

Long Pond (Belgrade) Watershed-Based Management Plan

#2008PP33

Waterbody Name: Long Pond

Location: Belgrade, Mount Vernon, Rome,
Vienna – Kennebec County

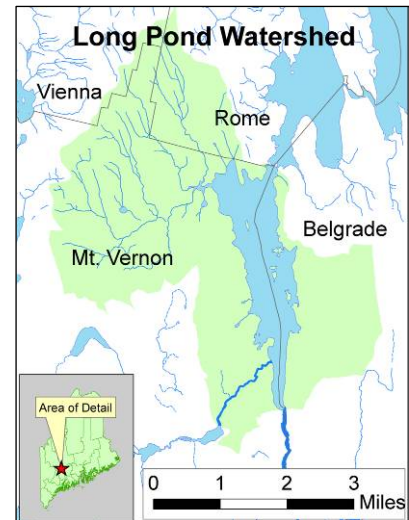
Waterbody Status: Impaired, NPS Priority Watershed

Project Grantee: Kennebec County SWCD

Project Duration: December 2008 – December 2009

604b Grant Amount: \$23,270

Local Match: \$13,905



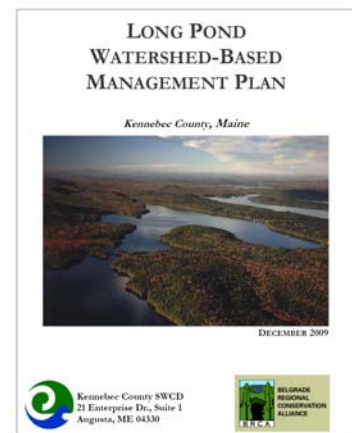
PROBLEM:

Long Pond is a large (4.2 square mile) dual basin lake and the sixth lake in the Belgrade chain of lakes. It has a direct watershed of 22 square miles and an indirect watershed of 64 square miles, which includes the watersheds of Great Pond, North Pond, East Pond, Salmon Lake and McGrath Pond. Over the past three decades, total phosphorus levels have increased and the water clarity has declined in Long Pond by more than one meter. In 2006, Maine DEP listed Long Pond as having “impaired” water quality based on decline in trophic status. In April 2008, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency approved the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) evaluation conducted by DEP. The TMDL found upstream watersheds, primarily Great Pond, as a major source of phosphorus to Long Pond.

A 2002 NPS watershed survey documented 211 sites that have an impact on water quality. Over two-thirds of the sites were residential sites, 11% were driveways and 6% were private camp roads. In 2007 and 2008, Colby College’s Environmental Assessment Team conducted watershed analyses and land-use studies of Long Pond. They documented over 400 buffer and road sites with “fair” or “poor” ratings and made recommendations for specific improvements.

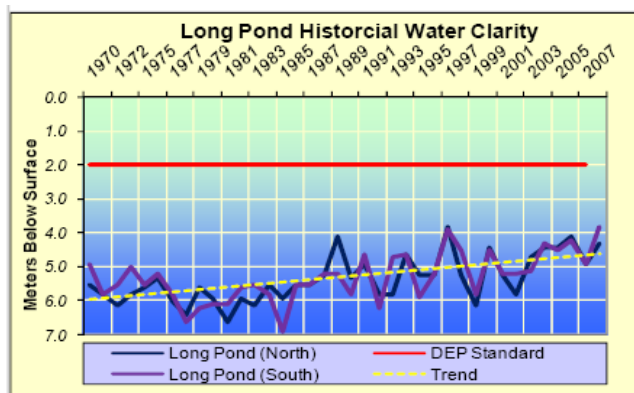
PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The goal of the project was to develop a community supported watershed-based management plan that would identify actions needed to improve or stabilize water quality in Long Pond. Project staff and the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance (BRCA), a regional land and lake trust, developed the project work plan to engage stakeholders and develop local support. FB Environmental Associates provided extensive consultant services to facilitate the planning process and help develop the plan under guidance of the steering committee.



PROJECT OUTCOMES:

- The *Long Pond Watershed-Based Management Plan* was completed in December 2009. The BRCA and the Long Pond Watershed Steering Committee will carry out the plan over the next 10 years. In 2010 they will work to develop sustainable funding to implement this plan.
- The plan provides a “road map” for the Long Pond Steering Committee outlining work needed in six categories: Education & Outreach, Municipal Ordinances, Private & Public Roadways BMPs, Septic Systems, Monitoring & Assessment, and Administration & Funding. Each category details specific action items, responsible parties, potential funding sources, approximate costs, and an implementation schedule.
- A *Buildout Analysis* (September 2009) was completed to estimate potential future land use development and impact of phosphorus export in the Long and Great Pond watersheds to help the towns consider how to plan for growth and protect lake water quality and community resources.
- A thorough evaluation of existing ordinances and sustainable development principles was completed. Recommendations to improve ordinances are summarized in the *Long Pond Municipal Ordinance Review* (September 2009).
- Over 60 stakeholders contributed comments at the community forum to kick-off the project.



Participants at the community forum

PROJECT PARTNERS:

Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance (BRCA)
Belgrade Lakes Association
Towns of Belgrade
Town of Rome
Town of Mount Vernon

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Suggested Citation:

Maine Department of Environmental Protection (2010) “Nonpoint Source Management Program 2009 Annual Report,” Document# DEPLW-1159 2010. Augusta: MDEP.