

## Milfoil Meeting Minutes - February 12, 2026

**Attendees:** Joe Hebert, Barry Cahoon, Jamie Stewart, Joanne Stewart, Sue Bouchard, Jim Bernotas, Chris Burns, Rob Stewart

Barry called the meeting to order at 3:03 pm via a Zoom call sponsored by Joanne Stewart.

**DASH** - Barry contacted Keith Knapp (Vt. Hozerz) to see if they would be available. Keith stated they would be happy to come to Joe's Pond. We would want to have them in early to mid July and Keith was OK with mid-July. Barry indicated that Sue Bouchard (meal coordination) and Joe Hebert (accommodations) were good with the dates. Joe asked if a full week was required and as we are talking about the second Pond. Barry stated that given the travel time from Lake St. Catherine we could use DASH for a week. Either the week of July 6 or July 13. Sue said no problem. Discussion centered around the week of July 6 may not be good given the July 4th boat traffic. It was decided to let Keith Knapp choose the week and both the First and Second Pond would be the target areas. The required aquatic plant survey from Arrowood would need to be done prior to any DASH activity which could focus the DASH activity and be early enough to support the management plan. Last year this survey was done too soon as the plant growth was too small to be observed.

We are still under the Rapid Response Permit so no permit needed for the DASH activity. If we decide on an herbicide treatment, then a Treatment Plan is required by the State which is not a big deal and the aquatic plant survey is key. Barry said he would contact Michael Lew-Smith to schedule the survey mid to late June. This timing is good for a potential herbicide treatment in August

**Spring JPA Meeting** - Barry referenced the first draft of the report by Sue and Joe with Rob's edit. This refers to the concern of treating the lake with an herbicide treatment and the unknown impacts down the road. ProcelloCOR is a Dow chemical product and the studies proving the safe use of this treatment are done by DOW. Rob's concern is that this is a conflict of interest. The dangers to aquatic life and human life are unknown long term. Discussion with the committee about any of these industry studies and who profits from them. Rob feels there is potential bias by the companies' safety study. Everyone on the committee wants the report to the membership to be factual and accurate. The Lake George Study group found residuals within the sediment area of the treated area. Impacts are not known - both for plant life and human exposure. Rob's stated that Dow's study is biased due to the profit concern over the human health concern. Barry stated that he did not disagree with Rob on any of this. His concern is how do we show the JPA membership

all sides of this question. There are no long term studies as the herbicide was initially used in 2019. Barry said it was not up to us to get into the weeds of the studies. We need to state to the membership all sides of the issue. We need to state that there is limited long term data. ProcelloCOR PC was certified by the EPA in 2017 using an industry sponsored study. Sue asked if the PC label was available. Barry said the label is on the website. Barry said he would write a draft taking all of the links on the website and put it in the document to be sent to all members by email prior to the Spring Meeting.

**Boat Wash Station** - Barry informed the committee of his testimony for the VT house bill S224. He expressed his frustration with the Fish & Wildlife department on their resistance to assist lake associations with boat wash installations. This bill, written with FOVLAP help, would direct the Fish and Wildlife department to be more amenable. After his testimony, the version of the bill did not include the FOVLAP suggestions. Barry, in discussion with FOVLAP members learned that everything is still on the table and Scott Beck recommended for the committee to accept the FOVLAP language. There are many steps left to go in the legislative process for the changes to occur. The EWM committee feels that our committee needs to focus on EWM removal and not get bogged down with the Boat Wash issue. Another committee needs to take up this charge assuming the S224 gets adopted with FOVLAP suggestions. Then a committee will be formed. All of the EWM committee members agreed.

**Map Issue** - In January there were a lot of updates on the JPA website milfoil page(s). This was done by Barry and Joanne. There may be some map issues with coloration and Barry will review the updates.

**Surveying position** - In 2025 Jim Bernotas had this position along with SCUBA, SNUBA, & Equipment. The committee wants to remove the surveying position from Jim as he needs to focus on the all important role of harvesting the milfoil. The committee will recruit another person for the surveying position. This position is to track and help ensure all lakeshore sections are being surveyed regularly by requesting LSC's to report the dates and areas covered. Joe will reach out to potential members to fill this position on the committee

**Equipment and Harvesting** - Jim went over the acquisitions he felt we needed for 2026. He mentioned more soft weights, 4 snuba vests, inflator hoses (\$95 ea). With regards to a second battery for the SNUBA, Jim felt it would have been handy for the reset for the SNUBA when it needed it. Currently we have to go back to shore and plug it into the charger. Jim also said that for the 2025 season we never fully used 100% of the battery itself. Jim felt that we can wait on a second battery for now. It is available within a week. Barry mentioned that for the gas engine SNUBA that was made available to us for \$1000,

he did not realize that it was a 2003 vintage and thus had little interest in purchasing that unit. The committee agreed. Let's get more experience with the battery SNUBA. At the end of the 2025 season we had very good luck in the utilization of the SNUBA. Joe reminded everyone that we got an extension of the warranty for the SNUBA until the end of 2026. Jim also mentioned he wants to get the inflator hoses and get ready for the 2026 harvesting season. He was very pleased that all of the divers invested their own money to get the appropriate wet suits. Barry mentioned that Lake Eden has benthic barriers and offered them to us. They have the built in loops that aid in putting the rebar to hold down the mats. The Lake Eden barriers are 20 feet square. Joe mentioned that he has barriers in his garage but are smaller in square footage. These would be good in covering smaller patches. The question came up whether we need to pull the existing barriers. It was decided to leave them for another year but they need to be inspected. Another topic was to make the 2-sided 'Keep Out' signs to be 3-sided. Chris will get more signs and work needs to be done to see if the existing floats can handle the 3-sided signs. Jamie requested a second 'Dive' flag for his boat.

**Buoys** - It was decided that the JPA will purchase the orange/red buoys and replace the faded noodle buoys. The Milne/Porter water ski track has these same colors but it was felt that there would be no confusion for the Ponders. Everyone knows about the water ski track.

**GPS** - Barry commented that a second GPS unit would be nice. So far, Barry has been the only one to locate the buoys. He felt other people should be involved. The issue he has is that the data points are randomly in order and Barry needs to spend time on figuring out the unit. We will hold off on a second GPS unit.

**Debit Card** - Barry requested the JPA get a debit card and set up procedures for it to be used. Jack was against this but has retired. Jane Segale is OK with this but with strict procedures. The issue is that it is usually Barry or Jim purchasing most of the equipment and Barry does not want to tie up his money for these purchases. The buoys are \$10 each and 75 of them are needed. Joe stated that a debit card can happen. Jane wants to know how many people will have access to the numbers and we need receipts. Also, depending upon the amount of the purchase we need to make sure there is sufficient funds in the account to pay for it. This is all doable per Joe and flexibility is needed. Currently the President, Treasurer, and the Secretary can sign checks. The physical debit card does not have to be on hand for the on-line purchases - just the applicable numbers.

**Grants** - Joe informed members that grant money from the towns has been discussed and is on the ballot for the March meetings. Danville put down \$10K and Cabot \$5K. Last year we received \$5k from Danville and \$0 from Cabot. This does not include any money we will

get from the State for the Boat inspections. Joe did say that he learned that the total State amount given for boat inspections is less than last year.

**Danville Town Meeting** - Barry stated that the Conservation Committee has requested another Milfoil display for the day of the meeting. Barry will take care of this. The posters are at Stewart's cabin.

**Email distribution lists** - The list of dive team members is out of date and many on the list had no involvement in 2025. A suggestion was made to remove those non active divers. Jim wanted to approach all of them again and inquire if they wanted to stay on the list and not arbitrarily drop them. We also need to update the kayaker list. Joanne will coordinate kayakers for every dive date. Aside from picking up stray milfoil it is also a safety issue. We had one diver last year who became distressed and a Kayaker was right there to aid and assist. It is a very important safety job.

**Next Meeting Date** - March 19, 2026 at 3:00 pm via zoom by Joanne Stewart

The meeting ended at 4:31 pm.

Respectively submitted, Jamie Stewart