

2026 Shoreline Maintenance Services - Board Summary

(David Lester & Tony Mainiero - June 10, 2026)

2026 was the first year that our SSL POA members had an opportunity to hire outside services for shoreline maintenance.

Aquatic Plant Management (APM) offered to provide a crew of workers to work for 4 hours to physically remove weeds and to rake muck and silt away from resident shorelines for a fixed rate of \$1,100.00. Several adjoining residents could team up to split the cost. (Two neighbors could contract for an APM team to spend two hours cleaning up the shorelines on each lot, and each resident would pay \$550.00.)

Silver Mist offered the use of its Eco-Harvester weed-pulling machine to pull, gather, and remove (harvest) weeds away from shorelines, outward to a distance of 40 feet, or down to a depth of 4 feet. This base service is priced affordably at \$4.00 per linear foot of shoreline. Additional finish-raking service is offered for an upcharge. Otherwise, residents do their own finish raking to achieve a weed-free and firm sand lake bottom.

Aquatic Plant Management (APM)

In terms of ease of operation, customer management, and the quality of the results, APM offered the better service option. Customer feedback was entirely positive for the work teams that APM provided. APM communicated service schedules, arrival times, and timing updates to customers and to our Shoreline Maintenance Service Program Coordinator, Tony Mainiero. APM also offered credits or extra service time if/when a team didn't finish the job properly or on time.

APM's manual service option is significantly more expensive than Silver Mist's mechanical Eco-Harvester approach. Customer and coordinator communications met expectations, and their overall performance ratings were mostly favorable.

Silver Mist Eco-Harvester

Silver Mist's Eco-Harvester weed-pulling capabilities were demonstrated to Terry Klaves and David Lester in 2024. The Eco-Harvester machine is well-designed. When it is operating properly, it can effectively remove weeds from shallow shorelines. Not all of the weeds are removed. Loosened silt and muck will remain on the treated lake bottom.

For this program, it seems that the operators were challenged by mechanical issues. This resulted in service delays and overall poor shoreline maintenance. Communication with Eco-Harvester operators and Silver Mist administrators has also been subpar. Some lots were partially serviced. Other lots were missed completely. Service schedules and times were not communicated consistently. Calls have gone unanswered.

In spite of the affordability advantage to Silver Mist, the observable weed removal results are below expectations. Business managers at Silver Mist have intervened and have committed to correcting some of the issues voiced by customers and by our program coordinator.

Customer satisfaction reports received to date for Silver Mist Eco-Harvester Shoreline Maintenance Services are mostly unfavorable. More time is needed to see what the ongoing corrective action will achieve and what the final customer outlook will be.

Conclusions:

APM's work is complete, and they have indicated a willingness to return next year. The jury is still out on Silver Mist and its Eco-Harvester mechanical Shoreline Maintenance Services. Extra Note: APM will be considering the acquisition of its own Eco-Harvester.