

Webber Pond Phosphorus Reduction Project

#2005R-09

Waterbody Names: Webber, Threemile and Three-Cornered Ponds

Location: Augusta, China, Vassalboro, Windsor –
Kennebec County

Waterbody Status: Impaired, NPS Priority Watersheds

Project Grantee: Kennebec County SWCD

Project Duration: March 2005 – December 2007

319 Grant Amount: \$77,362

Local Match: \$59,700



PROBLEM:

Three-Cornered Pond drains to Threemile Pond, which then drains into Webber Pond via Seaward Mills Brook. The combined watershed size is approximately 22.5 square miles. Webber and Threemile Ponds have a history of algal blooms during late summer, and there is a general downward trend in water quality in all three ponds. As a result, all three ponds are listed as Impaired by the Maine DEP.

The DEP's TMDL reports for each pond outline past pollution control efforts, reported sources of phosphorus loading and recommendations for corrective actions. Internal loading from sediment in the ponds is the largest single contributor of phosphorus to the lakes. However, in-lake alum treatments were not recommended because of the expense and continued contribution of land-based pollution sources after treatment, which could again eventually allow phosphorus to exceed the pond's capacity. Past surveys showed that 58% of the 400 residences on the shorelines of the three ponds had moderate to high impacts on water quality. Roads were also significant NPS sources.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

This project attempted to reduce phosphorus loading in the three watersheds by implementing actions proposed in TMDL reports and Watershed-Based Plans. Gravel roads and shorelines were the primary pollution sources targeted, and landowners, road associations and towns received intensive outreach and technical assistance along the 45 camp roads and 31 miles of town roads in the tri-watershed.

Cost-sharing was used to implement BMPs on 39 NPS problem sites. Project staff also provided 60 watershed landowners with technical assistance and specific recommendations for their roads and properties. Watershed education and outreach included press releases, road maintenance workshops, presentations and distribution of educational materials. This project was administered in conjunction with a 'twin' project (#2005R-26) using the same Steering Committee, in an attempt to create a more cost-effective, efficient and better-managed effort.



Casey Road – stabilized road surface and ditch

PROJECT OUTCOMES:

- 39 NPS problem sites were treated with BMPs in the watersheds. This includes 24 sites on Three-Mile Pond, nine sites on Webber Pond and five sites on Threecornered Pond.
- Pollutant loading to the ponds was reduced by an estimated 11.9 tons of sediment, 10.0 pounds of phosphorus and 20.2 pounds of nitrogen (US EPA Region 5 Method and WEPP Method).
- Approximately 60 parties received on-site technical assistance.
- 21 individuals participated in road maintenance workshops, which were held in conjunction with project #2005R-26, *The Webber Pond Watershed Erosion Control Project*.
- Three lake associations and several private road associations participated in the project and received useful information regarding NPS pollution control.



PROJECT PARTNERS:

China Region Lakes Alliance
Town of China
Town of Vassalboro
Town of Windsor
City of Augusta
Maine Department of Agriculture

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Tony St. Peter, DEP – (207) 287-2116, tony.stpeter@maine.gov
John Blais, Kennebec County SWCD – (207) 622-7847, john@kcsxcd.org

Suggested Citation:
Maine Department of Environmental Protection (2008) “Nonpoint Source Management Program 2007 Annual Report,”
Document# DEPLW-0913 2008. Augusta: MDEP.