

2020 Long Pond Watershed Survey

On September 22- 23, 2020, the Belgrade Lakes Association (BLA) will be conducting a survey of the developed land areas in the Long Pond watershed which includes portions of land within the towns of Rome, Mt. Vernon, Belgrade, Vienna and New Sharon. The purpose of the survey is to identify and prioritize sources of erosion and stormwater runoff that may affect the water quality of the lake, which is considered impaired for not meeting state water quality standards due to a decline in water quality over the past 30 years. The last survey of the Long Pond watershed was conducted in 2002, 18 years ago.

Current information is needed to help develop a watershed management plan that will protect and improve water quality. A new survey is also a necessary step for applying and receiving grant funding from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). These funds can provide cost-sharing opportunities landowners, road associations, and towns to complete improvements identified during the survey. Acquiring grant funding is a 2- to 3-year process that begins with the volunteer assisted watershed survey, followed by updating the watershed management plan.

Town of Rome residents owning land in the Long Pond watershed will receive a letter from BLA the week of August 17th requesting permission to survey your property. Participation in the survey is voluntary and landowners do not need to be present to participate. All survey work will be completed in compliance with state COVID-19 guidelines to ensure the safety of survey volunteers and landowners.

For more information contact the BLA at: (207) 512-5150 or email info@BLAmaine.org.