

June 29, 2007

TO: Members, Messer Pond Protective Association
FROM: MPPA Board of Directors
SUBJECT: Messer Pond Watershed Evaluation - Vote on Engineering Contract

Summary

The purpose of this letter is to advise the Membership of an important business item on which we will be voting at the July 28th Annual Meeting and to provide information to the Membership about this issue in advance before the vote is taken.

Background

A major issue of last year's Annual Meeting was the protection of our pond from sand, silt, salt and other runoff. While the discussion focused primarily on the impact of Forest Acres Road and whether or not it should be paved, the Membership also directed the Board to obtain additional information concerning the best surface options for Forest Acres Road; as well as more data concerning the impact of feeder streams and other sources that positively and negatively affect Messer Pond.

The Board has worked diligently on this issue by communicating with experts at Colby-Sawyer College, the Town of New London, the New London Conservation Commission, the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, and the Sunapee Area Watershed Coalition (SAWC). The Board also contacted the University of New Hampshire and other state agencies dealing with watershed issues. The additional research and information gathering was extremely productive and has made very clear that the potential dangers to our pond are much broader than just the impact of Forest Acres Road and what road surface would best mitigate the negative impact on Messer Pond. As residents of other water bodies in our area have learned, Messer Pond must expand its consideration of protecting the pond to watershed and water flow management in general. Lake Sunapee and Chalk Pond are both well into the process of examining these issues and appropriate remedies. Benefiting from the research and experiences of our sister lakes, the Board also met with Mr. Charles Hirshberg of CLD Consulting Engineers based in Manchester, NH. CLD has been in business for 30 years and provides a comprehensive range of professional services including surveys, site planning, water resource engineering, environmental engineering, structural engineering, as well as land development and planning. CLD is currently conducting a watershed study for Chalk Pond and Mr. Hirshberg, as a member of SAWC, is working on watershed issues for the Lake Sunapee area.

All of the Board members found the meeting with CLD extremely enlightening and it reinforced the more expansive nature of the issues facing Messer Pond. Most importantly, the experiences of our sister lakes and our meeting with CLD made clear that the first step in this process should be a professional evaluation of the Messer Pond watershed. Such an evaluation would include an overview of the uses and activities within the watershed; potential impacts associated with runoff within the watershed including drive areas, culverts, road ditches, interstate drainage; issues on individual lots and new development of lots within the watershed, such as the new Snow development; slope concerns and a review of Messer Pond's perimeter with specific input from members about known issues. Significantly, the evaluation would also include recommendations and options for corrective action. That evaluation in turn would be used to develop a watershed management plan to protect the water quality of Messer Pond in both the short and the long term. A recommendation about the proper surface for Forest Acres Road as well as other roads in the watershed would be a part of the watershed management plan. CLD's evaluation and recommendations will be shared with the Membership. Where appropriate, the recommendations will be presented to the town and state agencies in our management plan so that available government funds would be used to address watershed issues within their areas of responsibility.

Board Recommendation

The Board recommends that the MPPA enter into a contract with CLD Consulting Engineers to conduct an evaluation of the Messer Pond watershed. The MPPA has the necessary funds in the Capital Reserve fund to cover the cost of the evaluation. The cost of this comprehensive evaluation, including recommendations for corrective action, is \$4,300. CLD could begin the evaluation as early as August of 2007 and would present its report two or three months thereafter. The primary mission of the Messer Pond Protective Association is to oversee and ensure the well being of Messer Pond and to ensure the health and beauty of our pond not only for those who live here now, human and wildlife, but also for future generations. The Board believes that this is the most important issue ever faced by the Membership. For that reason, we believe that MPPA should proceed with the evaluation process by entering into a contract with CLD Consulting Engineers. We can assure the Membership that the evaluation will involve input from as many homeowners as are willing within the Messer Pond watershed.

Our recommendation of CLD is based on two major factors. First, CLD is a local company and thus knows the state geography and topography as well as the applicable state and local regulations, and has worked extensively with state agencies on watershed issues. Second, CLD has considerable experience with lakes in the New London area facing similar issues as Messer Pond. Both of these factors would greatly benefit the evaluation of the Messer Pond watershed.

Action Item for Annual Meeting

The Membership will be voting on the watershed evaluation contract at the Annual Meeting. Because time at the meeting is limited, a 30-minute discussion period will be provided before the vote. However, the Membership is encouraged to pose questions prior to the Annual Meeting so that the Board can provide the Membership with answers before the vote is taken. Questions may be communicated to Betty Brown, MPPA Secretary, at lbrown1@tds.net or 526-6352. Below is a list of websites that provide additional information about watershed issues and CLD Consulting Engineers.

For those who cannot attend the Annual Meeting, a proxy form is attached to the enclosed Annual Meeting notice. It is very important that the proxy be returned if you cannot attend. A stamped return envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

We emphasize that this is just the beginning, not the end of this project. We welcome volunteers from the Membership who would be interested in working on this very critical issue. We urge anyone interested to contact Betty Brown. Thank you.

Additional Information

Better Back Roads: <http://www.anr.state.vt.us/cleanandclear/bbroads.htm>

Center for Stormwater Technology Evaluation and Verification:

<http://ciceet.unh.edu/news/releases/cstev.html>

CLD Consulting Engineers: <http://www.cldengineers.com/>

Colby-Sawyer College Pleasant Lake Watershed Portfolio Project:

<http://www.colby-sawyer.edu/academic/ces/curriculum/thirdyearprojects/2006thirdyear/index.html>

Colby-Sawyer College Lake Sunapee Watershed Portfolio Project:

http://www.colby-sawyer.edu/academic/ces/curriculum/thirdyearprojects/2004_project_report.html

Limiting Impervious Surface Cover and Protecting Water Resources:

<http://www.nhep.unh.edu/resources/pdf/limitingimpervioussurface-rpc-o5.pdf>

Management Plan for the Lake Waukewan Watershed:

<http://www.meredithnh.org/pdfdocs/WWAC%20Management%20Plan.pdf>

NH Estuaries Project: <http://www.nhep.unh.edu/resources/pdf/theimpactsof-nhep-04.pdf>

Sunapee Area Watershed Coalition: <http://www.sunapeewatershed.org/>

UNH Stormwater Center: <http://www.unh.edu/erg/cstev/>