

Goose Bay Reclamation Corporation's Annual Public Meeting

Saturday June 28, 2014

The Goose Bay Reclamation Corporation held its annual public meeting on Saturday June 28, 2014 at the Alexandria Bay Town Hall. Bob Lamoureux, president of the GBRC, opened the meeting by thanking Town Supervisor, Dale Hunneyman, for allowing us to use the hall to host this event. He also acknowledged Assemblywomen Addie Russell for her attendance and her concern about Goose Bay. He also thanked all residents for taking the time to attend our annual meeting.

GBRC board members in attendance, Stewart Davey, Jill and Larry Partridge, and Pam Andre, were introduced. Bob announced the resignation of Carol Lamoureux, secretary of the GBRC for the past five years and thanked her for all the hard work and effort she put forth over the years. Bob then introduced Debbie Scholes, from No. 9 Island, as the newly elected secretary.

It was announced that the GBRC membership drive is in full swing. The group mailed out 160 membership applications to residents and friends of Goose Bay and encouraged everyone to respond as soon as possible. Membership is \$20 annually and donations are accepted to help save Goose Bay.

The GBRC wanted to implement a solution to address issues related to Eurasian Milfoil in Goose Bay this spring. The GBRC steering committee identified a chemical solution to initially deal with milfoil in the bay and using hand harvesting approach to maintain control of this invasive weed after application of the chemical. We met with the DEC last September to discuss our situation and determine what option they would allow us to use. Based upon this meeting an area was designated for treatment and a follow up meeting with the DEC was scheduled. At this meeting we were told additional work was required (a flow study and weed mapping) before we could move forward. This development required us to postpone any implementation plans for 2014. The GBRC formed a committee to work with the DEC through the winter months. Stewart Davey led the group consisting of Larry and Jill Partridge along with Bob Lamoureux attending meetings via conference call.

Stewart Davey, vice president of the GBRC, was introduced and spoke about the committee's interaction with the DEC over the winter. Three meetings were held with the DEC to establish what needed to be completed before we could get a decision on a chemical treatment in Goose Bay. The DEC requested that a flow study be completed to determine the water flow characteristics of the bay in and around the proposed

treatment area. They also requested that we complete a weed mapping study within the treatment area as well as control areas outside the treatment area. It was also determined that the proposed treatment area was partially within a wetland and therefore would require an Article 24 permit. In an effort to address these issues to the DEC's satisfaction the committee took the following steps.

- Flow Study – The committee contacted Michael Parkes from Parkes Ecological LLC to request a cost estimate to conduct the flow study and issue a report. The GBRC entered into a contract with Parkes Ecological LLC for the completion of this service. Michael Parkes wrote a protocol to complete the flow study which was revised and finally approved by Rob Freese from the DEC. Michael Parkes tried to execute the study in late November but had to cancel it due to weather conditions and rescheduled it for June of 2014. Michael Parkes revised the flow study protocol to include fewer points of sampling and sent it to Rob Freese for approval. Rob approved the changes and the flow study was executed in June of this year. The good news was that Goose Bay has no directional flow. The bay is a wind driven system.
- Weed Mapping Study – The DEC requested that a weed mapping study be conducted within the treatment area as well as three sites outside the treatment area. They requested the study be conducted in late July or early August prior to and after application to assess its effectiveness. Stewart wrote a protocol for the study to be completed. We contacted Dr. John Farrell Director of the Thousand Island Biological Station of ESF to determine if they might be interested in completing the weed mapping. He indicated that a student would be available to complete the work for us. We are trying to finalize a date for the completion of this work with Dr. Farrell.
- Wetland Issues – We have to complete an Article 24 permit for application of a chemical within a wetland area. This is currently being addressed.

Stewart discussed the grant of \$25,000 secured from Senator Pattie Ritchie's office. He also discussed the responsibility of the Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservatory as administrators of the grant.

A discussion about the best way to treat the bay developed. We discuss the rationale of selecting the area, approximately fifty acres, toward the mouth of Cranberry Creek back towards Little Goose Bay instead of shoreline areas. This area has a high density of Eurasia Milfoil and is relatively shallow, two or three feet deep, therefore the cost associated for chemical treatment is sufficiently less because of water depth. With prevailing winds we thought it best to start treatment on the south end of the bay to reduce amount of milfoil drifting to the north end of the bay. We concluded that by selecting such an area we could demonstrate to state and local officials the

effectiveness of such a treatment. Again the DEC will ultimately decide how large of an area we will be able to treat.

Michael Parkes from Parkes Ecological LLC presented a PowerPoint presentation on the results of the recently completed flow study that the DEC requested. A fluorescent dye was introduced into the proposed treatment area and monitored to determine flow characteristics in the treatment and other areas. The data generated demonstrates that Goose Bay has no natural flow but is a wind driven system. This study will be helpful to support our position for chemical treatment of Eurasian Milfoil in Goose Bay. It demonstrates that any chemical introduced, especially within the proposed treatment area, will remain in the bay provided it is applied on a clam day. I will post the report on our website for interested parties by the end of October.

Boat Launch Monitoring Program – The GBRC requested and received permission from the Town of Alexandria Bay to implement a boat launch monitoring program at the town dock located on Old Goose Bay Road. The purpose of this program is to educate boaters about how Milfoil and other invasive weeds and organisms can be transported from one body of water to another. Though education and inspection of boats and trailers, boat owners can minimize the transfer of invasive aquatic species. The Town agreed to provide signage at the dock regarding invasive species/weeds as well as a receptacle for collecting this material. The GBRC arranged, through the Adirondack Water Shed Institute of Paul Smith College, a boat launch monitoring training session. Six volunteers attended this four hour training session which was held at Jefferson Community College. Our instructor taught volunteers how to conduct a boat inspection and provided various resources, pamphlets and advice, on the proper method to conduct inspections. Bob and LuAnn Schrader have volunteered to head up this important program. Please check out our website, savegoosebay.weebly.com, to learn more about this subject matter. Please consider volunteering to help Bob and LuAnn by contacting us via the website. Check out the website, savegoosebay.weebly.com, for more information.

Weed Harvesting – While it our intention to use a chemical to initially treat Eurasian Milfoil, control of this invasive after treatment will be accomplished using two techniques, hand harvesting and benthic barriers. Don and Erin Rupp discussed forming a group to hand harvest milfoil around resident's docks and shorelines. They discussed tools that would be used to complete this task as well as how to properly dispose of the milfoil. They requested anyone interested in helping should contact them or the GBRC for details .Additional information about hand harvesting will be posted on our website, savegoosebay.weebly.com.

Fund Raiser - Pam Andre discussed our recent Shore Dinner fund raiser at Coyote Moon Vineyards. It was a success and raised \$2,567 for our cause. Bob thanked both Pam and Laurie for all their efforts making this event a success.

Website – Bob discussed our website, savegoosebay.weebly.com, and demonstrated some of its functionality. He encouraged residents to log on and use it as a resource

Meeting was adjourned at 11:42am