

The Quiet Lakes



TEAL, LOST LAND and GHOST LAKES IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.

BOX 214 • HAYWARD, WISCONSIN 54843

www.quietlakes.org

Saturday, July 13, 2024, at 10:00 am
Spider Lake Township Town Hall

Meeting was called to order at 10:29 am (42 chairs were set out / room was full with standing room only / approximately 150 people in attendance)

Pledge of Allegiance

Lisa Carpenter – Secretary’s Report

- Minutes from the Annual Meeting July 15, 2023, were approved as posted. These minutes are available on the website under Information / Meeting Minutes / QLIA 2023 Summer Meeting Minutes
- Norm Bratteig thanked Kim Phelps and Carolyn Ascher for all their work and dedication to the QLIA.
- Norm Bratteig turned the meeting over to Megan Sorensen from the Northwest Regional Planning Commission to give her presentation on the Quiet Lakes Eurasian Watermilfoil Management. Megan’s presentation points:
 - Different types of milfoil
 - Why we should care about milfoil
 - Timeline of events:
 - 2013 – 1st identified milfoil on the lakes
 - 2017 – Noticed milfoil as an issue and the 1st herbicide treatment was performed which was unsuccessful.
 - 2018 – Harvester was purchased.
 - 2022 – A grant was received, and a survey of plants was done on Lost Land Lake and Teal (Megan shared with the audience that her husband is a fishing guide, and he will not use Lost Land Lake or Teal because of the milfoil.)
 - 2022 – A bed mapping survey was completed (263.4 acres on Lost Land Lake and 44.4 acres on Teal).
 - 2023 - LEAPS finished aquatic plan management plan, applied for \$150,000 grant which we received approximately \$99,000. Wisconsin is 1 of 5 states who received funding. Planned for a 2024 EWM herbicide treatment.
 - 2024 (spring) – Schmidt’s Aquatic was hired who recommended treatment using ProcellaCOR as it is a newer and more effective treatment.
 - June 7, 2024 – ProcellaCOR treatment was performed at a cost of \$61,041 and herbicide concentration testing was completed. The reports will not be back for a few weeks possibly a month or so. 30 acres on Lost Land Lake and 6 acres on Teal were treated. Megan explained that 30 acres is the maximum acres we can treat according to the DNR.
 - 2024 (summer) – Signage will be posted, and tools will be left at the boat landings regarding the milfoil and cleaning of boat debris once the DNR has decided what they want in place.

- o 2024 (late summer) – A Harvesting Permit has been applied for, for use in Steamboat Bay.
- o 2025 – Conversations will be repeated with all involved including the DNR. Schmidt’s Aquatic will be hired to treat the milfoil and new surveys will be completed.
- o Talked about how they chose which areas were to be treated.
- o

The following are the questions/comments from the audience members and the answers provided by Megan Sorenson, unless stated otherwise:

- 30-acre limitation from the DNR, will that mean it will take 10 years to treat?
 - o Yes, we will monitor plants to see how they are reacting. We should get 2 to 3 years of relief with each treatment.
- For clarification, how it is spreading, is there potential for more spreading and making more infected areas?
 - o We are hopeful not too much more expansion.
- Why are other products/treatments like other states/lakes being used?
 - o Our specialist, Regional Biologist, is strongly against chemicals and wants to avoid the whole lake effect. We will never see eradication, we are just trying to regain control. In our region they are treating milfoil the same as we have and our DNR will not allow other products/treatments at this time.
- Is the Regional Biologist elected?
 - o No, he is appointed by the DNR.
- Point made by an audience member – We have two extremes. One, you cannot do anything, and you can do all. There is an opportunity with new conversations for a give or take. Regulators will not give in to hammering them to do something. We need to have educated/informed/respectful/frequent conversations over time. We need to do our own research and benchmarking. Then we can possibly treat more acreage or use different treatment options.
- Since the Regional Biologist has never been on our lakes is there a possibility to get him here to see for himself?
 - o Maybe after the results come back. Megan also stated the “plant guy” says it is the worst he has seen. Side note, the good news is there are NO plants in Baily Bay after the treatment.
- Is the harvester ready to go this year?
 - o Norm stated that we are waiting on permitting which should take approximately 15 days. We already have a couple people ready to work it. The DNR and the “Indian group” have say on whether we get the permit.
- Is Lynch Bay on the plan for treatment?
 - o (Norm Bratteig) It is at the top of the treatment plan for next year and that the permitting will be for both lakes.
- How are you reaching boats coming in from resorts and not the landing.
 - o The resorts tend to monitor their landings and there is signage.
- We have a presentation for the resorts.
- There are over 800 boats coming in from the lodges/resorts which are bringing in stuff from the outside.
- We have been told the milfoil chemicals are working. What are the impacts on humans?
- You can swim without any impact. The DNR fact sheet states it is safe for humans and fish.
- Megan Sorenson indicated that Lost Land Lake is exceptional as to how much milfoil is present. The smaller lakes are able to do smaller spot treatments and that they may be better off regarding the milfoil but could have other issues.
- Has there been any study on Teal River?

- o No, it is moving water.
- Milfoil is winning/getting larger, and we have limitations. If we had more money what else could be done?
 - o There is a diver assisted “vacuum” or you can go out and pull the milfoil yourself. Every little bit helps. The DASH approach could cost \$13,000 per acre and it takes 3 days to do 1 acre. If you are going to pull it our yourself pull every bit you can, pull it out of the lake. You can dry it out on land, and it makes great fertilizer. Even pulling the plants and not the roots is helpful.
- Is there more than 1 company that can do DASH.
 - o There are a few.
- We need to build our relationship with the DNR to get more treatment. With just 30 acres we are losing the game.
 - o It is a long uphill battle, and it is evident we all care because we are all here today.
- (Norm Bratteig) With our \$90,000 grant we have to match it. We have to spend the money to get it back so please keep track of your time, so it comes off our money to pay. The QLIA gets paid \$12/hour for any work we perform.
- Is it possible to invest in a DASH “system” and do it ourselves?
 - o Yes
- (Norm Bratteig) Whatever we do it is going to cost money and the Fundraising Committee is doing a great job. We are trying to build our account up so we can treat larger areas. We are limited with grants. It is a 2 year grant we received but we will use it all in this year. Norm has personally been out on the lakes to look at the treated areas and it looks like it has been successful.
- How much money do we need?
 - o (Norm Bratteig) We would like to maintain \$100,000 in our account.
- (Megan Sorensen) We are doing the best we can with the constraints given and funding.
- An audience member stated that she supports everything we are doing but does the board have a plan for those who do not live here (resorts/lodges/short term rentals) on helping more as they benefit more.
 - o (Steve Fiala) We understand the concern.
 - o (Tom Ridgeway) We have a plan being presented to lodges/resorts and VRBOs etc. A schedule is set up recommending to the lodges/resorts/rentals that they have an “ecological obligation”. They will have an opportunity to pay themselves or pass on to their guests to pay a “protect the lake program”. We are not calling it a tax/fee. We have 98 contributors in the tier program paid. We have received \$71,000. There are 342 people on the lakes and less than 1/3 have contributed. Why?

Norm Bratteig thanked Megan Sorensen for her presentation and all her work.

Norm Bratteig - President’s Report/Recap of the year included the following:

- We have a 5-year plan and have been working on it since early 2000’s.
- If we do not have money, we cannot do anything.
- The DNR keeps us updated on what is going on from their end.
- The guy who did the treatment said ProcellaCOR is the best treatment for milfoil. Everywhere we have treated looks great. Future expansions on treatment will be determined by test results. As soon as we get the permit the harvester will start up again. We are looking at approximately 2 weeks out before we get the permit.

Perry Cowan – Treasurer’s Report:

- Balances as of July 12, 2024:
 - Checking account \$34,929.05
 - CD \$25,000 (5%)
- Total account balances as of July 12, 2024 = \$59,292.05
- Balance as of January 1, 2024 = \$91,686.00.
 - We had a Grant draw of \$24,857.00
 - Total spent in 2024 so far is \$78,448.00 mostly from ProcellaCOR (breakdown of major expenses as follows:
 - \$62,264 Schmidt Aquatics
 - \$6,750 lake mapping (entire lakes)
 - \$7,681 lake consultant
 - Upcoming Expenses:
 - \$7,000 water sampling
 - \$7,500 lake mapping after treatment
 - \$4,000 pre-treatment lake mapping
 - \$23,000 total left to spend
- As a point of reference: DASH is \$2,500/day and can “treat” .9 acres in a week vs \$2,500 with ProcellaCOR.
- 359 properties on all 3 lakes:
 - 198 on Lost Land Lake
 - 16 on Teal River
 - 128 on Teal Lake
 - 17 on Ghost Lake
 - 110 paid members (\$5,480.00)
 - 14 new members this year
 - 289 emails are sent out to update on what is going on.
 - \$8,400 in tier donations as of today (last year we had approximately \$30,000)
- Be sure and email your hours to the Quiet Lakes email for any volunteer hours.
- We are looking for more volunteers at the boat landings.

The following are the questions/comments from the audience members and the answers provided by Board Members, unless otherwise noted:

- Can we get rid of the “lifetime” membership so we can continue to collect dues from those owners?
 - We have thought/talked about that idea. The only way we can get 100% from owners would be to become a district and tax property owners.
- (Directed to Megan Sorenson) – With ProcellaCOR being a 2-year cycle, does it kill the milfoil?
 - It kills to the root and the milfoil should not be as dense as before the treatment.
- Steve Fiala stated that as far as funding, we have tried a lot of ways to approach and word of mouth is the best avenue. The DNR is limiting chemicals on the lake as of now so even with the money we are limited on what we can do.
 - Megan Sorenson stated that if surveys come back showing the milfoil has spread and if chemicals stay where it was put, they may expand the treatment.
- (Directed to Megan Sorenson) – Do the fish get tested?
 - Yes, the DNR does fishery tests.
- (Directed to Megan Sorenson) – What about after treatment?

- o There has not been enough testing to larval fish that is why we wait until after spawning to do the treatment.
- We have to do our best to get our funds built up in case the DNR at some point says the budget has shrunk and the number of lakes asking for support has increased. The DNR's limitation is 30 acres. We do not need a grant to get the permit, we just need the money. We do not know how many acres the DNR will allow in the future.

Norm Bratteig asked the Secretary, Lisa, to make a note to send out a mass email with instructions on how checks should be made payable for donations.

- Do we do monthly emails to update members on what is going on?
 - o The website has this information.
- Have we talked to the condominium associations in addition to the resorts?
 - o No, we are going to the lodges/resorts, but we do need to approach VRBOs and Air BNBs as well.

Perry Cowan reminded the audience that we have a sign-up sheet for volunteering at the boat landings.

Norm Bratteig also mentioned we will need volunteers for the harvester as well.

- Is there a directory of the owners for volunteers to contact for donations etc.?

Norm Bratteig asked anyone who wants to volunteer to email those "offers" to the Board.

- Is there an opportunity for proxy voting or absentee voting?
- Can you pay more than 1 year at a time?
 - o Yes

New Business:

The Board approved the following Bylaw change:

- "Article 8: Dues Section 1: Member dues are due annually by January 1 ..."

Motion was made, seconded, and approved to approve the above Bylaw change.

We would need a committee to "run" absentee/proxy votes and we would need to change our Bylaws.

Tom Ridgeway – Tier Program & Summer Fest 2024 Update

- Tier program (old program had 5 levels) (new program has 6 levels)
 - o \$250 Lake Booster
 - o \$500 Lake Protector/Guardian
 - o \$1,000 Lake Advocate/Promoter
 - o \$1,500 Lake Activist/Benefactor
 - o \$2,000 Lake Champion/Philanthropist
 - o \$5,000 Riparian Steward
- 98 participants. If all owners contributed at the current rate of donations, we would have \$210,000.
- 2 trifolds went out last year. A new trifold is going out to explain fundraising needs.
- We need new approaches/new efforts. We have looked at many options for fundraising and Summer Fest was what we came up with. We need a capacity of 200+ that's why Lakewoods was chosen as the venue. We will have music, pig roast, silent auctions, and much more. We have added a gift certificate mystery wall for \$20 and a 50/50 drawing. Some of the silent auction items are as follows:

- o \$500 St. Croix gift certificate
- o 2 Adirondack chairs
- o Dinner for 6
- o 4 rounds of golf with carts
- o Handmade quilts
- o 5 half-day fishing guides
- o Booze cruise
- o Stay and play
- o Kitchen items
- o \$200 Happy Hooker gift certificate
- o Walter Payton signed poster
- We have been doing much advertising not only an ad in the Sawyer County Record but digital ads, posters and save the date postcards.
- Ticket sales is important. We have sold approximately 100 tickets so far.
- Summer Fest is July 28th from noon to 4:00 pm
- Tickets are \$40/each at the door and early bird purchase price of \$35/each.
- If you cannot make it, buy tickets anyway and give them to friends.

Tom Ridgeway thanked all of those who have helped so far in fundraising and with Summer Fest planning.

Norm Bratteig thanked Tom for all his hard work.

A member from the audience expressed an interest in fronting the absentee/proxy voting issue and will send an email outlining how they will propose to make it work.

Someone from the audience asked if we were still open to contributions to silent auctions and Tom Ridgeway said yes, see him about it sooner than later.

Norm Bratteig called for any more votes to be cast before he closes the meeting.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was approved. Meeting was adjourned at 12:26 pm

- 138 ballots were distributed
- Craig Pagenkopf received 79 votes
- Mike Bennett received 58 votes
- There was 1 spoiled vote (Ballot #105) (as it was “missing”)
- Ballot #103 (was posted on white board for review and not distributed)

Norm Bratteig announced the election of Craig Pagenkopf as the new VP and congratulated him.