B. 11 McANENY

SURFACE FRESH WATER RESOURCES

TOWN OF HUNTINGTON

BY

NEW YORK STATE CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

DIVISION OF FISH AND GAME

(MARCH 1967)

WEST WATERSHED OF CRAB MEADOW

General Description

The 425 acre salt marsh complex of Crab Meadow is located north and east of the Village of Northport. Located in the southwest corner of this salt marsh complex is the major brackish swamp and fresh water pond unit (salinity .03 or less).

The northern edge is hilly and is bordered by the Town golf course and a hardwood stand.

The pond and swamp area is roughly quartered by Seaside Court running north and south and the LILCO filled right-of-way which runs east and west covering an underground power line.

The water for the two eastern ponds is supplies by surface run-off and springs which well up into the ponds. The level of the two ponds, connected by an 18 inch culvert, under the LILCO right-of-way, can be controlled at the existing (well-constructed) concrete weir by the use of proper flash boards. For the present boundary of this pond see the enclosed map.

Vegetation

The existing open water is quite shallow along the north, east, and south perimeters. The remainder of the total potential pond area is dominated by a community of Cattails.

The two eastern swamps have very little standing water at present. The flora consists mainly of alder, cat briar, red maple, red stem dogwood, sumac, rose, viburnums, willow, common wild grape and cattails.

The southwestern swamp is drier and supports a swamp forest

community of oak, alder, red stem dogwood, skunk cabbage, wineberry, catbriar, and viburnums. Along the stream to the north and in the lowest swamp there are red maple, cattail, and alder.

These four swamps have in common plants in the genus Scirpus commonly known as woolgrass. The vegetation along the outflow consists mainly of common reed and marsh elder which are typical of the higher, drier salt marsh complex.

Water

The temperature of the two ponds, judging from the surface temperature of their outflow 61°F on 6/28/62), is quite cool during summer months. The pond water is slightly acid.

The outflow of the ponds is estimately to be in excess of 100 gallons per minute (2/20/67 with little runoff during the previous 3 days). The outflow of Fuchs Pond is somewhat less under similar conditions. Local residents state that the town irrigated the golf course on a 24 hour basis for about ten weeks without effecting the water level appreciably. This indicates that the summer flow is quite constant. The local residents have tried to maintain or increase the water level of the ponds by installing makeshift flashboards with little success. The main reason for their efforts is to retain an ample supply of water for fire protection.

Animal Life

During a recent field trip, (3/10/67) and (2/20/67), mallard ducks and over twenty wood cocks were observed. A great variety of water oriented birds as well as other wildlife including turtles, killie fish and amphibians are also present especially during the warmer months.

Mans Impact on this Area

After the construction of the filled right-of-way by LILCO in early 1966, the pond was divided, and the water level of the northern most pond dropped appreciably. The local residents urged LILCO to place a culvert at the east end of the dike to connect the two ponds.

Aside from breaking the continuity of the pond, the ecological impact of the right-of-way on the total area is slight. The major significant permanent damage resulting from the construction of the dike is the pond area lost to the fill.

The swamps of the area have been used by man as a dumping ground for trash. Thus the major impact has been to destroy aesthetic considerations, in an area which should be preserving every fragment of nature's beauty.

Recommendations

Local residents have expressed a desire that the water level be raised. The feasibility of such was investigated and appropriate elevations determined.

The main goal of this project is to improve the Town owned area for wildlife, fishing and aesthetics. To accomplish this, it is proposed to increase the present water level by two feet, resulting in a deeper area void of cattails and the reduction of sheltered mosquito breeding area. For the boundary of the proposed pond, see enclosed map.

The elevations taken along the old dike indicate several low spots that should be repaired. Also, some trees should be cleared from the dike.

The electrical engineering department of Long Island Lighting Company was contacted to see if the two foot increase in water level would adversely effect their sand dike and the underground power cables. They could see no problems involving the underground power cables and also saw no problems as longas the water did not effect the use of the dike as a road by Long Island Lighting Company vehicles. Dike stabilization by the planting of grasses was discussed, and if necessary will be done.

The privately owned swampy areas to the west of the old dike represent the dwindling remnants of the red maple swamp habitat in the Town of Huntington. To retain such areas for public betterment it is suggested that these 3.730 acres be acquired by the Town and dedicated to conservation.

The foregoing proposals will benefit fish and wildlife especially waterfowl and wading birds. The local school on Norwood Avenue (UFSD #4) could use the area for education purposes.

The quantity and quality of the water in the ponds would be improved by the increased depth. The pond temperature, based on the outflow temperature, should be around 60°F. This temperature is in the range of many desirable fresh water sport fish.

FUCHS POND

General Description

Fuchs Pond is the southern most pond in the previously described wetlands complex. It appears to be about half its potential size since the flash board weir is non-operative. Its present shape is limited by highlands to the southeast and a low red maple swamp on the northwest.

The pond is fed by springs, run-off water, and a capped spring used for fire protection and maintains a reasonably cool water temperature the year round. The water which runs out of Fuchs Pond does not enter the upper pond described previously, but skirts along the old dike following a northerly course and joins the main stream below the flash board weir in the old dike.

Impact of Man

Fuchs Pond is situated on private property and is not open to the public. The northern end has been defiled by dumping trash, old cars and waste fill.

Recommendations

The concrete weir should be rebuilt and the flash boards replaced in order to raise the water level two to three feet. This will have the effect of covering the swamp on the northwest side to a depth of about one foot, doubling the surface area of the pond and increasing the fish and wildlife potential.

The upland around the pond should be planted with a variety of shrubs of value to wildlife, to enhance the total potential of the area. Of course, none of the above can be accomplished without approval of the

owner Dr. Fuchs is amenable to opening the pond to some controlled use and should be officially approached relative to his position.

EAST WATERSHED OF CRAB MEADOW

General Description

The East Watershed of Crab Meadow is a lowland located between two hills which run in a north-south direction. This area starts at Route 25A and continues in a northerly direction. The stream in the center of this lowland drains the surrounding hills of run-off water. As this stream travels northerly many small rivulets join it to give it a late winter volume of about 100 gallons per minute before entering Crab Meadow.

The lowland itself is divided into three areas by earth dikes which formerly created three distinct fresh water wetland areas. The dikes are now broken, and the pond basins have been invaded by red maple, alder, summer sweet and an assortment of other wetland transitory species.

Impact of Man on this Area

The ecology of this area is slowly changing as the once wetlands become drier lowland. As this change occurs, the species of plants inhabiting the area also change. This has been brought about because of the non-operational state on the dikes.

Here as in other picturesque areas of Long Island, there are those who choose to destroy the aesthetic and biological values by dumping rubbish. It is a pity that our unprotected open areas are vulnerable to those fewwho have little regard for their value.

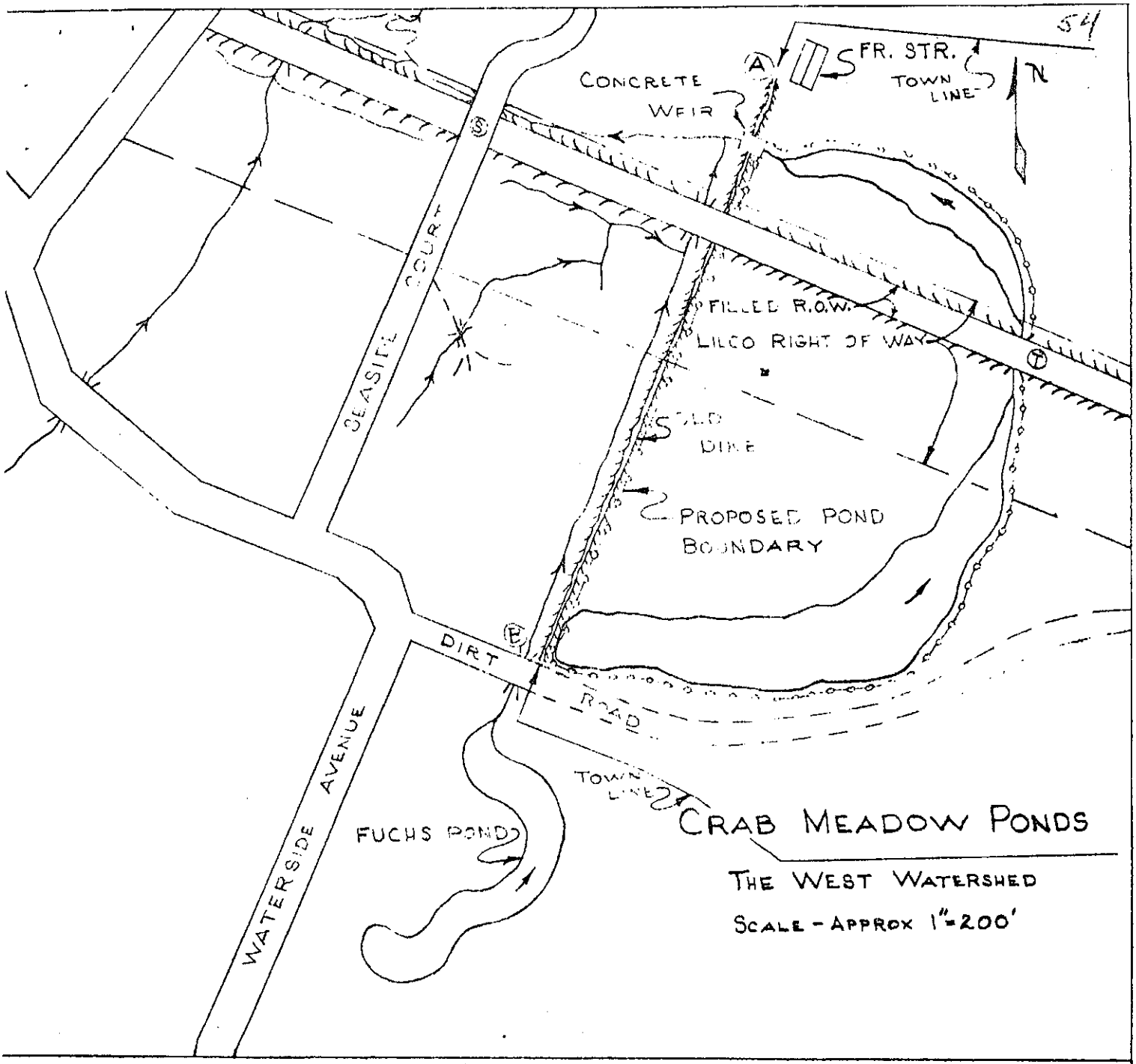
Biology of the Area

The lowland harbors many species of upland and marsh song birds. There is evidence of area used by rabbits, pheasant and other game birds. Since the lowland is no longer covered by water, a large red maple community

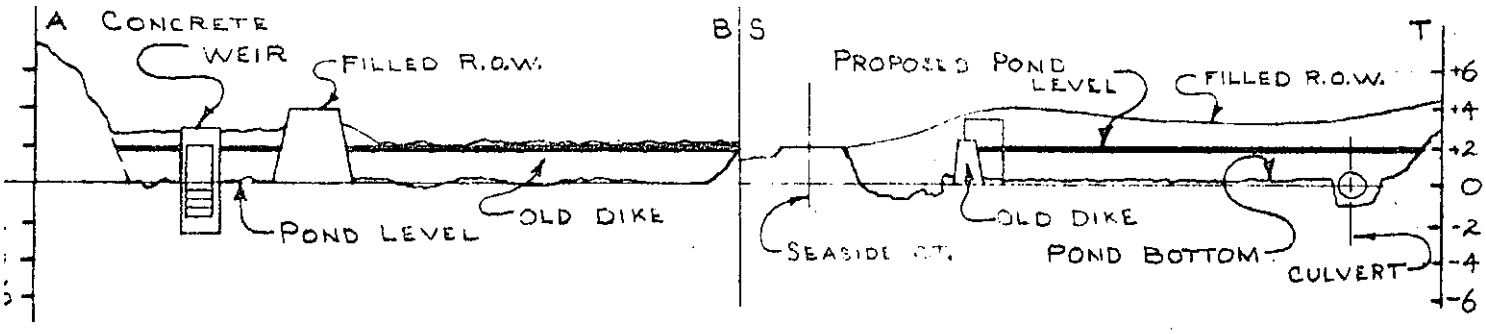
has taken hold along with other wetlands species to offer sanctuary to a great variety of wildlife.

Recommendations

1. Remove all rubbish and attempt to keep the area free of future debris.
2. Consider the feasibility of constructing small ponds.



PROFILES AB & ST



VERT SCALE-1"=10'

HOR. SCALE-APPR 1"=200'

NYSCD
3/3/67 MEH

Any violations to the above sections of Conservation Laws should be immediately reported to the local conservation officer or to the District office currently at Sayville.