

2014 Cost Share Notice for Invasive Aquatic Plant Control Projects

Grants are available from Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to public organizations conducting invasive aquatic plant control projects. Eligible organizations include municipal and county governments, quasi-municipal organizations (including water districts) and 501c(3) eligible organizations (many lake associations qualify).

The source of grant funds is the Lake and River Protection Sticker required for all motorized watercraft launched on inland waters in Maine.

DEP funds for control of invasive aquatic plants in 2014 total \$70,000, the same amount that was available in 2013. Funding categories for 2014 plant control grants remain the same:

- Tier 1: *up to* \$3,000, 20% match required (cash or cash/in-kind combination totaling *up to* \$600)
- Tier 2: *up to* \$3,000 additional available, 50% match required (cash or cash/in-kind combination totaling *up to* \$1,500)

Please note: some portion of the match must be cash.

I. Eligible Activities

Invasive Aquatic Plant Control Projects on Infested Lakes*

Eligible activities are manual plant control techniques including placement of benthic barriers, plant removal by hand, and plant removal by hand with suction dredge (i.e., Diver Assisted Suction Harvest or DASH).

DEP strongly recommends groups who utilize divers use certified divers and have a diver safety plan in place.

* To confirm if your lake has an infestation visit our web site at <http://www.maine.gov/dep/water/invasives/index.html>

II. Selection criteria

Local match

Required match amounts described above for each tier must include some cash and may be a combination of cash and in-kind, i.e., volunteer services for coordination and plant removal or donations of goods and services. Preference will be given to projects that maximize local match greater than the required match amounts.

If using mileage for match, the applicant must use the state mileage rate of .44 per mile, not the federal mileage rate. The hourly rate match for in-kind services, previously \$16.84/hr., is now \$17.03/hr. - the most recent rate for Maine posted at http://www.independentsector.org/volunteer_time.

Courtesy Boat Inspection (CBI) Program

Applicants for plant control projects must have an active Courtesy Boat Inspection (CBI) program or explain why one is not warranted.

Plant survey

Applicants must have completed at least a Level 2 plant survey per the Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program's Invasive Aquatic Plant Screening Survey Procedures. Level 2 survey covers boat ramps, areas of concentrated boat traffic (e.g., marinas), and areas likely to provide suitable habitat for aquatic plants such as shallow, sheltered covers. See the end of this application for the full description of Level 2 plant survey.

Project goals and feasibility

Priority will be given to invasive plant removal near boat access points and in areas with high boat traffic, i.e., projects aimed at reducing spread within and between waterbodies, or projects addressing incipient infestations with potential for eradication. Consideration will also be given to the feasibility of the proposed project and the potential for achieving long-term control.

Track Record

DEP will consider the applying entity's performance under past cost share grants, if applicable, when reviewing the current application.

III. Requirements, payment, and reporting deadlines

Requirements:

- A current PBR (permit by rule) for manual control of invasive aquatic.
 - A tracking sheet detailing plant removal efforts along with a narrative description must be submitted to LEA with the interim and final reports.
 - Recipients should follow the DEP protocol for manual control of invasive aquatic plants.
- (Note: The plant removal tracking sheet can be found on the last page of this application. LEA will e-mail the DEP protocol, and reporting templates to grant recipients.)**

Grant payments and reporting:

- There will be two payments distributed as follows:
 - Seventy-five percent of grant amount will be paid soon after grant award (April 28, 2014).
 - The Interim report must be submitted to LEA by August 4, 2014.
 - The final twenty-five percent will be paid upon receipt and approval of the final report. This payment will be forfeited if the final report is not submitted by November 7, 2014.

To Apply

The deadline for applications is March 31, 2014. As funds for eligible activities are limited, applications received by the deadline will be reviewed on a competitive basis. Applications received after the due date may be considered if funds remain after the review of those received on time.

Decisions on applications received by March 31 will be made on April 28.

Submit a project description, budget, and the following form to:

lakes@leamaine.org

or: Lakes Environmental Association
230 Main Street
Bridgton, ME 04009
Attn: Cost share projects

Electronic submission is strongly encouraged. Contact Peter Lowell at (207) 647-8580 with questions.

2014 Invasive Aquatic Plant Control Application

Please complete this form and add additional space as needed.

Submit by March 31, 2014 to: lakes@leamaine.org or: Lakes Environmental Association
230 Maine Street
Bridgton, ME 04009
Attn: Cost share projects

1) Local Contact (project coordinator): name, address, e-mail, phone#. If person overseeing removal is different also include his/her contact information.

2) Sponsoring organization and address.

3) Ramp(s) and town(s) covered by CBI Program or explanation why Courtesy Boat Inspections are not conducted on you lake.

4) Specify plant to be removed: must be confirmed by DEP or VLMP or your lake must be posted on DEP website <http://www.maine.gov/dep/blwq/topic/invasives/doc.htm>

5) Project timeline: Target dates when removal efforts will occur.

6) Brief description of findings of past plant surveys and, if applicable, control efforts.

7) Ongoing surveys of the water body to determine if the plant is spreading.

8) Project Goal for 2014.

9) Project Description for 2014: Plans must be based on past monitoring efforts that have identified locations of the invasive aquatic plants (equivalent of VLMP Level 2 survey). Information to be included in the project description includes location of removal efforts (may reference map, see #10 below), intended removal methods, and who will be doing the work (divers, snorkelers, volunteers).

10) Attach to this application an updated map showing location(s) on lake where control work will occur. *Groups who have already benefited from this grant in the past must submit an updated map of the plant control location(s).*

11) Submit a budget for requested grant funds using the budget sheet on the last page of this application. We need to know exactly how you intend to use grant funds. This is the same format used in the interim and final reports which you will need to complete to show funds actually expended.

If a budget sheet is not supplied, the application will be returned as incomplete and not recognized as submitted on time.

2014 BUDGET SHEET – PLANT CONTROL

Table 1. Anticipated Expenditures: Group together staff with identical duties and hourly rate.

			Column A	Column B	Column C
Expenditures (e.g. divers, coordinator, etc. – add lines as needed)	Total # hours	Hourly rate	Total Costs	Grant \$: Total Costs Covered by Grant	Cash Match: Columns A – B = Total Cash Match
Divers		\$	\$	\$	\$
Coordinator		\$	\$	\$	\$
Surface Support		\$	\$	\$	\$
Other (describe):		\$	\$	\$	\$
Grand Total Expenditures			\$	\$	\$

Table 2. Volunteers: Group volunteer duties by category (e.g. divers, coordinator, etc.).

Volunteer Categories (Add to list as needed)	Number of Volunteers	Total Number of Hours
Divers		
Coordinator		
Surface Support		
Other (describe):		
Grand Total Volunteer Hours		

Table 3. Match Breakdown: Cash match, volunteer time, and donations of goods and service.

This table is to totally account for all non-grant cash (e.g., cash match) and donated labor, materials, and services. None of this is from grant funds. List type of match by duty (diver, coordinator, etc.) and specify activity if “Other”.

		Column A	Column B	Column C	
Match Description – Donations of time or materials and cash expenses <u>not</u> paid with grant money e.g. mailings, mileage @ .44/mile, paid staff, supplies, copying & services	Match Source (Town, Association, Private Donor, other)	Monetary (Cash) Match: Total should equal Total in Table 1, Column C	Value of Volunteer Match = Total hours from <u>Table 2</u> at \$17.03 per hour (divers \$50/hr)	Value of Non-cash Donations (e.g. goods & services)	Total Match Value: Add Columns A, B, & C shaded cells to get match total
Diver(s)					
Coordinator					
Other expenses – describe and add lines as needed					
Total Match Amount		\$	\$	\$	\$

Table 4: Summary of Project Costs:

	Tier 1	Tier 2 (If applicable)	Total Funds (Tier 1 + Tier 2 funds)
Amount of grant requested (Total found in Table 1, Column B)	\$	\$	\$
Amount of local match in:			
Cash (Table 3, Column A)	\$	\$	\$
In kind value (Table 3, Columns B + C)	\$	\$	\$
Total Project Costs			\$

Plant Surveys

VLMP Level 2 Aquatic Plant Survey:

Level 2: Survey all Level 1 areas (see below), plus all areas of the shoreline that are likely to provide suitable habitat for aquatic plants, such as shallow, sheltered coves. Floating leaved plants are often a good indicator of a rich plant community below the surface. In addition to supporting native plants, these areas may provide suitable habitat for an invader to take hold and (at least initially) hide.

Level 1: Survey points of public access and other areas of concentrated boat traffic, e.g., marinas and narrow navigation channels. Boat launch survey areas should extend horizontally along the shoreline at least 100 meters (~300 feet) on either side of the boat launch area, and outward along the entire length to the depth at which rooted plants are no longer observed (the outermost extent of the littoral zone.) If the access area is in a distinct cove, it is recommended that the survey include the entire littoral zone of the cove, even if the shoreline distance from the launch area to the mouth of the cove is greater than 100 meters.

TRACKING SHEET

Funds will not be released until a report of your invasive plant management activities has been provided. Attached is the Tracking Sheet provided with your grant approval. Complete the Tracking Sheet. If you have submitted it to DEP already, provide the date it was sent.

Lake Name: _____ Town: _____ Year: _____

Location Description (e.g. east shore; cove name). *Use a different sheet for each location.*

Contact Person: _____ E-mail: _____ Telephone: _____

Plant Species being removed: _____

*Type of map provided (e.g. topographic, hand sketch, etc.) _____

Date & Type of Activity: (e.g. plant removal; barrier)	Location Site ID # on Map	Benthic Barriers				Manual Removal (includes DASH)		# of Divers	# of Hours
		# of Barriers Installed	Size of Barriers	Approx. Area Covered	Date Barriers Removed or Moved. DESCRIPTION of work	Amount Removed (# of buckets, onion bags, truckbed load)	Approximate Area Cleared		

*Add rows as needed