



CONSERVATION COMMISSION
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RECEIVED
JAN 11 2005
NORTON TOWN CLERK

Monday, September 20, 2004
7:00 pm

Attendance

Bob Medeiros (Chairman), Kathleen Giblin (Vice-Chairman)
Julian Kadish, Ron O'Reilly, Earl Willcott, Lisa Carrozza,
Eileen King, Jennifer Carlino, Conservation Agent

Minutes

The members reviewed the Bills Payable Sheet (Misc.). Earl Willcott made a motion, seconded by Julian Kadish, to pay the bill. Approved.

The members reviewed the Bills Payable Sheet (Nextel.). Earl Willcott made a motion, seconded by Julian Kadish, to pay the bill. Approved.

Lake Winnecunnet RFP bid presentations:

The members met tonight to meet with four companies that submitted bids for the Diagnostic/Feasibility Study for the treatment of weeds in Lake Winnecunnet.

7:15 pm The first company on the agenda was **GeoSyntec Consultants**. Jennifer Carlino stated that no one from **GeoSyntec Consultants** could attend the meeting to give a brief presentation because of schedule conflicts. Lisa Carrozza stated that after reading the bid proposal, she had two questions for GeoSyntec Consultants. The first question was that if the total eradication of the weeds was not possible through their previous experience, what would be the limit of clearing. Jennifer Carlino stated she spoke to Steve Roy who is GeoSyntec's water resource person. He stated that Eurasian watermilfoil could be maintained through several years of chemical applications, but not eradicated. Mr. Roy stated that the Eurasian watermilfoil could be controlled to the point that the body of water could be used for recreational purposes. Jennifer Carlino said according to Mr. Roy, the beds of Eurasian watermilfoil would not spread any further and would shrink considerably. Lisa Carrozza asked what plant was the most dominant. Jennifer Carlino stated the most common exotic plants were the Eurasian watermilfoil, Fanwort and Variable watermilfoil. Lisa Carrozza commented that GeoSyntec listed in their proposal a count of approximately 250 fish traps where the other companies listed 1 or 8. She thought this was a significant difference. Jennifer Carlino stated a lot of details were put into this proposal and it was noted they were planning on doing a field guide for the residents. She noted the

people on their team are very experienced. Barbara Brady asked if this company had done any work locally. Bob Medeiros stated they had. Barbara Brady asked if this company had ever done any grant work and Bob Medeiros replied that they had. Mark Lincoln asked what similar bodies of water had they worked with in the past. Bob Medeiros stated they have an on-going project in Bedford, MA presently.

7:30 pm The second company to present their proposal was **Baystate Environmental Consultants, Inc.** Steve Lecco, Sarah Barnum and Paul Davis were present to present their proposal. Steve Lecco started the presentation by presenting a list of eleven similar projects that they have finished or that are currently being worked on by their company. One of particular interest is the Norton Reservoir Dredging project in Norton as well as at Monponsett Lake. Paul Davis proceeded to present the project structure to the Commission. He stated that specific teams of specialists would be doing the study on the different species in the Lake such as plants, algae, rare mussels, fish etc. He stated that Baystate Environmental and several of the wetland specialists listed in their proposal have done many studies and projects together. Sarah Barnum briefly described the technical process for this project which would be to first carry out the diagnostic/feasibility study and then to present the study to the people who will be affected by this project. She said the first step would be to map and survey the bottom of the Lake and identify the various species and their locations that would be affected by this project. Ms. Barnum stated once all the information is collected, various options will be considered for treatment of the lake and review of present and past treatments of various other bodies of water will be done to see what was effective and what wasn't effective. Steve Lecco summed up the presentation by stating that whether one treatment or many treatments, the same or different from each other, is needed, Baystate Environmental Consultants, Inc. is very capable to accomplish satisfactory results. Lisa Carrozza asked if the survey method was going to be GPS based. Steve Lecco stated traditional survey methods would probably be used. Lisa Carrozza asked if the cost for the survey would be limited. Mr. Lecco replied that with any project, it is not always wise to over study any one area. Julian Kadish asked if the cranberry bog adjacent to Lake Winnecunnet would be an important issue for the study and Mr. Lecco stated that it would not. He said it is more important to study what goes out rather than what comes into the Lake. A Lake Winnecunnet Association member asked exactly what the project at the Monponsett Lake was. Mr. Lecco stated his company was asked to treat one of three basins with a herbicide and monitor the affect on the mussels in the lake.

7:45 pm The third company to present their proposal was **ENSR Corporation.** Kenneth Wagner of the ENSR Corporation addressed the Commission to present his proposal. Mr. Wagner stated his company was presently involved in the same type of project at Lake Morse in Wellesley. He presented the Commission with the major factors involved with resolving the invasive problems in Lake Winnecunnet. He stated that the proposal presented by his company was for the removal of certain types of exotic plants and a control management plan and not for water quality. He said if drinking wells were present or near the site, the methods and costs of controlling the exotic plants in the Lake would be considerably higher. Lisa Carrozza asked how the underwater video map translate into real world co-ordinance. Mr. Wagner replied GPS was used. He stated this was a good method because at any time in the future accurate data could be retrieved at any certain area in the body of water. Lisa Carrozza asked Mr. Wagner why his company does their fish surveys in August or September. He

Norton Conservation Commission

Monday, September 20, 2004

Minutes, page 3.

replied that one reason is because the newer (juvenile) fish are large enough to identify and another reason is that later in the year the water would be a lot colder and less desirable for searching and finding fish. Kathleen Giblin asked Mr. Wagner how effective treatment to the Lower Chandler Mill Pond in Duxbury, MA was after many years of treatment. Mr. Wagner stated a draw down method resulted in a couple of residents to have dry wells. He said at the suggestion of the Town the Flurodone method was used. He said the flow-through was slightly high in the spring, but after a couple of years after a dry spring, the method worked quite well. He said that a method of harvesting the entire plant including the roots was used and then new desirable plants were planted to replace the undesirable plants. He said that in a lot of instances the new plants are slow growing, but if the harvesting is done vigorously enough, the new plants will eventually take over.

8:00 pm The fourth company to present their proposal was **ESS Group, Inc.** Mr. Carl Nielson addressed the Commission. He proceeded to pass out copies of his presentation and noted the several individuals, as well as their skills and knowledge, that would be working on this project. He stated there is a short-term and a long-term outlook that has to be looked at for this project. He said that quick relief would probably be a possibility, but the long-term solution would be more difficult to achieve. He stated draw down of the Lake would not be feasible for Lake Winnecunnet. He said chemicle treatment for short-term relief is a possibility but hydro-raking and harvesting, in his opinion, would not be recommended for the Milfoil. Mr. Nielson said a quick short-term method would be Benthic barriers which is a fabric blanket which would be placed over the plants at the bottom of the Lake and kill them, but this method requires a lot of maintenance. He said that dredging the Lake would be a long-term solution but probably prove to be expensive. Another option he presented was biological control which would involve a Milfoil Weevils which would eat the Milfoil plant and kill it but this does not get rid of the Milfoil altogether. He stated that other communities were using the Benthic barrier and then replacing the undesirable plants with desirable plants. He said this does require a lot work with the replanting of seeds or plants. Mr. Nielson stated his company wants to ensure the protection of the aquatic habitat in the ACEC no matter what method is used. He stated that monitoring of the Milfoil plant should be done, therefore, it could be kept under control easily rather than having a large area to deal with. He said this could be done by the residents that live on the Lake rather than hiring a consultant if they choose. Mr. Nielson said water quality samples would be taken regularly during dry and wet weather. He further stated fish and wildlife surveys would be done over a period of three days. Finalizing his presentation, Mr. Nielson said it is his company's goal to make the project affordable and possible without a lot of permitting. Lisa Carrozza asked Mr. Nielson to clarify the statement he made regarding not making mistakes that were made in the past with Milfoil management. He replied by saying he was referring to the use of the weed harvester in the past when the Milfoil plants were cut. He stated by cutting the plants this would, in fact, increase the growth of new plants. Lisa Carrozza asked Mr. Nielson if he knew of any particular method that did not work in another community. He replied saying that in the town of Westburg the Milfoil Weevils were used without success. Mr. Nielson explained to the Commission that his company doesn't actually do the work, but as consultants, would work with professionals that do. Kathleen Giblin asked Mr. Nielson if the inadequate sewage disposal on the lake had anything to do with the plant problem. He did not think so. He felt that a lot of the engineering companies that are trying to sell sewer installation to the residents are making remarks to lead the residents to believe the sewer problems contribute to the plant problem. He stated that such a small amount of ground water leaks into the lake.

Norton Conservation Commission
Monday, September 20, 2004
Minutes, page 4.

Discussion ensued and it was agreed by the Conservation members and the Lake Winnecunnet Association members that all four companies seemed to be qualified. Barbara Brady agreed but at the same time she stated cost is the final factor in the decision of which company to hire. She said she would like to get the study started as soon as possible. Julian Kadish stated that there is no quick solution and thought the final results will take multiple steps and time. Barbara Brady stated usually the first treatment on a lake generally costs about \$35,000, the second year is approximately \$15,000 and the third year and each year thereafter would be about \$6,000. She said usually after the first treatment the lake looked pretty clear and if treated each year would remain clear. After some discussion, it was agreed that cost will be the deciding factor of who will be contracted to do the Lake Winnecunnet study. Barbara Brady suggested trying to obtain a grant to help with this project. The Commission was going into executive session and asked Barbara Brady if she or any of the Lake Winnecunnet Association members had made a decision on who they thought would be the best company to do the project. Barbara Brady stated all four companies seemed to be equally qualified.


Earl Willcott made a motion, seconded by Lisa Carozza, to enter into **Executive Session**. Approved.

The members returned to regular session and invited the Lake Winnecunnet representatives back into the meeting.

After a short discussion a vote was taken on the company to be hired to do the Lake Winnecunnet Study. The votes were as follows: Bob Medeiros, ESS Group, Inc., Earl Willcott, ESS Group, Inc., Lisa Carrozza, ESS Group, Inc., Ron O'Reilly, ESS Group, Inc., Julian Kadish, ESS Group Inc., Kathleen Giblin, ESS Group Inc.. The vote was unanimous for the ESS Group, Inc. at a cost of \$20,900. Bob Medeiros stated ENSR Corporation bid \$58,740 which includes water quality testing (without the water quality testing the cost would be \$31,730), Baystate Environmental Consultants, Inc. bid \$50,000 (this amount includes water quality testing) and GeoSyntec Consultants bid \$20,900. The Lake Winnecunnet Association thanked the Commission for assistance in selecting a company to do the Lake Winnecunnet Study. Bob Medeiros reminded the Association that a request for the \$20,900 to be transferred for the study would have to be put before the Fall Annual Town Meeting of October 20, 2004 by way of an Article on the warrant. Jennifer Carlino stated the Article was already on the warrant.

Earl Willcott made a motion, seconded by Kathleen Giblin, to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,


Jennifer Carlino
Conservation Director

JC/pmb