

## **Waukewan Watershed Advisory Committee**

**Mission Statement** - The Waukewan Watershed Advisory Committee is a volunteer advisory committee appointed by the Meredith Board of Selectmen. The committee provides an organizational structure for citizens and local officials from the 5 watershed communities to facilitate implementation of the Management Plan for the Waukewan Watershed. A principal responsibility of the committee is to enhance public awareness and facilitate education regarding water quality conservation issues throughout the watershed. While maintaining a diverse geographical and stakeholder structure, the committee works collaboratively with local watershed communities, state agencies, local associations, citizens and other partners in the implementation of the Plan.

**High Risk Septic Systems** – In 2012, the Meredith Board of Selectmen and Meredith Health Officer adopted health regulations pertaining to subsurface wastewater disposal systems within 250' of Lake Waukewan. One of the key provisions requires owners of developed property within 250' of the lake having on-site disposal which pre-dates the state's regulation of septic systems (meaning a system age of 40 years or more) to have a professional inspection and evaluation done of their systems. The primary purpose of the evaluation is to determine whether the system is in failure or not. The regulation required up front notification to property owners affected by this requirement and allowed a two-year period within which to complete the inspection/evaluation. During this time frame the WWAC supported efforts by the Lake Winnepesaukee Association (LWA) to secure grant funding to: (1) to reduce the cost of septic system evaluations to \$250 each; and (2) in the event of a confirmed failure, to offset the cost of a replacement system (up to \$4k each). The LWA grant program extended into the towns of Center Harbor and New Hampton. These grant programs sunset at the end of 2015.

To date there have been 27 inspections of septic systems on Lake Waukewan; 22 in Meredith, 4 in New Hampton and 1 in Center Harbor. Of the 27 inspections, 12 systems were determined to be in failure and 15 systems passed. The LWA septic system evaluation grant helped to fund 16 evaluations. Since the adoption of the regulation, 13 new septic systems have been installed around Lake Waukewan, all of them located in Meredith. Of these new systems, 9 were partially funded by the LWA grant program to repair/replace failing septic systems. There are 3 additional septic systems designs permitted in Meredith that are scheduled for installation in 2016.

**Waukewan-Winona Watershed Restoration Plan** - The WWAC supported efforts by the Lake Winnepesaukee Association (LWA) to secure grant funding to update our management plan to current standards. This project hired FB Environmental to do a land and water survey of the Waukewan Watershed. The result is the identification of 64 sites with an assessment of their impact on water quality. Two sites have been selected to implement Best Management Practice designs which are targeted to be completed in 2016. Additionally, Pat Tarpey, Executive Director LWA, will be creating an addendum to the Waukewan Watershed Management Plan to be completed in 2016.

**Invasive Species** – The WWAC continues to help lead the Lake Host program at the Meredith boat ramp. Collaboration between the town, property associations and the NH Lakes Association enable the prevention of invasive species from entering the lake through courtesy boat inspections.

**Membership** – The WWAC is actively seeking new members. This watershed is the source of Meredith's water supply. Looking after the protection of the water quality is critical not only for the drinking water, but also for the continued recreational benefits provided.

Submitted by

Bob Vogler, Vice Chairman  
waukeworld@metrocast.net