

10/10/2018 Lake Josephine Improvement Association (LJIA) Annual Homeowners' Meeting was held from 7-8 p.m. at Autumn Grove Park Clubhouse in Roseville, with 40 homeowners in attendance.

Recorded by: Pam Newcome, Secretary

- A recap of the meeting follows.

Welcome

- R.J. Newcome, president of LJIA, welcomed neighbors, introduced board members and thanked all those who contributed to our 2018 fundraising efforts.

A Year in Review—2018 Treatment Plan & Costs

- R.J. reminded the group that we had planned for a full-lake Fluridone treatment in 2018 to address both Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) and Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP). Projected cost was \$11K-\$24K, reflecting ranges in treatment acreage and chemical concentrations.
- R.J. noted that Fluridone has been used successfully elsewhere in MN and the U.S., it's efficacious at low concentration levels and it's gentle on native weeds.
- A significant EWM infestation is needed to justify its use. Based on weed assessments done in late 2017, both DNR and we were confident we would qualify in 2018.
- However, weeds are unpredictable, and so is Mother Nature.
- The effectiveness of our 2017 Diquat Bromide treatment, coupled with our wild swing in temperatures in spring 2018, yielded a sparse EWM crop and an abundant CLP infestation.
- Despite multiple weed assessments this past season, we could not identify substantial levels of EWM. Consequently, **DNR would not allow Fluridone treatment.**
- CLP dies down on its own in early July, and we missed the window to treat it separately.

- In the end, we had two positive outcomes: 1) we had significantly fewer problem weeds compared to previous years and 2) we didn't have to spend any funds on treatment.
- R.J. pointed out that even though monies raised via our 2018 fundraising campaign were not used for treatment, they were put towards our contingency fund, which enables us to respond to catastrophic events such as new infestations.

2019 and Beyond—Estimated Treatment Costs

- DNR has already signaled that it will *not* approve a full-lake Fluridone treatment next year due to concerns that our 2017 treatment may have negatively impacted our native weeds, and it wants to give them another season to recuperate.
- DNR said it *will* allow early CLP treatment and possibly spot treatment for EWM with a traditional herbicide.
- DNR remains open to a Fluridone treatment in 2020.
- In terms of other costs, at some point we will be responsible for covering weed delineations and plant surveys that, up to now, DNR and Rice Creek Watershed District have provided for free.
- There are no more DNR grants to subsidize treatment.
- Given the above parameters, the board estimates that 2019 costs could range anywhere from \$10,400 to \$22,700.

A Year in Review—2018 Contribution Campaign

- Board Member Mark Maher shared that we raised \$16,516 in the 2018 fundraising season, which is outstanding!
- Our goal was to achieve 100% homeowner participation in our 2018 fundraising drive. While we didn't quite hit that, we were pleased to reach 78%. That percentage is the envy of many of our neighboring lake associations. You're an engaged and proactive group, and we thank you for your generosity!

- Last year's contribution target was \$150/property. Actual donations averaged \$312/property. . . again, a reflection of our homeowners' giving nature.

Financial Reports

- Mark explained that, in the past five years, we have gone from NO safety net at all to having a sizable and respectable contingency fund. Some of our neighboring lakes have never fundraised or have low homeowner participation. . .and they now find themselves scrambling to catch up in the face of mounting threats.
- Mark reviewed our financial status over the past four years, noting that we've gone from having just under \$9K in 2015 to just over \$65K as of 9/30/2018.
- The board's goal is to maintain a contingency/preparedness fund of at least \$50K. While treatment costs vary depending on the invasive, we felt this would provide us the wherewithal to respond quickly to most threats. (Recall that the cost of the full-lake EWM treatment we were considering for 2017 could have reached \$60K.)
- Mark noted that, even if next year's treatment were to be at the high end of our estimated cost range AND we had to dip into our contingency fund, we would still be able to maintain a minimum of \$50K in that fund.

2019 Contribution Campaign

- Our **2019 contribution goal is \$150/property.**
- We've asked a lot of our homeowners over the past several years, and you've consistently stepped up. We recognize that, we appreciate it and we want to provide some relief.
- We deliberately kept this year's contribution target at the lower end of the scale *because* of your past generosity.
- While our 78% contribution rate is admirable, we are still striving for full participation, as all homeowners have a vested interest in the protection and

preservation of our lake. As we've discussed at last year's meeting, our property values are closely tied to the health of the lake.

Stay Connected & Engaged

- Pam Newcome, LJIA Secretary, asked neighbors to make sure we have their updated contact information. She also reminded the group that all LJIA correspondence is now sent via MailChimp.
- **If you didn't get a chance to donate on Wed., a link to our 2019 Contribution Form is provided below, along with instructions on where to mail your donation. Please check if your company offers a Matching Gift Program, as it can significantly increase a donation. (Note: if the link doesn't automatically open, you can cut and paste it to your Web browser.)**

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/iqb9r7evxtl14w8/2019%20Lake%20Josephine%20Voluntary%20Contribution%20Form-10.10.18.doc?dl=0>

- Pam also asked neighbors to help us monitor for Zebra Mussels (ZM), as they have now been found in neighboring Lake Johanna and Bald Eagle Lake. (Fortunately, two separate assessments have not identified any ZM infestation in Lake Josephine.)
- She asked that everyone check their docks and their ZM sample plates when they pull their docks this season. (If you do not yet have a ZM kit, please reply to this email, and we'll get you one.)
- Pam passed around samples of juvenile and adult ZM so that neighbors know what to look for. One of their most distinctive features is their "D"-like shape, meaning that the backside of the mussel is flat. At the very young veliger stage, the mussels can be difficult to see with the naked eye. Instead, they may feel like a rough coating on your sample plate.
- If anyone finds anything suspicious, please contact Brett Schreiber, our Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist. (Email below.) Brett is trained to identify invasive species.

- Finally, the board is looking for additional support in a number of areas, to include fundraising, finance, social events and representing our association on Ramsey County/other aquatic invasive species task forces. Pam mentioned that Marti Estey had already offered to help with Fundraising and Kari Schroetter with task force representation. Thank you, ladies!
- After the meeting, a few others offered to assist in other areas, and we will be following up with you. Thank you!! If others are interested, please contact any board member.

A link to the full presentation is provided below. (Again, if the link doesn't automatically open, you can cut and paste it to your Web browser.)

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/typf1zpeaxqj5ig/LJIA%20Homeowners%20Meeting%20Presentation-10.10.18%20.pptx?dl=0>

Thank you all for your support and active participation! If you have questions regarding any of the content discussed at the meeting, feel free to contact any one of our board members.

Your Lake Josephine Improvement Association Board

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