

MLPA Members Approve Receipt of \$65,000 NH DES Grant

At a Special Meeting of members of the MLPA, on Saturday, May 29, 2010, members unanimously, and enthusiastically, approved acceptance of the Watershed Assistance and Restoration Grant to develop a Watershed Community Management Plan for the Mirror Lake Watershed, including the 40% matching funding and volunteer hour obligations as a component of the grant. . Funding for this grant is from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act and the awards are administered by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services. In addition to committing to donating \$400 each or 20 volunteer hours, over the summer, to meet the matching requirements, attendees agreed to seek additional funding and volunteer help from concerned citizens, businesses and Mirror Lake watershed residents in order to fulfill the matching obligations. The purpose of the grant is to fund a diagnostic study of the Mirror Lake Watershed to determine the sources of the excess nutrients in Mirror Lake which have produced cyanobacteria blooms in 2007, 08 and 09. The study will also make recommendations for remediation actions and the costs thereof. Design development for 2 or 3 small remediation efforts are included, as well as funding for an educational outreach component, and website and membership enhancement. Three consultants will be hired to assist in the development of the Plan, an environmental firm, an educational consultant and a membership/web site consultant. The study will include model support, water, soil, and sediment analysis, road, inlet and outlets, and septic surveys, as well as an analysis of Mirror Lake Watershed land usages. At the meeting committee heads were appointed for the Advisory and Water Quality, Model Support, Education and Outreach, Capital Campaign, Water Sampling, and Web site/Membership Committees. These individuals will be working most directly with the consultants and they will be primarily responsible for organizing the volunteers who will participate in the data collection and development of the Watershed Management Plan.

Next Steps: Bid packages have been provided to environmental firms, with bids due by June 15. The selected bidder will attend the annual meeting of the MLPA on **Saturday, June 26th**, at a place to be determined, as we are seeking a larger facility than the one we have used in the past. In the second week of June a mailing with more information about this meeting will be sent to all residents in the Mirror Lake Watershed. Also look for an announcement about this upcoming meeting in *The Granite State News*. All are invited to attend.