



*Who really protects our lake? Page 11*

*Member Survey Results Page 17*

*DNR Survey Results Page 10*

*Weed Removal Page 16*

*New Culvert Page 5*

*Please note: A membership application and envelope are included for you to easily join or renew your Lake Washington Improvement Assn. Membership.*



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# SPRING NEWSLETTER, 2022

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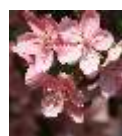
[membership@lwiaonline.com](mailto:membership@lwiaonline.com)

### Lost and Found:

[lostfound@lwiaonline.com](mailto:lostfound@lwiaonline.com)

The Lake Washington Newsletter is published three times a year (Spring, Summer and Fall) by the Lake Washington Improvement Association. It is distributed free to lake property owners and friends around Lake Washington.

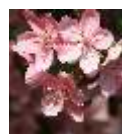
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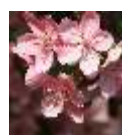
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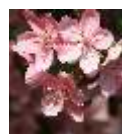
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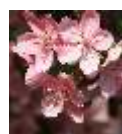
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# End Of The Dock

By Steve Grotbo, President



Finally after a two year break we are having the May pork chop dinner/annual meeting. It is great to be having the meeting back on the first Saturday of May, just in time for the fishing opener the following weekend.

If you are interested in being on our board of directors, let any of the current board members know and we can get you added to the ballot. Laurie Johnson, Ron Bubany, Sharon Daniels, and Cindy Hewitt have their three year term ending. Cindy is not renewing and Ray Brueggemeier has put his

name in for being on the ballot. Even if you do not want to be on the board, you are always welcome to help out as shoreline captain or as member of a committee.

Once again the Boy Scouts cleaned off the ice at the end of the season for both Lake Washington and Lake Stella. A big thanks for their efforts, just a shame it has to be done.

This past year's Twine Ball parade had a float from Lake Manuella, but nothing from Lake Washington. So for this August I am really hoping that someone will represent Lake Washington. Nothing special is needed, you can even walk the parade route or perhaps trailer a boat through the parade route with a bunch of kids from around the lake. Please contact me if anyone is interested. Apparently years ago Lake Washington was always represented.

The March 23rd meeting on a new culvert between Stella and Washington had an impressive turnout. Phil Schmalz (Public Works Director/County Engineer) gave the presentation and has provided a summary included on [page 5](#). One interesting take away I had from the meeting was on requesting a speed limit study to be done on the roads around the lake to slow things down. Well, on the south side they did request such a study and it backfired, so now the limit increased from 35 to 45 mph. Hopefully they can delay putting up the new signs as long as possible.

Please support our friends at the Dassel Rod and Gun Club and attend their fishing opener breakfast on May 14<sup>th</sup> if you can.

## Fourth of July Boat Parade

Once again Sue and George will be hosting a Lake Washington boat parade. A bit windy last year, but still had a good turnout. Let us hope for a perfect day like two years ago.

Celebrate the 4th of July on Lake Washington with a Boat Parade starting at 1 PM. Meet in front of the Dassel Rod and Gun Club landing. The parade will be going counter clockwise around the lake, so you can join along the way as well. Or be a spectator and watch the parade from shore.

Decorate your boat or pontoon or jet ski.

Contact Sue Schwinghammer ([sueschwinghammer@yahoo.com](mailto:sueschwinghammer@yahoo.com)) for any additional information. Sue and George will be leading the parade. No need to sign-up, just show up!!

Note that this is just for fun, no prizes.



# CSAH 14 Culvert Replacement

By Public Works Director Phil Schmalz

Meeker County Public Works hosted a Public Meeting to discuss the CSAH 14 culvert replacement between Lake Stella & Lake Washington on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. 450 invites were mailed out to property owners around each lake and 82 interested individuals attended the meeting. 3 County Commissioners and 2 County staff were also in attendance. Meeker County intends to replace the culvert in the fall of 2022.

Public Works Director Phil Schmalz presented some history about the crossing and led a discussion on concerns primarily related to the sizing and elevation of the replacement culvert. The sizing of the culvert has been narrowed down to 2 primary options:

Option A: Install a 10' x 8' concrete box culvert at the same elevation as what is there today

Option B: Install a 12' x 10' concrete box culvert 1' lower than what is there today

The existing culvert is an oval metal pipe that is 12'9" x 7'11" at its widest and tallest points.

Option A would be the minimum that could be installed to satisfy the hydraulic or flow requirements of the crossing. Crossing B is being considered to promote connectivity between the lakes. A new concrete box culvert is potentially a 100+ year solution so there will be no option to install something larger in the near future once this project is complete.

The 2 primary concerns noted at the public meeting were:

1. A larger culvert may lower the water level of Lake Stella
2. A larger culvert would allow more boat traffic

There was much discussion about both topics. Historical lake level data shows that Lake Washington & Lake Stella rise and fall together as a single pool since the dam at the outlet of Lake Washington is higher than the bottom of the existing culvert crossing. For this reason, a larger culvert would not significantly impact water levels of Lake Stella.

Discussion was had about potential drawbacks or benefits of boats having better access to the crossing, especially during lower water levels if the new culvert was installed 1' lower. Either culvert size will suit the needs of the roadway.

A straw pole was taken of meeting attendees and the results were as follows:

- 57% Prefer culvert option B
- 32% Prefer culvert option A
- 11% Did not vote

The topic will be discussed at the April 5<sup>th</sup> Meeker County Board Meeting at which point Public Works hopes to have a firm direction on culvert sizing so it may proceed with project design.

*WE CAN NOW REPORT THAT THE MEEKER COUNTY BOARD DID INDEED MEET ON APRIL 5, 2022 AND DECIDED TO INSTALL OPTION B.*

*SO, EXPECT TO HAVE A 12' X 10' CULVERT. PICTURES AND SCHEMATIC START ON [PAGE 20](#).*

*-ED.*

# Zebra Mussels

By Dave Rathe

Last summer we saw only one mussel on the hotels and very few reports of zebra mussels on docks and boat lifts. The low number of mussels last year could have been due to lower water levels and higher water temperatures limiting reproduction. One other possibility is Lake Washington's zebra mussels are moving out of the exponential population growth phase. Exponential growth usually continues as long as there is abundant food, colonizing locations, and low numbers of predators. Make your own call on the reason(s) for last summer's lower population. I'm thinking poor reproduction environment and increased predation.

Mike Wosmek plans to install the zebra mussel "hotels" (settlement plates) in the same locations as last year. We do clean the hotels every fall, so all zebra mussels on the hotels should be this year's crop. The hotels are installed Memorial Day weekend and picked up Labor Day weekend.

There is currently no zebra mussel management approach applicable to Lake Washington, unfortunately.

Planned Zebra Mussel "Hotel" Locations



# 2022 Grant Funding Programs

By Sharon Daniels, Grant Coordinator

Spring has sprung! At least the calendar says March 21, 2022 is the first day of Spring! Looking forward to some MN warm weather and a wonderful summer!

Receipts and invoices were sent in for 2021 Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and Meeker County Association of Lakes (MCAL) expenses. MCAL reimbursement for 2021 to LWIA was \$3,779.30 for mapping, and sediment control projects. AIS reimbursements for 2021 were: Project # 1) \$1,370.29 for management of the I-LIDS; Project #2) \$853.33 for Milfoil treatment survey; Project # 3) \$0.00 for expenses of education and professional information.

## Approved Grant Funds for 2022:

MCAL grant funds = \$4,000 for sediment and stabilization Control Projects.

AIS grant funds for:

- I-LIDS = \$1,250.00 ( I-LIDS management);
- Milfoil Treatment = \$9,000.00 (includes Milfoil treatment and or treatment surveying);
- Education = \$320.00 (Educational training and or information).

MN DNR grant application has been selected and approved for \$6,000.00, and as of March 29 the DNR has approved the grant treatment as well as the application for 2022.

Without membership dues, the "in-kind" hours of volunteers and the grant funds, our lake association would be faced with a very large payout each year, thus depleting our funds needed to keep our water safe for all. The board works hard in managing Lake Washington and obtaining grant funds, but the rest is up to each lake household to pitch in and pay the yearly dues of \$50.00 to help defray the expenses each year. Be sure to fill out a membership card along with your dues.

If you do any volunteer work for LWIA, whether it be shoreline captain duties, or in a boat, going to meetings, etc., please keep track of your hours, food and or gas receipts, mileage driven to do a project, etc. You can email me at sdaniels@grdaniels.com with all your "in-kind" hours, or any receipts or info you may have. I keep track of all the info for the year in a report, and then I send this report to the county at the end of the year. This report reflects how and why our lake is kept in as good of condition as it has been. I also use this report when working on grants for each new year. I use receipts sent to me to request reimbursement for the projects. Reimbursements will not happen unless we have documented receipts to show for projects completed, meetings attended or whatever the need was. Save your receipts, keep track of your hours, and send them to me on a monthly basis if possible.

THANKS to all that help in any way to keep our lake safe, fun and usable!

## A Man Finds a Magic Lamp While Walking Down the Beach

He rubs the lamp and out pops a genie! The Genie says "I'll grant you three wishes BUT!!!! There is a catch. Whatever you wish for every lawyer in the world will receive double."

After thinking long and hard and about his decision the man finally answers. "I'd like a 1963 Ferrari 250 GTO.". "Done" says the genii and snaps his fingers. The man instantly feels the weight of the keys in his pocket.

"I'd like \$500,000 tax free" says the man. "Done" Says the Genii. And the man reaches into his other pocket to find a Powerball ticket.

Finally the man takes a deep breath and wishes his third and final wish. "I wish to donate a kidney."

# Water Quality

By Dave Rathe

## Lake Water:

This summer we are planning to add water temperature tests to our twice a month water clarity tests. We also plan to add this to the LWIA web site after testing, so the data should be pretty timely. The water temperature will be taken at Site 101, which is one of the deepest parts of the lake. It should be noted the temperature around the shoreline will most likely be higher due to the sun's warming effects in shallow water.

Since we were in drought conditions last year, we are also planning to provide lake water levels, hopefully on a timely basis on the LWIA web site, assuming we can get the data. (As a matter of interest, we have provided past water level statistics on [page 22](#)).

This summer we are again planning to take 5 lake water samples once per month starting in May and running through September. The samples will be taken from Site 101, which is one of the deepest parts of the lake (approximately 17 feet). Each sample will measure the amount of algae (Chlorophyll-a) and nutrients (Total Phosphorus) in the water. The analysis will again be performed by RMB Environmental Labs out of Detroit Lakes, MN. RMB has a nice website, [RMBEL.info](http://RMBEL.info), where you can view Lake Washington past test results as well as other Minnesota lakes. Our data can be found under Lakes Monitoring Program in the Lakes & Streams drop-down menu. Then under Lakes Database. We do not yet have a cost for these tests, but expect RMB to send out an invoice in the near future.

## Water Test Sampling Sites



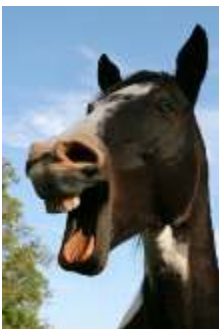


## Water Quality (continued)

We also plan to conduct water clarity tests twice per month at 5 different sites (101, 205, 207, 208, & 209). It will be interesting to see what water clarity is with the low water levels we are currently experiencing. At the end of the summer all data collected will be submitted to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. They also have a website where you can view our Lake's data at <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/> although it takes a bit of "drilling down" in their website.

### Inlet Water:

We are planning also this year to test some of the inlet water (up to 6 inlets) coming into the lake. These tests will be weather dependent, as we will need enough rainfall during the summer to get sufficient water flow. This year we would like to grab samples following a larger rainfall to get an idea of the amount of suspended solids flowing into the lake from selected inlets.



The inhabitants of one village were very dissatisfied with the quality of the local drinking water. After years of fruitless complaints to the local authorities, the villages chipped in, got enough money together to pay for a test and sent a sample of the water to a laboratory for testing.

A few weeks later they got the result of the test.

It said: "Your horse has diabetes."

# Lake Washington Fish Survey

By Scott Mackenthun

Area Supervisor | Hutchinson Area Fisheries

“Washington was surveyed in late July 2021. Presently, fisheries lake management plans call for alternate year surveys to keep close tabs on fates of walleye year classes and monitoring one of the most important fisheries in the Hutchinson seven county area. Gill net survey results showed a nice upswing in walleye abundance to levels not seen since 2008 through a half dozen surveys. 12.8 walleye per gill net were observed with fish averaging nearly 15 inches in length and the largest at 25 inches. Northern pike have long been a low abundance species and this was again the case at 2.1 per gill net, but large fish are present. The largest measured pike in the survey was 34 inches. Fair numbers of black crappies were seen at 6.0 per gill net; more noteworthy are the large fish as fish up to 14 inches were seen. Early ice reports in the 2021-2022 ice season reported a good crappie bite with some large individuals caught.

Sunfish and bass seem to be responding well to lake habitat change. Anglers can expect decent bluegill sunfish action, but the bigger ones can be hard to find in this large and shallow lake with abundant offshore vegetation. Bass anglers know that Washington has decent numbers and nice sizes of both largemouth and smallmouth bass. The Washington, Stella, and Manuella chain of lakes offers the best fishing opportunities in Meeker County for smallmouth bass. The maximum lengths for smallmouth bass and largemouth bass sampled in 2021 summer nets were both at 18+ inches. Washington gets a lot of attention from local bass clubs and leagues that fall below the tournament permitting thresholds. There are also a lot of requests for permitted bass tournaments. Minnesota DNR works to follow existing state rules and statutes when permitting tournaments at Washington.

Thanks to the Lake Washington Improvement Association for their continued efforts on caring for and helping preserve Lake Washington. Past projects including high definition lake mapping, long term zebra mussel sampling, and helping spread the word about jaw-tagged walleye and angler creel surveys as part of the 2019 population estimate have all been helpful for our work on Washington. Thank you for the collaboration; I’m looking forward to continuing in the future. In a post-COVID world, assuming we get 100% back to normal, we’d love to have some LWIA members join us on the 2023 survey while we retrieve nets.”





## Minnesota Lakes and Rivers (MLR)

# MLR survey points to need for a new approach to aquatic plant management

“Lake associations do most of the planning and actual work.”

Most citizens believe that the MN DNR has the responsibility to protect and manage our public waters, and they would be right. But what most do not understand is that while the MN DNR has the authority and responsibility, lake associations do most of the planning and actual work, and pay the majority of the costs. A new survey by Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates shows that there are significant gaps in Minnesota’s aquatic plant management program.

Lake associations feel the responsibility for lake protection but have no authority, and the MN DNR, who has the authority, has limited budget and resources to do the work. Said Jeff Forester, Executive Director of Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates, “The results show that by focusing on what needs to be done to build more efficient and effective partnerships, Minnesota could improve our lake ecology outcomes.”

Lake associations are critical partners for the MN DNR in lake work. A 2017 study by Concordia College, Moorhead found that lake associations raise and spend more than \$6.25 million on lake improvement efforts and donate more than 1.2 million volunteer hours towards lake improvement efforts annually. Lake Associations are by far the largest lake conservation group in Minnesota. “Because lake associations play such an important role as partners with the MN DNR, we wanted to take a look at that partnership from the lake association perspective,” said Forester.

Warming weather trends, aquatic invasive species spread, and nutrient loading from runoff pollution accelerates the rate of change in our lakes. After MLR lobbied successfully to create the \$850K Aquatic Invasive Species grants for 2022, the DNR took the step of using this funding to support more rigorous data collection in invasive plant management programs. “The new grant guidelines created by the MN DNR for 2022 were a good step. But that funding was one time only. We need the legislature to make these grants permanent.” The survey results reveal that even with improved grant guidelines, our current Aquatic Plant Management system falls short of today’s needs, is inefficient and is financially unsustainable for lake associations. Said Jeff Forester, “The programs, budgets and goals from the 1980’s are insufficient to meet the needs of today.”



# Minnesota Lakes and Rivers (continued)

## Key Survey Findings

- 74% of respondents reported current problems with aquatic plants on Minnesota Lakes.
- 77% of those lakes report they are organizing to combat the problems within their lake communities.
- While 80+% of lake associations feel that the city, county or state should be responsible for maintaining a healthy plant community in Minnesota lakes, almost 90% report that homeowners and lake associations have had to be responsible for it.
- Only 31% of respondents feel the DNR is proactively working to solve nuisance plant issues.
- While 92% have sought to gain permits for their own treatments, less than 15% of the total feel the DNR has organized itself efficiently to address their concerns.

According to the survey, a majority of lake associations recognize that the MN DNR is a responsive partner in their efforts to protect and manage the public waters while also reporting that there is a need for the MN DNR or other governmental units to take a more proactive management role. Defining our common goals and the roles and jurisdictions of the different groups engaged in aquatic plant management programs is a critical first step.

“One of the clear takeaways from this survey is that it is time to begin discussions around lake and river management that include increasing the quality and quantity of our data collection, deeper scientific inquiry, recalibrating our goals, and defining funding sources for this work. But most importantly, if we hope to meet the water quality challenges we face in the future, we will have to create stronger, more transparent, more accountable and more functional partnerships among local civic and government groups,” said Jeff Forester of Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates. “Different organizations have different capacities, roles and jurisdictions. We must develop and commit to a process that leverages these different capacities and strengths, and brings them together in a strategic way to protect Minnesota’s most valuable resource, our water.”



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# Minnesota Lakes and Rivers (continued)

## Editor's Note:

*Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates was started in 1993 by a cabin owner who was concerned that rapidly escalating property taxes were putting a simple Minnesotan value out of reach; i.e. time spent with family and friends at a lake place.*

*At the time the tax rate on a cabin property was 2.25% of value. We worked hard, and by 2002 the tax rate on a cabin was the same as on a homestead, 1%. In addition, from 1994 until 2009 we were able to advocate for Limited Market Value that prevented market driven increases of more than 8% annually.*

*If you want to learn more about this MLR organization, follow the links below.*

## *The Lake Steward Program:*

*<https://lwiaonline.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/The-Lake-Steward-Program.pdf>*

## *How Lake Stewards Help:*

*<https://lwiaonline.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/How-Lake-Stewards-Help-Lake-Associations.pdf>*

## *Civic Partnerships:*

*<https://lwiaonline.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Civic-Partnerships.pdf>*

## *Stop Starry Stonewort:*

*<https://lwiaonline.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Stop-Starry-Stonewort.pdf>*

## *Wake Surfing Strategy:*

*<https://lwiaonline.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Wake-Surfing-Strategy.pdf>*

## *What You Can Do*

*<https://lwiaonline.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/What-You-Can-Do.pdf>*

## *Pat's Corner*

*By Pat Hanson*



### **Meeker County Area Lakes (MCAL)**

MCAL meets 4 times a year at 7 p.m. Each Meeker County Lake Association can send members but only one designated has the vote for our lake association. MCAL stands for Meeker County Area Lake Associations. We will be meeting on April 21, July 21, and October 21. We have at least 104 lakes and it is up to the lake residents to form a lake association and pay dues to the MCAL.

I will be attending a Clearwater River District Watershed AIS workshop on April 7 so you will receive a report in the summer newsletter about it. This is put on by the county AIS workers from three counties including Meeker County.

### **Monarch Butterflies and Other Pollinators**

Do you have some perennials for the monarch butterflies. Do you have a pollinator garden? Did you know Monarch's can't survive without it because it supports the continuation of our butterfly population? They migrate from California and Mexico to Minnesota and Canada... and back again! Our Minnesota pollinator garden provides nectar to Monarchs, bees and other butterflies. So let's not forget to get our lake home or cabin ready but maybe enlarge our pollinator garden. That's my spring goal. Happy spring!

# Watercraft Inspection

By Dave Rathe

We plan to install the I-LIDS system (Internet – Landing Installed Device Sensor) again this year. The system will be located on the east side of the ramp at Ellsworth Landing. Installation of the system will take place in May and will be removed in the October/November time frame depending on weather conditions. We requested a new Special Use Permit from MN DNR Parks and Trails, which allows I-LIDS to be installed at the Ellsworth Landing. We received the new permit on February 10<sup>th</sup> of this year. The permit is good through the summer of 2024.

If you remember, the I-LIDS system stopped working last summer about 1-2 weeks prior to our removing it for the coming winter. The cause was determined to be the lead-acid batteries, which reached the end of their useful life. All of the batteries have been replaced including the small button battery for the clock. The controller firmware and camera firmware was updated to the latest configuration. The cost for operation and repairs for I-LIDS this year is \$2383.73. This includes 6 months of video capture and review of 3,000 videos, cellular costs to transmit captured videos, repairs, and MN sales tax.

We believe the I-LIDS system has been effective in improving boater compliance to MN DNR rules regarding boat decontamination prior to launching and prior to leaving the landing, especially during times when watercraft inspectors are not at the landing. Boaters are reminded via audio messages to clean weeds and debris from their boats, as well as drain their boat, live wells and bait wells, keep all drain plugs out while traveling, and dispose of unwanted bait in the trash.

I have no information about whether or not Meeker County and MN DNR will be doing watercraft inspection and decontamination as they did last year at Ellsworth Landing. Although I think it is likely, as Lake Washington is a big lake with a lot of traffic at Ellsworth landing, so it is a cost effective landing to stop the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS).

## I-LIDS



## DECONTAMINATION





# Committee Reports

## Social Committee

*By Sandy Wosmek*

SPRING HAS ARRIVED ---- so the calendar says, rain and snow mix today and only in the 30's. That's Minnesota for you (yesterday in the 60's). We all know the weather changes fast and soon we will be on the water and enjoying beautiful Lake Washington. Our cabin neighbors will be arriving soon, ready to catch up on all the news.

### **The lake board met and set dates for 2022 ----- Mark your calendars.**

- Annual Meeting -- Saturday, May 7, 2022 -- at Dassel Rod and Gun Club. FREE pork chop meal and fixings to all members.
- Social Hour - 5 p.m. -- bring your own refreshments.
- Dinner - 6 p.m.
- Meeting - 7 p.m. -- election of board members, any questions of concern, and any other matters to tend to.
- No speaker planned at this time

### **Pot Luck -- Saturday, August 6, 2022 - at Dassel Rod and Gun Club.**

- Information with time and details to follow in the summer newsletter.

As you know, you can follow any information about Lake Washington on the Website, Facebook, or Email. Any questions can also be sent to the site or contact a board member.

Hope to see many of you at the annual meeting in May. For now --- have a wonderful spring and summer and enjoy lake life.

## Membership / Shoreline Captains

*By Laurie Johnson*

A big shout out to the current shoreline captains and for all of those that have had this honor in the past! [Page 19](#) shows a current map of shoreline captain assignments and where we are in need of additional folks. If you would like to volunteer and there is already a neighbor assigned, no worries, we can easily split or assign you elsewhere. Having a shoreline captain is just a welcome presence to have a neighbor greet you and update you on LWIA activates a few times a year. Please let me know if you are interested in volunteering for this fantastic opportunity to get to know your neighbors.

## Finance Committee

*By Lyle Walker*

In March the Board of Directors authorized a \$5,000 donation to the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC). Our donation is designated for Zebra Mussel research. We began supporting this organization and their Zebra Mussel research efforts in 2019.

Membership renewals for 2022 should be mailed in using the membership card included in this newsletter. The Board thanks you for your continued support. We begin the 2022 season in a strong financial position with total funds of \$114,500.

# Committee Reports (continued)

## **Cormorant and Pelicans**

By Steve Grotbo

The cormorants just have not been back in the numbers like years ago. Also the official fish population has shown improvement. So not much action is possible from the Lake Washington side. Saying that, the cormorants are not gone and have made Spring Lake in Dassel their new favorite spot. All of the material that we have done in the fight to this issue has been provided to the Spring Lake association. I am thinking the next step is that we partner with Spring Lake and have a united front in this battle.

## **Residential Vegetation Control**

By Steve Grotbo

Residents of Lake Washington have an opportunity to get treatment for vegetation (i.e. weed & algae control). The lake association can only treat common areas of the lake, which excludes residential shoreline. Lake Restoration is again offering to treat for vegetation if we get 20 households to sign up by May 10<sup>th</sup>. The cost is \$261 per treatment plus \$40 for a DNR permit, so \$562 for the two treatments. Additional options exist for larger treatment areas and swimmer's itch.

The form needs to be filled out and sent to Chad Hadler at Lake Restoration. This can be done by sending an email to [Chad@lakerestoration.com](mailto:Chad@lakerestoration.com), snail mail (address is on form), or bring form to May 7<sup>th</sup> pork chop dinner. No money down, you can pay by credit card on their website (<https://www.lakerestoration.com/>) once treatment is confirmed.

Last year, we only got a dozen households to sign up, so not enough to warrant Lake Restoration to perform the treatment. This year, we are promoting this opportunity earlier in the hopes that we will hit the 20 households.

The reason the lake association partnered with Lake Restoration in promoting this is because they are the only company that is up for coming to our lake for residential treatment. At last year's pork chop dinner, weed control was the very first concern that was expressed. Please do note that residents may be able to find much cheaper do it yourself options, but in any case, a DNR permit is required for any treatment.

Here is the link to get the form and the complete details. Just scan the QR code.

<https://lwiaonline.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/WeedControl.htm>





# The Lake Washington Improvement Association Survey

Thank you for completing the Lake Washington Improvement Association survey last year. We had 77 people complete the survey and below is a recap of their responses.

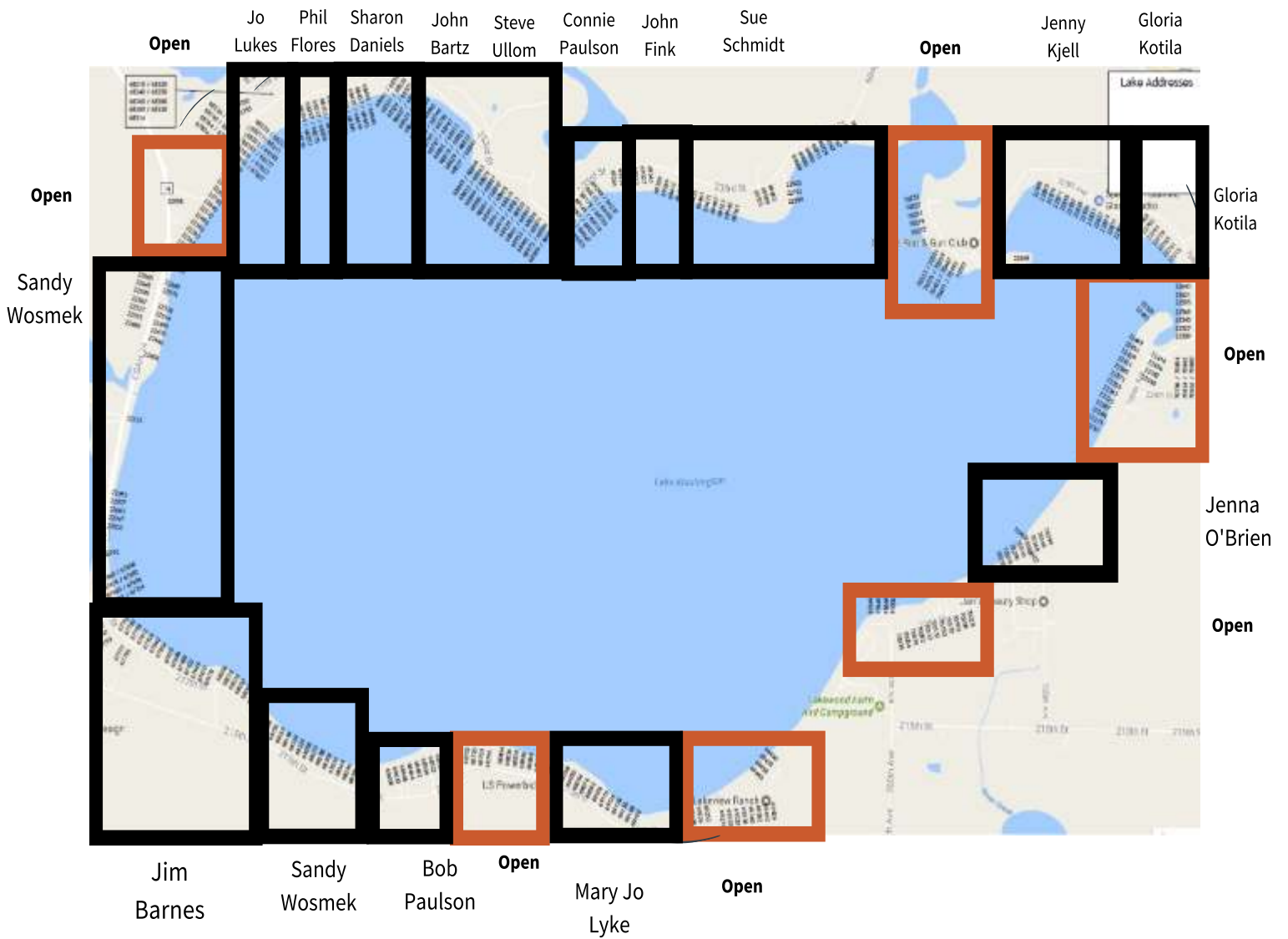
<b>Which statement best describes how your lake property was used last year?</b>		<b>What do you think most affects the water quality of Lake Washington?</b>	
Spring, Summer, Fall	25	Boat Traffic	2
Summer Use Most or All the time	7	Invasive species	38
Permanent home	25	Septic systems	1
Year round use	20	Runoff	32
		Other	4
<b>How did you use Lake Washington last year?</b>		<b>In the next 2-5 years, rank what would you personally like the LWIA to concentrate?</b>	
Swimming	63	Improving water quality	48
Boating/Jet skiing	66	Fish populations	42
Fishing	54	Boat inspections	8
Paddle boarding	23	AIS treatments	27
Water skiing/Wake boarding	31	Runoff	32
Ice fishing	24	Cormorants	38
Tubing	34	Shoreline improvements	10
Cross country skiing	8	Boater education	3
Snowmobiling	9	Septic updates/compliance	14
Other	8	Other	3
<b>On average, how often do you fish on Lake Washington?</b>		<b>How would you rate the fish population on the lake compared to 5 years ago?</b>	
Never fish	22	About the same	21
1-2 times per month	28	Fewer large fish	12
3 -5 times per month	14	More large fish	0
6+ times per month	13	Fewer fish in general	44
		More fish in general	0
<b>How often do you have your septic tank pumped / checked?</b>		<b>Have you had your well water tested?</b>	
Every year	12	Yes	54
Every 2 years	27	No	23
Every 3 to 4 years	29		
Every 5 years or greater	9		
<b>What would you like more information on?</b>		<b>How would you rate what LWIA has been doing impacts the water quality?</b>	
Rain Gardens	8	I don't know very much about it	15
Shoreline filtration by plants	20	They could do more	14
Lake Scaping	33	They are doing a good job	47
Controlling runoff	32		
Other	11		

# Lake Washington Improvement Survey (continued)

<b>Are you aware the focus is on rotating treatment around the lake, with the goal of keeping it accessible to property owners and open for use?</b>		<b>Are you aware the Lake Vegetation Management Plan involves treating up to 100 acres of Eurasian Water Milfoil each year?</b>	
Yes	56	Yes	60
No	21	No	17
<b>Would you be able to identify Eurasian Water Milfoil?</b>		<b>Over the past five years, what would you say is the overall water quality?</b>	
No idea what it looks like	1	Getting better	13
Not sure	19	Getting worse	25
Pretty sure	39	About the same	39
Very confident	18	Getting better	13
<b>Have you read the current Lake Management Plan 2016 found on our website?</b>		<b>Do you follow the Lake Washington Improvement Association Facebook page?</b>	
Yes	28	Yes	41
No	49	No	36
<b>Have you read the Water Quality Reports posted on our webpage?</b>		<b>Have you been receiving the Spring, Summer and Fall Newsletters of each year?</b>	
Yes	51	Yes	71
No	26	No	6
<b>Were you a Lake Washington Improvement Association member in 2020?</b>		<b>Did you receive the LWIA 2018 Directory? Should we continue producing?</b>	
Yes	66	Yes	62
No	11	No	15
<b>Do you plan to be a Lake Washington Improvement Association member in 2021?</b>		<b>Do you know who your shoreline captain is?</b>	
Yes	74	Yes	53
No	3	No	24
<b>Have you used the LWIA website to look up information?</b>		<b>Do you know what they do?</b>	
Yes	45	Yes	56
No	32	No	21
<b>Did you/your family attend the 2019 Annual Membership meeting in May?</b>		<b>Did you/your family attend the 2019 Annual Bar-B-Q potluck social in August?</b>	
Yes	21	Yes	14
No	56	No	63

# SHORELINE CAPTAINS AND LOCATIONS

## AS OF SPRING, 2022





# PUBLIC CULVERT REPLACEMENT MEETING

MARCH 23, 2022



# CURRENT (INP) AND PROPOSED (PRO) CULVERT DIAGRAMS

PRESENTED MARCH 23, 2022

FINAL DECISION MADE APRIL 5, 2022 TO INSTALL

PROPOSED 12' X 10' CONCRETE BOX

CSAH 14 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT  
BETWEEN  
LAKE STELLA AND LAKE WASHINGTON



INP. CSAH 14  
CENTERLINE  
EL. 1080.0

PRO. EL. 1076.0

INP. EL. 1074.9

PRO. 12'X10'  
CONCRETE BOX

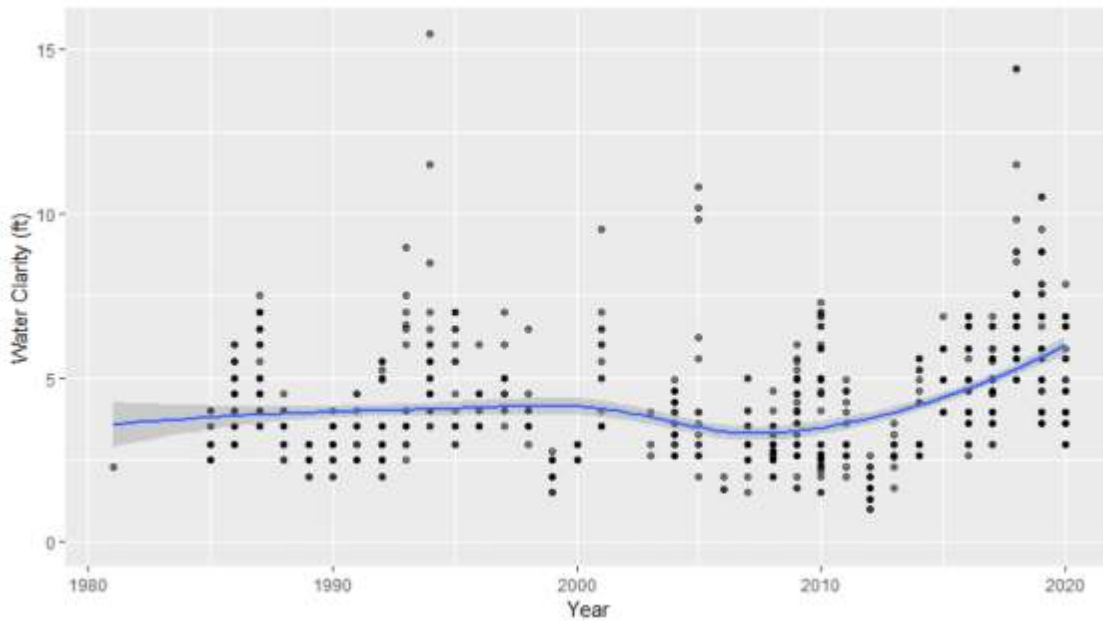
INP. 12'9'X7'11'  
CORRUGATED METAL ARCH

EL. 1067.0

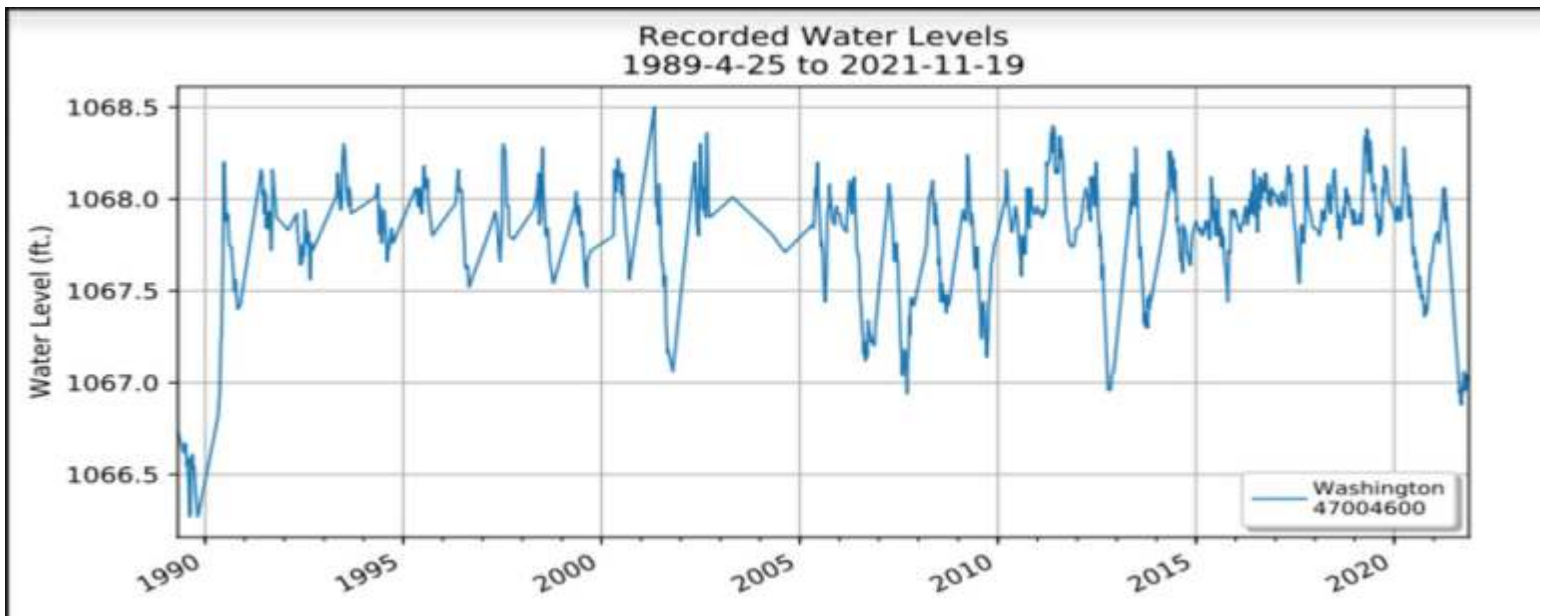
PRO. EL. 1066.0

## How Low Did It Go? Perspective on Water Levels and Clarity in 2021

These secchi disk readings for the past 40 years show a decline in water clarity with the introduction of milfoil (2000). There was an upward trend after treating EWM for a little over 10 years and vegetation surveys indicated a significant decrease in the density of milfoil in the lake. Readings start a significant upward trend (2015) with the discovery of zebra mussels.



To give everyone some perspective on how low the water levels were on Lake Washington in 2021.



The lowest recorded water level was August 15, 1989 at 1066.27 ft.; the highest recorded level was May 3, 1985 at 1068.5 ft.; the highest known level was 1069.5 in 1985. The Ordinary High Water Level (OHWL) is 1069 ft.

This information was copied from the DNR Lakefinder website Lake Washington #47004600. For those not familiar with this site there is a great deal of information on this site: fish surveys, vegetation, maps, depths, ice in & out, water quality, fish stocking, and much more.





**Locations:**

940 Elm St E, Annandale MN 55302  
24142 Smiley Rd, Nisswa MN 56468

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**BACKYARD**  
**REFLECTIONS**

*We Create Outdoor Dreams*