

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
APRIL 5, 2010

CONSERVATION DISTRICT ANNOUNCES PUBLIC HEARING FOR SABATTUS POND WATERSHED GRANT

SABATTUS, APRIL 5, 2010: Androscoggin Valley Soil and Water Conservation District (AVSWCD), an equal opportunity employer and provider, has received a new grant for the Sabattus Pond watershed. Funding for this project, in part, was provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act. Section 319 grants are administered by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection in partnership with EPA. The funds will be used for outreach, education, technical assistance and implementation of projects that will reduce erosion and phosphorus loading to Sabattus Pond. Phosphorus is a primary contributor to algal blooms, a recurring problem in the pond that reduces oxygen levels and sunlight in the water and decreases the ability of fish and other organisms to survive. Algal blooms also decrease the aesthetic value of the pond and in some cases can reduce property values.

The grant will be coordinated with help from a steering committee comprised of the Sabattus Pond Watershed Partnership, representatives of the three watershed towns, AVSWCD, and other citizens. **Free** technical assistance will be available to landowners who have problems with erosion and request services. A portion of the funds will be available to help landowners plant buffers on their property. A well functioning buffer of vegetation at the shoreline will reduce the amount of phosphorus entering the pond and help increase the value of the property. Funding is also available for projects that reduce active erosion such as gravel road improvements, replacement of culverts, shoreline improvements, etc. All types of projects, including buffers, require a cost share, cash, in-kind match or a combination of both.

A public hearing will be held May 5, 2010 at the Sabattus Town Office starting at 6 p.m. The public meeting will offer information about the grant and the process a landowner must follow to receive funding for a project. Direct questions or requests for free technical assistance through the grant to AVSWCD, 753-9400 X404 or susan.gammon@me.nacdn.net.

Please notify us of the date released for publication

