

Hancock and Sand Ponds Conservation Project – Phase I

#2007RR03

Waterbody Names: Hancock Pond and Sand Pond

Location: Sebago and Denmark –
Cumberland and Oxford Counties

Waterbody Status: NPS Priority Watersheds

Project Sponsor: Cumberland County SWCD

Project Duration: April 2007 – February 2010

319 Grant Amount: \$75,000

Local Match: \$56,424



PROBLEM:

Hancock and Sand Ponds have a combined surface area of 1,114 acres and watershed area of 5.7 square miles. The ponds are ringed with approximately 200 seasonal and year round camps, and Hancock Pond has two heavily-used boat launches.

Local volunteers and Lakes Environmental Association (LEA) have monitored Hancock and Sand Ponds' water quality since 1975. Water quality is considered above average in both ponds. However, Hancock Pond has experienced moderate depletion of dissolved oxygen in the bottom waters in late summer and is considered to have a moderate potential for algal blooms. In 2005, Cumberland County SWCD and the Hancock and Sand Ponds Association (HSPA) conducted a watershed survey (#2005P-08). Volunteers and technical staff identified 79 erosion sites in the watershed with residential areas (79%), private roads (20%), driveways (17%) and town roads (12%) comprising the majority of sites.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of the project was to significantly reduce erosion and export of sediment and phosphorus into Hancock and Sand Ponds. The project aimed to install conservation practices at 12 high and medium priority sites from the watershed survey and provide technical assistance to 30 landowners. Matching grants up to \$300 were available to assist 20 landowners with installing conservation practices on their properties.

Project opportunities and updates were shared with the community through a project fact sheet, press releases, a post card mailing to 250 property owners, and presentations to the Towns of Sebago and Denmark and the HSPA's annual meetings. Project articles were also included in partner newsletters and websites. Other workshops and presentations included a Homeowner Conservation Practice Workshop, a Gravel Road Maintenance Workshop and a presentation to the Town of Sebago's Planning Board on shoreland zoning. A final project brochure was created to showcase project accomplishments.



Contractor, Al Greene, talks about proper road material at a Gravel Road Workshop

PROJECT OUTCOMES:

- The project addressed erosion problems at 18 high and medium priority sites from the watershed survey. This included 15 private road sites and three town road sites.
- 30 watershed residents received matching grants to purchase materials and install conservation practices. Since several landowners used less than the allotted \$300 grant, funds were available for additional landowners to take advantage of this program (20 grants planned, 30 awarded).
- Pollutant loading to Hancock and Sand Ponds was reduced by over 64 tons of sediment and 54 pounds of phosphorus per year (Region 5 Method and WEPP Model).
- The 48 construction sites completed through the project used a wide variety of conservation practices. Project work included 14 sediment basins, 1000 feet of new ditching, 6 turnouts, 150 native plants, 6 rubber razor diverters, 11 new culverts, 6 infiltration trenches and one concrete catch basin.



PROJECT PARTNERS:

Hancock and Sand Ponds Association
Lakes Environmental Association
Town of Denmark
Town of Sebago

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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