

Pontoosuc Lake – Pittsfield & Lanesborough, Massachusetts

Lake Size - 493 acres

Watershed Size – 13,607 acres

Ownership – Department of Capital Assets Management

Dam Maintenance – Department of Conservation & Recreation & City of Pittsfield

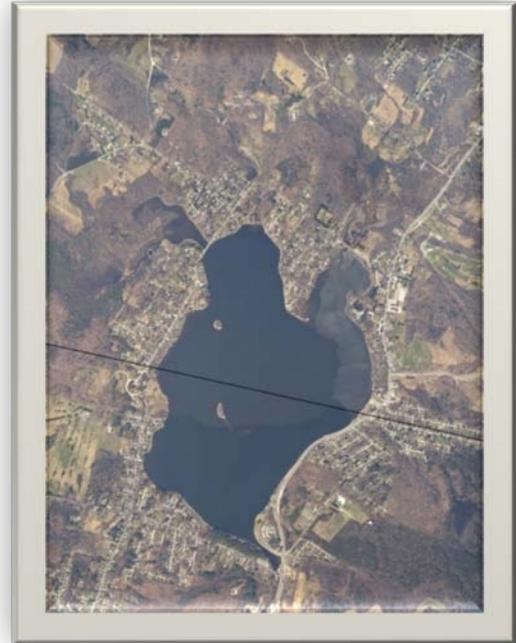
Lake Association

Friends of Pontoosuc Lake/Watershed, Inc.

Mission Statement

The objectives of the Friends of Pontoosuc Lake/Watershed Corporation are to achieve a lake in which:

- ◆ high water quality standards are maintained, nuisance aquatic vegetation is held in check;
- ◆ a safe and sound dam is capable of maintaining water elevation at the appropriate levels;
- ◆ high environmental standards are maintained within the watershed; and
- ◆ can be enjoyed by the citizens for a variety of uses.



History

The Friends of Pontoosuc Lake/Watershed Inc. was originally established in 1981 as the Pontoosuc Advisory Board by the Berkshire County Commissioners, the Mayor of Pittsfield, and the Lanesborough Board of Selectmen.

Membership

Approximately 100 dues paying members, primarily families. Membership is open to all stakeholders.

Activities

- ◆ **Advise & Support** - Provide advice and assistance to all agencies responsible for the management and maintenance of the lake and its watershed.
- ◆ **Coordinate** - Provide planning coordination among the various organizations making decisions which impact the lake and the watershed.
- ◆ **Communicate & Educate** - Work to inform the community at large of matters concerning the lake and the watershed.
- ◆ **Volunteer Action** - Organize and conduct volunteer activities.

Major Accomplishments & Ongoing Actions

- ◆ Coordinate weed control program and transitioned from harvesting to herbicide.
- ◆ Conduct macrophyte surveys 2-3 times per summer.
- ◆ Conduct monthly water quality sampling.
- ◆ Hand-pull Water Chestnuts.
- ◆ Write and mail 2-3 newsletters per year.
- ◆ Maintain a 600 member mailing list of lake stakeholders.
- ◆ Conduct lab sessions in support of the MCLA environmental studies program.
- ◆ Organize a volunteer lake cleanup.

Major Issues Facing Pontoosuc Lake

- ◆ Threat of additional invasive species, including Zebra Mussels.
- ◆ Degradation of the lake due to impacts of existing and additional development.
- ◆ Ability to protect this valuable natural resource.
- ◆ Transfer control of the dam to the City of Pittsfield.

Existing Documents and Plans

- ◆ *Post Implementation Study of Pontoosuc Lake*, ENSR International, March 2000.
- ◆ *Pontoosuc Lake Management Plan*, Friends of Pontoosuc Lake and the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, December 2004.
- ◆ *Pontoosuc Lake Watershed Survey & Action Plan*, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, January 2008.
- ◆ *Pontoosuc Lake Watershed-Based Plan*, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, June 2008.

Grants

- ◆ Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection s.319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Competitive Grants
- ◆ Berkshire Environmental Trust Grants
- ◆ Lakes and Ponds Grants (former DEM)