July 31st, 2012
Pine Lake Association
c/o Mr. Greg Yarworth
11727 Ford's Point
Plainwell, MI 49080

Dear Pine Lake Association,

First, I would like to thank Greg Yarworth for inviting me to present EnviroScience's Milfoil Solution® to your association on Saturday, July 14th, 2012. It is obvious that the association cares deeply about the lake and is striving to make the best management decisions. On Monday, July 23rd, Mr. and Mrs. Yarworth also took me for a boat ride around Pine Lake and pointed out the various areas that were infested with Eurasian watermilfoil (milfoil).

I would like to preface my letter by saying that every lake is different. Some lakes have milfoil that grows primarily along a certain depth (8-12 foot range around the lake), others have milfoil growing straight across because of shallow nature, and others like Pine Lake have milfoil that grows from zero to 6-8 feet. This is important to note because as with any biological control, live organisms need to be highly concentrated in a few areas of the lake in order to readily find each other and induce large declines of the milfoil. Criteria for choosing stocking sites include:

Moderate to dense areas of healthy milfoil (referred to as "beds" of milfoil)

Sites need to be away from high boat traffic lanes or able to be "buoyed off" from traffic

Away from any potential herbicide use (at least 300 feet)

During my tour, I noticed that the primary infestation was present in and around residents' docks and that the milfoil did not extend too far into the main common areas of the lake. The only exception was in "Lake 2" near the Michigan Career and Technical Institute where the two bays containing natural shoreline had an extensive milfoil infestation (along with a healthy variety of native plant species). In my professional opinion, these two bays would be the only optimal sites for stocking weevils because they are both out of the way of boat traffic and have plenty of healthy milfoil for stocking. However, only a few residents who live in the two bays in "Lake 2" would benefit from weevils. The rest of the lake residents would still be dealing with milfoil infestations that are directly on their shoreline and dock areas. In most of the lake, I noticed a highly developed shoreline with numerous boats that would be ripping through the milfoil on their way in and out of the docks. Thus, it would not be effective to stock weevils in these locations, so herbicide use would be the most appropriate management strategy in this case.

Although weevils have offered long-term, effective control of the milfoil in many Michigan Lakes since 1998, there are certain limitations that we understand about our service. Due to the high boat traffic where the milfoil primarily grows around dock areas, I believe that stocking weevils in these areas is not the optimal management strategy. Moreover, if weevils were chosen, residents need to understand that there will still be weeds in the lake. The milfoil cannot be eradicated (not even with herbicides). Instead, biological control will maintain the milfoil at a low level and we expect an increase in native plants to take over areas once-dominated by milfoil.

If any further clarification is needed regarding this letter, please feel free to contact me at (800)940-4035.

Thank you,

Rebecca McMenamin
Marketing Manager EnviroScience, Inc.