

Damariscotta Lake Watershed Management Plan Implementation Project

#2001R-11

Waterbody Name: Damariscotta Lake

Location: Jefferson, Nobleboro, and Newcastle – Lincoln County

Waterbody Status: NPS Priority Watershed, Most at Risk

Project Sponsor: Damariscotta Lake Watershed Association

Project Duration: February 2001 – December 2006

319 Grant Amount: \$99,790

Local Match: \$97,857



PROBLEM:

Damariscotta Lake is a large lake (4,625 acres) of exceptional regional value for its recreational offerings and its significant cold water fishery. The lake has a state park on its shore (approximately 50,000 visitors each year) and is in a high growth region of the state. Water clarity in each of the lake's three basins is below the state average, and phosphorus levels are high enough to support algal growth. There is a severe loss of dissolved oxygen in the deep water in late summer, with release of phosphorus from the bottom sediments occurring in two of the basins.

Much of Damariscotta Lake's 46.4 square mile watershed was surveyed for NPS sources in 1990, 1992, and 1999. Approximately 305 NPS problem sites were identified in these surveys. Runoff, erosion, and sedimentation problems were found associated with roads, residences, commercial establishments, agriculture, and forestry operations. A watershed management plan was completed in 2001.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of this project was to maintain or improve the water quality of Damariscotta Lake by implementing specific objectives of the Damariscotta Lake Watershed Management Plan. The project eliminated or reduced sources of sediment and phosphorus pollution by implementing BMPs at high priority sites and supplying training, technical assistance, and incentives to encourage the installation of additional BMPs.

The project also held workshops to promote BMPs in agriculture, forestry, road, and construction activities. Project staff also worked with towns to promote careful planning for undeveloped areas, identification of sensitive habitats, and preservation of significant areas through the land trust. Long-term public support and involvement was encouraged through public outreach using newsletters, publications, presentations and an elementary school program.



PROJECT OUTCOMES:

- The project completed 24 BMP demonstration cost-share projects and provided technical assistance to landowners at 26 additional sites.
- Project staff developed the booklet, *How to Create a Lake-Friendly Road Association*, and distributed more than 200 information packets containing this booklet.
- Six annual (2001-2006) “Water Wonder Days” were held to educate sixth grade public school students about watershed and NPS pollution concepts.
- DLWA published 10 quarterly issues of its newsletter, *The Watershed*, and distributed 2000 copies annually to watershed residents. DLWA also created and maintained its website (www.dlwa.org).
- Project staff assisted in reviewing and revising water resources sections of the Newcastle, Nobleboro, and Washington Town Comprehensive Plans.
- The Project Manager and two DLWA volunteers were certified in erosion and sedimentation control by Maine DEP. A first responder team was created to assess erosion problems immediately following major stormwater events.

Rain garden installed through project.



Road, ditch and culvert stabilization



PROJECT PARTNERS:

Knox-Lincoln SWCD
Towns of Newcastle
Town of Nobleboro
Town of Washington
Maine Department of Transportation
Maine Lakes Conservancy Institute
Maine DEP Stream Team Program
Non-Point Source Education for Municipal Officials (NEMO)
Sheepscot Valley Conservation Association

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Suggested Citation:

Maine Department of Environmental Protection (2007) “Nonpoint Source Management Program 2006 Annual Report,” Document# DEPLW0836 2007. Augusta: MDEP.