

October 7, 2022

Office of the Selectmen
115 Main Street
P.O. Box 96
Voluntown CT 06834

RE: Beachdale Pond Drawdown 2022

Dear First Selectman Hanson,

This letter responds to your request, which was made on behalf of the landowners on Beachdale Avenue, to draw down Beachdale Pond by three (3) feet during the 2022/2023 winter season to allow for cleaning up properties and weed control.

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) has reviewed your request. Staff from DEEP's Fisheries Division conducted a site visit of the pond, shoreline, and benthic habitat. Due to the bathymetry at Beachdale Pond, a 3 ft. drawdown would expose a large surface area to the elements and may cause a significant loss of ecological habitat over the winter. A drawdown of 12 to 18 inches is approved to allow access to landowners while preserving more of the benthic habitat.

The drawdown will commence on or about November 1, 2022 and will be managed to restore to normal surface water elevation by early April 2023. The drawdown will be supervised by Mark Sulik, Park & Forest Supervisor, Pachaug State Forest.

This drawdown service will be provided on an actual expense reimbursement basis, with an approximate wage rate range of \$60-\$70 per hour plus any additional direct costs incurred. DEEP estimates that this service will require approximately 30 hours. A bill for these services will be sent at the end of the 2022/2023 drawdown season. Please note that there have been years when weather has prevented achieving the desired drawdown level. If this happens, you will be charged for the time that has been spent attempting the drawdown.

Questions regarding implementation of this drawdown of 12-18 inches should be directed to Mark Sulik at 860-805-2679 or Mark.Sulik@ct.gov.

If you have general questions regarding this notification, please contact Linda Brunza of my staff at Linda.Brunza@ct.gov.

Sincerely,

Katie S. Dykes

Katie S. Dykes
Commissioner

cc: Mark Sulik, DEEP