

May 27, 2015 – Weed Update

### Weed Situation

- We continue to have large infestations of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM), predominantly in the same areas that were treated last year, with the one in the Southeast corner growing in size. This is common for EWM and, based on other lakes' experience, it often takes multiple years of treatment to keep it in check.
- We also saw significant amounts of Curly Leaf Pondweed, which naturally dies down in late June.
- Many of you may have also noticed large patches of Filamentous Algae, which was the gelatinous green matter floating on the waters' surface. Many MN lakes saw similar blooms this season, primarily because the warm, wet spring increased the amount of nutrients in the water. Fortunately, this was NOT the toxic blue-green algae that was featured on the local news as being fatal to pets who ingested it.
- We also had areas of White Stem Pondweed along several shorelines. This is the weed that often leaves reed-like stalks even after it has been killed.

### On-Shore Treatment Plan

- On-shore spraying will take place in the next two weeks.
- The broad-spectrum herbicide used is expected to kill EWM and the other three contaminants mentioned above. Unfortunately, the White Stem Pondweed stalks may not disintegrate and may need to be physically removed by homeowners.

### Off-Shore Treatment Plan

- We are working with the DNR to get permission a) to start treatment and b) for a variance to treat a larger portion of the lake than normally allowed due to the prevalence of weeds we are seeing.
- We are hoping to coordinate on-shore and off-shore treatment to occur simultaneously.

### How You Can Help

- Our ability to treat will be based on two things: DNR approval and funding.
- So far, just slightly over 55% of Lake Josephine homeowners have contributed a total of ~\$6,700 towards 2015 offshore treatment, which is significantly fewer than those who contributed towards 2014 treatment. Between current funds and those carried over from 2014, we have ~\$9,000 in the coffers.
- The cost of off-shore EWM treatment is ~\$400/acre.
- Given current EWM infestations, we believe we can provide a valid case to treat at least 30 acres of the lake. This would equate to \$12K in costs.
- Adding additional herbicides to treat other off-shore contaminants would be extra.
- We were successful in getting a DNR grant of \$100/acre per allowable treatment area, up to a maximum of 23 acres (\$2,300). DNR will not increase the grant limit, even if we are approved to treat additional acreage.
- As a condition of allowing EWM treatment, DNR requires that an annual third-party lake assessment be done, which costs up to \$2,000. (We have asked if we could perform the assessment ourselves to contain costs, but we do not know if that proposal will be accepted.)
- Doing the math, its clear to see that our current funding will NOT be enough to cover

- a) the broader treatment area, if allowed
- b) off-shore treatment of *additional* contaminants (other than EWM)
- c) the third-party lake assessment