

Acton-Shapleigh Youth Conservation Corps

P.O. Box 47
Springvale, ME 04083-0047

To: Mousam Lake Region Association
Glenn Baxter, President
Directors – Skip Bartosch, Raymond, Cressey, Rich Eagleston, Linda Fraser,
Jack Kelley, Elliot Levine, Dennis Roberge, Mark Rousseau and James Verity

From: Acton-Shapleigh YCC
President, Bill Sherman

Date: January 16, 2010

Re: Annual Budget Submission – Information Packet

We are pleased to present this packet of information to the Board of Directors to assist with their deliberations concerning our submission for the Mousam Lake Region Association budget for the year 2010.

The packet includes the following:

- 2010 Submission letter dated January 16, 2010
- Summary Report of Activities, 2010 Goals and Snapshot of Finances
- ASYCC Organization Chart for 2010
- 2009 ASYCC Program Report (Hardcopy/10 CD's) *Previously Distributed 11/21/09*
- EPA Lake Assessment Report - featuring Mousam Lake

We wish to once again thank the MLRA for its strong support of our efforts to protect our resources, which play such a strong role in the economy and quality of life in our region.

Acton-Shapleigh Youth Conservation Corps

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To: Directors of Mousam Lake Region Association
Date: January 16, 2010
Re: Annual Budget Submission

The Acton-Shapleigh Youth Conservation Corps (ASYCC), a non-profit association serving the Mousam Lake and Square Pond watershed areas, wishes to submit for your consideration the following funding request for the Mousam Lake Region Association 2010 Budget.

\$4,500	Operating Budget Contribution
5,000	Membership Contributions to Support Water Quality *
<u>6,500</u>	Net Proceeds from Golf Tournament to benefit ASYCC *
\$ 16,000	Anticipated Support for ASYCC

** Funding from these sources is based on 2009 revenue and it is subject to increase or decrease based on funds raised.*

We wish to thank the MLRA for its dedication and support of the ASYCC in 2010. Your \$19,500 in funding assisted greatly in our ability to overcome our budget shortfall and meet our program goals for 2009!

As you know, the ASYCC is a community based non-profit organization whose main goal is to protect our lakes and water quality in the Mousam watershed area through the application of effective erosion control measures, technical assistance, public outreach/education and courtesy boat inspections. The group works in close alliance with the local Code Enforcement Officers, the York County Soil & Water District (YCSWD), local lake associations and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection.

In 2009, the ASYCC again made solid progress in addressing the goals of the organization. Like a broken record from 2008, we were again challenged by the weather this past season. Rains of late spring and early summer posed a challenge to our erosion control program, but helped demonstrate the need for erosion control projects throughout the watershed. Schedules were difficult to meet, but none-the-less we worked through the challenge and completed sixteen projects. The staff supporting our Courtesy Boat Inspection program stayed very busy at the public boat ramps of Square Pond and Mousam Lake, despite the weather.

To date the ASYCC has completed 169 erosion control projects since our inception in 2001. The efforts of our organization have brought positive results to the campaign to reverse the damage erosion has done to the Mousam Lake and Square Pond watersheds. However there is still more work to be done. To date, projects in the watershed have touched less than 20% of the potential property owners that border

Mousam Lake and Square Pond. In 2009, the group has increased its efforts to work with local road associations and municipalities to assist with larger projects that are having a significant impact on the watersheds. We believe that our outreach in this area will be a valuable support for the community and instrumental in preserving the quality of our lakes.

Our Courtesy Boat Inspection crew continued their efforts this year with the inspection of 2,549 boats and the collection of 18 plant fragments. Both were records for the program. Inspections were up almost 100% over 2008. Of important note, were the species of two of the plant fragments that were discovered. They were determined to be invasive and of great danger to the water bodies. One fragment was believed to have originated locally in Lake Arrowhead and the other from a lake in Massachusetts. Both lakes are known to have a large infestation of invasive plants. The effort to raise awareness of the threat to our lakes, by invasive plants, is gaining solid momentum. Public response to the inspections continues to be favorable and recognized as our last line of defense for our lakes.

The threat of invasive plants in the region and the continued erosion of property in the watershed demand our attention. The environmental, recreational and economic life of this region depends on the good stewardship of our valuable natural resources. The Acton-Shapleigh Youth Conservation Corps has made great progress over our nine years of service to the community, but the need still grows. With the continued support of the property owners and boaters in the watershed, the dedicated financial support of the towns of Acton and Shapleigh, the lake associations and private donors, and the hard work of all those involved in our effort; the ASYCC will continue to be a valuable asset to the community and a protector of our lakes.

Please find enclosed a copy of our draft 2010 budget. This is a preliminary projection of anticipated income for the 2010 season and the expenses related to a full season of meeting our project goals. Also included is a 2009 Annual Season Program Report prepared by our Technical Director

Mousam Lake is no longer receiving grant monies to protect the lake, and Square Pond is completing their grant from the state. The ASYCC is truly the last line of defense. For many years now, the MLRA, through its funding of the ASYCC, has been at the forefront of the effort to control erosion in and around area watersheds and to control the spread of invasive plants into these resources. We thank you once again for this invaluable support, and ask that you consider continuing that support that we might maintain the efforts to build on these past endeavors and continue to provide jobs and training for local youth.

We look forward to discussing this request, and our 2010 goals, with you further.

Bill Sherman
President

(207) 636-1379
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Acton-Shapleigh Youth Conservation Corps
Summary Report of 2009 Activities, Goals for 2010 and Finances

Who are we?

The ASYCC's primary functions within the Mousam Lake, Square, Goose, and Loon Pond, watersheds area are to:

- Provide technical assistance and complete erosion control demonstration projects, at the invitation of landowners or towns
- Oversee Courtesy Boat Inspection program at public boat launches
- Educate and promote best management practices for controlling erosion and guarding against invasive plants

We work independently, but in concert with lake associations, York County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection.

Activities of note in 2009:

- ❖ Technical Director Amanda Loomis completed her second season with the ASYCC and also completed her master's degree at the Muskie School. Amanda has relocated back to her hometown in Vermont and the ASYCC has begun efforts to fill her vacancy.
- ❖ Lake Association Support - The lake associations continue to vigorously support our program. This year Mousam Lakes Region Association increased its support by 40% and Square Pond Improvement Association has pledged a 100% increase
- ❖ Weather Conditions – Once again poor conditions in the late spring and early summer stalled the initial start to the season with project requests dropping from recent years. None-the-less several larger scale projects kept the crew active. Late summer saw a surge in requests for technical visits. As a result, a record number 24 projects await the crew on the 2010 potential projects list.
- ❖ Prior ASYCC Projects – This year the organization undertook an evaluation of larger projects completed by the group in prior years. We have identified this as a critical responsibility of the group. Many of the larger scale projects on camp roads and other public access points require occasional maintenance to maintain their effectiveness.
- ❖ Beaches – Time was spent at both the Shapleigh Town Beach on Square Pond and the "Foot of the Lake" on Mousam to clean up the area and make improvements to the sites. These improvements included plantings, the creating footpaths to direct the flow of traffic of beach goers and the placing of other erosion control measures.
- ❖ CBI Program - The Courtesy Boat Inspection had a very successful year. To date, no known invasive plants have established themselves in the watershed area. The CBI program is recognized as a major deterrent to the spread of

these plants. The public continues to identify this service as a very valuable resource to the community.

- ❖ Material Transportation – Transportation of material and equipment has been a problem in the past. In 2009, ASYCC entered into a leasing agreement with U-Haul to secure a pickup truck for M-F use during the Erosion Control Crew Season. This financially was a good investment and a great resource to the crew.
- ❖ ASYCC Organization - The ASYCC Board of Directors has had a full year now at a full compliment of seven directors. The commitment of these seven members is paying great dividends for the organization. The board has implemented controls, policies and procedures in all facets of the organization to insure that we are operating effectively and responsibly.

Our goals for the ASYCC in 2010:

- Hire new program and crew management staff, with an emphasis on redistributing the work load to insure that each position is staffed economically and effectively to meet the goals of the organization and the needs of the community
- Increased technical visits for property owners in the watershed
- Continue to build lines of communication with the local town governments, YCSWCD, the lake Associations and Road Associations, with a focus on ASYCC becoming the “go-to” organization for many of the concerns involving the health of the watershed.
- Continued success with our Courtesy Boat inspections on Mousam Lake and Square Pond
- Sponsoring of erosion control workshops for property owners
- Promote the use of volunteer Courtesy Boat Inspectors on both Square Pond and Mousam Lake, with the goal of expanding the hours of coverage to include the entire boating season
- Promote the use of volunteer lake monitors to patrol the lakes regularly to guard against the undetected growth of invasive plants.
- Work with local organizations to infuse additional grant monies that may be available to lakes within our watershed. ASYCC is seen as a critical component to the matching local funds required to secure these grants.
- Continue to increase presence in the community, promoting the health of our lakes and the need for all to protect our natural resources

Acton-Shapleigh Youth Conservation Corps

Our record, by the numbers:

	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	To Date
Erosion Control Demonstration Projects	16	20	18	26	18	17	17	15	20	167
<i>By towns:</i>										
Acton	2	6	8	16	11	9	4	7	10	73
Shapleigh	14	14	10	10	7	8	13	8	10	94
By lakes:										
Upper Mousam	9	9	6	6	9	10	11	8	9	77
Lower Mousam	0	1	1	4	1	2	1	1	3	14
Square Pond	6	6	7	3	1	2	2	1	3	31
Goose Pond	1	1	2	2	1	1	2	1	2	13
Loon Pond	0	3	2	11	4	1	1	3	2	27
Other	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	1	5
Technical Visits	33	32	48	65	17	31	30	35	60	351
Courtesy Boat Inspections	2549	1421	1051	580	617	585	506			7309
# of Inspections By Lakes:										
Mousam Lake	2316	1239	1042	553	616	573	506			6845
Square Pond	233	182	9	27	1	12				464
# of Hours By Lakes:										
Mousam Lake	1286	1139	667	390	404	367	320			4573
Square Pond	376	106	22	37	8	20				569
Plant Fragments Collected:										
Mousam Lake	14	7	33	5	8	7	0			74
Square Pond	3	1	0	1	0	1				6

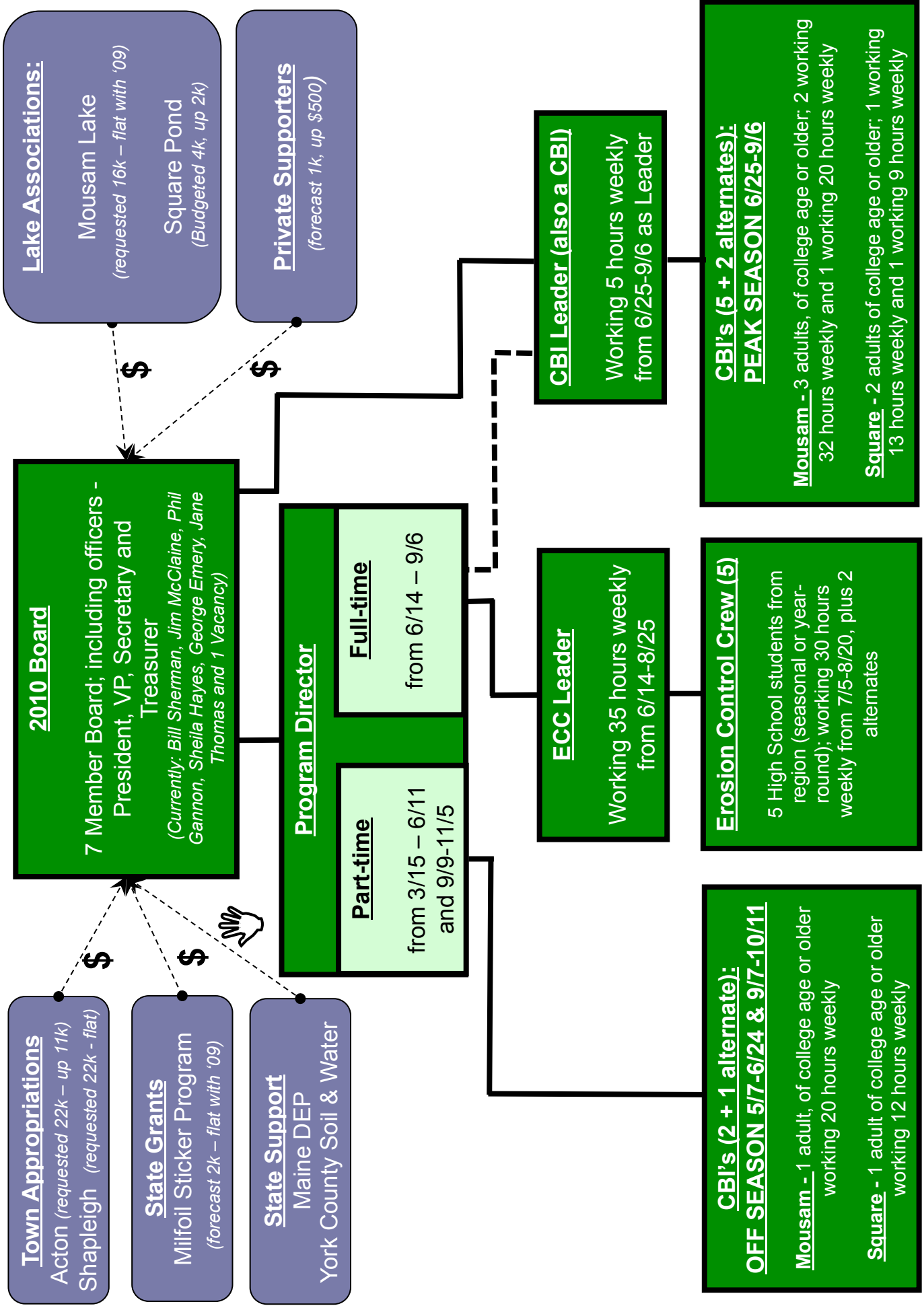
A snapshot of our finances:

		Draft Budget 2010	2009	2008	
Income					
Town Appropriations *1	Acton	22,000	11,000	\$22,000	
	*1 Shapleigh	22,000	22,000	22,000	
Lake Association Support *2					
	Mousam	16,000	19,500	14,000	
	*3 Square	4,000	2,000	2,000	
	Grant Funding	Cost Share Grant	2,000	1,500	2,000
	Other Income *4	750	917	173	
TOTAL INCOME		66,750	56,917	\$62,173	
Expenses					
	Payroll *5	51,600	48,212	\$44,153	
	Insurance	Liab., W/C, D&O, etc.	5,400	3,306	4,688
	Operations	Supplies, postage, etc.	3,500	3,021	2,619
	Transport/Storage	Rental & Storage Unit	2,500	2,402	
	Net Program Costs	Net of reimbursements	2,200	850	1,275
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$65,200	\$57,791	\$52,735	
NET Income (Deficit) *6		\$1,550	(\$874)	\$9,438	

- Notes: *1 – Town appropriations numbers reflect requested funding not approved funding
*2 – Mousam funding is based on 2010 funding requested and anticipated fundraisers
*3 – Square funding is based on 2009-2010 approved budget
*4 – Other Income includes donations and interest income
*5 – Payroll numbers include related taxes and a 4x increase in 2010 Unemployment Insurance Costs from the State of Maine.
*6 – 2008's season was cut short, reducing payroll expenditure and excess funds were used for working capital to start the next season – funding for ASYCC has been coming later in the season each year and therefore we need to rely on these carry over funds to provide the needed working capital to sustain operations during that cash flow deficit.

Acton-Shapleigh Youth Conservation Corps

1/15 Draft Organization and Funding Structure for 2010



Town Appropriations
Acton (requested 22k - up 11k)
Shapleigh (requested 22k - flat)

State Grants
Milfoil Sticker Program
(forecast 2k - flat with '09)

State Support
Maine DEP
York County Soil & Water

Lake Associations:
Mousam Lake
(requested 16k - flat with '09)
Square Pond
(Budgeted 4k, up 2k)

Private Supporters
(forecast 1k, up \$500)

2010 Board
7 Member Board; including officers -
President, VP, Secretary and
Treasurer
(Currently: Bill Sherman, Jim McClaine, Phil
Gannon, Sheila Hayes, George Emery, Jane
Thomas and 1 Vacancy)

Program Director
Part-time
from 3/15 - 6/11
and 9/9-11/5
Full-time
from 6/14 - 9/6

ECC Leader
Working 35 hours weekly
from 6/14-8/25

CBI's (2 + 1 alternate):
OFF SEASON 5/7-6/24 & 9/7-10/11
Mousam - 1 adult, of college age or older
working 20 hours weekly
Square - 1 adult of college age or older
working 12 hours weekly

CBI Leader (also a CBI)
Working 5 hours weekly
from 6/25-9/6

CBI's (5 + 2 alternates):
PEAK SEASON 6/25-9/6
Mousam - 3 adults, of college age or older; 2 working
32 hours weekly and 1 working 20 hours weekly
Square - 2 adults of college age or older; 1 working
13 hours weekly and 1 working 9 hours weekly

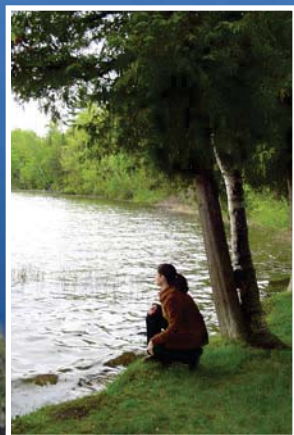
Erosion Control Crew (5)
5 High School students from
region (seasonal or year-
round); working 30 hours
weekly from 7/5-8/20, plus 2
alternates



National Lakes Assessment

A Collaborative Survey of the Nation's Lakes

DRAFT



CHAPTER I. INTRODUCTION

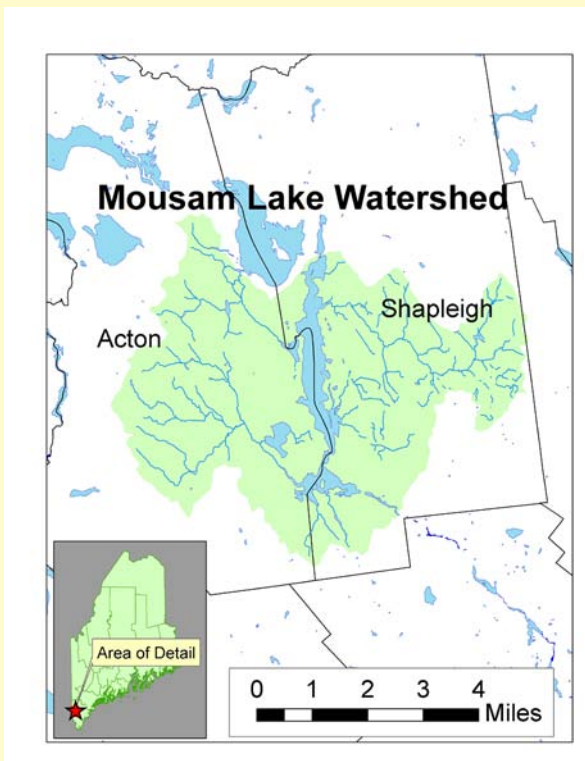


IN THIS CHAPTER

- ▶ A Highly Valued and Valuable Resource
- ▶ Why a National Survey?
- ▶ The National Aquatic Resource Surveys

HIGHLIGHT

Think Globally — Act Locally. Restoring Mousam Lake



“Every little bit helps,” is perhaps the fundamental tenet of the estimated 3,000 to 4,000 local watershed groups across the country. Many communities are proving that they can make a noticeable difference in their neighborhood water resource. In York County, Maine, the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and the Mousam Lake Regional Association (MLRA) together with residents, townships, state agencies and others embarked on the Mousam Lake Water Quality Improvement Project. With widespread collaboration and a little bit of funding, they were able to clean up an impaired lake.

Confronting Environmental Challenges

Mousam Lake, a 863-acre lake located at the southern point of Maine, is a popular spot for boaters, anglers, and vacationers with its sandy shores and excellent cold and warm water trout fisheries. However, this 21- square mile watershed suffered from suburbanization and the conversion of forested land to driveways and parking lots. The lake’s shoreline is heavily developed with over 700 seasonal and year-round homes and a heavily used boat ramp. For the past

several decades, Mousam Lake has endured increased soil erosion and pollution from stormwater runoff from home construction, lawns, roads, and failing septic systems. Higher levels of phosphorus has led to increased algal growth, decreased water clarity and lower levels of dissolved oxygen. In the 2003 Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) assessment, excess phosphorus was identified as the major impairment. This downward trend in water quality resulted in a steady decline in the lake’s once viable ecology and that of its surrounding aquatic habitats. Maine’s Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP) attributes the problem to soil erosion and polluted runoff from residential properties and camp roads and effluent from inadequate septic systems located in the sandy soils around the lake. The TMDL assessment estimated that to meet Maine water quality standards, the annual amount of phosphorus reaching the lake would need to be reduced by 27%.

A Decade of Effort

Since 1997, the York County SWDC, MLRA, MDEP, and the towns of Acton and Shapleigh have been working together to address sources of pollution in Mousam Lake and foster long-term watershed stewardship. In 1999, the Mousam Lake Water Quality Improvement Project began. With help from EPA, the Maine Department of Transportation and the Maine Department of Agriculture, negotiated cost share agreements with public and private landowners and best management practices were initiated at 45 priority sites. Technical assistance was provided to another 77 landowners. Projects included stabilizing shoreline erosion, improving gravel road surfaces and installing and/or upgrading roadside drainages. Twenty-one roads were repaired. In 2001, the Lake Youth Conservation Corps program was established to help with the implementation of best management practices, raise local awareness and commitment



to lake protection, and involve local youth in environmental stewardship. Since 2007, the youth have completed over 115 projects and continue to repair an average of 18 sites each year with annual support from the towns of Acton and Shapleigh. The total cost for the project was \$1.1 million with local townspeople and others contributing over \$400,000 in matching funds or in-kind services.

A Cleaner, Healthier Lake

In 1998 MDEP designated Mousam Lake as impaired and added it to the state's section 303(d) list of waters not meeting water quality standards, a requirement of the federal Clean Water Act. From 1999 through 2006, a galvanized community tackled the problem and in 2007, monitoring results indicated that pollution loads in the lake were reduced by more than 150 tons/per year of sediment and 130 pounds/per year of phosphorus. Water clarity depth has increased by a full meter from what it was in the lake ten years ago. Today, erosion control projects continue thus keeping an estimated 76 tons of sediment and 64 pounds of phosphorus out of the lake each year. In 2006, Mousam Lake was removed from the state's 303(d) list of impaired waters.

Staff and a small cadre of local leaders are continuing their campaign to keep the lake in good health. Community outreach and education activities are ongoing to inform residents on how they can help. As part of the project, numerous newsletters have gone to every household in the watershed; MLRA holds annual meetings; the SWCD conducts workshops and delivers presentations; 30 construction sites have been acknowledged with "Gold Star" signs for environmental stewardship; and more than 200 homeowners attended one of the thirteen "Septic Socials" to learn about septic system function, proper maintenance and water conservation.

Every Little Bit Helps

In many, many instances, small, local efforts can provide incentives and moral support for others. The success of the Mousam Lake project has inspired protection efforts on several neighboring lakes. The Acton Wakefield Watershed Alliance, the Square Pond Association, and the Loon Pond Association are now busy with their own restoration activities. For more information or tips from the people at Mousam Lake, contact Joe Anderson at York County SWCD at (207) 324-0888, janderson@yorkswcd.org or Wendy Garland (MDEP) at (207) 822-6320, wendy.garland@maine.gov.



Vegetated buffer planting by Master Gardeners.

