

Unity Pond - the Next 10 Years

STARTED WITH

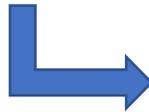


Watershed-based Plan Update 2020-2022

- Completed and DEP-approved December 2022
- Covered 7 task areas and submitted about 20 deliverables
- Public meeting gathered input October 2022
- Goals: reduce phosphorous (P) load in watershed by 1556 kg/yr; reduce lake P level from 27ppb to 19 ppb; reduce likelihood of nuisance algal blooms by 1/3; increase water clarity by 1 foot



INCLUDES



Broad Recommendations for 10-year Management Plan

- A. Reduce external phosphorous load
- B. Reduce internal phosphorous load
- C. Prevent new sources
- D. Raise public awareness
- E. Build local capacity
- F. Monitor and assess improvements

Strengthening and enforcement of municipal ordinances will be crucial!



HOW TO REACH THOSE GOALS?



Achieving these goals will be challenging and requires that three primary P-reduction strategies are carried out simultaneously to be successful:

- Address non-point source runoff in the direct watershed of Unity Pond and the indirect watersheds of Carlton Pond, Halfmoon Stream and Sandy Stream
- Upgrade septic systems to reduce probability of **toxic blue-green algal blooms**
- Strip phosphorous from the water column and inactivate P in lake-bottom sediments that fuel algal growth

COME AGAIN?

**Yes, this will be challenging.
But it's worth our investment of time and money because ...**



ACTIONS NEEDED

The Unity Pond WBMP outlines 95 specific action items under 6 planning categories to achieve these goals.

1st STEP: Convene Steering Committee

First Year: Develop sustainable funding strategy involving diverse state, federal, and local grants as well as participation by municipalities, private landowners and lake association members. Preliminary estimate: 50% coming from outside grants, 35% from local sources, and 15% from in-kind contributions.

WHAT ABOUT FUNDING?

MEASURING SUCCESS

Steering Committee will track and review the set of environmental, social, and programmatic milestones along the way.

ADMINISTERING THE PLAN

The Unity Pond WBMP provides a framework for improving water quality and preventing further water quality declines in Unity Pond so that the lake meets state water quality standards. The plan will be led by FOLW with guidance and support from a watershed steering committee. Waldo County SWCD and DEP have already stepped forward to join the committee. We seek participation by USDA/NRCS, the towns of Unity, Burnham, and Troy, local businesses, and landowners. The formation of subcommittees that focus on the six main watershed action categories will result in more efficient implementation of the plan.



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