

LQIC - Lake Quality Improvement Committee

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I would like to share with you what the expanded weed committee is doing.

First off, the members of the committee come from both the east and west sides of the lake. Lake Hayward is a huge asset and property owners from both sides of the lake have a stake in the health and quality of the lake.

Committee members are: Ed Bader, Cari Eckert, Wolf Koste (east side), Tim Pelton (east side), Randy Miller, Felicia Tencza, and Gail Grzegorzczak.

The initial and primary purpose of the committee is to investigate methods to mitigate the ongoing problem of invasive aquatic plants. While at Lake Hayward we know them as milfoil and fanwort, there are additional invasives, present in other CT lakes, that pose an increasing threat to our lake. However, maintaining the health of the lake goes beyond just treating the invasives as they are identified. The committee's scope will expand based on the talent and interest of the stake holder members to pursue additional goals. Committee membership will be flexible to bring in property owners who have a skill/talent/interest/background/or work ethic to pursue and spearhead important lake quality efforts.

As to the committee name...although *weed committee* does roll off the tongue, LQIC more accurately describes what we hope will be the ongoing efforts of the committee. We seek to improve the quality of the lake in the many ways it takes, beyond invasive weed mitigation. A few of them are to educate and encourage use of riparian buffer plantings (see Second Beach demonstration project <https://sites.google.com/site/eightmilehayward/about>), remediate septic tank leachate, prudent use of turf and garden fertilizers and pesticides to reduce nutrient overload, erosion control, monitors at the state boat launch, and other efforts. But spearheading these efforts takes people power...those willing to help make and keep the lake healthy.

This committee can be your platform to contribute to the goal of a quality lake. We welcome your help!

The committee has met many times during the fall and winter. We recommended to the Board to continue the herbicide weed treatment approach this spring. The 2013 year-end report from our lake treatment vendor is posted on the Association's website [http://www.lakehaywardct.com/docs/Lake\\_Hayward\\_2013\\_Weed\\_Report.pdf](http://www.lakehaywardct.com/docs/Lake_Hayward_2013_Weed_Report.pdf). The report shows the areas treated in 2013 and the proposed 2014 treatment areas.

The committee initiated and continues discussions about additional weed mitigation options that can be used to supplement the herbicide treatment. Our first area of focus is suction harvesting and/or suction dredging. We sent out RFPs (Request for Proposal) to three suction harvesting/dredging vendors and one hand harvesting vendor. We hope to make a recommendation regarding weed

harvesting/dredging in the next several months. We are in the early stages of that process, but will provide updates in forthcoming POALH newsletters as the process matures.

One of our criteria for recommending a vendor is the vendor's ability to do lake restoration work (mitigate weeds and muck) for waterfront homeowners who might like their waterfronts improved. Lake restoration methods, to name the most common, are weed suction harvesting, suction dredging and bottom mat barriers. We will publish detailed information about these services and costs when a vendor is selected.

You can find a nice description of suction harvesting at one of the vendor's websites:

<http://aquaticinvasivecontrol.com/dive-services/aquatic-species-control/> .

Another mechanical treatment method used by some lakes is suction *dredging* (vs harvesting) for weed mitigation. You can see a description of it at:

[http://www.aquacleaner.com/spot\\_dredging\\_services.html](http://www.aquacleaner.com/spot_dredging_services.html) .

Lastly, I hope you will take a look at some of the good lake information found at the following lake interest groups' websites:

1) *The Connecticut Federation of Lakes*

We encourage you sign up for a free CFL membership and receive their electronic newsletter.

Sign up is found on their

website.<http://www.ctlakes.org/MenuDisplay.aspx?sess=95CEO50OZDEZZAERYOHC&BrowserHeight=463&BrowserWidth=960&Tree=CFL&HomePage=CFL-1>.

2) *The New England Chapter of the North American Lake Management Society (NEC-NALMS)*

<https://sites.google.com/site/necnalms/about-us>

3) CAES (CT Agricultural Experiment Station) has performed two surveys of the lake. Information can be found at: <http://www.ct.gov/caes/cwp/view.asp?a=2799&q=535034>

4) Most importantly, everyone is a *Lake Steward*. As a lake resident, you live in a watershed...even those cottages not adjacent to the lake. What you do affects the quality of the lake. The Connecticut River Coastal Conservation District has a very handy booklet to help you be a responsible *lake steward*. Please check it out at:

<http://www.conservect.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=mNdeGigUw7U%3d&tabid=232>