



2025 Pesticide Minimization Report

Pursuant to Condition #a.15.A. of Aquatic Nuisance Control Permit #4534-ANC-C issued to the Joe's Pond Association (JPA) and SOLitude Lake Management (SLM) on 07/17/25, the following shall constitute the required "summary of pesticide minimization measures" completed by the JPA during the current calendar year.

1. January, 2025 formed a 10 member Eurasian Watermilfoil Management Committee (EWMMC) to determine and implement the most prudent course of actions in response to the EWM infestation discovered in August, 2024. Members were assigned to the following task areas: Education, Grants Management, Regulatory, Mapping, Survey & Monitoring, Harvesting, and Materials and Equipment Management.
2. January, 2025, began developing and publishing extensive and detailed EWM management information on the JPA website. Continuous updates have been made since then.
3. February, 2025 established digital EWM management mapping program to track locations of EWM occurrence and management activities performed.
4. 02/19/25 Adopted JPA EWM Management Plan.
5. February, 2025 purchased materials and fabricated JPA buoy supply for use in marking EWM establishment and to support geolocation for data entry on the EWM web map.
6. March, 2025 developed, published and distributed educational materials to JPA membership and broader community focused on EWM identification, dangers of uncontrolled proliferation of EWM, actions necessary by lake users to avoid exacerbating EWM spread, and volunteer contributions by JPA membership to support EWM control.
7. April, 2025 mapped lakeshore and littoral zone sections and began recruiting Lakeshore Section Coordinators (LSCs). Established guidance and protocols for littoral zone monitoring and survey, marking EWM locations found, geolocating, and data flow to JPA Mapping Coordinator and Dive Crew Coordinator for hand harvesting.
8. May, 2025 published comprehensive status report of the EWM infestation in the JPA Annual Newsletter urging utmost awareness, attention, and voluntary contributions to the JPA EWM management activities.

9. 05/24/25 distributed educational materials to members attending the JPA Spring Meeting. Made a comprehensive presentation regarding EWM infestation status, outlook and planned control activities.
10. 05/24/25 conducted in-house training for JPA members on EWM identification, LSC responsibilities, survey, marking, mapping and harvesting protocols and distributed marker buoys.
11. 05/25/25 LSCs and JPA member-volunteers commence surveying, patrolling and placement of marker buoy operations by boat, kayak, paddleboard and wading which have continued through September. Total number of hours expended by JPA members conducting this task is unknown at this time but assuredly involves several hundred hours.
12. 05/26/25-05/28/25 participated with Arrowwood Environmental (AE) in conducting a lake-wide aquatic plant survey.
13. 06/07/25 hosted Vermont Invasive Patrollers Workshop conducted by VT DEC with approximately 2 dozen participants.
14. 06/09/25-06/13/25 conducted EWM harvesting operation contracted with VTHozerz involving diver assisted suction harvesting (DASH), hand pulling, and benthic barrier placement. JPA members expended in excess of an estimated 300 hours supporting the VTHozerz operation.
15. Purchased hand-held GPS unit with sub-2 meter precision to enhance geolocation data transfer to the JPA EWM Management web map.
16. 06/14/25 placed floating warning signs around perimeters of areas of most concentrated EWM growth advising boaters to avoid operation, EWM fragmentation and proliferation.
17. 06/21/25 commenced hand pulling operations by the JPA dive team which have continued on an approximately twice weekly basis into October, 2025, typically involving from 3-6 divers and 2-5 surface support members operating from 3-4 hours each day of operation. As of the end of September, 2025, total member-hours devoted to these hand pulling operations including coordination, survey and planning, equipment management, travel time, surface support, fragment retrieval, mobilization and demobilization exceed 700 hours. Hand pulling operations continue into October, 2025.
18. 06/23/25 purchased surface-nexus underwater breathing apparatus (SNUBA) unit to enable expansion of the dive team membership and increase productivity of JPA hand pulling operations.
19. 06/29/25 comprehensive Power Point EWM status presentation made at JPA Annual Meeting that emphasized watercraft operation contributions to proliferation and spread around the lake. Presented watercraft operational protocols to minimize spread.
20. 07/17/25-07/18/25 SNUBA unit delivered and field tested
21. 07/26/25 SNUBA training conducted for approximately a dozen participants.
22. August, 2025, purchased, assembled and erected a modular structure for storage of JPA EWM management equipment.
23. 08/30/25 comprehensive status report and Power Point presentation to the membership attending the fall JPA meeting emphasizing full engagement of the membership in EWM control measures.
24. June-September, 2025 continued monitoring and surveying by LSCs and volunteers, data entry on the EWM Management web map, updating information on the JPA website,

- occasional educational, informational, and advocacy email distributions to the membership, monthly EWMMC meetings, and hand pulling operations by the dive team.
25. August-September, 2025 researched feasibility of establishment of a decontamination boat wash station at the DF&W boat access area.
 26. October, 2025, engaged Arrowwood Environmental to provide wetlands delineation and associated consulting services for preparation and submission of a Wetlands Encroachment Permit application for construction of a decontamination boat wash station.
 27. October, 2025, commenced a comprehensive inventory of EWM management equipment and infrastructure needs for 2026 supportive of pesticide minimization efforts

Respectfully submitted to Olin Reed, VT DEC via email by:

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Water Quality Director

Eurasian Watermilfoil Management Coordinator

10/04/25