



Maine Department of Environmental Protection

Nonpoint Source Management Program 2006 Annual Report



May 2007

Agency Contact: Don Witherill, Director - Watershed Management Division
Donald.T.Witherill@maine.gov, (207) 287-7725
Website: <http://www.maine.gov/dep/blwq/docgrant/319.htm>



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI
GOVERNOR

DAVID P. LITTELL
COMMISSIONER

May 8, 2007

To the Reader:

On behalf of the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, I am pleased to announce the release of our Nonpoint Source Management Program 2006 Annual Report. As in the last two years, the report shows that there is a high level of energy around the State of Maine to assess, protect and restore our lakes, streams and coastal waters.

The good news is - we're seeing signs these efforts are paying off. We celebrated the removal of Cobbossee Lake from the impaired water list, and likewise, have seen five other lakes come off the list, including Mousam Lake, Highland Lake and Long Lake, where significant efforts in the watersheds over recent years have contributed to the success. And while we applaud the efforts of the dedicated project sponsors and their partners in those watersheds, we realize too, that many other threatened waterbodies may be kept off the impaired list altogether because of similar efforts. Our philosophy of taking the "ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" approach appears to be well founded based on findings regarding lakes on the "watch list" (see the 2006 Highlights).

We thank all of you who have played a role in these efforts and have conveyed the message to EPA and our Congressional delegation that the NPS Program is working in Maine!

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Witherill".

Don Witherill, Director
Division of Watershed Management
Bureau of Land & Water Quality

AUGUSTA
17 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0017
(207) 624-6550 FAX: (207) 624-6024
RAY BLDG., HOSPITAL ST.

BANGOR
106 HOGAN ROAD
BANGOR, MAINE 04401
(207) 941-4570 FAX: (207) 941-4584

PORTLAND
312 CANCO ROAD
PORTLAND, MAINE 04103
(207) 822-6300 FAX: (207) 822-6303

PRESQUE ISLE
1235 CENTRAL DRIVE, SKYWAY PARK
PRESQUE ISLE, MAINE 04769-2094
(207) 764-6477 FAX: (207) 764-1507

web site: www.maine.gov/dep

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|-----------|
| A. <u>Nonpoint Source Management Program Summary</u> | 1 |
| NPS Program - 2006 Highlights | |
| B. <u>Introduction</u> | 3 |
| C. <u>Nonpoint Source Management Program</u> | 3 |
| 1. Overview - Maine NPS Management Program | |
| 2. Protecting Clean Waters | |
| 3. Cleaning Up Impaired Waters | |
| 4. Support for Local Watershed Stewardship Groups | |
| D. <u>NPS Grants Program</u> | 10 |
| 1. Overview of NPS Water Pollution Control Projects | |
| 2. NPS Water Pollution Control Projects Funded in 2006 | |
| 3. Results: Request For Proposals - FY 2007 Grants for NPS Pollution Control Projects | |
| 4. WIFAP - Watershed Improvement Financial Assistance Partnership | |
| E. <u>Summaries of NPS Water Pollution Control Projects Completed in 2006</u> | 14 |
| F. <u>DEP NPS Program & Project Activities</u> | 76 |
| 1. Overview | |
| 2. Summaries | |



The Maine Department of Environmental Protection acknowledges that preparation and publication of this report was funded, in part, with monies provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under Section 319 of the Federal Clean Water Act

A. Nonpoint Source Management Program Summary

Nonpoint source (NPS) pollution is a challenging water quality problem in Maine and throughout America. Every time it rains, stormwater runoff washes off driveways, roofs, parking lots, roads, agricultural fields, construction sites, forestry operations and other surfaces carrying pollutants to our streams, lakes, ocean and groundwater. NPS pollution is caused by excess sediment or nutrients, high bacteria, toxic substances, increased water temperature, altered water flows, etc. Due to NPS pollution, over 250 lakes in Maine do not meet water quality standards or may be impaired in future years because of increasing development in their watershed. NPS pollution impairs the water quality of numerous streams and coastal waters.



DEP helps watershed groups assess water quality problems and take action to reduce NPS water pollution.

To help protect Maine's threatened waters and restore NPS impaired waters, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) administers Maine's Nonpoint Source Management Program. DEP helps watershed groups across the state assess water quality problems and take action to reduce or remove nonpoint sources of water pollution. During 2006, there were more than 100 active projects funded, in part, by DEP's NPS Grant Program. Federal grant money, authorized under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act, is awarded to DEP by the EPA. Through the NPS Grant Program, DEP issues grants to local project sponsors who provide a minimum of a 40% match to the grant funds. These projects help communities improve watersheds, reduce pollutant loads to help protect Maine's clean waters or restore impaired waters.

DEP also uses 319 funding for other programs designed to identify, prevent or reduce NPS water pollution problems. Staff provide technical assistance to local watershed groups and run education and outreach programs for a variety of audiences, including developers, building contractors, municipal officials, school children and the general public. Funds support assessment work through the Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program and through stream sampling for benthic macro-invertebrates (i.e., bugs that live on stream bottoms). Funds are used to develop Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) assessment reports for waters impaired primarily by NPS pollution, as required by Federal law. Since 2000 DEP completed TMDL reports for 31 NPS impaired lakes or streams as a first step toward restoration of water quality. This annual report will describe these and many other programs supported by 319 funding.

NPS Program - 2006 Highlights

- In June Governor John Baldacci announced that Cobbossee Lake has been removed from the 303d list due to the success of long term watershed restoration and protection efforts. After more than 35 years of local NPS efforts and treatment plant upgrades, the lake has been free of nuisance algae blooms for the past nine years. In 2007, Cobbossee Lake will be highlighted on the EPA's "Success Stories" website (<http://www.epa.gov/nps/Success319/>).
- DEP removed five other NPS impaired lakes from the 303(d) list because water quality standards are now being met. Water testing has shown a persistent improvement and/or stabilization of water quality. Improvements in Mousam Lake, Highland Lake and Long Lake can be at least partly attributed to the considerable sustained watershed restoration and protection work in preceding years.

- DEP removed 12 lakes from the "Watch List" because monitoring data acquired over the past four years confirm that the lakes are meeting water quality standards. Six of these 12 lakes had considerable 319-funded watershed protection work in the past five to ten years, which may have helped stabilize water quality. The Watch List identifies lakes that DEP suspects are declining in water quality and need to continue monitoring closely to confirm status.
- 30 NPS projects funded through the 319 program in previous years were successfully brought to completion. See page 14 for a concise two-page summary of each project.
 - Restoration or protection work was accomplished in 15 lake and 6 stream watersheds:

Lakes - China Lake; Clary Lake; Damariscotta Lake; Echo Lake; Forrest Lake; Long Pond; Maranacook Lake; Mousam Lake; Sabattus Pond; Sebacook Lake; Threecornered Pond; Threemile Pond; Togus Pond; Unity Pond; and Webber Pond

Streams - Bond Brook; Fish Brook, Northern Stream; Old Stream; South Perley Brook; and the Weskeag River.
 - NPS Watershed Surveys describing nonpoint pollution sources were completed for 9 watersheds:

Lakes – Dexter Lakes; Hancock and Sand Ponds; Little Ossipee Lake; and Taylor Pond

Streams – Goosefare Brook; Kennedy Brook; North Great Works River; Sandy Stream; and Trout Brook
- NPS Watershed Projects that were completed in 2006 reported estimated reductions in the amount of sediment and phosphorus loading to lakes or streams. In total, pollutant loading was reduced by about 3900 pounds of phosphorus and 6500 tons of sediment per year, which is equivalent to about 560 (8 yard) dump truck loads of sediment.
- 18 new NPS Water Pollution Control Projects were funded through both a competitive grant process and the Watershed Improvement Financial Assistance Partnership, which the DEP supports in cooperation with the Maine Department of Agriculture and Maine's 16 Soil and Water Conservation Districts.
- Significant progress was also made on other 319 funded programs. See page 76 for a summary of each program. Some highlights include:
 - Over 1700 people (contractors, engineers, consultants, site evaluators, municipal officials and landowners) participated in training programs to learn methods to prevent NPS pollution sponsored by DEP's Nonpoint Source Training and Resource Center. The number of contractors certified in erosion and sediment control practices increased to 524 contractors.
 - The Maine Lake Volunteer Monitoring Program reached a level of 514 certified volunteer water quality monitors in the program and monitored 575 lake basins in Maine. The total non-federal match generated by the volunteers exceeded twice the 319 funding level.
 - DEP completed and received EPA approval of Phosphorus Control Action Plans (PCAPs) and Total Maximum Daily (Annual Phosphorus) Loading (TMDL) reports for 8 lakes. These reports are a first step towards restoration of water quality.

B. Introduction

The Maine Department Environmental Protection (DEP) delivers services to control nonpoint source water pollution to help protect or improve Maine's lakes, streams, rivers and coastal waters. This report summarizes accomplishments of DEP's Nonpoint Source Program activities in 2006 funded, in part, under Federal Clean Water Act Section 319 program in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). DEP's NPS program services are guided by the *Maine Nonpoint Source Program: Program Upgrade & 15 Year Strategy*, adopted in 1999.

Since 1990, EPA has provided federal funds under Section 319(h) of the Clean Water Act to help states administer NPS management programs. States are obliged to use funds according to National NPS Program Guidelines published by EPA. Section 319(h)(11) requires States to report annually on progress in their nonpoint source management programs, report available information on reductions of nonpoint source pollutant loadings and report on improvements to water quality resulting from implementation of NPS management programs.

DEP has overall coordination responsibility for the Maine Nonpoint Source Pollution Program (38 MSRA 410). Seven other state agencies share responsibility for coordinating and implementing NPS programs as a part of their programs. This report does not cover NPS work accomplished by the seven other state agencies.

C. Nonpoint Source Management Program

1. Overview: Maine NPS Management Program

Maine's Nonpoint Source (NPS) Water Pollution Management Program (38 M.R.S.A. §410-I) helps restore and protect water resources from NPS pollution. The basic objective of the NPS program is to promote the use of state agency-defined "best management practice guidelines" (BMPs) to prevent water pollution.

The overall aims of Maine's NPS Water Pollution Control Program are as follows:

- **Clean Water.** Prevent, control, or abate water pollution caused by nonpoint sources so that beneficial uses of water resources are maintained or restored and waters meet or exceed their classification standards.
- **Using Best Management Practices.** Best Management Practices are widely used in all Maine's watersheds to minimize transport of pollutants or excessive runoff from the land into surface or ground waters.
- **Locally Supported Watershed Stewardship.** Local community awareness results in commitment to maintaining or improving the condition of local water resources through citizen action. Watershed stewardship meets community needs and maintains beneficial uses of local water resources.
- **Compliance with Applicable Laws.** Regulated activities comply with existing State and Federal laws and rules that relate to control of nonpoint source water pollution.

DEP administers the NPS Program in coordination with other State, federal, and local governmental agencies as well as non-government organizations. Seven other State agencies share responsibility for

coordinating and implementing NPS programs: Maine Departments of Agriculture Food & Rural Resources; Conservation, Maine Forest Service; Transportation; Economic & Community Development; Health & Human Services, Division of Environmental Health; Marine Resources, and the State Planning Office.

State agencies conduct programs that: (1) implement enforceable authorities (State laws, rules and municipal ordinances) governing specific land use activities or locations that require people to comply with certain performance standards to protect water quality; and (2) promote voluntary usage of BMPs. Maine's NPS agencies have working arrangements with other State and federal agencies, municipalities, non-governmental organizations, and business sector associations to help control or prevent nonpoint source water pollution.

Statewide regulatory programs implement several laws that control potential sources of NPS pollution, including: the Stormwater Management Law; the Site Location of Development Law; Erosion and Sedimentation Control Law; the State Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Rules; the Natural Resources Protection Act; Land Use Regulation in Unorganized Territories; Pesticide Control laws; the Mandatory Shoreland Zoning Law; the Nutrient Management Act; the Forest Practices Act and others.

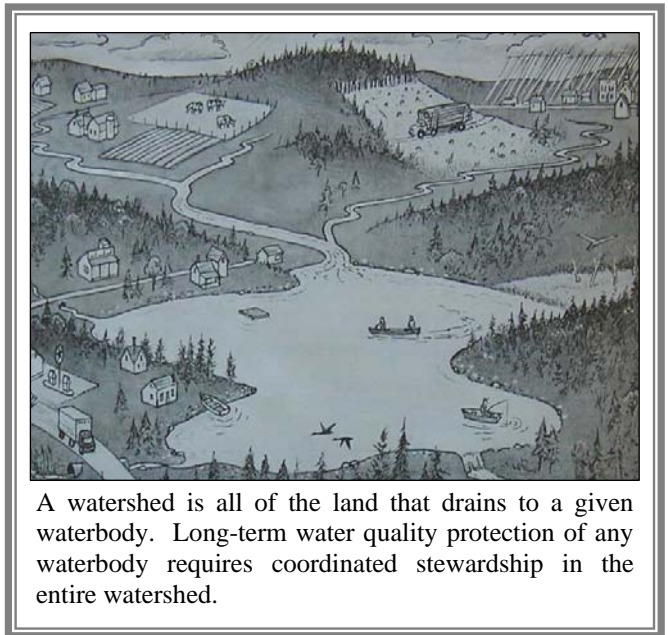
Maine's lead NPS agencies encourage voluntary actions by governments, organizations, industry and individuals to prevent or minimize the discharge of NPS pollutants. Program resources are assigned to support efforts to improve and protect waters that are threatened or impaired by NPS pollution. Maine's lead NPS agencies provide technical assistance and information about BMPs to agencies, municipalities, businesses and individuals. The NPS Training and Resource Center at DEP provides information and technical training on usage of BMPs. DEP administers grants to help fund NPS Water Pollution Control Projects to prevent or reduce water pollution caused by nonpoint sources.

For information about Maine Best Management Practice Guidelines go to:
<http://www.maine.gov/dep/blwq/training/npspubl.htm#bmp>

DEP NPS Management Activities

Watershed planning and management is an approach to protecting water quality and quantity that focuses on whole watersheds. This is a departure from the traditional approach of managing individual wastewater discharges, and is necessary due to the nature of polluted runoff, which in most watersheds is the biggest contributor to water pollution. Polluted runoff is caused by a variety of land use activities, including development, transportation, agriculture and forestry, and may originate anywhere in the watershed. Due to its diffuse nature, polluted runoff has not been effectively managed through regulatory programs alone.

Watershed planning and management involve a number of activities, including: targeting priority problems in a watershed; promoting a high level of involvement by interested and affected parties; developing solutions to problems through the expertise and authority of multiple agencies and



A watershed is all of the land that drains to a given waterbody. Long-term water quality protection of any waterbody requires coordinated stewardship in the entire watershed.

organizations; and measuring success through monitoring and other data gathering.

DEP watershed management activities are directed at the state, river basin, or individual watershed level. Education and training programs, many of which are offered through the Nonpoint Source Training & Resource Center, are designed to reach citizens living and working in the individual watersheds. Technical assistance is also offered by DEP staff to local groups, who are interested in surveying sources of pollution within their watersheds and/or implementing BMPs. The DEP administers grant programs that assist non-profit organizations in carrying out these activities.

At the basin level, the DEP organizes monitoring and assessment of water quality around the major river basins and bases wastewater license decisions on this information. At the state level, the DEP works with other state and federal agencies, and non-government organizations to establish lists of the highest priority lakes, rivers and streams, and coastal waters. This information is used to direct agency resources to those watersheds. In addition, the DEP administers permit programs to manage potential new pollution sources throughout the organized municipalities in the state, including the Site Location Law, Natural Resources Protection Act and the Stormwater Management Law.

2. Protecting Clean Waters

Section 319 of the Federal Clean Water Act provides a significant portion of the funding that DEP uses to control NPS water pollution. DEP especially values and relies on 319 funds to provide financial assistance for locally-driven watershed projects. In 2006 about 40% of Maine’s 319 funds were passed-through to local organizations for NPS watershed projects to help protect threatened or restore impaired waterbodies.

Maine has significant water quality protection and restoration challenges and relatively limited resources for its NPS programs. DEP prioritizes and balances the use of available NPS resources to protect or restore lakes, streams and coastal waters. Prevention of water pollution is a daunting challenge as our watersheds face increased development pressures over the years. DEP has learned that prevention of water pollution is far more feasible and less expensive than restoration of an already impaired waterbody. Therefore, DEP has invested a considerable portion of available NPS resources into protecting vulnerable threatened waters.

Lakes Removed from “Watch List”

DEP’s 2006 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report removed 12 lakes from the Watch List because monitoring data acquired over the past four years confirm the lakes are meeting water quality standards. The “Watch List” identifies lakes that we suspect are declining in water quality and need to continue monitoring closely to confirm status. Six of these 12 lakes had considerable 319-funded watershed protection work in the past 5 to 10 years, which may have helped stabilize water quality. The lakes are Kennebunk Pond, Little Sebago Lake, Taylor Pond, Thomas Pond, Tripp Pond and Watchic Lake.

| Lakes Removed from Watch List | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Bay of Naples | Square Pond |
| Kennebunk Pond * | Taylor Pond* |
| Leighs Mill Pond | Thomas Pond* |
| Little Sebago Lake* | Tripp Lake* |
| Northeast Pond | Watchic Lake* |
| Norton Pond | Woodbury Pond |
| * recent significant 319 work | |

3. Cleaning Up Impaired Waters

DEP monitors water quality conditions of the state's rivers, lakes and coastal waters. Monitoring is conducted to determine if the public can use the waters for designated uses such as recreation, swimming,

fishing, shellfish harvesting, and drinking water supply, and the waters can support healthy habitats for fish and wildlife. If water quality is degraded, then the waterbody can not support its designated uses and does not attain water quality standards. Then, the waterbody is considered impaired or unhealthy. DEP maintains a list (TMDL List) of waters that do not meet state water quality standards.

State and federal water quality laws require that waters meet or exceed their water quality standards. Therefore, restoring impaired waters is a major priority. Basically, restoring impaired waters involves three steps:

- **Assessment.** DEP must establish a pollution allocation (Total Maximum Daily Load - TMDL) for each impaired water, in accordance with Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. A Total Maximum Daily Load assessment provides an estimate of how much pollution from point sources (e.g., industrial and municipal wastewater treatment plants) and nonpoint sources (e.g., runoff from urban land use, agriculture, roads, forestry, etc.) needs to be reduced in order meet state water quality standards.
- **Watershed-based Planning.** Preparation of a watershed-based plan is needed to describe overall actions needed in a watershed to help restore water quality. A watershed-based plan meeting EPA's 9 minimum elements of watershed planning is required before receiving 319 funds for a NPS Watershed Project to help restore an impaired waterbody.
- **Implementing Pollution Reduction Measures.** Communities, agencies and individuals take action to apply conservation practices or best management practices (BMPs) to eliminate or control sources of nonpoint source pollution. Usually work needs to be conducted over 5 to 10 years or more to restore an impaired waterbody. DEP provides technical and limited financial assistance to help communities improve watersheds and restore waters.

TMDL Assessments

In 2006, DEP completed TMDL reports for eight waterbodies. Through 2006, TMDL Assessments are now complete for a total of 37 waters. Of these, 28 lakes and three streams are impaired primarily due to nonpoint sources. Six rivers and streams are impaired primarily by point sources. For more information about TMDLs and impaired waters, refer <http://www.maine.gov/dep/blwq/docmonitoring/tmdl2.htm>.

Watershed-based Plans

DEP used 319 funds to develop watershed-based plans to guide future NPS implementation work for seven NPS impaired watersheds: Annabessacook Lake; East Pond; Hart Brook; Long Creek; Pejajawoc Brook; Sabattus Pond; and Unity Pond. Six additional plans will be completed in 2007. Long Creek's plan will be completed in 2008. The watershed-based plan is intended to a strategic plan for actions needed over a 5 to 15 year timeframe to achieve the load reductions called for in a TMDL to restore an NPS impaired waterbody. The plan is not intended to be a detailed tactical work plan, such as a two-year work plan for a NPS Watershed Project.

| NPS Watershed Pollution Control Projects with Approved TMDL Assessment Reports | |
|---|-------------------------|
| China Lake | Sabattus Pond |
| East Pond | Sebasticook Lake |
| Highland Lake (Bridgton) | Threecornered Pond |
| Highland Lake (Windham) | Threemile Pond |
| Little Madawaska Lake | Togus Lake/Togus Stream |
| Long Lake (Bridgton) | Unity Pond |
| Mousam Lake | Webber Pond |
| Pleasant Pond | |

Cobbossee Lake Restored: 35 Years of Sustained Work Succeeds

Waterbody Improved

Cobbossee Lake had a long history of nuisance algae blooms that turned its once sparkling clear, trout-filled water murky green. Nonpoint source pollution in Cobbossee's watershed, as well as pollution from upstream lakes, delivered excess phosphorus into the lake. Elevated phosphorus levels promoted algal blooms which discouraged recreation, spoiled aquatic habitat, and caused the lake to not meet water quality standards. After 35 years of restoration work, including upstream alum treatments and widespread installation of best management practices, Cobbossee exhibits remarkably improved water clarity. The lake has been free of nuisance algae blooms for the last ten years and now attains water quality standards. This impressive recovery prompted the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to remove Cobbossee Lake from Maine's Section 303(d) impaired waters list in 2006.

Problem

Cobbossee, a large 5238-acre lake in central Maine, is valued by people for fishing, swimming, boating, and wildlife. One of Maine's premier bass fishing lakes, Cobbossee is also a secondary source of drinking water for Maine's capitol – Augusta.

In the 1960s, water quality in Cobbossee Lake began to deteriorate. Elevated nutrient (i.e., phosphorus) levels spurred the growth of noxious blue-green algae which reduced water clarity, formed green surface scums, and depleted oxygen in the bottom waters of the lake. The excess phosphorus in Cobbossee's watershed was caused by soil erosion and runoff from agricultural, residential, commercial land uses, and from the gradual conversion of forested land into developed land. The other significant source of phosphorus came from Annabessacook Lake, immediately upstream of Cobbossee. At one time, Annabessacook received sewage discharges from the Town of Winthrop, and this nutrient-rich sewage caused algae blooms. Although sewage discharges to Annabessacook Lake were eliminated by 1977, the phosphorus in the lake's sediments continued to "recycle" and flow into Cobbossee Lake.

The Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) assessment developed for Cobbossee Lake in 1995 estimated that two-thirds of the external phosphorus load came from the lake's direct 32 square mile watershed, and one-third came from the indirect upstream watershed. Agriculture accounted for about 60% of the phosphorus and developed lands accounted for about 40% of the phosphorus load. The TMDL showed that in-lake phosphorus needed to be reduced to 15 parts per billion (ppb), or 5,904 kg P/yr, in order for Cobbossee to attain Maine's water quality criterion for water clarity (more than two meters of Secchi Disc Transparency).



Governor Baldacci and Commissioner Littell
Recognize Clean-up of Cobbossee Lake

Project Highlights

Cobbossee Watershed District (CWD), formed in 1973, collaborated with nine municipalities, Maine DEP and federal agencies to restore Cobbossee Lake. In the 1970s and 80s, funding from EPA's Clean Lakes Program and USDA's Farm Bill Program helped farmers reduce polluted runoff on 31 dairy farms. Other farmers in this area received technical support from Maine DEP and USDA.

EPA funded two alum treatments that further contributed to Cobbossee's recovery. In 1978, CWD conducted an alum treatment in Annabessacook that greatly reduced the release of phosphorus from lake sediments. In 1986, an alum treatment and watershed BMPs at another upstream lake, Cochnewagon, further reduced phosphorus inputs to Cobbossee.

In addition, CWD helped towns and landowners adopt erosion control best management practices (BMPs) at homes, on town roads, and on private camp roads. In the early 1990s, five towns adopted ordinances requiring new developments be designed to meet strict phosphorus allocation standards for stormwater runoff. Under two EPA Section 319 funded projects in the 1990s, a significant number of erosion control and nutrient management practices were installed on dairy farms, along roads, and on residential properties. One of these Section 319 projects was in Jock Stream, a major tributary responsible for one-third of the phosphorus loading from Cobbossee’s direct watershed.

Results

Cobbossee Lake now meets water quality standards, which in Maine means that the lake has a stable or improving trophic state and has been free of culturally induced algal blooms. Maine DEP removed Cobbossee from the State’s 303(d) list during the 2006 cycle.

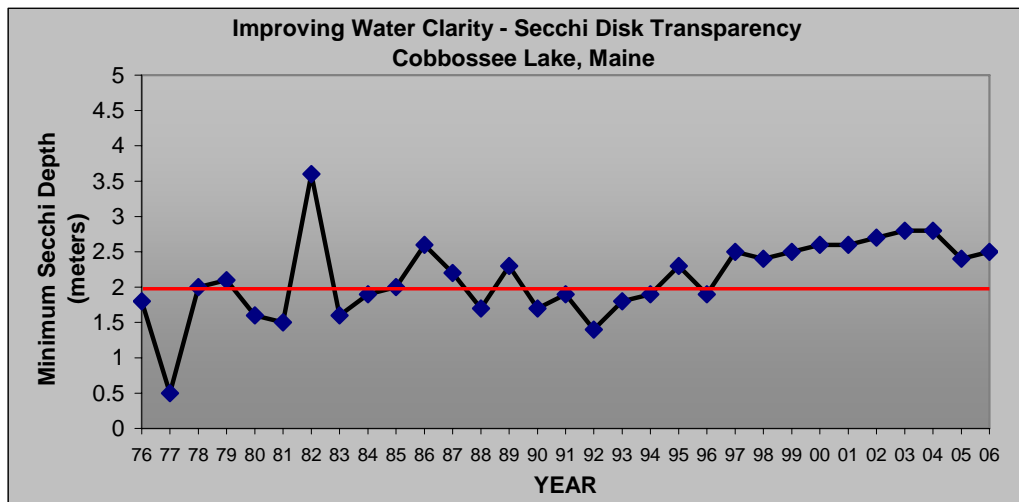


Table 1: Minimum Secchi Depth readings (1976–2006) indicate no nuisance algal blooms have occurred since 1997. Maine's definition of a nuisance algal bloom is a minimum Secchi disc transparency (SDT) of less than 2.0 meters in lakes.

Partners and Funding

Cobbossee Watershed District provided sustained leadership, water quality assessment, and technical services. Many local, state and federal partners contributed funding and services over the years. Key partners include: watershed towns, the Kennebec County Soil & Water Conservation District, USDA, Maine DEP, USEPA, Maine Department of Transportation, Cobbossee Lake Association, Annabessacook Lake Improvement Association, and Friends of Cobbossee Watershed.

From 1975 to 1985, EPA provided more than \$1 million in Clean Lakes grants for diagnostic studies and restoration activities, including alum treatments and BMP installations, throughout the Cobbossee Watershed District. Two EPA Section 319-funded projects helped control NPS in the watershed. From 1995 to 1998, CWD demonstrated effective erosion & sediment control BMPs using \$35,820 in Section 319 funds and \$23,880 in matching funds. From 1999 to 2004, Kennebec County SWCD reduced phosphorus and sediment export from roads and farms in the Jock Stream watershed using \$220,040 in 319 funds and \$152,117 in matching funds.

For additional information contact:

Norm Marcotte, Maine DEP, 207-287-3901, norm.g.marcotte@maine.gov
 William Monagle, CLM, Cobbossee Watershed District, 207-377-2234, monagle@powerlink.net

4. Support for Local Watershed Stewardship Groups

Protecting or restoring Maine's clean waters can be accomplished by local residents of a watershed with technical and financial assistance from DEP and other partners. Local watershed stewardship groups are needed for any project, plan or outreach effort to really take hold because they can increase local involvement in watershed management activities.

Building local capacity offers the best hope for sustaining action to protect Maine's lakes streams, rivers and coastal waters over the long term.

DEP invests considerable staff resources into helping local watershed groups get organized and carry out their goals and objectives. Building local capacity offers the best hope for sustaining action to protect or restore Maine's lakes, streams, rivers and coastal waters over the long term. Maine has many capable and determined watershed stewardship groups and conservation districts working to protect watersheds and clean water. For a list of local, regional and state-wide organizations protecting watersheds, go to <http://www.maine.gov/dep/blwq/group.htm>.

D. NPS Grants Program

1. Nonpoint Source Water Pollution Control Projects

DEP administers a NPS grants program to offer Section 319 grant funds for watershed-based projects that take actions to help restore or protect lakes, streams, or coastal waters that are impaired or considered threatened by polluted runoff. NPS projects help local communities identify water pollution sources in watersheds and take action to restore or protect clean water. Since 2002, DEP has prioritized grants for projects designed to take action over an entire watershed to protect or improve water quality. In 2006, DEP issued grants to help fund two types of watershed-based projects:

- **NPS Watershed Project.** Project focuses on implementing actions within an entire watershed to improve or protect a waterbody. The project is designed so that BMPs are implemented in a manner that leads to a significant reduction in NPS pollutant load to a waterbody. The load reduction is intended to improve or protect water quality of a waterbody. A NPS Watershed Survey (or other NPS assessment of equivalent detail) is needed to design and implement this type of project.
- **NPS Watershed Survey.** Project focuses on finding, describing and prioritizing NPS pollution sources in a watershed, and recommending BMPs for treating identified NPS sites. NPS Watershed Surveys provide essential information for planning and implementing NPS Watershed Projects.

2. NPS Water Pollution Control Projects Funded in 2006

In 2006, DEP provided 319 grants to start-up or continue NPS Water Pollution Control Projects. Fourteen (14) projects received grants as an outcome of the annual NPS Request for Proposals (RFP) issued in April 2005.

| Project # | Grantee | Project Title | Grant | Match |
|-----------|------------------------|---|----------|----------|
| 2006R-01 | Cumberland County SWCD | Long Lake Conservation Project Phase II | \$70,145 | \$48,177 |
| 2006R-02 | York County SWCD | Northern Great Works River Watershed Improvement Project, Phase I | \$34,593 | \$27,981 |

| | | | | |
|----------|---------------------------------|---|-----------|-----------|
| 2006R-03 | York County SWCD | Kennebunk Pond Watershed Improvement Project | \$49,333 | \$34,242 |
| 2006R-04 | Cumberland County SWCD | Little Sebago Lake Conservation Project II | \$79,854 | \$73,386 |
| 2006R-05 | Kennebec County SWCD | Pleasant Pond NPS Abatement Project | \$70,100 | \$50,700 |
| 2006R-06 | Town of Casco | Thomas Pond Conservation Project – Phase II | \$64,939 | \$50,120 |
| 2006R-08 | Kennebec County SWCD | Sheepscot West Branch NPS Control & Habitat Improvement | \$79,330 | \$59,550 |
| 2006R-11 | Trout Unlimited | Bond Brook Watershed Planning and Salmonid Protection Project | \$49,450 | \$34,800 |
| 2006P-12 | York County SWCD | Square Pond Watershed Survey | \$12,445 | \$11,372 |
| 2006P-13 | Androscoggin Valley SWCD | Nequasset Lake Watershed Survey | \$14,604 | \$9,785 |
| 2006P-14 | Lakes Environmental Association | McWain Pond Watershed Survey | \$9,138 | \$8,107 |
| 2003R-35 | Town of Westmanland | Little Madawaska Lake Conservation Project | \$79,700 | \$58,500 |
| 2003R-36 | Penobscot County SWCD | Pushaw Lake NPS Watershed Project - Phase I | \$96,090 | \$79,960 |
| 2003R-37 | China Region Lakes Alliance | China Lake NPS Reduction | \$60,905 | \$47,048 |
| Totals | | | \$770,626 | \$593,728 |

3. Results: Request for Proposals – FY 2007 Grants for NPS Pollution Control Projects

DEP issued the RFP in April, 2006 and received 27 proposals requesting about 1.2 million dollars. This response demonstrates that local community-based partnerships value clean water and are recognizing and finding solutions to NPS problems. A review committee evaluated and scored all the proposals. In July DEP announced the 11 highest ranked projects will be funded with FFY 2007 319 funds. DEP worked with grantees to adjust work plans as needed to secure final approval. Grants are planned to enable start-up of projects for April 2007.

FMI: Contact Norm Marcotte, DEP 207-287-7727 or norm.g.marcotte@maine.gov

**Results – Request For Proposals
FFY 2007 Grants for Nonpoint Source Water Pollution Control Projects**

| Project Type | RFP Allocation Target | Funds Requested | Funds to be Awarded April 2007 |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| NPS Watershed Project | \$470,000 | \$1,064,132 18 proposals | \$517,173 8 projects |
| Watershed Surveys | \$80,000 | \$135,186 9 proposals | \$42,716 3 projects |
| Totals | \$550,000 | \$1,199,318 27 proposals | \$559,889 11 projects |

NPS Projects to be Awarded NPS Grants in April 2007

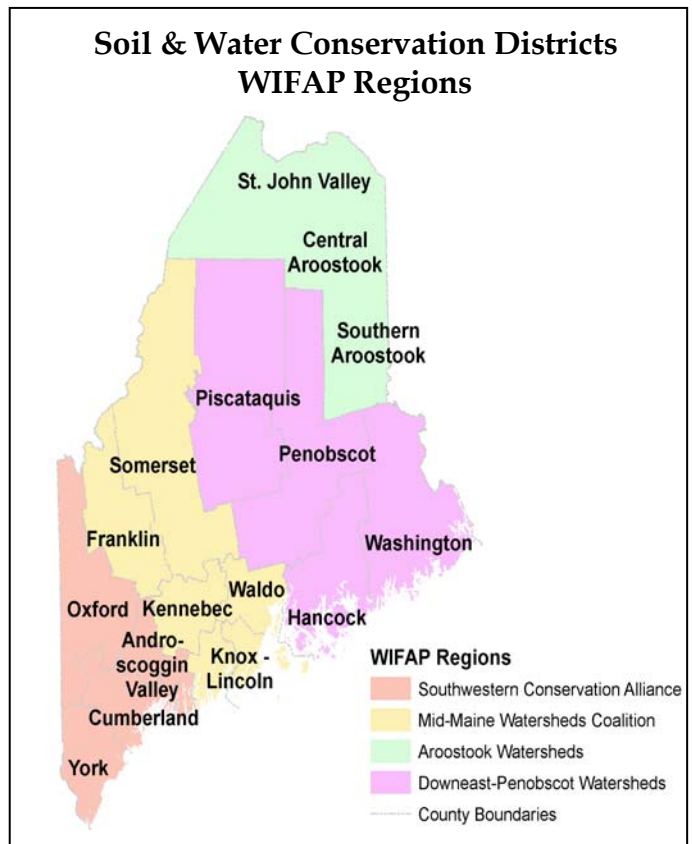
| Proposal | Sponsor | Grant | Match |
|---|---|-----------|-----------|
| NPS Watershed Projects | | | |
| Annabessacook Lake Rehabilitation Project | Cobbossee Watershed District | \$46,400 | \$44,800 |
| Branch Lake Watershed Improvement – Phase I | Hancock County SWCD | \$73,165 | \$51,941 |
| Cobbossee Lake Water Quality Protection | Kennebec County SWCD | \$72,640 | \$68,760 |
| East Pond Watershed Restoration - Phase III | Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance | \$50,545 | \$35,200 |
| Forest Lake Conservation Project - Phase II | Cumberland County SWCD | \$75,000 | \$58,228 |
| Hancock & Sand Ponds Conservation - Phase I | Cumberland County SWCD | \$75,000 | \$53,761 |
| Raymond Pond Conservation | Town of Raymond | \$54,238 | \$41,363 |
| Tacoma Lakes NPS Abatement | Kennebec County SWCD | \$70,185 | \$50,580 |
| NPS Watershed Surveys | | | |
| Goodall Brook Watershed Source Assessment | York County SWCD | \$14,635 | \$11,300 |
| Lincoln Lakes NPS Watershed Survey | Penobscot County SWCD | \$16,567 | \$11,500 |
| Pleasant Lake / Parker Watershed Survey | Pleasant Lake / Parker Pond Association | \$11,514 | \$9,406 |
| Totals | | \$559,889 | \$436,839 |

4. WIFAP - Watershed Improvement Financial Assistance Partnership

Background

The Watershed Improvement Financial Assistance Partnership (WIFAP) provides financial assistance to help Maine Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) conduct watershed-scale NPS projects to help restore or protect lakes, stream or coastal waters that are impaired or considered threatened. SWCDs help forge local partnerships (e.g., towns, watershed organizations, landowners) to reduce pollutant loading to waterbodies by installing BMPs (erosion & sediment controls, improving riparian areas, etc) at significant NPS sites in the watershed.

For WIFAP, Maine's 16 Districts organized into four watershed regions. Maine DEP, the Maine Department of Agriculture, EPA-New England and the Maine Association of Conservation Districts are cooperating partners.



WIFAP Projects Completed in 2006

The nine WIFAP-funded NPS projects listed below were completed in 2006. See Section F for a two-page summary of each project.

| NPS Project Title | Soil & Water Conservation District |
|---|---|
| Kennedy Brook NPS Watershed Survey | Central Aroostook |
| Little Ossipee Lake Improvement - Watershed Assessment | York County |
| Maranacook Lake Watershed NPS Reduction - Phase II | Kennebec County |
| Northern Stream Protection Project | Washington County |
| Old Stream Protection Project (Phase I) | Washington County |
| Old Stream Protection Project (Phase II) | Washington County |
| So. Perley Brook Restoration: BMP Implementation Phase II | St. John Valley |
| Sebasticook Lake Watershed Project Phase 2 | Penobscot County |
| Unity Pond Watershed Restoration- Phase I | Waldo County |

WIFAP Projects Awarded Grants in 2006

Soil and Water Conservation Districts in the four regions developed work plans for NPS projects under WIFAP Program Guidance. DEP and the Maine Department of Agriculture provided a \$50,000 grant award for each region. DEP required that 50% of WIFAP program funds be directed at implementing approved TMDLs. The Southwestern and Mid-Maine Regions applied WIFAP funds to help restore impaired waterbodies with approved TMDLs. There are over 20 lakes with approved TMDLs within the service area of the two Regions. Each region invested WIFAP funds in a TMDL watershed that already has considerable implementation activity and momentum. NPS Projects developed in 2006 are listed below.

| WIFAP Region Grantee | NPS Project Title | WIFAP Grant | Local Match |
|--|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| Southwestern Conservation Alliance Androscoggin Valley SWCD | 2006R-19 Sabattus Pond Watershed Project - Phase II | \$50,000 | \$14,260 |
| Mid-Maine Watersheds Coalition Waldo County SWCD | 2006R-21 Unity Pond Watershed Restoration - Phase II | \$50,000 | \$23,750 |
| Aroostook Watersheds St. John Valley SWCD | 2006R-18 Perley Brook Restoration Project: Phase III BMP Implementation | \$50,000 | \$11,804 |
| Downeast-Penobscot Watersheds Washington County SWCD | 2006R-20 Narraguagus River Protection Project - Segment North of Route 9 | \$50,000 | \$18,000 |
| Totals: | | \$200,000 | \$67,814 |