

Lake Washington Improvement Association Board Meeting August 9, 2022

Board Members Present: Mike Wosmek, Lyle Walker, Ron Bubany, Steve Grotbo,
Steve Ullom, Sharon Daniels, Brett Rasmussen,

Treasurer Report: Invasive Species Fund \$49,543.23 General Fund \$75,304.36

Paid Memberships: 209

1) Call Meeting to Order 7 PM – President Steve Grotbo

2) Secretary's July Board Meeting Report – approved for publication on the website.

3) Treasurer's July Financial Report – Lyle W reported Income of \$1314.37 from Memberships \$950, Donations \$30 AIS and \$30 DFD, Newsletter Ads \$300 and \$4.37 interest: Expenses of \$1522.08 from \$807.66 Newsletter, Info Systems \$70, MN filing fee \$25, Piehl, Hanson, Beckman fee \$375, Inlet repair \$224.42, MCAL dues \$20.
Total funds \$124,639.87

4) Dam height (Ethan Jenzen was scheduled to attend meeting but due to COVID had to cancel.

5) Culvert replacement – Steve G received the following message on Aug 1.

Hi Steve,

the DNR has told me verbally that they will be approving our permit as presented and that was probably 4 weeks ago. At this point in time our permit has yet to be approved so we are still waiting. I know the DNR mentioned a 30 day reviewer comment period that should expire next week and my hope is that should trigger their formal approval.

Once they approve the permit we will advertise for contractors, open bids, and go to the County Board for project award with the low bidder. That whole process takes a minimum of 6 weeks. I've talked with multiple contractors about box culverts in general and based on what I'm hearing I will be very surprised if we are able to get a culvert manufactured this year. Our goal is still to get the culvert in this fall and that is how our contract will be written with the contractor, but I fully expect we will be unable to get materials and have to wait until 2023 for the actual installation.

Phil Schmalz

Meeker County

6) Ellsworth landing parking lot – Tabled as Bonni not at the meeting. Note picture from Steve G on 8/10 showed the lot had been striped but not seal coated.

7) Lake Steward – Steve G reported, Kayla Hanke is no longer part of Minnesota Lakes and Rivers. Jeff Forester has confirmed that he will be speaking at our annual May meeting in 2023.

The Board approved the purchase of a Lake Steward sign (about \$25) to be put up at Ellsworth Landing. From what Steve G can tell no one has reached out for getting certified or taken the online survey. Mike W thought there were 20-30 lake shore properties that would meet the Lake Steward criteria right now. There was a discussion about identifying these properties and next spring work through the Shore Line Captains to approach these property owners about being Lake Steward certified.

The Shoreland Guide to Lake Stewardship is on Amazon and Steve G has printed out two copies, at \$10 each, that we can use for this process.

8) Committee Reports:

Aquatic Invasive Species:

A. Water Quality Testing – Mike W reported they collected water samples for August and seechi 3-4 feet with water temp 79-80 degrees. Water still flowing through the culvert, also Mike noted water is still flowing from the farm fields into the holding pond.

B. Vegetation Survey – Mark J reported they are trying to get out one more time this year. There was a question about timing of Limnopro's AIS survey.

C. I-LIDS/Watercraft Inspection – Mike W reported Dave R was going to check and see how many videos are being watched to see how well the system is working.

D. Cormorants & Pelicans - Nothing new. Have not seen many cormorants / pelicans on the lake lately.

E. Zebra Mussels – Mike W reported Hotels will be picked up Labor Day Weekend. He has noticed some black growth on the plate at his house, not sure what this is but will take closer look at it when they are out of the lake.

Steve G shared the following information-

July newsletter came out from Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) which is part of U of M. <https://maisrc.umn.edu/newsletter-july-2022>

As I see the latest cutting-edge research, I remain optimistic that we can solve our AIS problems. The new discoveries and creation of tools will continue to change the way we manage AIS in Minnesota. The researchers at MAISRC are excited to share these findings with you at our upcoming Research and Management Showcase. We will have virtual presentations all day on September 21st, and optional in-person tours of our state-of-the-art Containment Laboratory on September 22nd and 24th. I hope you can join us! Links to register will be sent soon.

<https://maisrc.umn.edu/copper-control>

Copper-Based Control: Zebra Mussel Settlement and Nontarget Impacts

Project manager: Diane Waller (Formerly led by Jim Luoma)

Funded by: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources with additional support from the State of Minnesota, the Fletcher Family Foundation, Bay Lake Improvement Association, Pelican Lakes Association of Crow Wing County, USGS, and Hennepin County.

Project start date: 2018

Estimated project end date: Dec. 2022

The Phase I study was conducted in Lake Minnetonka, a central Minnesota lake that has an established zebra mussel population. In the first year, researchers compiled historical monitoring data and conducted pre-treatment sampling of the biotic communities and water chemistry in the lake to characterize the status of the lake before copper treatment. Researchers used the biotic ligand model (BLM) to predict the lake-specific minimum toxic copper concentration for zebra mussel veligers. A lake-side toxicity trial was conducted in a mobile laboratory to test the predicted effective concentration for veliger suppression and evaluate toxicity to select sensitive native species. In the second year, researchers conducted an in-lake application of low-dose copper at the minimum effective concentration that was determined in lake-side trials. A before-after comparison was used to assess zebra mussel recruitment and nontarget community responses between treated and control sites in the lake. The results were compared with the 2019 low-dose copper treatment and 2-year post-treatment monitoring in Lake Minnetonka.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, local governmental units, lake associations and others involved in invasive species management can use information from this project to assess the feasibility of low-dose copper treatments for managing zebra mussel populations. A strategy that targets the veliger life stage has economic and ecological advantages over treatments that target adult mussels and may be feasible for bays and small lakes. This project will also inform management decisions on the frequency of copper treatments for managing zebra mussel populations while minimizing the risk to nontarget organisms. An evaluation of the biotic ligand model will determine whether it can be used to refine copper applications specific to individual waterbodies.

In Phase II, further refinement of copper treatment for zebra mussel control may be achieved by tailoring the effective treatment concentration to the characteristics of a specific lake. The Biotic Ligand Model (BLM) estimates metal bioavailability from 11 measured parameters of the water body including temperature, pH, dissolved organic carbon, major cations (Ca, Mg, Na, and K), major anions (SO₄ and Cl⁻), and alkalinity and sulfide (EPA 2007). The BLM can be used as a predictive tool for estimating copper toxicity in a specific water body for target species, like zebra mussels, and the potential impacts to non-target species. Phase II of this project will use the BLM as a prescriptive model to estimate minimum effective molluscicidal concentrations (MEC) of copper in a second study lake. We will also predict mortality of nontarget species at the estimated MEC from published copper toxicity data (EPA 2007) and test the prediction in a lake-side toxicity trial.

F. Watershed – Mike W reported, he and Dave R did a tour of all the inlets on the Lake with Ethan Jenzen from the DNR. They spent 2.5-3 hours on this tour of the 22 inlets. They did note the culvert into the lake from the Warren Nelson farm is a “Y” shape to the main culvert. This spring’s snow melt and heavy rains caused a wash out of a neighbor’s yard. The water flows through a rather steep hill side with some larger trees in this area. Ethan Jenzen was going to talk with Joe Norman, Meeker SWCS about redoing this area by taking out the trees and building a rock spillway to slow the water flow. LWIA will follow up with Joe Norman about this project. The Board agreed this was a good project for us to support. Will for sure do pre and post project photos along with a description of the benefits this project will bring to the Lake.

Mike showed us pictures of the cone shaped cover/screen that he installed on a culvert on the South side of the lake. It appears to be working very well and Mike is pleased with the outcome.

Mike heard people were complaining about so much silt coming into the lake from the holding pond. He checked out the flow and it was crystal clear. He did note that for years before the pond was built, all the runoff from the fields was running into the lake and there is a large patch of pond weed that have contributed to the soft bottom in this area of the lake.

Membership / Shoreline Captains

Laurie not at meeting for updates. At the Pot Luck Dinner there were some questions about who are Shore Line Captains, and what their role is. Board talked about making this an area we can focus on for 2023.

Education & Public Relations:

A. Summer Newsletter went out in July and did get some feedback regarding people’s name not being on the membership list, this looks more like a timing issue of when the cutoff occurred to get published in the newsletter.

Fall Newsletters – Articles are due to Ron B by September 12.

B. Website, Facebook, and Email Activity –

Ron B reviewed the statistics of unique users and noted it has been fairly constant at about 350 per month for the past year.

Website – some feed back on how current and relevant the information on our website is. This looks like an area we can review and update.

Facebook – many comments about the dam. Ethan Jenzen is writing an article for fall Newsletter to update information on the dam and explain the DNR’s role and process in evaluating dams.

Social Committee – There were about 50 people at the Pot Luck Dinner, it was noted the food was really great. There were some questions about milfoil, zebra mussels, and Shore Line Captains.

Corrine Gertsema is representing Lake Washington for Twine Ball Parade. Steve G. contacted Shawn Hanson at 320-221-1951 for registering her. She just needs to be lined up between 11:30 and noon along Curran street going from funeral home to St John’s Catholic church. She will be in convertible and is getting Lake Washington magnets on her car. Pat H and Steve G have candy for her to toss.

Financial – Grants – Sharon D updated volunteer hours from the Board this year is 631. She thanked those that are turning hours in and reminded others how important in-kind hours are for qualifying for grant monies. Last year we had 922 hours. Also hours in October, November, and December get reported for the following year. The cutoff date for submitting grants are October 1 for AIS and October 15 for MCAL.

MCAL - Representatives/meeting dates – Sharon D reported, MCAL meeting was on July 21. The new President is Steve Plaisance. Reports from lakes that did water testing using the MCAL kits this year indicate they had some problems and not having good outcomes with the water quality results being accurate. Also, MCAL does not have a representative on the MN COLA for this region. AIS snap shot day looking at Starry Stone Wart will be on Aug 20 from 8:30 – 1:30, with area meeting place being Lake Ripley.

There was sharing by some lakes of treatments and strategies for managing EWM. Clear Lake Harvested 230,000 pounds of milfoil, with other lakes using chemicals for treatments.

Next meeting is October 20.

9) Open Discussion – There have been numerous comments on the signs Lake Restoration put on the shoreline of the properties where they did weed treatments. They appear to be a standard notification sign, but people need to carefully read the signs to see that much of the information does not apply to the chemicals being used. Because LWIA helped people get signed up we are being held accountable for the signs. Mike W suggested we contact them and ask them to come up with a sign that better explains any steps people need to take and the time frame for using the lake after a treatment. There was some discussion about the delays by the DNR getting the permits issued in a timely fashion resulting in late initial treatments and not seeing the results property owners were hoping for.

Next Board Meeting Scheduled for September 1st at Dassel Rod and Gun Club.