

LONG POND WATER DISTRICT LONG POND WATERSHED

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Long Pond Water District serves approximately 400 people year-round from Long Pond with a greater population in the summer months. The 221-acre watershed of Long Pond is located in the Town of Sullivan. The pond is relatively small with no significant streamflow into the pond. The watershed is predominantly in forest growth. The shoreland areas are undeveloped except for one summer cottage. The Water District does not own land in the shoreland or upland watershed areas, but has a gated and locked right-of-way easement to access the pond, intake and main pipeline from the pond. The shoreland is protected by a 250-foot, Shoreland Zoning Ordinance and a protective buffer managed by the Sullivan Harbor Foundation.

No significant land use threats were identified during the reconnaissance of the watershed. Activities occurring in the watershed on a limited or periodic basis include recreational use on trails, timber harvesting and non-contact water recreation, i.e., fishing and boating. The Water District is not aware of any problems or threats to the source resulting from these activities.

The Water District intake, located in the pond in approximately 5 to 6 feet of water at a distance of about 40 feet from shore, delivers water by gravity through a pipeline to the filtration plant located to the southeast on Punkinville Road. Raw water monitoring for turbidity, and testing for TE2, TE3 and other parameters have indicated good water quality from this source.

Based on the largely undeveloped nature of the watershed, rural setting, low threat of development and shoreland protection, the overall susceptibility of the Long Pond water supply is considered to be low.

SWAP RANKING AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The SWAP assessment factors indicate that overall susceptibility of the water quality in Long Pond is low. This conclusion is based on the general conditions observed, including the lack of development in the watershed, the predominantly rural, forested land use and the absence of potential threats from land use activities. Specific factors considered in assessing the overall risk are summarized below.

LONG POND SURFACE WATER ASSESSMENT

Zone	Measure	Findings	Risk Level
Watershed	Ambient Water Quality	Class GPA, in full compliance.	Low
	Existing Conditions	Land use characteristics present a low threat to water quality; timber harvesting & public use is limited.	Low
	Future Development	Zoning absent to control development of privately held land although the remote/rural setting suggests low development pressure.	Low-Moderate
	Overall		Low
Shoreland	Pond Classification	Oligotrophic	Low
	Soils	Potentially erodible soils on steep, rocky slopes, (Turnbridge & Scoodic (15-65%).	Low
	Activities Posing a Threat	RV use on trails near pond shoreline.	Low
	Potential for Future Threats	Future development is controlled in part by shoreland zoning and protective buffer held in Foundation ownership; yet, land in private ownership control is at some risk to future development.	Low-Moderate
	Overall		Low
Intake	Raw Water Quality	TE2 & TE3 testing shows good quality.	Low
	Ownership/Control	No ownership protection for intake area; access road gated and locked.	Low
	Activities Posing a Threat	Limited use of pond and shore for non-contact recreation.	Low
	Potential for Future Threats	Change in shoreland protections.	Low-Moderate
	Overall		Low
Overall			Low

Recommendations

The overall ranking for the pond's susceptibility to threats of contamination is low. Several additional actions could be considered by the Water District to provide added protection to the quality of the water supply.

- The Water District has posted a small, hand-made sign near the pond shore at the end of the intake access road. The Water District should consider posting additional and more official signs to increase public awareness, especially near recreational use trails.
- The shoreland currently has some protection under the existing zoning and protective buffer ownership. The Water District has indicated an interest in obtaining direct ownership control of a buffer strip around the pond. Direct control of the shoreland and upland watershed through gifts, land purchase, development rights purchase, conservation easements, etc., is an important objective that should be pursued for long-term protection of the source. As an alternative to ownership control, the Water District should consider developing a watershed protection ordinance with the Town of Sullivan and private landowners.

- Maintain communications and awareness with the large landowners on protecting the water supply from all types of land uses, and more specifically, with regard to sustaining timber harvesting practices that are protective of the water resource and avoid the use of pesticides.

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