

**CEDAR MEADOW LAKE  
2013 - 2014  
ACTION PLAN**

**GOAL 1. DAM MAINTENANCE**

Maintain the dam in good condition and provide the ability to engage in periodic draw downs or other actions to maintain the lake in good condition. Repair and reinstall siphons to enhance draw down capacity. Routine maintenance will include periodic mowing of the upper dam surface.

Responsibility: Management Committee with assistance of qualified contractors

Resources: Funds contained in the Annual Budget

**GOAL 2. ENGINEERING SERVICES**

Maintain a professional relationship with an engineering firm to provide expertise and guidance with respect to the maintenance and repair of the dam. Complete State mandated Phase I follow-up inspection.

Responsibility: Management Committee

Resources: Funds contained in the Annual Budget

**GOAL 3. DAM REPAIR**

Complete the next phase of a multi-year program to repair and upgrade the dam. Repairs will be determined by the results of recently completed core sampling and engineering observations during lake re-filling.

Responsibility: Management Committee with assistance of qualified contractors when necessary.

Resources: Funds contained in the Annual Budget

**GOAL 4. TREE REMOVAL**

Acquire the land on the south side of the dam to cut large trees and brush within 15 feet of the dam structure as ordered by the Office of Dam Safety.

Responsibility: Management Committee

Resources: Funds contained in the Annual Budget

**GOAL 5. SUCCESSION PLANNING**

The long time District Clerk, who also serves as the Dam Caretaker, has moved from the District and has announced his intention not to seek re-election in 2014. Identify the tasks performed by the District Clerk, particularly with respect to maintaining the dam, and assign responsibilities to other volunteers and professionals as necessary to perform these tasks.

Responsibility: Management Committee

Resources: Volunteer hours and minimal administrative expenses

## GOAL 6. FINANCING

Collect betterments through the Town of Leicester Tax Collector's office and make annual payments on long term USDA Rural Development loan. Invest betterment pre-payments in safe investment vehicles to realize a rate of return, over time, in excess of the loan interest rate.

Responsibility: Management Committee with the assistance of the Finance Committee.

Resources: Volunteer hours and minimal administrative expenses

## GOAL 7: CONDUCT WATER QUALITY MONITORING PROGRAM

Measure total phosphorus content and clarity through the collection and analysis of lake water samples. Informally, collect and measure bacteria counts.

Responsibility: Management Committee with assistance of volunteers

Resources: Volunteer hours and low cost analysis

## GOAL 8. WEED CONTROL

Draw down the lake five feet beginning in late September or early October and maintain this water elevation until the lake bottom freezes for weed control purposes. Thereafter, endeavor to maintain lake levels between 24 and 36 inches below the spillway elevations during that portion of the winter when the lake is covered with ice to minimize ice damage to shoreline structures. Appoint a committee of volunteers to study and map non-native aquatic weed populations in the lake and to recommend programs to eliminate or reduce these populations, particularly the Fanwort in two northern coves.

Responsibility: Management Committee

Resources: Volunteer hours and minor administrative expenses

## GOAL 9. FUND RAISING Replaces Friends Program

Continue to implement a program to solicit voluntary contributions from non-member neighbors that might use or otherwise enjoy the lake, and to identify and implement other programs and activities to raise funds to offset District operating costs.

Responsibility: Management Committee with assistance of volunteers

Resources: Minor postage and copying expenses

## GOAL 10. COMMUNICATIONS

Communicate information regarding happenings on and around the lake through periodic newsletters and the District's web site [www.cedarmeadow.org](http://www.cedarmeadow.org).

Responsibility: District Clerk and District Treasurer

Resources: Funds contained in the Annual Budget

# **Cedar Meadow Lake Watershed District**

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**2013 - 2014**

### **ACTION PLAN**

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### CURRENT SITUATION

May 2013

The dam is considered to be in fair condition by the Massachusetts Office of Dam Safety, primarily due to the presence of large diameter trees within 15 feet of the downstream toe of the dam. The Office of Dam Safety is concerned that the integrity of the dam could be damaged if these trees were uprooted during heavy rain and wind conditions, and wants these trees removed. The land below the dam is owned by Raymond E. Shea, Jr.. Efforts are underway to purchase this land from Mr. Shea.

Lenard Engineering is developing a long range plan to maintain and improve the integrity of the dam. A great deal of knowledge was gained in this regard during December 2012 and in the Spring of 2013 while conducted dam repairs. Based on these experiences, future efforts will entail supplementing the core wall within the dam to bring the core wall above the ordinary high water mark, and injecting grout where necessary to fill voids within the internal dam structure.

It has been determined that the lake contains 1400 acre feet of water under 100 year flood conditions and, as such, is considered by the Massachusetts Office of Dam Safety to be a "large" body of water. This designation carries some, as yet undefined, regulatory implications.

The proliferation of nuisance aquatic vegetation continues to be a problem in the lake. The lake is on the State's (303d) impaired waters list for this reason. The District's annual draw down program has successfully reduced the weed population in most shoreline areas. However, the weed population in the coves on the northern end of the lake is increasing.

The District took the dam and land under the lake by eminent domain in 1997 after seven frustrating years of lower than normal summer water levels due to poor dam conditions. The prior owner of the dam and land under the lake, Central Water District Associates (CWDA), refused to repair the dam or to allow the District to make repairs, or pay for repairs, to the dam. Necessary repairs were made to the dam by the District in 1997, and the lake has been full, or nearly full, each summer since. CWDA successfully sued the District seeking a higher amount than the amount paid for the property in 1997. Following a 2009 Superior Court trial, a jury found that, at the time for the taking, the land under the lake and dam were worth \$1.1 million more than the amount paid by the District. Statutory interest, when added to this, raised the amount owed by the District to CWDA to \$1.7 million. A "judgement" was issued by the Superior Court in December 2011. Based on the advise of expert legal counsel, the District voted in 2012 to pay this judgement. District members also voted to seek long term financing through USDA Rural Development, and to collect annual loan payments from members through betterments. First betterment bills, to those members that have not pre-paid their betterments, will be issued by the Leicester Board of Assessors for

payment in August and November 2013.