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PRESS RELEASE

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Senator Gobi Announces Release of Funds for Lake Wickaboag Dredging Project

BOSTON- Senator Anne M. Gobi (D-Spencer) was pleased to join Al Collings, President of the Lake Wickaboag Preservation Association, in announcing the release of \$50,000 worth of funding for the dredging of Lake Wickaboag that had been appropriated in the FY 19 State Budget. The project will help remediate the high phosphorous levels, algae blooms and weeds needed to maintain healthy animal life.

“I have been proud to partner with the Lake Association, and I share their concern for the long term health of the lake,” remarked Senator Gobi. “I look forward to continue this work and assisting preservation efforts so future generations may also be able to enjoy it.”

“We thank Senator Gobi and her staff for obtaining these funds which we use to decide on a site for depositing the dredge material and finalize the six permits needed for the project,” said Al Collings. “The next steps, subject to additional funding, are to prepare a final design document and develop a bid package for interested dredging contractors.”

Located in the town of West Brookfield, the lake covers approximately 320 acres and is a popular recreation destination year round for fishing, swimming and boating. The most common problems facing lakes include sedimentation, nutrient pollution (which promotes algae blooms and excessive rooted plants), and invasive species. Over the last seventeen years there have been a multitude of projects at the lake to manage the water quality, including the construction of stormwater control structure and the dredging of two small ponds adjacent to the lake. The next, and most ambitious, project is to dredge 350,000 cu. yds. of sediment in the 75 acres of the north cove of Lake Wickaboag creating two pools 6-8 feet deep and increasing the depth of the area by four to six feet. This area has seen a continuous flow of sediment from the tributaries feeding the lake. Streams that pass through former and current farm land bring silt and sand to the lake making part of the area unusable for recreational activities and contributing to water quality issues in the rest of the lake.

For more information on the project, please contact Al Collings at (413) 813-5751.
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