

**MIDDLEFIELD INLAND WETLANDS
and
WATERCOURSES AGENCY
405 Main Street
Middlefield, Connecticut 06455**

Minutes of the March 15, 2023 Regular Meeting

Rebecca Adams, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:50 pm.

Attendance:

Members

Alternates

X	Adams, Rebecca		
X	Brown, James		
X	Frier, Linda		
A	Manning, John	Other	
X	Poturnicki, Rob	X	Bernotas, Randy
X	Veeley, Robert	A	Curtis, Brian
X	Zieminski, Charles		

A=Absent

X=Present

Public Comment

None.

Amendments to the Agenda

Rob Poturnicki made a motion, seconded by Linda Frier, to move item 5 to item 3 on the agenda. Motion carried.

Discussion of DEEP/Lyman Orchards Ponds

Attorney John Corona, from Lang & Corona, was present on behalf of the Lyman Farm. Lyman Farm periodically treats their water bodies and they were at the meeting tonight purely as an educational exercise. They were not seeking a permit.

David Roach and Lindsey Webb, from All Habitat Services in Branford, were present at the meeting as well. Mr. Roach reviewed that they inherited an existing state permit in 2018 and applied in 2020 for a three-year permit which ended in December, 2022. They are looking to renew that permit now and part of that process is to provide proof that they have notified the local Inland Wetlands agency of their intent to do that. They sent the documentation to Randy Bernotas and he just needs to acknowledge receipt so that they can submit it to the state.

Mr. Roach explained that there are a number of ponds on Lyman Farm property and they basically look at each of them separately. The pond at the store is primarily algae and is being controlled with an algaecide. They looked at the water chemistry as well and there is not a lot of phosphorus. The water itself is fairly hard and alkaline and they were surprised that fish were still alive. They have decided that the best control to limit plant growth is available nutrients and that has worked well.

Randy Bernotas asked if the goose droppings contribute to the algae growth and Mr. Roach did acknowledge that that is an external source. He added that they have not seen any significant blooms since they began the program, with very limited treatment last year.

David Roach went on to describe the golf course ponds where they are starting to see an algae problem in one of the ponds. They are using the same plan there and it is limiting the algae and the plant growth.

Jim Brown commented that he used to see a rich variety of wildlife near the ponds, but that has gradually all disappeared. He felt that they have cleansed the water of algae and just about everything else. Mr. Roach stated that they see fish and turtles as well as heron. At one point, the entire surface of a pond was covered with algae and there were a lot of insects in the puddles. Green frogs were feeding on the insects and heron were feeding on the frogs. Mr. Brown asked if the water itself has been treated and Mr. Roach explained that phosphorus is the main issue with the water. The farm doesn't really use any phosphorus and basically just does top-dressing. The bigger issue is the calcium from road salts which has basically changed the pH and alkaline in the water.

Rebecca Adams asked for a quick summary on what All Habitat Services has to submit to the state and David Roach explained that one of the things is the farm's close proximity to the Coginchaug River. They have to examine if any area is noted in the Natural Diversity Database and if they are, then they have to make a request to the Natural Diversity Database to determine if there will be any impact. In some cases, there are impacts and they have to provide a plan of protection or limit what can be done.

All Habitat Services uses chemistry that is approved by EPA and registered with DEEP. The permit is essentially a list of all of the chemistries that would be potentially used, but that doesn't mean that all of the items or quantities will be used. They then use their best judgment to do what is best. Mr. Roach explained that they were going to use Phoslock, which is a lanthanum-modified clay that deactivates

phosphorus, but they have realized that while it is a great product, it is not in a great form. They have now come up with a way to get it into a suspension solution, called EutroSORB, which will be much easier to work with.

Linda Frier asked if they record what wildlife they see and Mr. Roach noted that he has a lot of wildlife photos. Randy Bernotas added that he will acknowledge the documentation tomorrow morning.

Enforcement Officer's Report

Randy Bernotas had nothing new to report.

Adjournment

Jim Brown made a motion, seconded by Bob Veeley, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Debi Waz

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Alwaz First