

11/22/2016 Lake Josephine Improvement Association Homeowners' Meeting
Recorded by: Pam Newcome, Secretary

Neighbors, thank you to those of you who attended our Lake Josephine Improvement Association Annual Meeting on November 22! Approximately 30 hearty souls braved the weather. We understand it was a busy week to hold the meeting, but we were actively working with DNR up until the week prior to outline treatment options for the coming season and wanted to provide you with the most up-to-date information. We plan to return to our normal Fall meeting time next year.

Below please find a brief recap of the meeting.

2016 Year-in-Review R.J. Newcome, President

- Summer 2016 was one of the best the lake has seen!
- Our heavy Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) infestation substantively subsided.
- Weeds are unpredictable, so DNR is unsure if the EWM reduction was due to previous treatments or the cyclical nature of the invasive species.
- Given the EWM decline, we were unable to justify the new dual-herbicide, full-lake treatment we had discussed earlier in the year. (Recall this was a very expensive treatment that had been used successfully elsewhere in the U.S., but not yet in MN. We would *not* have been able to fully fund the cost of the treatment, but we had negotiated with one of the chemical suppliers to subsidize it in return for their gathering test data.)
- After numerous failed attempts by DNR, Rice Creek Watershed District (RCWD) and our own lake specialists Brett Schreiber and Jill Shwiff to find EWM, DNR ultimately allowed only spot treatment of <5 acres of EWM with our traditionally-used herbicide.
- R.J. thanked homeowners for their generous support during last year's fundraising drive. Nearly 80% of homeowners contributed an average of \$443 per household. At the time of our Nov. meeting, we had roughly \$30,000 in the coffers.
- He also introduced our newest 2016 Board addition, Mark Maher, who has graciously offered to put his expertise to use and help us gain 501(c)3 status. If successful, our donations will be tax exempt in the future.
- R.J. also highlighted that 2016 was a year of building relationships. We've forged a close working relationship with DNR, RCWD, Ramsey County Conservation District and other lake associations. In addition to sharing information, many of these entities have generously provided assistance, support and training that we would otherwise have to pay for.

2017 Treatment Plans--R.J.

- Based on discussions with DNR, we basically have three options, which are outlined in the presentation.

- In order to help "predict" which option might be best, we conducted two different analyses late in the Fall. One was a lake reconnaissance done by RCWD (assisted by Brett) to search for EWM and Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP). The other was a Plant Survey completed by DNR to measure native plant regrowth. (Mappings from both are provided in the presentation.)
- Despite being elusive in the spring, several EWM patches were found around the lake in the Fall, mostly on the NW and West sides. Likewise, patches of CLP were also regrowing in several areas, with the most prevalent location being the NW corner of the lake. DNR anticipates we will see a moderate infestation of EWM *and* CLP in 2017.
- Based on these findings, DNR suggested--and is leaning towards--option 3 in our presentation. It is a full-lake treatment with Fluridone that addresses both EWM and CLP. It can be justified with a moderate EWM infestation. The treatment has been used successfully in other lakes, most notably in Crooked Lake in Anoka Cty.
- DNR likes the treatment because it operates at a low dosage and is least harmful to native plants.
- The treatment builds over time, meaning that the impact may not be seen for several weeks following treatment. However, it has a sustained effect. If it performs as it has in other lakes, we should require less treatment in future years.
- Cost of the treatment is ~\$30K. In addition to the treatment, we would have lake delineation, weed analysis and other charges.
- Currently, this is the option that the Board is preparing for.

Fundraising--Jamie Schreiber, Fundraising Chair

- Jamie, again, thanked homeowners for their support.
- Over the last several decades, Lake Josephine remained pristine and we had no need to treat for invasive species.
- That all changed in late 2013, when an especially virulent EWM invasion was detected. We've been in an ongoing battle since 2014 to keep it in check.
- The role of the Lake Josephine Improvement Association Board has evolved during that time, as well, and we've had to actively engage homeowners to help in the effort to protect the lake.
- Jamie conveyed that the Board is thankful and overwhelmed by the positive response from homeowners over the past several years. We truly appreciate your generosity!
- She reminded us that all contributors are listed on our website. See link: <http://lakejosephineimprovementassociation.com/supporters/>
- She reviewed the history of our treatment--and treatment costs--over the past three years, noting that we've made a concerted effort to build funds in advance of the treatment season.
- She reassured members that the Board is committed to making the best treatment decisions with the funds we have available.
- Like last year, Jamie also emphasized the importance of building a contingency fund to help protect against a catastrophic event such as Zebra Mussels, where early detection and action is critical.

- Having such a fund is common practice. In fact, many of our fellow lake associations have healthy contingency funds. Research done by Jamie and Catherine Robinson indicate that Lake Johanna has ~\$70K and Lake Owasso ~\$40K in reserve.
- Jamie explained that our *entire* fund would be depleted with our proposed 2017 treatment, leaving us flat-footed and highly vulnerable if faced with an infestation or event that requires rapid response.
- For that reason, **the Board has decided to keep the 2017 fundraising target the same as last year. We are recommending \$350-\$500 per property.**
- Jamie acknowledged that not everyone may be in a position to give at the higher end of the range, and we understand that. However, every little bit helps, and we will gladly take anything you are able to contribute.
- She also acknowledged that, if the proposed treatment works as it has on other lakes, we would anticipate that less future treatment would be required. If that's the case, we would adjust our future "ask" accordingly.
- Fundraising for the 2017 season officially opened at the annual meeting. Currently, we have only a handful of contributions.
- **The 2017 Contribution Form is attached to this email. We hope that you will continue to support the Lake Association and help us protect our beautiful lake and our property values.**

Homeowner Engagement--Pam Newcome, Secretary

- Pam explained that we sought--and received--a share of state legislative funds for education and prevention of invasive species. To that end, we are pleased to offer a limited number of Zebra Mussel sampler kits to homeowners. These typically cost \$40 a piece, but are being provided free to homeowners while supplies last, one per property.
- **If you were not present and would like a Zebra Mussel Kit, please contact Pam or any of the board members listed below.**
- She also thanked homeowners for their support of our two social activities--our Annual Flotilla and our Winter Blast. Both were very well attended this past year, and it's been great to see neighbors getting to know each other better. It definitely makes for a closer-knit community!
- Pam mentioned that we are soliciting ideas for future gatherings. To help with that, we handed out a survey. (See attached.)
- Also, as in previous years, if you are interested in assisting with Lake Josephine Improvement Association efforts, we would definitely appreciate your time and talent! (See the back-side of the attached survey to indicate areas in which you might be interested in helping.)
- **If you have not yet filled out a survey, please complete and return the one attached.** We welcome your ideas! Surveys can be sent to Pam via email at Pam.Newcome@live.com or by mail to: 1245 Josephine Rd., Roseville, 55113.
- Pam also asked homeowners to mark their calendars for our **next Winter Blast--Sat. Feb. 4th!** (Activity TBD based on your survey input!)

- **Finally, heads up--future mailings from Lake Josephine Improvement Association will likely be sent via "MailChimp", which we will be linking to our website. Please be on the lookout, as these mailings may initially get sent to your SPAM folders.**

Again, thank you all for your involvement and generosity. We wish you all a wonderful holiday season!!

Your Lake Josephine Improvement Association Board

Maribelle Cushman

Dick Hanson

Mark Maher

Pam Newcome

R.J. Newcome

Catherine Robinson

Brett Schreiber

Jamie Schreiber

Jill Shwiff