2015 Plant Control Cost Share Notice

Attention Invasive Plant Control Cost Share Applicants:
Expect significant changes in 2015 paperwork

New in-depth grant application offers improved planning and evaluation of management projects

Grants are available from Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to lake organizations conducting invasive aquatic plant control projects. Eligible organizations include municipal and county governments, quasi-municipal organizations (including water districts) and 501(c)(3) eligible organizations. These funds are derived from fees required to launch or operate motorized watercraft or seaplanes on inland waters in Maine.

Grants are awarded according to priority. First priority will be given to projects addressing incipient invasive plant infestations with potential for eradication. Second priority will be given to projects aimed at reducing spread of invasive aquatic plants within and between waterbodies through (e.g., managing invasive plants near boat access points and in areas with high boat traffic). Third priority will be awarded to recurring maintenance projects.

Because the 2015 application requires more detailed information than in past years, a DEP staff member will contact 2014 grant recipients in January 2015 to offer assistance. DEP can also be reached at milfoil@maine.gov.

I. Eligible Activities

Invasive Aquatic Plant Control Projects on Infested Lakes

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

II. Selection Criteria and Scoring (Maximum Score 100)

Project Purpose and Scope (25)

Describe what the overall project seeks to accomplish in 2015. Project descriptions should have clearly stated goals and objectives utilizing proven and effective methods. Projects should also include a plan for monitoring the control activities. Reviewers will consider feasibility of project success and the potential for achieving long-term reduction of the infestation.

Local Resources (20)

A 20% match is required for each grant proposal. Applicants must contribute their own resources in the form of cash or a combination of cash and in-kind support, 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 and demonstrate community support and commitment focusing on invasive species.

Courtesy Boat Inspection (CBI) Program (10)

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

Plant Survey (10)

Applicants must have completed at least a Level 2 plant survey per the Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program's Invasive Aquatic Plant Screening Survey Procedures. A Level 2 survey covers boat ramps, areas of concentrated boat traffic (e.g., marinas) and shallow, sheltered coves. For a full description of Level 2 plant survey please see Section 1 of this document http://www.mainevlmp.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/IAP-Mapping-Survey-Instructions-2014.pdf.

Track Record (20)
DEP will consider the applicant's performance under past cost share grants, if applicable, and local interest and efforts to control invasive aquatic plants.

Training and Experience (15)
Applicants that have trained and experienced staff and volunteers will be given additional consideration. Examples of training are attendance at VLMP Invasive Plant Patrol (IPP) workshops, SCUBA certification or other training that enhances efficiency and safety. Because underwater work is inherently dangerous, DEP strongly recommends control programs involving underwater work utilize certified SCUBA divers and have a diver safety plan in place.

III. Requirements, deadlines, payment and reporting
Requirements:

- A 20% match is required. Some portion of the match must be cash.
- A current PBR (Permit-by-Rule) for manual control of invasive aquatic plants. Contact DEP (milfoil@maine.gov) if you don't know if you have a current PBR.
- A tracking sheet detailing plant removal efforts along with the results of those efforts must be submitted to LEA with the interim and final reports.
- Recipients should follow the DEP protocol for manual control of invasive aquatic plants. DEP provides the protocol with the PBR.
- VLMP manual removal training is required for individuals engaged in plant removal supported by grants funds.

Deadlines:

- Grant applications must be received at Lakes Environmental Association by **March 13, 2015.**
- Grant decisions will be made by **April 10,2015.**

Payments and Reporting:

- Seventy-five percent of grant amount will be paid soon after grant award.
- An interim report must be submitted to LEA by **August 3, 2015**.
- 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 6, 2015**.

Note: LEA will e-mail reporting templates and plant removal tracking sheet to grant recipients.

To Apply
The deadline for applications is **March 13, 2015**. 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 already received.

Contents required for all application packets:

- ✓ Invasive Aquatic Plant Grant Application Form, Parts I - IV.
- ✓ Lake map showing infestations to be managed.
- ✓ Support letters from land owners, lake associations, etc. (optional but included in scoring).

Submit application 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.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE APPLICATION

These instructions include a sample application in the right column. They will guide you through **the application that starts on page 6**. *The Maine Citizens' Guide to Invasive Aquatic Plant Management* (http://www.mainevlmp.org/citizensguide/) provides additional guidance in developing tasks required below in Part III.

PART I:
Applicant Information
Enter information in each box. Please add project manager if different than grant contact person.

PART I : APPLICANT INFORMATION	
Organization:	
Address:	
State	Zip Code
Email:	Phone ( )
Contact Person	Project Manager (if different)

PART II:
Waterbody Information
Enter information in each box. Lake Maps included response is yes/no. See separate EXCEL file for Midas # and surface area. For state sponsored and assisted public boat access sites go to http://maine.gov/dacf/parks/water_activities/boating/public_boat_launches/index.shtml

PART II: WATERBODY INFORMATION		
Waterbody Name:		
Midas #	Lake Maps Included:	Invasive Plant:
Town(s) containing shoreline		
Public Access (check all that apply)	☐ State ☐ Municipal ☐ Private ☐ None	
Number of Public Access Points		
Surface Area (in acres) of Waterbody:		
CBI Program: ☐ YES ☐ NO (if no why)		(If Yes)How long?

Part III: Invasive Aquatic Plant Management Plan for 2015
Outline project plans for 2015 clearly, including objectives of control, timeline for activities, and evaluation of results.

1. Purpose: In one paragraph identify clearly the proposed plan, its importance and its goal for the year.
Provide background on the rationale for the project including location and invasive species selected and any relevant history for the project.

2. 2014 of Control Efforts
Summarize invasive plant control work in 2014 and what was successful.

PART III: INVASIVE AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR 2015	
All grants are required to outline their Invasive Aquatic Plant Management Plan for 2015. Contact Maine DEP with questions or if you need assistance in completing this application.	
1. Purpose of Project: What would you like to accomplish in 2015? Why is this plan important?	
2. 2014 Control Efforts	
Outcome of 2014 Removal	Techniques used
Removed 2500 gallons in one year. DASH has been most effective. Still some fragmenting will need to revisit 2015	DASH, Barriers and hand pulling

3. Project Activities (sites, conditions and desired outcomes for 2015)

A. **Current Condition for each site**: Information should include the location of the invasive plant targeted and indication of its density and presence of native plants; this comes from previous surveys and maps. If you lack a formal map at this point, DEP staff will discuss options for producing one. Maps are the starting point for your work and help document your progress**.**
Aquatic plant inventory: Knowing whether the dominant species at a site is invasive or native will help select techniques to use. Indicate if native plants are within infested area and to what extent.
Plant Density: Provide your observation.
Priority: List if the site is high, moderate or low priority for control based on uses affected, potential for spread if uncontrolled, and feasibility of success.
Uses Affected: Indicate affected use(s) at each infested site.

B. **Desired Condition (Goal):** The desired outcome for each infested site. Select the appropriate qualitative measure(s) of effectiveness and/or measurable outcome(s) on the form relating to plant density, spread risk and uses.

3. 2015 Project Activities					
A. Current Condition (for each site, similar sites can be listed together) Provide maps from surveys.					**B. Desired Conditions (Goal)**
Plant Location Map and site	**Aquatic Plant Inventory** Mixed with natives, monoculture invasive	**Plant Density** Heavy Moderate Sparse	**Priority** (High, medium or Low	**Uses Affected** Boating, fishing, launches, Swimming campgrounds, Others	• Return to Natural(previous) conditions • Maintain Current status • Prevent the spread to other waterbodies or in lake. • Keep boat traffic clear. • Others
Back Cove Map1, Site 1	All Invasive milfoil	Heavy	High	Boat ramp. Lots of fragments on launch and take out	Prevent spread in and out of lake. Keep boat traffic clear.
Front Cove Map 2, Site 3	All invasive milfoil	moderate	medium	Fishing and swimming	Maintain Current Status

4. Management Planand Timeline

Choose the combination of control efforts that best meets the needs with the least environmental impacts. Also identify how the work will be accomplished. *Control methods are described in the "Maine Citizens' Guide to Invasive Aquatic Plant Management" Section IV Chapter 8.*

Indicate the following:

Site: Where will you be working. Be specific and refer to maps

Who: Person(s) responsible for doing the work

What activities: The task to be completed: is it hand pulling, DASH work or other?

Needed Resources: Identify materials, staff or other resources and level of effort needed to do the activity. Example: number of volunteers, dive time, surface support, boat, trucks, disposal, etc.

When: Cite the projected start and projected finish of each activity. When during the season should work on specific sites occur? Timing of work needs to balance the priority of sites, methods and costs, resources available and habitat needs of non-target species, and may vary to respond to changing conditions (weather, water level, personnel availability).

EXAMPLE: Management Plan and Timeline

Management Project & Timeline				
Project Strategy and Timeline – Highest priority first				
Site	Who	What Activity	Needed Resources	When
Back Cove Map 1, Site 3	DASH Team Captain	Clear VLM at ramp for boat traffic	4 DASH staff – 3 days 20 hours, 2 volunteers 20 hours, DASH Boat, 25 bags, truck for hauling removed plants.	5/15
Front Cove, Map 2, Site 2	Association manager	Placing benthic barriers	Contracted Divers- 4hrs, (2) 10 X 10 Barriers. Boat	6/10

Outcome Monitoring

Assessing managed sites for plant density and efficacy of removal efforts is required. You will document this in the interim and final reports. All projects should be monitored to document how much was done, location, project effectiveness and considerations for continued actions or justification of further expenditures.

5. Local Resources

Volunteers- non-paid help

Staff – paid organization personnel

Equipment- boats, rakes, gear, etc.

Expertise/Experience – training such as IPP (Invasive Plant Patrollers), VLMP diver training, SCUBA certifications, and mapping.

Other Interested Organizations: Are there other collaborators, e.g., do you work with the local town to dispose of plants? Are there are groups that help survey?

5. Local Resources (name of organization) Contact Information	Hours (volunteer)	Volunteers /Staff	Equipment	Expertise/ Experience
Lake Association volunteers	15	5 IPP's	Kayaks	Captain's license
Town of Plenty	22	facility for plant disposal	Dump Truck	
Lake Association Staff		2 Divers		SCUBA Certs & VLMP training

Part IV: Estimated Project Costs

The Itemized Budget provides the detailed costs for the project. Complete the table and contact LEA if you have questions.

Invasive Aquatic Plant Management Grant Application

Submit by _____ to: lakes@leamaine.org or:
Lakes Environmental Association
230 Main Street
Bridgton, ME 04009
Attn: Cost share projects

PART I : APPLICANT INFORMATION

Organization:	
Address:	
State	Zip Code
Email:	Phone ( )
Contact Person	Project Manager (if different)

PART II: WATERBODY INFORMATION

Waterbody Name:		
Midas #	Lake Maps Included: ☐ YES ☐ NO	Invasive Plant:
Town(s) containing shoreline		
Public Access (check all that apply)	☐ State ☐ Municipal ☐ Private ☐ None	
Number of Public Access Points		
Total Acreage of Waterbody:		
CBI Coverage: ☐ YES ☐ NO (if no why)		(If Yes)How long?
Name Inlets/outlets:		

PART III: INVASIVE AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT PLAN 2015

Please see the attached instructions for completing this application. Contact Maine DEP with any questions you have or if you need assistance in developing the application.

1. **Purpose of the Project (What would you like to accomplish in 2015? Why is this plan important?)**

PART III: INVASIVE AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT PLAN 2015(CON'T)

All grants are required to outline their Invasive Aquatic Plant Management Plan for 2015. Please see the attached instructions for completing this application. Contact Maine DEP with any questions you have or if you need assistance in completing the application.

2. **2014 Plant Control Efforts**

Outcome of 2014 Removal	Techniques used: Describe the effectiveness, what worked, what didn't.

3.Project Activities					
A. Current Conditions for each site, similar sites can be listed together. Indicate sites on map(s).					**B. Desired Conditions**
Plant Location/Map and site	Aquatic Plant Inventory Mixed with natives, monoculture invasive	Plant Density • Heavy • Moderate • Sparse mixed with natives	Priority for removal: High, medium or Low	Uses affected – Boating, fishing, launches, swimming, campgrounds, Others	• Return to natural(previous) conditions • Maintain current status • Prevent the spread to other waterbodies or in lake • Keep boat traffic clear • Others

4. Management Strategy and Timeline by Site				
Project Strategy and Timeline – Order from high to low priority				
Site	Who	What activity	Needed resources	When

5. Local Resources: name of organization/town/individual	Volunteer hours	Number of volunteers or staff	Equipment	Experience/Expertise

PART IV: ESTIMATED COST INFORMATION

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

			Column A	Column B	Column C
Expenditures (e.g. divers, coordinators, etc. Add lines as needed	Total # Hours	Hourly Rate	Total Costs	*Grant* $: Total covered by Grant	*Cash Match*: Columns A-B = Total cash match
Diver(s)		$	$	$	$
Coordinator		$	$	$	$
Surface Support		$	$	$	$
			$	$	$
Grand total expenditures			$	$	$

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

Volunteer Categories	Number of Volunteers	Total Number of Hours
Divers		
Coordinator		
Surface Support		
Other (describe)		
Totals		

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 (i.e., 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."

SOURCE OF LOCAL MATCH	TOTAL$

		Column A	Column B	Column C	
Match description Donations of: Time Materials Cash	Match Source	Cash Match: Total should equal total Table 1 Column C	Value of volunteer match = Total hours from Table 2 at $20.10* per hour (divers $50/hr)	Value of Non-cash Donations (e.g. goods & services; charge mileage at $0.56/mile)	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					

*Source: http://www.independentsector.org/volunteer_time

Table 4: Summary of Project Costs

	Total Funds
Amount of grant requested: Total found in Table 1, Column B	$
Amount of cash match: Total in Table 3, Column A	$
In Kind value: Total in Table 3, Columns B+C	$
Total Project Cost	