

The **Carmans River Protection Working Group** was enacted into law by the Town of Brookhaven in December 2007. The first meeting occurred in January 2008. The Working Group's directive was to assist the Town of Brookhaven and the County of Suffolk in assessing the available alternatives and strategies to remedy the aquatic invasive plant species in Upper and Lower Yaphank Lakes. The legislation says "The Carmans River Protection Working Group is hereby established for the purpose of reviewing and evaluating all options to eradicate and manage the aquatic invasive plant species present in the Upper and Lower Lake of the Carmans River and to further develop a set of prioritized recommendations for submission to jurisdictional authorities for implementation that said jurisdictional authorities may deem to be appropriate."

The Working Group met numerous times from 2008 through 2010. We arranged presentations from experts in various fields including lake management, pesticide applications, dam removal, fish protection, history of the lakes and more. In 2009, Suffolk County appointed Nelson, Pope, and Voorhis (NPV) as the consultant for the project. The Working Group also became the Steering Committee for NPV and crafted a comprehensive Scoping Document to ensure stakeholder input into this important study. As per their contract, the consultant met several times with the Working Group. On September 14, 2010, NPV presented their recommendations to the Working Group and to the public at presentation in Brookhaven Town Hall.

On October 4, 2010 the Carmans River Protection Working Group convened to review the consultant's findings and recommendations. The Working Group crafted our own recommendations which we are hopeful will be adopted by the Town of Brookhaven and Suffolk County.

The Carmans River Protection Working Group voted in majority to offer the following recommendations:

A. Upper Lake (Willow Lake) Remediation –

Sonar Applications followed by dredging of the soft sediment which would require a shallow dredge of 10 feet or less. This dredge will allow for removal of the roots and will leave a hard bottom in Upper Lake.

B. Lower Lake (Lilly Lake) Remediation –

First step - Dredging of soft sediment – less than 10 feet.

OPTIONAL second step to apply Sonar, only if NEEDED, since sonar is less effective for Variable Leaf Milfoil – the predominate invasive plant in Lower Lake.

C. Lake Management and "After care" of the Lakes.

A Management Plan should be created to plan for future monitoring and maintenance of the Lakes. The committee felt the contribution and role of hand harvesting was undervalued by the consultant. Therefore, Lake Management techniques could include:

1. Suction Harvesting – called DASH (Divers Assisted Suction Harvesting). The committee is well aware that the depth of the lakes does not require divers; however, the device and methodology used by this device should be explored.
2. Hand harvesting – Members of Coalition to the Save the Lakes and other stakeholder organizations could hold yearly events under the supervision and guidance of DEC.

D. The Carmans River Protection Working Group wants the Town and SC to know that invasive species is a symptom of declining water quality. New programs are needed to ensure the health of the Lakes and prevent future outbreaks of these invasive species. High nutrients and increased sedimentation need to be averted as part of the long term protection measures for the Lakes. Prevention of a future problem needs to incorporate as part of this remedial plan.

Recommendations for Town/County/State to implement:

- Conduct dye testing on septic systems on adjacent properties to both Upper and Lower Lake.
Require and assist with upgrades for failing septic systems
- Prevent stormwater runoff by implementing educational and practical measures such as installing catch basins, permeable pavements and rain barrels.
- Provide public education to residents about:
Fertilizer application restrictions
Adverse impacts of duck feeding
Adverse impacts of unmanaged pet waste
- Create “No Fertilizer Zones” around the Lakes
- Advance state legislation to prohibit the sale of Cabomba and invasive aquatic species in pet stores. Conduct site visits to stores to see if they are complying with Suffolk County regulations.

- E. The Carmans River Protection Working Group DOES NOT support long term use of Sonar. Herbicides should be applied as *limited and targeted use only* to prevent the system from becoming chemically dependent. The goal is to eliminate the cause of the aquatic invasive plants.
- F. The Working Group supports the implementation of fish passage ladders as proposed by the NPV.
- G. The Working Group reserves the right to adjust or alter this recommendation after Suffolk County and Nelson, Pope and Voorhees release the written report for the Upper and Lower Lakes. This report is due out on or before April 2011.

Motion made for the above by Robert Kessler. Seconded by Fran Hurley. Committee vote as follows:

Adrienne Esposito	Citizens Campaign for the Environment	Yes
Doug Swesty	Trout Unlimited	No
Marty Van Lith	Open Space Council	Yes
Leg. Kate Browning	Suffolk County	Yes
Fran Hurley	Yaphank Taxpayers & Civic Association	Yes
Joe Jansen	The Nature Conservancy	Abstained
Councilwoman Connie Kepert	Town of Brookhaven	Yes
Anthony Graves	Town of Brookhaven DEP	Absent
Camilo Salazar	Suffolk County DEE	Abstained
Assemblyman Dean Murray	NYS Assembly	**Yes
Steve Trusnovec	Resident	Yes
Chad Trusnovec	Resident	Yes
John Stehle	Resident	Yes
Robert Kessler	Resident	Yes
Senator LaValle	NYS Senate	Absent
Audrey Kessler (proxy for Joann McConnell)	South Yaphank Civic Association	Yes
Assemblyman Mark Alessi		Yes

**Yes, Assemblyman Murray contacted Chairwoman Esposito on October 5, 2010 to request to be listed as a yes vote.