

## **Lake Josephine Improvement Association Annual Meeting Recap**

The Lake Josephine Improvement Association (LJIA) Annual Meeting was held from 7-8 p.m. on Monday, October 28, 2019 at the Autumn Grove Clubhouse in Roseville. Approximately 40 people were in attendance. Highlights of the meeting are captured below.

### **Welcome—R.J. Newcome, LJIA President**

- R.J. welcomed neighbors and introduced his fellow board members: Dick Hanson—Treasurer, Marti Estey and Catherine Robinson—Fundraising Co-Chairs, Mark Maher—our 501(c)(3) architect, Brett Schreiber—our resident aquatic invasive species (AIS) expert and Pam Newcome—Secretary and LJIA representative on Ramsey County’s AIS Task Force.
- R.J. also recognized two members who recently transitioned from the board: Jamie Schreiber—former Co-Fundraising Chair, who was instrumental in establishing and jump-starting our fundraising efforts, and Maribelle Cushman—former lake historian and long-time contributor to LJIA.
- He also thanked the three members of the Social Committee for their service: Ann Marie Collins, Dee Fryd and Dawn Gustafson.

### **2019: A Year in Review—R.J. Newcome**

- Based on a fall 2018 weed assessment, we had anticipated a \$10K-\$18K treatment in spring 2019, consisting of an early Endothall treatment for Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP) and one to two subsequent 2-4,D treatments for Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) later in the season.
- However, weeds are unpredictable, and DNR only approves treatment if warranted in the current season.
- This spring, DNR did not believe we had enough EWM to justify separate treatment. However, it did approve an early CLP treatment of 11 acres with a different herbicide (Diquat Bromide), targeted at CLP but also effective on EWM.
- R.J. explained that this was the first time we’ve been able to do the early CLP treatment, and it was highly successful at knocking down both our CLP *and* EWM. The single treatment also kept our costs under \$4K.

### **2020 & Beyond—R.J. Newcome**

- Next year’s treatment and operational costs are estimated to be in the \$5.5K to \$20K range, with treatment selection having the greatest impact on where we land within that.
- DNR remains open to early CLP treatment in 2020, although it will wait to tailor the herbicide and coverage area to weed conditions that spring.
- R.J. also noted that we’ve had a number of required assessments provided gratis in the past. These include plant surveys, lake delineations and other AIS monitoring. However, with the growing number of Ramsey County lakes becoming infested with AIS, we may need to pay for those in the future, and that is factored into the range provided.

- R.J. also mentioned that recent legislation will reinstate DNR grants, which were discontinued in 2018. While this might help offset some treatment costs, it's unclear how large the grants will be or how they will be awarded.

### **Fundraising & Financial Report—Marti Estey, Fundraising Co-Chair**

- The 2020 recommended voluntary contribution will remain at \$150 per property.
- Marti explained that we are targeting the lower end of previous donation ranges in recognition of your past generosity and the fact that we've often treated less in the spring than projected the previous fall. (Again, weeds are unpredictable.)
- The board believes it's important to maintain some level of "ask", given the growing number of invasive threats with which we are faced. Any funds not used for treatment will be put towards our contingency fund.
- Marti thanked all those who contributed last season. She also reminded neighbors that, if you're uncertain if you donated in the current season, all donors are listed on our website. See link below.  
<http://lakejosephineimprovementassociation.com/supporters/>
- She also reviewed last year's fundraising efforts. Our participation goal was 100%, and we reached 77%. Our financial goal was \$150/property, and you generously exceeded that at \$266/property. THANK YOU!
- Marti also quickly touched on our financials, explaining that we've gone from never having fundraised to building a contingency fund on par with a few of the more-established local lake associations. Such a preparedness fund provides us with the ability to respond to future invasive threats or other catastrophic events.
- Marti reminded neighbors that LJIA is a 501(c)(3), so most donations are tax deductible and often qualify for corporate matching gift programs. She urged us to explore the latter, as it can sizably increase a donation.
- **Marti also asked neighbors to PLEASE submit donations promptly. The board is comprised of volunteers. In addition to the significant time it takes, it's uncomfortable for neighbors to have to follow up with other neighbors re: donations after the meeting. Please know that we dislike sending those reminder emails even more than you dislike receiving them!**
- A link to our contribution form, along with mailing instructions, is provided for your convenience. <http://lakejosephineimprovementassociation.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/2020-Lake-Josephine-Voluntary-Contribution-Form-1.14.19.pdf>
- Finally, Marti shared her experience as a realtor and explained that Twin City lake properties are a desirable commodity, as there is a limited quantity. She also shared how properties on weed-infested/choked out lakes can quickly lose value. So, in addition to preserving and protecting our lake for ecological and recreational purposes, doing so also protects property values.

### **Help Protect Our Lake—Pam Newcome, Secretary & Ramsey County AIS Task Force Member**

- First, please donate. Your support will cover treatment and preservation of a contingency fund.
- Pam explained that a contingency fund is critical because we need to be prepared for future AIS threats. She acknowledged that there is not a “silver bullet” treatment available for every AIS, but treatments are always emerging. We need to have the wherewithal to pursue those when—and if—needed.
- She explained that five of our Ramsey County lakes are now contaminated with Zebra Mussels (ZM). These include White Bear Lake, Bald Eagle, Johanna, McCarron and Long Lake.
- In addition to ZM, there are a number of other invasive threats in other MN lakes. Some of those, such as Flowering Rush and Starry Stonewort, can overtake shorelines, negatively impacting swimming and recreational use of the lake. Others such as Spiny Water Flea or Bloody Shrimp feed on the zooplankton and other nutrients that small fish normally eat, thereby disturbing a lake’s ecosystem and threatening its fish population.
- While recent testing indicates that our lake is not contaminated with any of these new threats, we must remain vigilant in both our monitoring and behavior.
- Pam asked that we adopt and promote best practices in terms of preventing the spread of ZM and other AIS. (Best practices have been highlighted in several past emails.)
- She also encouraged neighbors to check their ZM sample plates and their docks this fall. If *anything* suspicious is found, please contact our resident AIS expert Brett Schreiber at [brettschreiber@yahoo.com](mailto:brettschreiber@yahoo.com). He will investigate.
- She explained that early detection is important because the ability to treat an AIS invasion is often inversely related to the magnitude of the invasion. (I.e., If we can identify an invasion in the early stages, the likelihood of containing and treating it is greater.)
- Pam said she would provide a recap of the meeting, and she asked that those in attendance pass it on to neighbors who weren’t able to make it.
- A link to the full presentation is available on our website. See link to meeting minutes: <http://lakejosephineimprovementassociation.com/news-upcoming-events/association-annual-meeting/>

In closing, the board thanked neighbors for their high level of engagement and support. We are truly fortunate to have such a close-knit, proactive and forward-thinking lake community!

### **Your Lake Josephine Improvement Association Board**

Marti Estey  
 Dick Hanson  
 Mark Maher  
 Pam Newcome  
 R.J. Newcome  
 Catherine Robinson  
 Brett Schreiber