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Date: June 25, 2010

To: Connie Trolle, Bantam Lake Protective Association

From: Dominic Meringolo, Senior Environmental Engineer

Re: Summary of the Bantam Lake Aquatic Management Program

Hi Connie:

I'd like to provide you with a brief summary of the ongoing Aquatic Management Program at Bantam Lake. As you know, management has been ongoing for many years in various forms but the most recent approach using aquatic herbicides began in 2006. The goal of the treatment program is to manage nuisance weed growth, including non-native species such as Eurasian milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) and fanwort (*Cabomba caroliniana*), in order to protect habitat and recreational use of the lake.

After much planning, herbicide treatment was initiated at the lake in 2006. Treatment areas were established based on the presence of Eurasian milfoil and other potentially problematic plants, including naiad (*Najas sp.*), curlyleaf pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*), largeleaf pondweed (*Potamogeton amplifolius*) and others. These treatment areas are evaluated on an annual basis with vegetation surveys in May, to establish which areas will require treatment, and in September to evaluate the success of treatment and begin the planning process for next year.

In 2006 and 2007, one treatment was conducted each year to address the targeted areas of nuisance plant growth. In order to more adequately address the range of target species and their individual growth patterns, we moved to a two treatment approach in 2008, with an early June treatment targeting mostly Eurasian milfoil, followed by a July/August treatment targeting naiad and other species that become problematic later in the season.

Overall, the treatment program has been successful in halting the spread the spread of Eurasian milfoil in the lake and reducing the impact of milfoil and other plants on the habitat and recreational use in the lake. In recent years, we've also seen some reduction in the extent of the Eurasian milfoil infestation at Bantam Lake and hope to see even further reductions moving forward. The annual plant surveys have worked well to document the vegetation in the lake and serve to establish specific target areas for each treatment. The combination of tasks over the course of this project has served to meet the management goals for the lake while limiting the extent of herbicide treatment that is required.

Since fanwort cannot be addressed at this time with chemical treatment due to its location, the presence of endangered species and limitations of the aquatic herbicides currently registered for use in CT lakes, there have been several ongoing non-chemical tasks to manage this plant. Floating fragment barriers have been in place adjacent to the Bantam River inlet infestation and suction harvesting has been used to remove fanwort in the outlet cove and other areas. We understand that there are also plans to do more work on controlling fanwort including the installation of benthic (bottom) barriers in infested areas.

I hope this provides a reasonable summary of the management program at Bantam Lake in recent years. As you know, Year-End Reports have been prepared and are available for each year of the treatment program which provide more details and data for reference purposes. We look forward to continuing this successful program with you and the other interested parties at Bantam Lake. Please let me know if you have any questions or need anything further.