

Center Pond Weed-Pulling Demonstration Project

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Aquatic Control Technology, Inc. Report 2010 “Annual Aquatic Plant Surveys at Center Pond Becket, Massachusetts – 2010”

Full Text of **SUMMARY**, Page 4

“A significant reduction in the EWM (Eurasian Water Milfoil) population at Center Pond was realized following the hand-pulling program during the 2010 season. EWM distribution and density was effectively reduced to the lowest levels that have been recorded since the current management program was initiated in 2003. Based on what was seen during the October 2010 survey, we believe that EWM can be effectively managed through continuation of the hand-pulling program in 2011. CPRPD (Center Pond Restoration and Protection District) should focus its resources on supporting hand-pulling efforts in 2011 and developing a new integrated management plan that focuses on controlling invasive aquatic plants and preserving desirable conditions in Center Pond.”

From **MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS**, Page 4

“The dramatic reduction in EWM distribution and density recorded during the 2010 late season survey was very encouraging. It is apparent that the persistent hand-pulling program performed by the Center Pond Weed Project has made some significant headway. Based on visual observations and data collected during the October 2010 survey, it would appear that the EWM population at Center Pond can be effectively controlled with an ongoing hand-pulling program.”

“Monitoring will continue to be an important means of helping to decide upon the appropriate management strategy and to track the effectiveness of the techniques that are employed. Considering the limited amount of EWM growth seen during the October 2010 survey, performing a visual survey in the spring of 2011 is probably not necessary. Surveys to identify locations of EWM growth and help direct management efforts should be routinely conducted by CPRPD members or other volunteers.”

“Future management efforts will likely need to be re-permitted, since the previous Order of Conditions expired on 7/25/10. Fortunately, the hand-pulling work is covered under a separate Negative Determination permit that we believe is still valid. Since it appears as if only hand-pulling will be required in 2011, we would recommend that CPRPD continue to support the hand-pulling program, continue to monitor and begin to formulate a comprehensive integrated management plan. If it becomes evident that another management strategy may need to be employed in Center Pond, then a new comprehensive Notice of Intent application could be prepared and submitted.”

From **Table 1 - Plant Survey Summary Statistics**, Page 3

“The comprehensive transect/data point survey was completed following the visual survey. The following summary data was calculated by analyzing data collected at the 78 data points that were surveyed (at) Center Pond.”

Table 1 shows EWM Cover as follows: 2003) 4.9% 2004) 1.2% 2005) 0.3%
2006) 0.5% 2007) 0.6% 2008) 0.6% 2009) 1.0% **2010) <0.1%**