

**Minutes—10/6/2014 Lake Josephine Improvement Association Homeowners' Meeting**  
**Recorded by: Pam Newcome - Secretary**

The Lake Josephine Improvement Association held a homeowners' meeting on Mon., Oct. 6 at the Roseville Oval. We had approximately 30 attendees. R.J. Newcome (recently elected association president) & Emil Kucera (past president) presided over the meeting. Highlights provided below.

**Lake Josephine Improvement Association Board Changes**

- Emil Kucera, association president for many years, is stepping down because he and Angie, association Secretary during Emil's tenure, are in the process of down-sizing and will eventually be moving out of the area.
  - We are sad to see them go, as they have worked tirelessly over the years on behalf of all the homeowners to preserve our lake. We will definitely miss them, and thank them for all their years of service and dedication!!
  - Emil has agreed to stay on for a period of time as Vice-President.
- R.J. Newcome, who had been serving as Vice-President, was elected as President after Emil's decision to step down. He will be working closely with Emil over the next several months to ensure a smooth transition.

**Lake Status**

- The lake was diagnosed with an aggressive invasion of Eurasian Water Milfoil in late 2012
- It's a contamination that cannot be eradicated, and requires aggressive and ongoing treatment to control.
- Left unchecked, it can overtake a lake, making it unnavigable by boats and unsafe for swimming and water sports. It will also negatively impact property values.
- We treated in 2013 and the spring/summer of 2014 to contain the spread. (See below for specifics.)

**Past Treatments**

- DNR restricts weed treatment and treatment area cannot exceed 15% of a lake's littoral area (15% Rule).
- Given the above, our allowable treatment area is approx. 12 acres, which has traditionally consisted of 3.2 acres of shoreline spraying (individually contracted by homeowners) and 7.9 acres of offshore spraying (contracted by association to benefit entire lake). DNR requires that 1 acre be held in reserve.
- If DNR agrees that a lake has an aggressive weed infestation, it can allow a variance to treat a larger area.
- A variance must be applied for—and granted—before additional acreage can be treated.
- For Eurasian Water Milfoil, DNR waits until late Spring/early summer so it can diagnose the prevalence and the pattern of the weed before allowing any treatment and/or granting a variance.
- DNR granted us a variance to treat 20.4 offshore acres in 2014.
- We also applied for—and received—a \$1K grant from the State of MN to help offset treatment costs.
- DNR determines the “map” of offshore areas to be treated based upon where the milfoil is

the most dense and hazardous to lake users—the Board has no jurisdiction.

- The 1<sup>st</sup> attachment shows the areas treated in 2013 and 2014. As shown, the 2014 coverage area was larger by virtue of the variance.
- Both years, we treated offshore with the chemical 24-D, specifically targeted for Eurasian Water Milfoil.
- Onshore treatment was with a broad-spectrum chemical designed to knock down the weeds most prevalent in that location.
- While the treatments worked, the milfoil infestation will continue to crop up each season, requiring ongoing efforts.

### **2015 Plan**

- Next year's plan will be similar to 2014's.
- We will seek a variance to treat additional acreage (if the Eurasian Water Milfoil continues to be prevalent, as we suspect it will), and we will also seek a grant from the state of MN to help offset some of the costs.
- Even so, anticipated cost of 2015 spraying and accompanying lake assessment charges is expected to be minimally \$8,000.

### **Financials**

- Between \$2,300 carried over from the 2014 season and new contributions from 24 homeowners towards 2015 treatment, we have collected \$7,132.63 to date. We are still short of our \$8,000+ goal.
- Recommended contributions are \$125 per household.
- Contributions are voluntary—please feel free to give more or less, as your individual situation allows.
- Thank you to those who have already contributed! If you haven't yet had a chance to, *please* consider doing so. (See the 2<sup>nd</sup> attachment for the contribution form and instructions on where to mail it.) Please help preserve our beautiful lake and protect our property values!

### **Other**

- Ramsey County is repairing the public boat launch this week. They are removing the existing concrete sections and replacing them with longer, wider ones. They will also be leveling the area to create a smoother transition. They expected to be done by Thurs. Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>, but it looks like they may have already completed the work.
- The Eurasian Water Milfoil and other weeds have been clogging the water outflow gate more than usual this past season. R.J. has worked with Ramsey County to arrange weekly monitoring/cleaning during the normal season, and he will alert them if more frequent checks are needed.
- Per requests from several homeowners, R.J. also reminded members to please be courteous and respectful towards neighbors, especially in terms of staying a proper distance from shorelines when the water is high, respecting our posted counter-clockwise direction of travel for watercraft, dock placement and usage, and patience when waiting your turn to use the public boat launch. We—and your neighbors—appreciate your help in this regard.

Thank you to those who attended, and we hope these minutes are informative for those of you who weren't able to make it. Please forward them on to others we may have inadvertently missed.