Officials.docx

Thank you,

Kelcie Bean (she/her)

You may now submit permit applications, compliance reports and fee payments through our online form to expedite its receipt and review: <u>ANR Online Intake Form</u>



Kelcie Bean (she/her), Environmental Technician

Vermont Agency of Natural Resources | Department of Environmental Conservation Watershed Management Division | Business & Operation Support Services (BOSS)

1 National Life Drive, Davis 3 | Montpelier, VT 05620-3522

802-490-6195 (o/c) | Kelcie.bean@vermont.gov

http://dec.vermont.gov/watershed

The Agency of Natural Resources supports telework, and I work primarily remotely. I am available to connect by phone and email.

Public Records Statement: Written communications to and from state officials regarding state business are considered public records and may be subject to public scrutiny.

From:

Sent: Thursday, November 9, 2023 6:02 PM

To: ANR - WSMD Lakes <ANR.WSMDLakes@vermont.gov>

**Subject:** Treatment of Eurasian Milfoil

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EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Please see attached statement. Thank you for your consideration.

Lake Beebe Property Owner

## COMMENTS TO THE ACT 57 STUDY COMMITTEE

My family and I have maintained a seasonal residence on Lake Beebe in Hubbardton since 1985, a period of 38 years. Our three children learned to swim, catch fish, canoe, and sail on Lake Beebe. We hope our grandchildren will be able to experience similar lake-life activities in the future.

Unfortunately, Eurasian milfoil infiltrated the lake causing the beauty and usefulness of the lake for recreation to be severely impacted. The milfoil created heavy mats of weeds so dense it appeared that one could walk across it.

It was virtually impossible to swim through it. Fish that were caught would sometimes become tangled in the milfoil leading to snapping of the line with the hook or lure unfortunately remaining hooked to the fish.

Boat or canoe oars would be fouled by the milfoil. Electric trolling motors could also not move through it. (Note motorboats are not allowed at Lake Beebe to help maintain the cleanliness of the lake water.)

Also, by the end of the summer the milfoil gave off a very unpleasant smell.

When the milfoil died off as winter approached it would sink to the bottom creating a deep silt (>12") layer on the lake bottom, ready to grow again in the following spring.

Mechanical harvesting was never used because we were informed that harvesting created many smaller pieces of the milfoil, multiplying its growth.

Thankfully, ProcellaCOR was successfully used on Lake Beebe twice. It was professionally applied in accordance with our permit. Warnings specifying precautions to be taken during the application period were prominently displayed around the lake.

Now, all recreational uses such as swimming and boating can be enjoyed without the milfoil intrusion. Fishing has remained excellent with populations of bass, northern pike, perch, and bluegill. My experience and observation indicate that most fisherman practice catch-and-release.

Eagles are now often seen grabbing fish from the lake thanks to the increased lake clarity.

Our follow-up lake inspections required by our permit indicated near elimination of the invasive Eurasian Milfoil. In fact, its elimination has provided space and light for native plants to thrive, and the fishing continues to be robust.

I have seen the progressive environmental damage and negative effects of Eurasian milfoil on lake Beebe. It seems the ProcellaCOR process has been a safe, efficient, and cost-effective method of eliminating this invasive species.

Please allow the continued use of the ProcellaCOR process to counter the negative effects of Eurasian milfoil.

Sincerely,

